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.

Paraphrase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASV</th>
<th>KJV</th>
<th>NASB</th>
<th>NKJV</th>
<th>NRSV</th>
<th>RSV</th>
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</thead>
</table>

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

HSCB = 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