



Earliest Old Testament Translations Volume 1

Clayton G Porter

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Earliest Old Testament Translations Volume 1 is a comparison of 6 of the most important of the reformation and pre-reformation translations of the Old Testament Pentateuch into English. All of the original wording has been retained for accuracy and authenticity, but the big stumbling block of spelling has been eliminated. All of the spelling has been updated to modern standards so that the reader can concentrate on the meaning of the scripture as these early devoted translators translated it instead of stumbling over the wayward spelling.

The preface to Earliest Old Testament Translations Volume 1 begins with a short introduction explaining why these early Old Testament translations are still important today, and continues with a brief chronology of the significant milestones in the evolution of the Bible in the English language. Following this are short discussions of the importance and development of the translations selected for this comparison study.

Earliest Old Testament Translations Volume 1 continues with each of the first five books of the Old Testament presented with a brief, one sentence summary of the content. Chapters in the earlier translations are broken into verses to match the King James and each verse is presented in 6 parallel translations.

Chosen for this comparison study were:

1. The Old Testament Pentateuch from the third century B.C. Greek Septuagint as translated into English in 1851. The Greek Septuagint is the earliest known translation of the Hebrew scriptures into any other language.
2. The Old Testament Pentateuch from the John Wycliffe Bible of 1395. This was the first complete Bible ever translated into the English language. It was translated from St. Jerome's early fifth century Latin Vulgate and was the foundation for the later reformation.
3. The Old Testament Pentateuch from the Douay Old Testament as revised by Bishop Richard Challoner in 1763. The Douay Old Testament first completed in 1610 and it's subsequent revisions have remained the Old Testament for Catholic bibles to this day. This as well was a translation of St. Jerome's Latin Vulgate.
4. The William Tyndale Pentateuch of 1530. This was the first translation of any portion of the Old Testament into the English language directly from the Hebrew Masoretic text.
5. The Old Testament Pentateuch from the Geneva Bible of 1560. This was the first Bible to break the chapters into individual numbered verses and was the first Bible brought to this country by the pilgrims. It remained the most popular Bible in England for over 100 years after the introduction of the King James.
6. The Old Testament Pentateuch from the King James Version of 1611. No comparison of Bible translations would be complete without including the venerable King James Version.

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