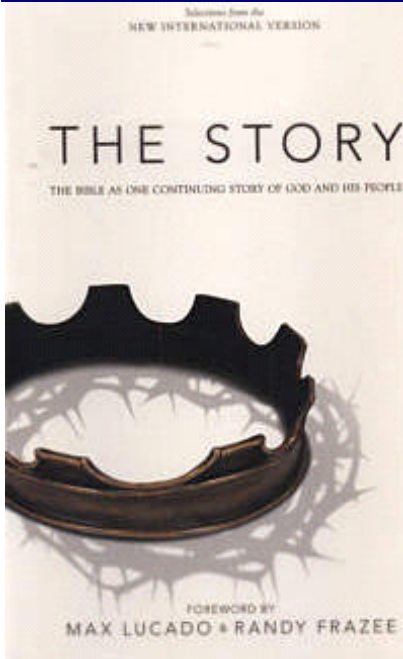


Bibles/Prayer Books & their history



The Story

The Bible As One Continuing Story of God and His People

Foreword by Max Lucado & Randy Frazee

published by Hodder & Stoughton imprint of Hachette UK Ltd

in Hardback

at £14.99

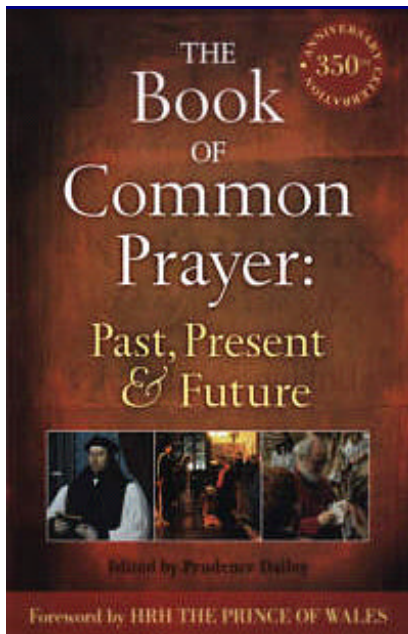
(978-1-444-70238-5)

2011

This edition of - The Story - deliberately targets a UK readership by using the British text edition of the NIV, New International Version, of the Bible. This makes for a comfortable read without the jarring of unfamiliar spelling or phrasing. - Much of the book is taken directly from the Bible and these passages are spaced, to indicate that a part of the Biblical passage has been omitted, and the Bible passages are linked with text in italics, written to help the continuity of - The Story. - The result is a clear and absorbing narrative. Much of it very familiar to regular Bible readers, but making it equally accessible to one who is coming to the Bible for the first time. -

Inevitably parts of the Bible have had to be left out, the book would not fulfil its purpose otherwise, and Yes, it is ideal for introducing a new Christian or a seeker to the riches of the Bible, but it also serves as a refresher course for those who think they already understand the full picture. It sent me hurrying to my Bible when I came across a statement or a name I was unsure about, and this is perhaps the books greatest gift, to send the reader to the full bible to learn more.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



The Book of Common Prayer: Past, Present and Future: A 350th Anniversary C

Edited by Prudence Dailey

published by Continuum

in Paperback

at £12.99

(978-1-441-12818-8)

Oct 2011

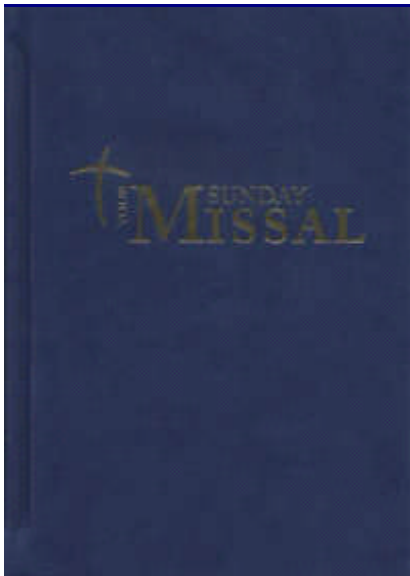
The book is a 350th anniversary celebration which embraces the foundations laid over a century before our current Book of Common Prayer. There are 14 essays, a Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales and an Afterword by the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres. -

