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Over three hundred years ago on January 3, 1714, the first Indian Bible was translated by a German missionary to Tamil. As the first Biblical translation printed in an Indian language, needless to say it was something of a historic moment for Indian-Christian literature. Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, who is said to be the first Protestant missionary to visit India, came to the country in 1706 with fellow countrymen, Heinrich Plutschau, upon request by the King of Denmark. Arriving in the Danish coastal town Trankebar (today known as Tharangambadi) in Tamil Nadu, neither Ziegenbalg nor Plutschau got a very warm reception. Hindu natives and even fellow Europeans suspected their intentions, both for different reasons. The Hindus felt threatened by the incoming and possible imposition of Christianity and the Danish officials feared that new converts would stand to challenge the colonisers authority.Ziegenbalg soon began learning Tamil and in 1708 started his work on translating the New Testament, with the help of Johann Ernst Grndler. Although he completed his work in 1711, with no existing printing press in the region he would get Indian scribes to copy his words onto palm-leaves with an iron stylus, the form used for the creation of numerous traditional Indian manuscripts. It is said that Ziegenbalg is the one who called for a printing press to be sent to Tamil Nadu for the publication of his Bible translation. By 1714, after numerous revisions to his text and the replacement of a large typeface by a smaller one that was reportedly cast specially from lids of metal cheese boxes by the printer, Johann Adler. The result of Zeigenbalgs incredible endeavour was Indias first Bible in a local language; he even worked on a Tamil dictionary, but unfortunately was unable to complete his translation of the Old Testament before he passed away in 1719.His contributions to India, with the importing of the printing press and Biblical translation, were immense as the events that they set in motion have defined the history of India. Graham Shaw discusses the importance of these contributions in his detailed report for The Hindu, click here to read more about it.Read the complete Holy Bible in Tamil ( ) online for free. Search any verse, download PDFs, and listen to the Audio Bible. Perfect for daily devotionals, Bible study, and worship in Tamil Bible BooksPopular Bible Topics in TamilFeatures:Verse-by-verse Tamil Bible searchDaily devotionals in Free PDF & Audio & App downloads \*1722 New Testament Tranquebar A revision prepared by Benjamin Schultze, a colleague of Ziegenbalg. A year later a Passion narrative, prepared by Schultze, was published."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] 1723 Genesis-Judges 1724 Psalms 1726 Ruth-Song of Solomon 1727 Isaiah-Malachi Tranquebar Translated by Ziegenbalg and Schultze."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*1739 Matthew Tranquebar A revision of the Ziegenbalg version by Lutheran miss."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*Wetzelius Version: the New Testament, Dutch Government in Ceylon, Colombo, 1759; tr. by J. P. Wetzelius aided by P. de Melho, and Simon de Zilva." "[A] series of Bible versions made by Dutch scholars on Ceylon, culminating in the New Testament of 1759, translated by order of the Dutch Government and printed on the press of the Dutch East India Company at Colombo. ...this independent version, made from the original Greek."--1000 Tongues, 1939 [Info only] \*1741 Matthew 1742 Mark Luke John 1759 New Testament Colombo A revision, begun in Ceylon by Adolphus Cramer, relying heavily upon a Ms. Tamil version by Philippus Baldeus and Adrianus de Mey. The project was later carried on by J. P. Wetzelius, P. de Melho, and Simon de Zilva."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*1772 New Testament Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, Madras 1777-1796 Old Testament (in 4 parts) Tranquebar Translated, with heavy reliance on the Schultze version, by J. P. Fabricius, SPCK."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: JPF was a Lutheran my.] \*The Holy Bible in Tamil : the Old Testament / translated from the original by J.P. Fabricius ; the New Testament by C.T.E. Rhenius and revised by the Committe of the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society... (Madras, India : Printed at the American Mission Press for the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society and American Bible Society, 1844)" [Info only] 1790 Pentateuch Colombo A revision of the Tranquebar version, prepared in Ceylon by P. de Melho."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*1818 Psalms Serampore MP The Book of Common Prayer, including numerous liturgical selections, prepared by Christian David."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*1819 Psalms Madras Another translation of the Book of Common Prayer, by J. P. Rottler."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*First BFBS edition: Bible, Fabricius version, BFBS, Madras, 1824. First ABS edition: Proverbs, Jaffna, 1845."--1000 Tongues, 1939 [Info only] \*1827 Gospels Acts 1833 New Testament Madras Auxiliary BS Revised by C. T. E. Rhenius, Church MS."