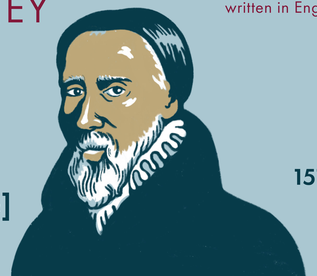
WILLIAM TYNDALE'S BIBLE JOURNEY

[Part One]



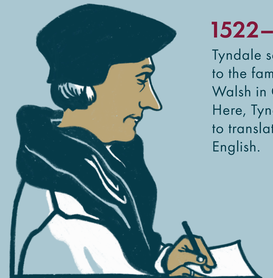
c. 1491
Born in Gloucestershire, exact date unknown. He may have read a copy of the Wycliffe Bible at Berkeley Castle, written in English.

1512 Awarded a Bachelor of Arts at Magdelen Hall, Oxford (now Hertford College).

1514–15
Ordained as a sub-deacon, deacon, then priest. Awarded a Master of Arts at Oxford University.

1521
Served as chaplain for the merchant Guild of St Mary at Boston in Lincolnshire.

Tyndale developed a love of Greek, the language of the New Testament. The Greek New Testament was brought to the British Isles by Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, whose work in Cambridge influenced Tyndale.



Erasmus of Rotterdam

1522–23
Tyndale served as tutor to the family of Sir John Walsh in Gloucestershire. Here, Tyndale determined to translate the Bible into English.

In Gloucestershire, he was reported to have spoken the following quote, regarding making the Bible as accessible to the common Englishman as to the Pope.

*At the time, the Latin Vulgate was the only authorized Bible in England, unreadable to laypeople.

"*IF GOD SPARE MY LIFE,* ERE MANY YEARS I WILL CAUSE A *BOY* WHO DRIVES THE *PLOUGH* TO KNOW *MORE* OF THE SCRIPTURES THAN *HE* DOES."

William Tyndale

1523
Travelled to London in search of support for an English Bible from the bishop there. Found none.

1524
Journeyed to Hamburg on mainland Europe to safely begin his Bible translation.

1525

Took up residence in Cologne, there beginning his translation of the New Testament into an elegant English, preserving the flavour of the original Greek. Fled to Worms in fear of his life.

1526

Finished his English translation, the first from the original Greek, and began to smuggle printed copies into England.

1527 – 1533

A prolific few years, during which he learned Hebrew, translated the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament), and wrote both commentaries on books of the Bible and criticisms of church doctrine.

*The bishop of London required that all copies of Tyndale's New Testament be collected and burned.

Atonement

Scapegoat

Mercy Seat

Sin

Jehovah

Passover

Loving-kindness

Many of the English terms and phrases Tyndale coined were included in later English translations and are still used by Christians today.

1534

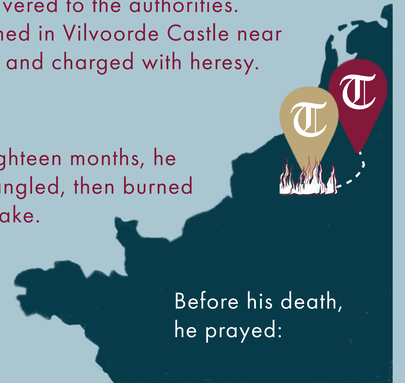
Moved to Antwerp and finished a revision of his NT translation.

1535

Betrayed by an English student and delivered to the authorities. Imprisoned in Vilvoorde Castle near Brussels and charged with heresy.

1536

After eighteen months, he was strangled, then burned at the stake.



Before his death, he prayed:

"*LORD*, OPEN THE KING OF ENGLAND'S *EYES*."

William Tyndale

*King Henry VIII would authorize an English Bible just a few years later.