A key theme is the influence the - Book of Common Prayer - has had on the English language, and at the heart of this work of English formation is Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. P D James quotes Cranmer's biographer, Diarmaid MacCulloch - 'Millions who have never heard of Cranmer, or of the muddled heroism of his death, have echoes of his words in their minds'. -

Each writer contributes from their experience what value they place on the Book of Common Prayer – theology, Bible reading, mission, the inner devotional life and memorability. -

This is a timely tribute to that 'via media' which is the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and its Prayer Book. Do read it – it will send you to the BCP and fresh appreciation.

Notes by [Sam Burrows](#)



Your Sunday Missal

The New Liturgy
published by Redemptorist Publications
in Imitation Leather
at £19.95 (978-0-852-31397-8) 16/11/2011

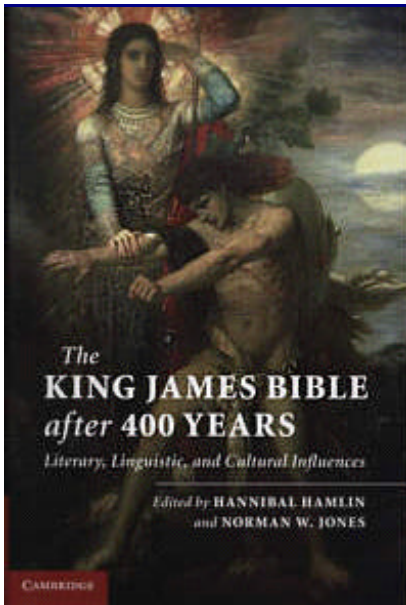
The 'new translation' of the Roman Missal (i.e. the prayers of the Mass), means that most religious publishers are providing a Sunday and / or Daily Missal, which includes the Readings for Mass. Incidentally, it is intended that the Readings are going to be revised, with, maybe, another authorised translation, so these Missals have a limited life span. -

As the reviewer has not seen other new Missals, he is unable to say whether or not this is the best in the field. However, - Your Sunday Missal - meets the criteria for it to be recommended. It is easy to navigate; the typeface is clear; the paper is not too thin; there are enough marker ribbons and the binding and cover appear hard-wearing. It also includes major feasts. Being able to read the Prayers of the Mass being proclaimed by the Priest may help people make more sense of much of the convoluted language and poor syntax of this 'translation'. -

While the Missal is clearly for the congregation, space should have been found for the prayers said quietly by the Priest, e.g. during the Offertory and before Communion, as they are suitable for lay people to pray as well. The 'Latin Texts for the Mass' for the congregation are on the final pages - these are inadequate, as they lack context. -

There is a short 'Welcome from the Editor', which is a good explanation of the 'why' and 'what' of Mass. The Missal concludes with various popular devotions: Litanies, meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary (but not the prayers which make up the Rosary - one should never assume that these are known), a prayerful modern translation of St Alphonsus Liguori's 'Stations of the Cross' with a further selection of prayers by St Alphonsus, ending with a Daily Prayer by Fr Denis McBride.

Notes by [J.Nicholas Latham](#)



