

Pioneer®
Bible Translators

7 Times the Bible Changed the World



The Bible has always been more than just a book – it's the living Word of God, changing lives and shaping history in ways we couldn't have imagined.

From the earliest days of the Church to the present, God's Word has sparked movements, transformed communities, and brought hope to places once ruled by darkness. Each of these moments is a testament to the unstoppable power of Scripture.

And as we look back at these times when the Bible changed the world, we're reminded that this story isn't finished yet. God is still using His Word to transform lives today – and you're a part of it.

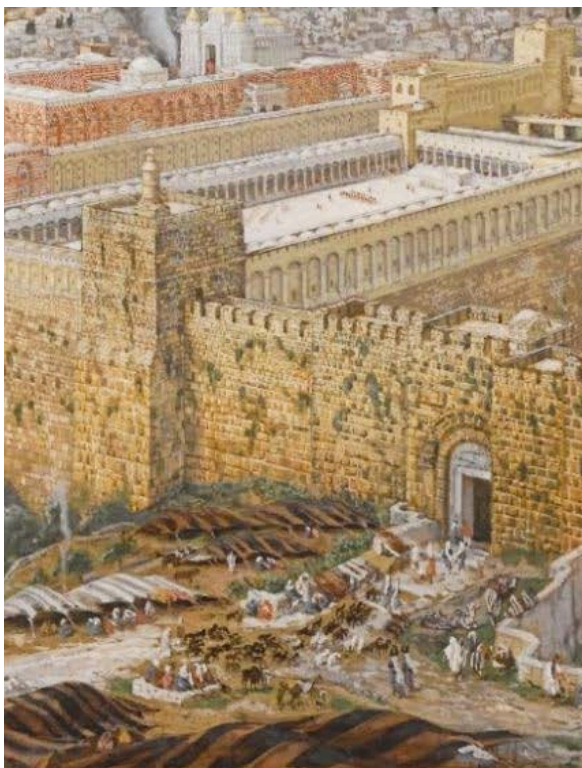
1. The Scattering of Christians

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians took the Gospel message to new places.

The Scattering of Christians

From the beginning of the Church, followers of Jesus have taken the Gospel wherever they have gone. People who heard the message of Jesus as they gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost took this Good News with them as they returned to their homes.

In the decades that followed, Christians faced increasing persecution. The destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in A.D. 70 forced many to flee. This scattering — this first diaspora of Christians — seemed like a tragedy. But it was more than just an event on a timeline. It played a key role in God's plan to grow His Church.



These early followers of Jesus took the Gospel message into new places where it had never before been proclaimed. They preached Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, and they drew instruction and encouragement from the letters and Gospel narratives that now comprise our New Testament.

“Those who had been scattered preached the Word *wherever they went*.”

ACTS 8:4 (NIV)

Scripture's Role in Shaping and Uniting the Church

As early Christians formed new communities in their new homes, the message of Jesus spread into different cultures. Multi-ethnic churches emerged as people from diverse backgrounds united under Christ's Lordship. They looked to Scripture for guidance: the Old Testament revealed God's character and instructions for community living, while the teachings of Jesus and the letters of the New Testament shaped their thoughts, actions, and discipleship efforts. These writings addressed challenges, corrected beliefs, and inspired unity. Even before the Bible as we know it was fully available, God's Word was transforming the world. It united diverse communities and anchored them in truth.

2. Gutenberg and the Printing Press

The printing press made the Bible accessible to common people, laying the foundation for future English versions and shaping the spiritual lives of millions.

The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-15th century changed the course of history. Before this breakthrough, books were copied by hand, one by one, making them rare and expensive. Only the wealthy had access to them.

But Gutenberg's invention of movable type made it possible to produce books quickly and at a much lower cost, making them available to many more people.



A Vision for Bringing the Bible to the Masses

His printing of the Gutenberg Bible was one of the first major works to come from his press, and it made the Word of God available to a much wider audience. For the first time ever, a person did not have to be wealthy to own a copy of the Bible. People could now read it for themselves, deepening their personal faith. This new access to the Scriptures also stirred a shift, as individuals began to engage with God's Word directly instead of relying solely on the Church.

God used Gutenberg's invention to put His Word into the hands of people across the world, opening doors for faith to grow in ways that hadn't been possible before. The printing press forever changed how the Bible was shared and understood.

“So is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but *will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*”

ISAIAH 55:11 (NIV)

Gutenberg's heart was set on making knowledge — especially the Bible — accessible to everyone. He understood the foundational importance of Scripture to life and faith.

3. William Tyndale and the English Bible

Tyndale's translation made Scripture accessible to everyday English speakers for the first time, laying the foundation for future English Bibles and inspiring generations to read God's Word for themselves.

Scripture and the Early Church

William Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English in 1526 was a turning point in making Scripture accessible to everyday people who spoke English. Before Tyndale, most people only had access to the Bible in Latin, a language they couldn't understand. Tyndale saw how much people needed to read God's Word for themselves, so he dedicated



his life to translating the Bible directly from the original Hebrew and Greek texts into English.

“Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is *truth*.”
JOHN 17:17 (NIV)

A Bible for the People

Tyndale's mission wasn't easy. The religious leaders of his time saw his work as a threat because they believed the Church should control how the Bible was read and understood. Tyndale faced constant danger — he was hunted, had to live in hiding, and was even betrayed. But despite the risks, Tyndale never gave up. He was driven by a deep conviction that everyone, no matter their status, should be able to read God's Word in their own language. Though Tyndale was eventually captured and executed in 1536, his work didn't die with him.

Tyndale helped shape the way millions of English-speaking people would come to know and understand God's Word, and his translation laid the groundwork for future English Bibles. God used Tyndale's courage and dedication to give future generations access to Scripture in their own language, fulfilling the very vision he died for.

