

# COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

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## FORMAL EQUIVALENCE WORD FOR WORD

- **theory:** 'literal' or *word-for-word*
- **aim:** to retain the *form*, i.e. the words and structure, of the original text as much as possible
- **result:** an English translation that is primarily accurate, yet also comprehensible

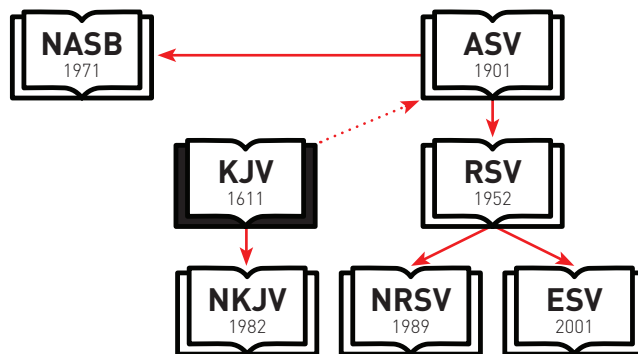
## INTERMEDIATE

- **theory:** mediating between 'literal' and 'idiomatic'
- **aim:** to retain the *form* of the original text where possible, without compromising its *function*, i.e. to convey meaning
- **result:** an English translation that is both accurate and clear.

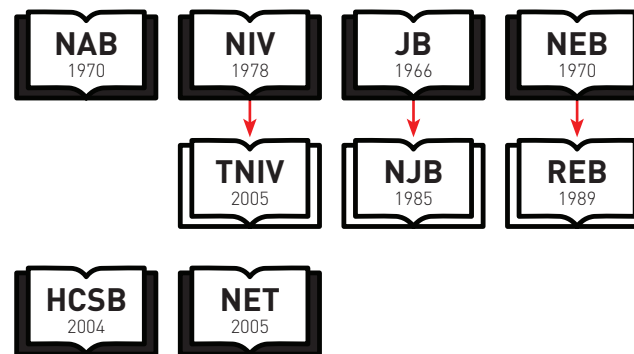
## FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE MEANING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** 'idiomatic' or *meaning-for-meaning*
- **aim:** to retain the *function* of the original text, i.e. to convey meaning, as much as possible
- **result:** to produce an English translation that is primarily natural and easy to understand

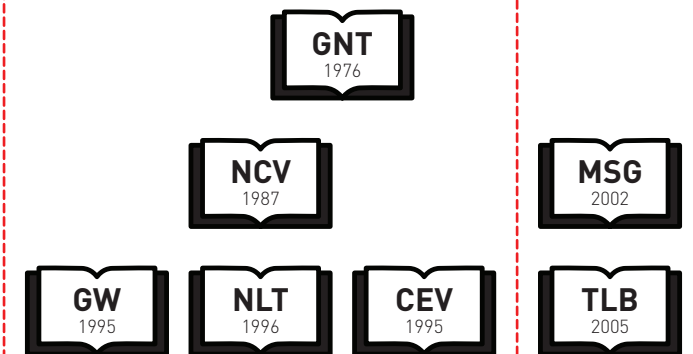
**Paraphrase** = re-wording a text in the *same* language, rather than translating it from one language to *another*.



ASV = American Standard Version  
 ESV = English Standard Version  
 KJV = King James Version  
 NASB = New American Standard Bible  
 NKJV = New King James Version  
 NRSV = New Revised Standard Version  
 RSV = Revised Standard Version



HCSB = Holman Christian Standard Bible  
 JB = Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)  
 NAB = New American Bible (Roman Catholic)  
 NEB = New English Bible  
 NET = New English Translation (online translation)  
 NIV = New International Version  
 NJB = New Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)  
 TNIV = Today's New International Version  
 REB = Revised English Bible



CEV = Contemporary English Version  
 GNT = Good News Translation (Good News Bible)  
 GW = God's Word  
 MSG = The Message  
 NCV = New Century Version  
 NLT = New Living Translation  
 TLB = The Living Bible