The King James Bible After 400 Years

Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Influences

Edited by Hannibal Hamlin & Norman W Jones

published by Cambridge University Press (CUP)

in Hardback

at (check price) (978-0-521-76827-6) 09/12/2010

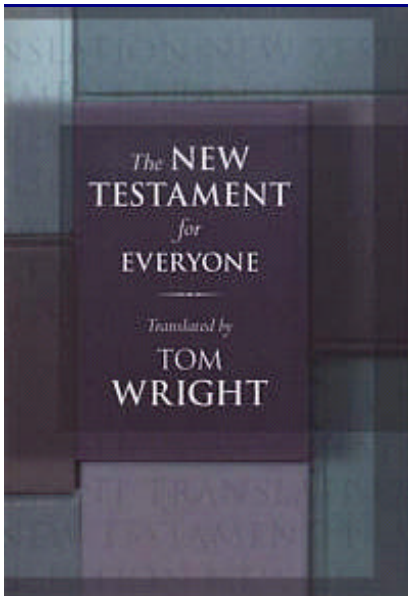
I found this book to be a mine of information, (Do you know about Anne Boleyn's Bible?) and a great source to read or dip into. There are explorations of the political and religious contexts of 1611, and their effects on the development of the King James Bible (KJB). -

The structure of the book consists of an introduction followed by fifteen chapters each by a different contributor. The book is divided into three sections each looking at different areas of study. Some useful chronologies of the various translations are also included. -

The editors view is that it, 'is the most complete one-volume exploration of the story of the KJB and its influence.Each chapter exemplifies a broader field of study in relation to the KJB, such as literary history, women's studies, the history of the book, translation studies, African American studies, postcolonial studies, and the history of Christianity.' (page 2) -

This is a book worth reading, as it opens up unimagined dimensions to the origins of the KJB and its impact on society. I would suggest that if you are going to have one book celebrating the 400 years of the King James, then this is the one to get!

Notes by [John Macaulay](#)



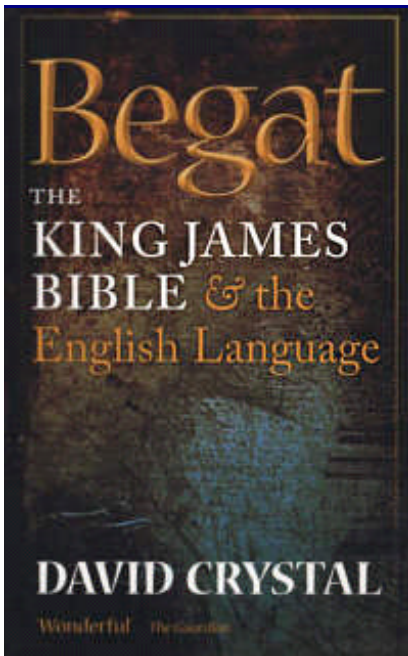
The New Testament for Everyone

by Tom Wright
published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Hardback
at £14.99 (978-0-281-06426-7) Jul 2011

When I am presented with a 'different' translation of the Bible, the first thing I do is to go to a few verses which have played a key role in the formation of my life as a Christian. Then, I look at a couple of 'difficult to understand' or controversial verses and finally, I sit down and read longer passages to try and get the feel of the text. This fresh translation of the New Testament by Tom Wright scores high on each of the above criteria. I love the easy flow of the narrative and the way it is broken down into bite-sized chunks. The clear, helpful maps placed mainly at appropriate points in Acts are a bonus.

In his preface, Tom shares his reasons for producing this new translation and then he gives a very useful introduction to the rationale behind his work. Then he writes: 'My hope and prayer for this book is that many people will discover through it just how exciting and relevant the New Testament really is.' I'm sure that prayer will be answered. This truly is a book for - Everyone - .

Notes by Jackie Rowe



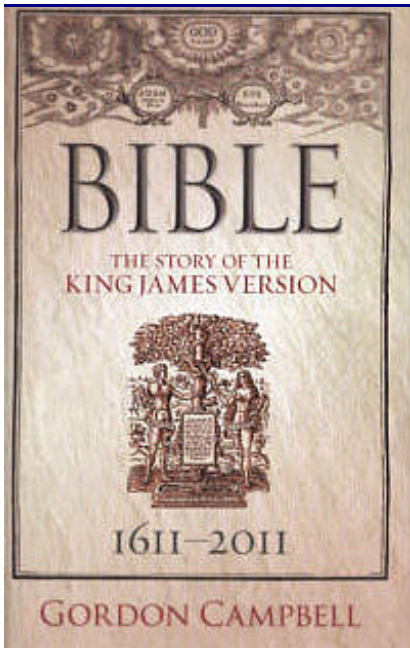
Begat

The King James Bible & the English Language

by David Crystal
published by Oxford University Press (OUP)
in Paperback
at £8.99 (978-0-199-69518-8) 18/08/2011