4. Transformation of South Korea

The Bible was instrumental in South Korea's cultural and economic transformation.

South Korea's incredible journey from a war-torn nation to a global economic leader in the 20th century is closely tied to the rapid spread of Christianity and the impact of Scripture. Missionaries played a key role in this transformation by translating the Bible into Korean — a key to disciple making throughout the country.

“You are the *light of the world*. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.”

MATTHEW 5:14-15 (NIV)

Impact on Korean Society and Economy

When the Bible became available in Korean, it sparked a spiritual awakening that changed the course of the nation. As people gained access to Scripture, literacy rates rose and individuals began to engage with God's Word in deep, personal ways. This revival of faith coincided with South Korea's rapid industrial growth and Biblical values like hard work, community, and social responsibility became woven into the



fabric of the nation. These principles helped shape South Korea's economic success, creating a foundation for growth that went beyond material wealth.

Global Missionary Influence

Today, South Korea is one of the largest missionary-sending nations in the world. This incredible missionary movement is the lasting legacy of a Scripture-fueled spiritual movement. South Korea's commitment to advancing God's Kingdom through evangelism, church planting, and Bible translation shows how the Bible's impact in one nation can have ripple effects all around the world.

5. Transformation of the Tay People

The New Testament in the Tay language is transforming the people's worldview, empowering them to break free from their fears as their faith in God deepens.

Before the arrival of Scripture in their heart language, the Tay people of Papua New Guinea lived in fear of spirits and relied on sorcery to guide their everyday lives. Traditional beliefs dominated their culture, fostering a pervasive sense of fear and uncertainty. But this began to change as Biblical truth took root in their community.

Celebrating the New Testament

On July 17, 2014, the Tay celebrated a monumental event — the arrival of their New Testament, which marked a turning point in their spiritual journey. They joyfully showcased traditional dances and songs to express gratitude to God for providing His Word in their own language.



This would not have been possible without the generosity of people who support Pioneer Bible Translators!

“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness.”

JOHN 12:46 (NIV)

“This is Big Talk!”

“This is Big Talk,” said a Tay leader after hearing Scripture read in his own language. “We aren’t sleeping at night. We are staying up talking about what God’s Word is saying to us.”

Yuwolim, one of the Tay Bible translators, passionately remarked, “I will die, the Bible translators will die, but this Talk will last forever, for generations to come, until Jesus returns!” His words speak to the lasting legacy of Scripture — the eternal impact of God’s Word on the Tay people.

As the Tay people read and study God’s Word in their language, it is transforming their lives as trust in our all-powerful God replaces fear of every other spiritual force in their world. They are also spreading the Gospel in their communities and nearby language groups. They are a powerful example of how God’s Word brings freedom, hope, and lasting change. God’s truth is setting the Tay people free, and the Bible is lighting their way forward.

6. Transformation of the Aruamu People

The Bible inspired the Aruamu people — who previously had no Scripture in their language — to form a Bible college and send missionaries to other people groups.

The Aruamu people of Papua New Guinea have experienced a remarkable transformation through having the Bible in their own language, thanks to the work of Pioneer Bible Translators. For years, their limited access to Scripture hindered their understanding of the nature and character of God and the full impact of the Gospel message. But once they could read God's Word in their own language, everything changed. It sparked a passion within them to spread the Gospel throughout their region and even in other countries.

The Spark That Lights the Fire

Now that they have the Bible in their own language, the Aruamu people feel a deep desire to share the Good News with nearby villages. What started as a Bible translation project has grown into a powerful church-planting movement. The Aruamu Bible didn't just change individual hearts — it launched a mission effort, empowering the Aruamu to

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.

ISAIAH 52:7 (NIV)



become messengers of God's Word. Some of the people who helped translate the Bible into their own Aruamu language are now helping translate Scripture into three other languages.

From Bibleless People to Partners in the Gospel

The Bible has done more than just deepen the Aruamu people's faith. It has strengthened their communities, uniting them with a shared sense of identity and purpose. And the impact of this transformation continues to ripple outward, touching lives and growing God's Kingdom.

Their Bible college is training and sending out evangelists and church planters. Through the power of God's Word, the Aruamu people are becoming agents of lasting change.

7. The Stories to Be Written

The incredible stories of how the Bible has transformed lives don't stop here! In fact, the most incredible chapter is still to come — and you can be a part of it.

The Most Important Chapter

Imagine a world where every people group, every family, and every individual can read the Bible for themselves. Picture the joy of someone hearing the words of Jesus for the very first time, in their own language, and imagine the transformation that will follow as God's truth sets them free. That moment is closer than ever before.

This is not just a dream. For the first time in history, it's possible to translate God's Word into every language on Earth, giving every person access to the truth of Scripture in their language.

This is a reality that YOU can be a part of.



“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.*”

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NIV)

Right now, there are still places where people have never experienced the power of Scripture because they have never heard it in their own language. Some have never even heard of Jesus. They are waiting, searching for hope and truth.

Your support for Pioneer Bible Translators can change that. Through the ministry of Bible translation, church planting, and disciple-making, you can bring the light of the Gospel into the darkest places.

Every Language on Earth

You can help finish the job of Bible translation! Together, we can launch new translation projects and put God's Word into the hands of people who have waited their whole lives. As we've seen with the Korean, Tay, and Aruamu people, God's Word changes hearts, communities, and nations.

The Bible has changed your life. Now with your support, it can change the world. Let's fulfill the Great Commission by bringing God's Word — and the message of Jesus' love — to every language.

Ready to make history?

You are living in the generation that will bring God's Word to every language! Learn how you can get involved at PioneerBible.org today!



Get involved today at
PioneerBible.org