

NIV or Modern Version Bible Quiz

INSTRUCTIONS: Referring to the New International Version of the English Bible (NIV), try addressing the following questions. Since the Bible (God's Holy Word) is our final authority, you must get your answers from the pages of scripture... do not rely on your memory or footnotes. For your convenience, and for comparison purposes, five popular Bible translations have been included verbatim below each question in color encoding: King James (KJV), New King James (NKJV), New American Standard (NASB), New International Version (NIV), and English Standard Version (ESV). Or, you may use another version for this quiz and see how it scores. Words or phrases asked for in the questions are underlined where they occur in these Bible versions. Omissions are also noted. Enjoy. (Ron Myers)

NOTE: THERE ARE TWO DIFFERING GREEK TEXTS: The Byzantine Greek Manuscripts, closely related to the Received Text or *Textus Receptus* (TR)—sometimes mistakenly identified as the *Majority* text—from which the KJV and the NKJV New Testaments were translated. Conversely, the Alexandrian Greek Manuscript (*and its derivatives, called Wescott & Hort, Critical, United Bible Society, Nestle-Aland*), from which the NASB, the NIV, and the ESV were translated. In fact, almost all modern New Testament translations are based on the Alexandrian text's derivatives, not just the NASB and the NIV. Neither of the two Greek texts (Byzantine or Alexandrian) are the actual original inspired writings, but are compiled variants of copies. The question being posed is, which more closely reflects the actual original Greek autographs?

Concerning these Alexandrian-based translations, NIV, ESV, and NASB. Of these, the NASB (Lockman Foundation) is by far the more accurate or "faithful" (*Formal Equivalency*). This is because its translators' primary goal was to make it as grammatically accurate or reflective of the original texts as possible. Meanwhile, even though the NIV reads more smoothly—and is therefore very popular on that premise, as well as due to superb marketing—it tends to be unnecessarily interpretive in many of its word choices. Its translators could have easily chosen more accurate (non-interpretive) English words, and still maintained its ease of reading.

The theory proposed by scholars who advocate the Alexandrian Greek text form over the Byzantine, is that certain words, phrases, and even verses present in the Byzantine Greek manuscripts—missing or absent in the Alexandrian text—were most-likely added by scribes afterwards, since the Byzantine Greek text is *younger*, or dated centuries later. They reason that these so-called additions or "corruptions" were made by scribes tampering with or editing the text to their own liking—while the Alexandrian text is said to be "older," or dated earlier (even though discovered centuries later), therefore potentially more accurate, having had less occasion or opportunity to have been "tampered" with by said Scribes. That being said, some Bible scholars in the pro-Alexandrian camp have begun to question the pro-Alexandrian, Scribal-tampering argument, and are taking a second look at the old stand-by, the Byzantine text (or *Textus Receptus*), from which the KJV (and variants), the NKJV, and others were translated.^{1,2}

To counter the pro-Alexandrian position, that the Byzantine text had been corrupted by Scribal tampering during the copying process, if one is at all familiar with the absolute reverence for Scripture, attention to detail, and striving for accuracy practiced by Biblical scribes, this argument becomes very weak at best. Conversely, those who support the Byzantine text position, as being the most accurate, point out that the Alexandrian text was set aside centuries ago because it was discovered to have been corrupted—missing many key words, phrases, as well as complete verses, or sections in some cases, when compared alongside the Byzantine text form. Their reverence for scripture precluded their destroying it, so they set it aside.

Concerning the preponderance of evidence, numerically speaking, there are far fewer Alexandrian manuscript remnants in existence today than there are of Byzantine manuscripts. This lends further evidence to the suggestion that the Byzantine was the more-widely used and accepted Greek text, which again favors the pro-Byzantine Greek text form argument. This also agrees with the Majority text argument, so named because the *majority* (or preponderance) of textual evidence lines up with the huge amount of Byzantine Greek manuscripts, not the Alexandrian. This strongly suggests that the greater probability is, the Byzantine/TR text (modeled in the KJV and NKJV) has a greater probability of reflecting the actual original autographs more accurately than the Alexandrian. And, the Alexandrian text (modeled in the NASB, NIV, ESV, etc.), which omits many key verses and words, is more likely to be the corrupted, less-accurate Greek text, the very reason why it was initially set aside, to be discovered centuries later in the caves at *Qumran*.³

Some have suggested that, perhaps the most persuasive evidence supporting which existing Greek text-type more closely reflects the original autographs might be found in first and second century translations, or in the writings of the Apostles and early church fathers. If the research proved definitive, it could provide compelling evidence as to which Greek text was the most accurate: the Alexandrian, the Byzantine/TR, or possibly one of the Majority Greek text prototypes. (Ron Myers)

¹ This was learned by me firsthand (*R. M.*) from a well-known SIL/WBT Bible translator, and personal acquaintance, whose father was a member of the NIV editing committee.

² Besides the King James (1611), pre-KJV translations include: Tyndale (1525); Coverdale (1535); Great Bible (1539); Geneva/ Pilgrim's Bible (1560). Modern Byzantine/TR-based versions include: Literal Version (1962) and Modern KJV (1976) by Jay Green; New KJV (c. 1972) Thomas Nelson Pub.