Hardback, ISBN 978-0-199-58585-4, £14.99, published October 2010 - Truly a labour of love by a lover and scholar of the English language, and an absorbing read for anyone who loves words. It would make a great gift. - David Crystal has gone through the King James Bible, 1611 publication, with a fine toothcomb searching for phrases that have become part of the English language. Not just a list of these phrases but a phrase by phrase examination of their source, whether they came from other translations of the Bible originally, or perhaps had been in circulation long before King James' time. A fascinating book that will long outlast the first reading to become a book to dip into whenever a phrase catches our attention in general use. 'How are the mighty fallen', 'Wheels within wheels' and so many more, you will be surprised how many we all know and yet we give no thought to their origin.

Notes by Mary Bartholomew



Bible: The Story of the King James Version 1611 - 2011

by Gordon Campbell
published by Oxford University Press (OUP)
in Paperback
at £9.99 (978-0-199-55759-2) 11/08/2011

Hardback, ISBN 978-0-199-55759-2, £16.99, published october 2010 -
A very detailed recounting of the making of the King James Bible by a Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of Leicester. It would fit comfortably in our academic section, but that might deter others who like me, do not consider such books for them. Not so, Gordon Campbell has written in a very readable way that kept me interested throughout. It is a fascinating story, and amazing that we know so many details of how the project was set up originally and who was involved at every stage. At the back of the book is a list of 'The Companies' who worked on the translations and later revisers, giving a short biography of each when known. I had no idea how very many people were involved, and was amazed to learn of the wide knowledge of so many people at that time. There is a long list of suggested further reading, so if you get 'hooked' on this subject, you could be reading for a long time!

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

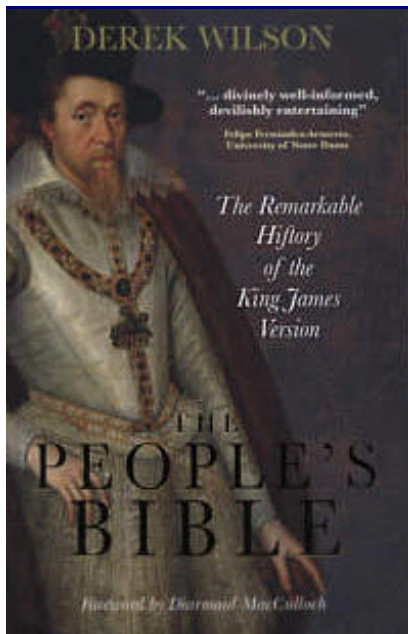


KJV Transetto edition - green

published by Cambridge University Press (CUP)
in Flipback
at £15.99 (978-0-521-24899-0) 03/03/2011

KJV - King James or 'Authorised' Version -
This is the first time I have entered an image of inside a book, instead of the cover, but I wanted to draw attention to the unusual format. This is a pocket/handbag size complete Bible, 80 x 117mm, printed on thin 'Bible' paper, but loosely bound so that you read down across both pages, making it clear and simple to read. I am very impressed, available in three colours, it seems robust and comfortable to handle and I am sure we will soon see this format elsewhere. Published in the 400th anniversary year of the King James Bible, I congratulate Cambridge University Press for introducing this new format.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



The People's Bible

The Remarkable History of the King James Version

by Derek Wilson

published by Lion

in Paperback

at £9.99

(978-0-745-95559-9)

