

A 500-year-old Study Framework

BFM Fall Retreat 2025
Session 2



How did we get here?

A Brief history of the English Bible

A Brief History of the English Bible

- **Wycliffe (1382)**
- **Tyndale (1526)**
- **Coverdale (1535)**
- **Great Bible (1539)**
- **Geneva Bible (1560)**
- **King James Version (KJV) (1611)**



Wycliffe (1382)


Hand-written and translated from the Latin
Vulgate
(not original languages)



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Tyndale (1526)

First printed English New Testament translated
directly from Greek;
profoundly influenced later English Bibles;
Tyndale executed in 1536

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Coverdale (1536)

First complete printed English Bible;
Used Tyndale where available and translated the
rest.



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Great Bible (1539)

First authorized English Bible for use in churches
Edited by Coverdale





Geneva Bible (1560)

Notable for extensive marginal notes and study helps


widely used among English-speaking Protestants

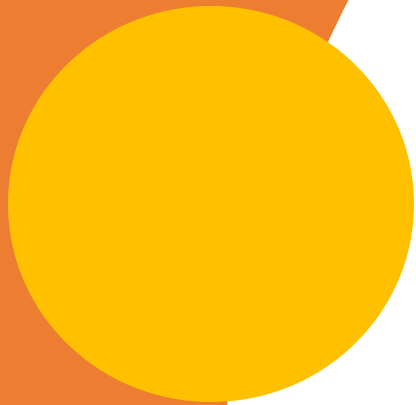


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King James Version (1611)

Standardized for the Church of England
Drew heavily on Tyndale and earlier English
phrasing.
Sponsored by King James VI and I

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Myles Coverdale

Both Access (translation) and method (framework)

"It shall greatly help thee to understand Scripture, if thou mark not only what is spoken or written, but of whom and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstances, considering what goeth before and what followeth after." — Myles Coverdale

Modernized via GPT-5:

"notice who is mentioned, who is addressed, the words used, the timing and place, the purpose, the surrounding circumstances, and the flow before and after."



Who was mentioned?



To whom was it addressed?



What words were used?



When was it stated?



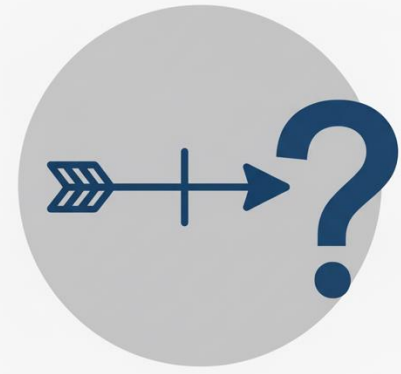
Where was it stated?



What was the purpose?




**What were the
circumstances?**



**What precedes and
what follows?**

The 5W's (and 1H)



Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Why?
How?

Who?

- Author, speaker
- Members of the audience
- Other key players
- Names and pronouns



Who was mentioned?

Who?

- Audience
- Address on the letter



To whom was it addressed?

What?

- Key words used:
 - In the verse
 - In other passages or books
- Language
 - The English words
 - The original Greek and Hebrew words



?λόγος

What words were used?

What?

Resources for deeper dive:

- Blue Letter Bible:
<https://www.blueletterbible.org>
- Center for New Testament
Restoration:
<https://greekcntr.org/collation/index.html>



?λόγος

What words were used?

When?

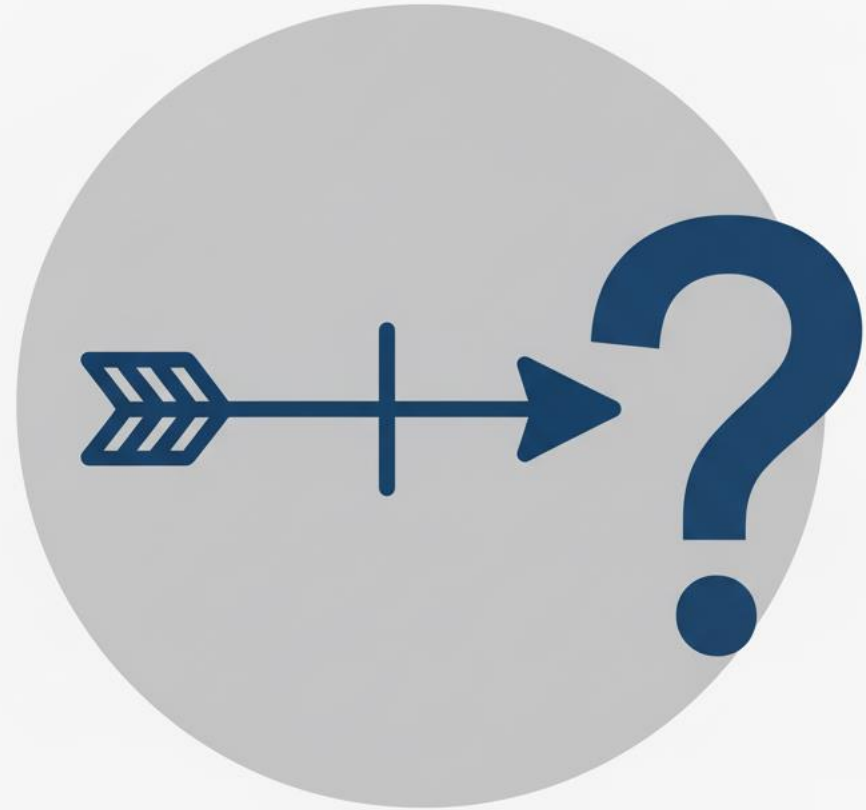
- Absolute timeline
- Relative timeline



When was it stated?