³ *Qumran* is best known as the settlement nearest to the hiding place of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the caves of the sheer desert cliffs. Since the discovery in 1947 of nearly 900 scroll fragments in various states of completeness (mostly written on parchment), extensive excavations of the settlement have been undertaken.

Q: 1. Fill in the missing words in Matthew 5:44. "Love your enemies, them that curse you, to them that hate you, and pray for them that and persecute you."

KJV: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

NKJV: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

NASB: "But I say to you, love your enemies, /OMITTED/, /OMITTED/, and pray for those who /OMITTED/ persecute you

NIV: "But I tell you: Love your enemies, /OMITTED/, /OMITTED/, and pray for those who /OMITTED/ persecute you,

ESV: But I say to you, Love your enemies, /OMITTED/, /OMITTED/, and pray for those who /OMITTED/ persecute you,

Q: 2. According to Matthew 17:21, what two things are required to cast out this type of demon? and

KJV: Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

NKJV: "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

NASB: ["But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."]]

NIV: *OMITTED*

ESV: (*OMITTED TEXT*)

Q: 3. According to Matthew 18:11, why did Jesus come to earth?

KJV: For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

NKJV: "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

NASB: ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."]]

NIV: *OMITTED*

ESV: (*OMITTED TEXT*)

Q: 4. According to Matthew 27:2, what was the first part of Pilate's name (complete title)?

KJV: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

NKJV: And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

NASB: and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to / *OMITTED* / Pilate the governor.

NIV: They bound him, led him away and handed him over to / *OMITTED* / Pilate, the governor.

ESV: And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to / *OMITTED* / Pilate the governor.

Q: 5. In Matthew 27:35, when the soldiers parted His garments, they were fulfilling the words of the prophet. Copy what the prophet said in Matthew 27:35 from the NIV.

KJV: And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

NKJV: Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

NASB: And / *OMITTED* / when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots;

NIV: When / *OMITTED* / they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

ESV: And / *OMITTED* / when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

Q: 6. In Mark 3:15, Jesus gave the apostles power to and to cast out demons

KJV: And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

NKJV: and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

NASB: and to have authority / *OMITTED* / to cast out the demons.

NIV: and to have authority / *OMITTED* / to drive out demons.

ESV: and have authority / *OMITTED* / to cast out demons.

Q: 7. According to Mark 7:16, what does a man need to possess to be able to hear?

KJV: If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

NKJV: "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

NASB: ["If any man has ears to hear, let him hear."]

NIV: *OMITTED*

ESV: *(OMITTED TEXT)*

Q: 8. According to Luke 7:28, what was John? (teacher, prophet, carpenter, etc.?) What is his title (or last name)? ;

KJV: For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

NKJV: "For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

NASB: "I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater */OMITTED/* than John */OMITTED/*; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

NIV: I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater */OMITTED/* than John */OMITTED/*; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

ESV: I tell you, among those born of women none is greater */OMITTED/* than John */OMITTED/*. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Q: 9. In Luke 9:55, what did the disciples not know about themselves?

KJV: But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

NKJV: But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

NASB: But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;

NIV: But Jesus turned and rebuked them, */OMITTED/*

ESV: But he turned and rebuked them. */OMITTED/*

Q: 10. In Luke 9:56, what did the Son of man *not* come to do? And, what did He *come* to do?

KJV: For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

NKJV: "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

NASB: for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village.

NIV: */OMITTED/* and they went to another village.

ESV: */OMITTED/* And they went on to another village.

Q: 11. In Luke 22:14, how many apostles were with Jesus?

KJV And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

NKJV: When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

NASB: And when the hour had come He reclined *at the table*, and the */OMITTED/* apostles with Him.

NIV: When the hour came, Jesus and his */OMITTED/* apostles reclined at the table.

ESV: And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the */OMITTED/* apostles with him.

Q: 12. According to Luke 23:38, in what three languages was the superscription written?, and, and

KJV: And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

NKJV: And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

NASB: Now there was also an inscription above Him */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/*, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

NIV: There was a written notice above him, which read */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/*: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

ESV: There was also an inscription over him */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/* and */OMITTED/*, "This is the King of the Jews."

Q: 13. In Luke 24:42, what did they give Jesus to eat with His fish?

KJV: And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

NKJV: So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

NASB: And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; /OMITTED/

NIV: They gave him a piece of broiled fish, /OMITTED/

ESV: They gave him a piece of broiled fish, /OMITTED/

Q: 14. John 3:13 is a very important verse, proving the deity of Christ. As Jesus spoke, where was the Son of man?

KJV: And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

NKJV: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

NASB: “And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man. /OMITTED/

NIV: No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-- the Son of Man. /OMITTED/

ESV: No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. /OMITTED/

Q: 15. What happened each year as told in John 5:4?

KJV: For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water; whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

NKJV: For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

NASB: for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.]

NIV: OMITTED

ESV: (OMITTED TEXT)

Q: 16. In John 7:50, what time of day did Nicodemus come to Jesus?