21/10/2011

Still available as a hardback ISBN 978-0-745-95351-9 £14.99 29/9/11 -

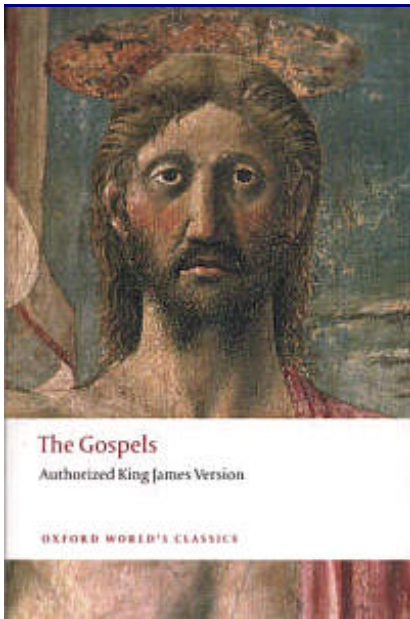
Editor - - -

Not surprisingly, there has been a rash of books to mark the 400th Anniversary, in 2011, of the - King James Version of the Bible - ; what popular historian Derek Wilson calls 'the most influential book in world history'. It is an extraordinary story, and this wide ranging book should do much to bring it alive for you, as it takes us back to the centuries before there was a - King James Version - and then updates the story with the proliferation of Bible translations in recent years. Wilson starts by taking us back to a time when it was 'heresy' to translate the Bible into English at all. To do so cost Wycliffe and Tyndale, both of whom are profiled at some length in this book, their lives. The only approved edition was the Latin Vulgate, dating from c. 404, and it was the middle of the 16th century before English editions did finally appear, most notably the Geneva Bible and the Great Bible. -

The central part of the book analyses the KJV itself, and its formation through the work of 6 teams, each of between 7 and 10 men, meeting in Cambridge, Oxford and Westminster over the years following the Hampton Court Conference of 1604, and working under strict guidelines set out by King James. There are some very interesting pen portraits of a few of the leading team members. - Derek Wilson is quite candid about the shortcomings of the KJV. For all its beauty, 'It was very much a book of its time - a magnificent achievement but not without its faults.' Its makers opted for language that would be 'respectable, uncontroversial, "safe"' that was 'dated before the book hit the marketplace'. The layout of its pages was 'obstinately and deliberately archaic'. There was 'mounting concern' about the inaccuracies of the KJV as early as the 17th century, as more and more accurate manuscripts have come to light. You can't imagine Wilson siding with those who view the KJV as 'God's final and perfect word to the English-speaking world.' To do so is 'to lapse into idolatry'. -

An extraordinary story, yes, told with verve. But let's be sure it is God we revere, the God who speaks and whose Word became flesh, and not any one version of the Bible.

Notes by Barry Vendy



The Gospels

Authorised King James Version

by Edited with an Introduction by and Notes by W. R. Owens
published by Oxford University Press (OUP)

in Paperback

at £8.99

(978-0-199-54117-1)

10/03/2011

The introductory essay deals both with the Gospel writings themselves and the translation of the Authorized Version. The interest in the essay stems from the fact that it is written by a Professor of English Literature. This results in a literary and narrative approach to the text which, whilst this is a growing trend within Biblical Studies, is still relatively rare. With this treatment familiar passages take on new significance and there is emphasis made on the Gospels as works of literature, not simply source texts to be mined for information. The background information will not be new for many, but it is nonetheless useful to have it. -

The material which concerns itself with the translation is also literary in nature, and so greater attention is paid to the rhythms and legacy of the language rather than translation techniques. Here too, there is much of interest. -

The text itself is taken from the first edition, with minor corrections. Punctuation and spellings have been modified in places, but the most welcome change is that the text is formatted in paragraphs. This results in a vastly easier reading experience and the text comes alive. Each chapter has a brief introduction. -

This is a book which is well worth owning, even if you already have a King James Version on your shelf. The introductory essay is interesting in its own right, but when combined with a single column layout for the text you have a volume which will present a familiar text in a fresh and vibrant way.

