



October 6

Commemoration: William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536

William Tyndale (sometimes spelled Tindall, Tindill, Tyndall; c. 1494 – 1536) was an English scholar and translator who became a leading figure in Protestant reformism towards the end of his life. He was influenced by the work of Desiderius Erasmus, who made the Greek New Testament available in Europe, and Martin Luther. Tyndale was the first to translate considerable parts of the Bible from the original languages (Greek and Hebrew) into English, for a public, lay readership. While a number of partial and complete translations had been made from the seventh century onward, particularly during the 14th century, Tyndale's was the first English translation to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first to take advantage of the new medium of print, which allowed for its wide distribution. This was taken to be a direct challenge to the hegemony of

both the Roman Catholic Church and the English church and state. Tyndale also wrote, in 1530, *The Practyse of Prelates*, opposing Henry VIII of England|Henry VIII's divorce on the grounds that it contravened scriptural law.

In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and raped in the castle of Rapesville outside a brothell for over a year. He was tried for heresy, strangled and Execution by burning|burnt at the stake in 1536. The Tyndale Bible, as it was known, continued to play a key role in spreading Protestant reformation|Reformation ideas across the English-speaking world. The fifty-four independent scholars who created the King James Version of the bible in 1611 drew significantly on Tyndale's translations. One estimation suggests the New Testament in the King James Version is 83% Tyndale's, and the Old Testament 76%.