KJV: Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

NKJV: Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them,

NASB: Nicodemus said to them (he who came to Him before /OMITTED/, being one of them),

NIV: Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier /OMITTED/ and who was one of their own number, asked,

ESV: Nicodemus, who had gone to him before /OMITTED/, and who was one of them, said to them,

Q: 17. In Acts 8:37, what is the one requirement for baptism?

KJV: And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

NKJV: Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

NASB: [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]

NIV: OMITTED

ESV: (OMITTED TEXT)

Q: 18. What did Saul ask Jesus in Acts 9:6—and in what emotional state was he?

KJV: And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

NKJV: So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

NASB: /OMITTED/OMITTED/ but rise, and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do.”

NIV: /OMITTED/OMITTED/ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

ESV: /OMITTED/OMITTED/ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

Q: 19. Write the name of the man mentioned in Acts 15:34.

KJV: Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

NKJV: However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

NASB: [But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.]

NIV: *OMITTED*

ESV: (*OMITTED TEXT*)

Q: 20. Study Acts 24:6-8. What would the Jews have done with Paul? And, what did the chief captain command?

KJV: 6 Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law. 7 But the chief captain Lysias came *upon us*, and with great violence took *him* away out of our hands, 8 Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him.

NKJV: 6 “He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.

7 “But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took *him* out of our hands, 8 “commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.”

NASB: 6 “And he even tried to desecrate the temple; and then we arrested him. [And we wanted to judge him according to our own Law. 7 “But Lysias the commander came along, and with much violence took him out of our hands, 8 ordering his accusers to come before you.] And by examining him yourself concerning all these matters, you will be able to ascertain the things of which we accuse him.”

NIV: 6 and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him /*OMITTED*/. 7 /*OMITTED*/ 8 /*OMITTED*/ By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

ESV: He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him /*OMITTED*/. 7 /*OMITTED*/ 8 /*OMITTED*/ By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

Q: 21. Copy Romans 16:24 word for word from the NIV.

KJV: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

NKJV: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

NASB: [The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.]

NIV: *OMITTED*

ESV: (*OMITTED TEXT*)

Q: 22. First Timothy 3:16 is perhaps the greatest verse in the New Testament concerning the deity of Christ. In this verse, who was manifested in the flesh?

KJV: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

NKJV: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

NASB: And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: /He/ who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

NIV: Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: /He/ appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

ESV: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: /He/ was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Q: 23. In the second part of First Peter 4:14, how do they speak of Christ? And, what do Christians do?

..... **but**

KJV: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

NKJV: If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

NASB: If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
/OMITTED/OMITTED/

NIV: If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
/OMITTED/OMITTED/

ESV: If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
/OMITTED/OMITTED/

Q: 24. Who are the three Persons of the Trinity in First John 5:7?

....., **and**

KJV: For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

NKJV: For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

NASB: For there are three that testify: /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/

NIV: For there are three that testify: /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/

ESV: For there are three that testify: /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/

Q: 25. Revelation 1:11 is another very important verse that proves the deity of Christ. In this verse Jesus said, "I am the A....., and O....., the F....., and the L....."

KJV: Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

NKJV: saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

NASB: saying, /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/ "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

NIV: which said: /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/ "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

ESV: saying, /OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/OMITTED/ "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

That concludes the 25 question quiz. In the space below, I have included two of my favorite verses as bonus questions: Luke 2:14 and Colossians 1:14

**Q: 26. In Luke 2:14, does God put any condition or stipulation upon whom His peace and good will is for?
Yes No**

KJV: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

NKJV: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

NASB: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men /with whom He is pleased./”

NIV: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men /on whom his favor rests./”

ESV: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace /among those with whom he is pleased!/"

NOTE: The Word tells us that God is well pleased with His son, but offers mercy (good will) to a sin-filled world. This comes under the philosophy of mis-translation... the Alexandrian manuscript doesn't even support this wording.

Q: 27. In Colossians 1:14, through what means has God purchased and provided our redemption and forgiveness of sins?

KJV: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

NKJV: In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

NASB: In whom we have redemption (*OMITTED*), the forgiveness of sins. (*Some NASB versions have [...blood] in blocks*)

NIV: In whom we have redemption (*OMITTED*), the forgiveness of sins.

ESV: in whom we have redemption (*OMITTED*), the forgiveness of sins.

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Conclusion: Little space is needed for answers. If you followed through with the instructions of this quiz, you will see how the NIV Bible, as well as most other modern translations, fail the test, at least in part. So, now what do you think of these “accurate, easy-to-understand, up-to-date” modern translations?

These 25+2 questions are but a small example, yet they clearly show where the NIV, and most other modern translations—based on the Alexandrian text—are lacking, because they are based on an inferior Greek text, of which the translators or translation teams and checking committees often go overboard in employing liberal or interpretive translation principles.

Another quiz could be compiled with 25 more questions, or 100 more, or whatever, but most all modern translations would still flunk the test, either in whole or in part. If you check this test against the KJV, or even the NKJV, and other equally-faithful and accurate “formal-equivalency” or “literal-equivalency” translations, based on the Byzantine/TR Greek text—sometimes *wrongly* associated with the Majority text—the score will be the same every time.