Notes by [Chris Moore](#)



Mark's Gospel

New International Version

Recorded by Peter Wickham

published by St Mark's Press

in CD

at £12.99

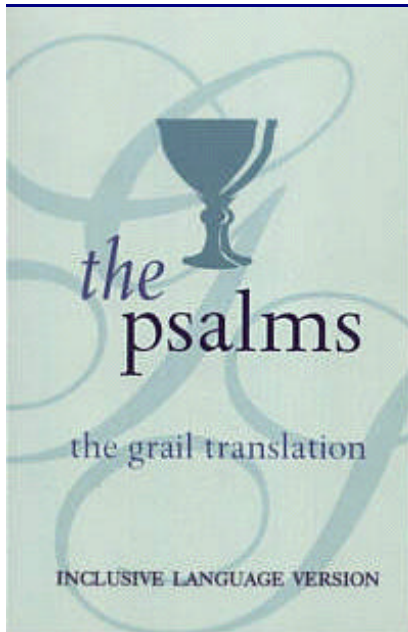
(978-1-907-06201-8)

Sep 2009

£1.00 from each copy is donated to Christian Aid. -

An excellent reading of St Mark's Gospel by an actor who is well used to radio drama and therefore reads with that dramatic skill that we have come to expect from the BBC. Although intended as an accompaniment to a study book for GCSE students and for a classroom resource, this is excellent listening for anyone, either as an introduction to the story of Jesus or for devotional use. Ideal for those with poor sight or none. Highly recommended.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



The Psalms – The Grail Translation

Inclusive Language Version

published by Collins
in Paperback
at £11.99 (978-0-007-32932-8) 01/05/2009

It is now fifty years since The Grail produced its psalter for liturgical use by Roman Catholics in this country. It would be interesting to know what impact the language of the Grail Psalter has had on the devotional life and the thinking of those for whom it has become so familiar. This edition is a revision, as it were. An inclusive version of the Grail psalter was produced as long ago as 1983, and this edition brings it into line with contemporary thinking as it has developed since then. Forward to the next half century.....

Notes by Ian Gibbs



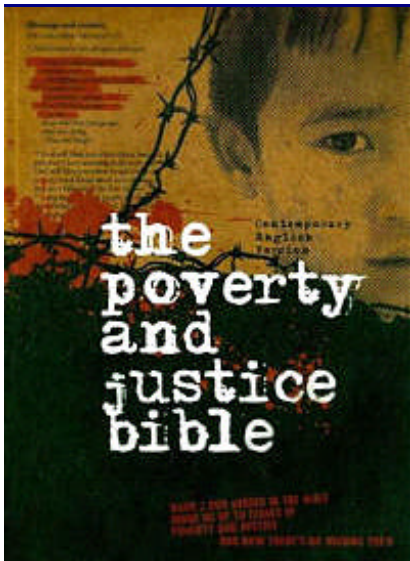
A Shetland Bible with Accompanying Free CD

by Charles Greig with illustrations by Smirk (Stephen Gordon)
published by Saint Andrew Press
in Hardback
at £12.99 (978-0-715-20915-8) Oct 2009

If you are a native of the Shetland Isles this is for you, if you are a southerner like me, with a liking for the lilt of the Shetland voice, then equally, this is for you! Do read the Foreword and Introduction, then you will understand where Charles Greig is coming from. -

To begin with I needed the CD to listen to, and followed along with the printed words, together I found I could understand and enjoy this unique reading of Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments. As I listened longer, I just sat back and let the sound of the words alone tell the stories and I enjoyed the different voices, men and women, which gave colour to the readings. The black and white illustrations by Shetland cartoonist Smirk mustn't be missed; they bring a flavour of local Shetland scenes yet illustrate the passages fittingly.

