

## ◆ Choosing Your Bible ◆

Choosing a reliable Bible translation is crucial for anyone seeking to study the Word of God with accuracy and depth. The Bible, originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, has been translated into countless languages over the centuries. However, not all translations are created equal. Some prioritize literal accuracy, while others focus on readability and modern phrasing. For serious students of the Scriptures, selecting a translation that strikes a careful balance between faithfulness to the original text and clarity in contemporary language is essential.

Two Bible translations that stand out for their reliability are the American Standard Version (ASV) and the World English Bible (WEB). The ASV, first published in 1901, is well-regarded for its formal equivalence approach, meaning it strives to stay as close as possible to the original languages. It maintains a dignified and reverent tone, using "Jehovah" to represent the divine name of God, a choice rooted in a desire to reflect the original Hebrew Tetragrammaton (YHWH). The ASV's precision makes it a valuable resource for those conducting in-depth word studies and theological research.

The World English Bible, a more recent translation, builds upon the ASV's foundation. It updates the language to modern English while retaining accuracy and a commitment to literal translation principles. The WEB also restores the use of "Jehovah" for God's name, helping readers and students have access to the divine name as it appeared in the

ancient texts. Unlike many modern translations, the WEB is in the public domain, allowing it to be freely distributed and accessed — a significant advantage for those engaged in ministry, study groups, or digital evangelism.

There are other translations that are equally good as the ASV and WEB, but space does not allow for discussions of those at this time.

It is equally important to be cautious of Bible translations that have been altered to fit the doctrinal biases of certain groups. Some "translations", such as the New World Translation, have faced criticism from well known scholars for deliberately modifying key passages to support specific theological views rather than faithfully conveying the original meaning of the Scriptures. Using such translations can mislead readers and distort their understanding of God's Word. Therefore, relying on well-established, accurate translations like the ASV and WEB helps safeguard the integrity of one's Bible study.

Studying the Bible with a reliable translation like the ASV or WEB ensures that one is engaging with Scripture as faithfully as possible. These versions help readers draw closer to the original message, supporting a richer understanding of God's Word. By using translations that uphold both linguistic accuracy and reverence for the divine text, believers can deepen their faith and share the gospel with confidence and clarity.



### **Suggested Reading:**

- ◆ The Gospel of Jesus – God's Plan for Salvation
- ◆ The Importance of Knowing God's Name
- ◆ Why the New World Translation Should Not Be Used for Serious Bible Study