When?

- Context in timeline and history
- Context in the text itself



**What precedes and
what follows?**

Where?

- Physical Setting
 - City and Country
 - Urban or rural
 - Indoors or outdoors
- Textual Setting
 - The passage/section
 - The book



Where was it stated?

Why?

- Purpose or intent
- Root Cause - The Seven Why's



What was the purpose?

How?

- Culture
- Genre
- Politics
- Constraints and options
- Power dynamics
- Risks
- Expectations



**What were the
circumstances?**

John 14:6

Applying the Framework



Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

[John 14:6 KJV]

(Word-for-Word Translation Example)

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

[John 14:6 NIV]

(Thought-for-Thought Translation Example)

Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me.”

[John 14:6 MSG]

(Paraphrase Example)

John 14:6 - Who?

- Jesus
- him
- I
- man
- Father
- me



Who was mentioned?

John 14:6 - Who?

Is this an individual, select group, or large crowd?

Look at the previous verses and chapter to better understand this.



To whom was it addressed?

John 14:6 - What?

- “I AM” phrase
- “Way”, “truth”, life
- Cometh



?λόγος

What words were used?

John 14:6 - When?

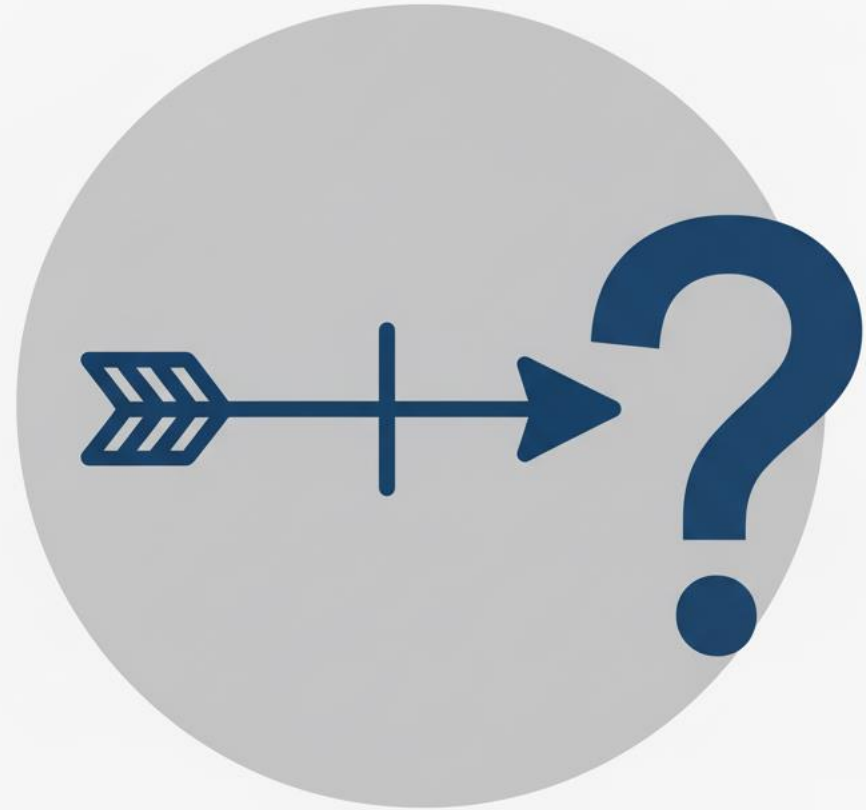
- Time of year, season, religious feasts, etc.
- Time of day



When was it stated?

John 14:6 - When?

- What happens right before and right after this scene?
- What major events lead up to this?
- What major events follow this?



**What precedes and
what follows?**

John 14:6 - Where?

- In what city does this take place?
- What other details of the location can we learn?



Where was it stated?

John 14:6 - Why?

- What is Jesus answering or addressing through this statement?
- Ask the Seven Why's



What was the purpose?

John 14:6 - How?

- How did this topic come up in conversation?
- What's in the mind of the audience?

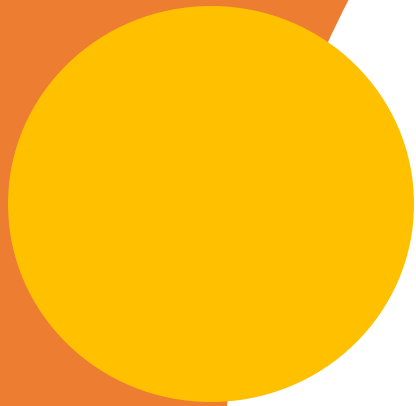


**What were the
circumstances?**



Recap

- First full English translation of the Bible came with an excellent study framework!
- Coverdale's Framework is really a slightly expanded take on the 5W1H questions.
- This framework teaches us how to think rather than telling us what to think.



Thank you!
Q&A