Notes by Mary Bartholomew

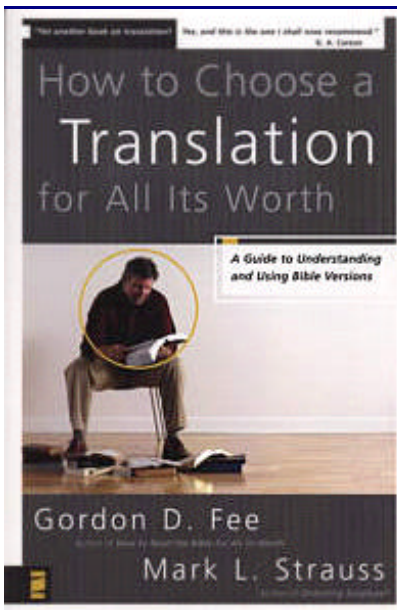


CEV - Contemporary English Version - Poverty and Justice Bible

published by Collins
in Paperback
at £20.00 (978-0-564-09453-0) 2008

See review by James Catford, Bible Society, on our Guest Review page

Notes by [Guest reviewer](#)



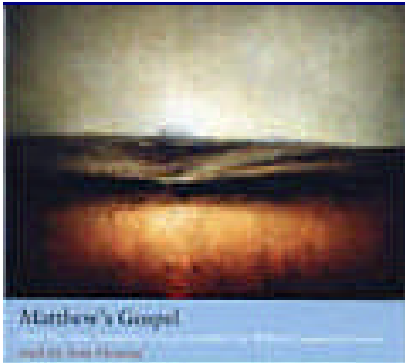
How to Choose a Translation

A Guide to Understanding and Using Bible Versions

by Gordon D.Fee and Mark L.Strauss
published by Zondervan Publishing House
in Flexiback
at £7.99 (978-0-310-27876-4) 2008

As a Bookseller it is always a challenge when a customer asks to purchase a Bible without any particular version in mind, because to fully appreciate the Word of God, the user must have the right version for their needs. This book takes a huge step towards not only pointing the reader in the right direction, but also explaining how the different versions are right for different purposes. A newcomer will require one, an academic another. It is also informative and fascinating to discover how translators approach their work, and how they do bear the reader in mind.

Notes by [Carole Burrows](#)



Matthew's Gospel

From <l>The New Testament in Scots</l>

Translated by William Laughton Lorimer and read by Tom Fleming

published by Wild Goose Publications

in CD

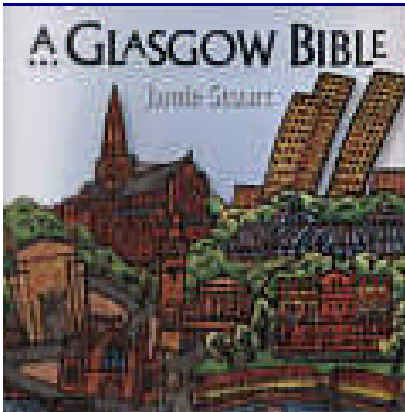
at £19.99

(978-1-905-01018-9)

Summer 2008

If you enjoy listening to a Scottish accent then this will be a real pleasure. Tom Fleming has a voice that you can happily listen to for hours and his reading of this gospel translated into the Scottish dialect is a joy to hear. If the gospel is familiar to you in your favourite version, you will have no difficulty in following the Scottish words without having to stop and seek the English translation. Just let it flow over you and you will receive the ageless message loud and clear.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



A Glasgow Bible

Adapted and told by Jamie Stuart

published by Saint Andrew Press

in CD

at £9.99

(978-0-715-20845-8)

Mar 2008

If you love the Scottish accent you will love this. Jamie Stuart tells stories from the Bible in the lively and colourful Glasgow dialect as written in the already much loved book.

The best seller of the same title is, ISBN 978-0-715-20749-9, £8.99

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

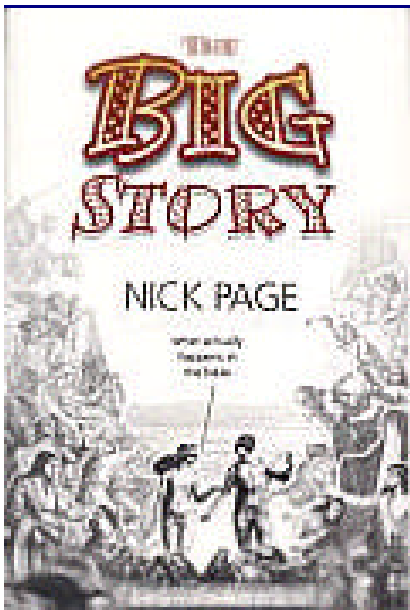


Word of promise: New Testament Audio CDs

original music by Stefano Mainetti, narrated by Michael York, dramat
published by Thomas Nelson
in Audio Book
at £22.99 (978-0-718-02424-6) Oct 2007

An excellent product for those with sight difficulties but equally so for sighted listeners who can gain so much by either following the words in their NKJV Bible, or listening to this dramatisation. I am a fan of dramatised books such as the BBC broadcasts, and this is just as good. Comprising twenty CDs, the set gives 25 hours of listening, quality time that will be well spent, particularly if you can meditate on what you are hearing as it goes along. A mixture of English and American voices that will not jar on English ears.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



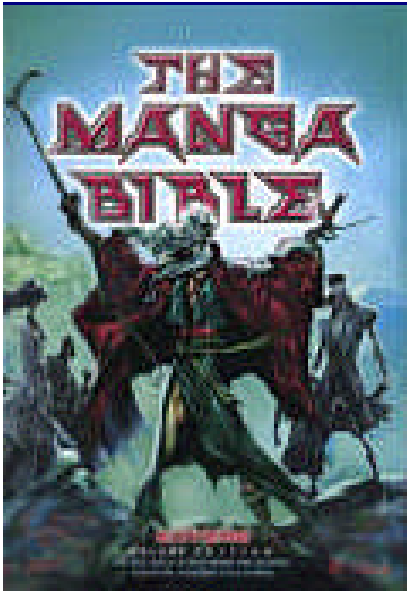
The Big Story

What Actually Happens in the Bible

by Nick Page
published by Authentic Media
in Paperback
at £7.99 (978-1-850-78726-6) 2007

This condensed telling of the Bible Story shows God's friendship and dealings with humankind. It shows the basis of Christianity with uncomplicated and non-controversial clarity. For newcomers to the bible or Christianity it will be well worth reading. It is helpfully set out in acts and scenes as a drama; a commentary, which gives more detail when it helps, keeps step with the narrative. There is a light touch and choice humour. Page finishes with short notes on some key themes in the story, and indicates how the reader might be concerned with them.

Notes by [Bryan Nicholls](#)



The Manga Bible: Extreme

by Siku
published by Hodder
in Paperback
at £14.99 (978-0-340-91046-7) Jul 2007

You may wonder 'what is Manga?' It sounds rather like a tropical fruit but is in fact a pictorial style of telling stories that originated in Japan similar to that used in comics. The first things that strike you about this book is its size - it's a monster - and a prominent manga graphic of Moses that dominates the cover. The book actually comprises two sections; the first (about a quarter of the volume) is the bible in Manga style and the second a complete Today's NIV translation. Comments are offered on just the Manga section.

A storyteller approach and style is used throughout, following the history of God's people through the Old Testament and moving onward to the life, works and parables of Jesus. The story opens with creation, as told by Moses to the waiting Hebrews who are paused on their flight from the Egyptians. The stories end with samples from the acts and letters of the apostles - then revelations in all its glory and mystery. Stories are annotated with Bible references that can be readily accessed in the adjacent section for further study. Teenage friends of our children can't wait to get their hands on this mega book - its so visually appealing - and I suspect they'll enjoy the cartoon graphics and storytelling style that may draw them into delving into the T-NIV text.

Notes by Peter Scott