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: CTER "severed connection with CMS, 1835, for reasons of conscience" per CC.] \*The New Testament of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ / in the Tamil language. (Jaffna : Printed at the American Mission Press, for the Jaffna Auxiliary Bible Society, 1843)" [Info only] \*The Holy Bible in Tamil : the Old Testament / translated from the original by J.P. Fabricius ; the New Testament by C.T.E. Rhenius and revised by the Committe of the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society... (Madras, India : Printed at the American Mission Press for the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society and American Bible Society, 1844)" [Info only] \*1850 Bible (tentative) Madras Auxiliary BS A revision, begun by P. Percival, Wesleyan MS, who was later joined by M. Winslow [ABCFM], L. Spaulding, and T. Brotherton."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in Tamil: with references, contents of the chapters and chronology, from the English. (Madras: American Bible Society, 1859)" [Info only] \*The Old Testament in Tamil. (Madras: Madras Auxiliary Bible Society, 1860)" [Info only] \*The Tamil Testament and Psalms. (Madras: American Arcot Mission, 1860)" [Info only] \*1864 New Testament 1871 Bible Madras Auxiliary BS A new revision, known as the Union Version, based primarily on the Fabricius text and prepared by H. Bower, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only] \*1891 Psalms Madras A metrical version, prepared by J. Gillings."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1906 New Testament Tranquebar A recension of the Fabricius text, prepared by A. Gehring and N. Samuel, Leipzig Evangelical Mission."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1911 Mark 1912 Matthew Luke Madras Translated by M. Ellwein, Leipzig Evangelical Mission."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1922 New Testament YMCA Press Translated by N. Gnanapprakasam, SPG."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1929 New Testament 1936 Old Testament BFBS, Madras Translated by L. P. Larsen, Lutheran, and others."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1936 John BFBS, Madras The Union Version, with some stylistic changes, intended to accom- modate Musl m readers."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] TAMIL--1000 Tongues, 1939 [Info only: Tamil characters n.d. Book 2b-23 unknown.] \*1941 Gospels Acts 1942 New Testament 1949 Bible BFBS, London A revision of the Larsen version, prepared by a committee composed of C. E. Monahan, Bishops Azariah and Neill, H. K. Moulton, and others."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1964 Mark Star Press, Palayamcottai Translated by S. T. Jebeganam of Tamilnad Theological College."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] TAMIL--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: TAMIL CHARACTER \*1965\* Mark 1:2 probably correct.] \*1967 Luke BS of India, Bangalore Translated by Devanesan Rajarigam and V. P. K. Sundaram."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] Arabic Character \*1919 John Madras Auxiliary BS Translated by H. Bjerrum."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: Moh nm d n edition.] \*1932 John BFBS, Madras A transliteration of the Union version."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ARABIC CHARACTER \*1932\* John 2:1-4 unknown.] TAMIL--1000 Tongues, 1939 [Info only: Arabic characters n.d. {John 3:16}? unknown.] Roman Character \*1912 Mark Madras Auxiliary BS Translated by J. Lazarus."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: ?] \*1937 Mark Diocesan Press, Madras 1956 New Testament Psalms Trinitarian BS, London A transliteration of the Bower (Union) text, prepared by Mrs. E. W. Wilder. As early as 1945 a Gospel narrative by Mrs. Wilder was published in Madras."--1000 Tongues, 1972 [Info only: Roman Character \*1956\* Mark 1:2 probably correct.] TAMIL--1000 Tongues, 1939 [Info only: Roman characters n.d. Mark 3:35 unknown.] \*\*File: Tamil Critical Text History Over three hundred years ago on January 3, 1714, the first Indian Bible was translated by a German missionary to Tamil. As the first Biblical translation printed in an Indian language, needless to say it was something of a historic moment for Indian-Christian literature. Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, who is said to be the first Protestant missionary to visit India, came to the country in 1706 with fellow countrymen, Heinrich Plutschau, upon request by the King of Denmark. Arriving in the Danish coastal town Trankebar (today known as Tharangambadi) in Tamil Nadu, neither Ziegenbalg nor Plutschau got a very warm reception. 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It notes that the first translations of the Gospels and Acts were completed in 1714-SaveSave Tamil Bible History For Later100%100% found this document useful, undefined . . . . . 1495 1510 1521 . . . . . 1524 . . . . . " " . 1526 . . . . . " " . 1536 . . . . . " " . 119 : 165 . AcknowledgementT.Rajan Joel Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Ask the publishers to restore access to 500,000+ books. The Bible is a sacred text for millions of Christians around the world, and its translation into various languages is crucial for spreading the message of Christ. In Tamil, a language spoken predominantly in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and in parts of Sri Lanka, the translation of the Bible has played a significant role in the spiritual lives of Tamil-speaking Christians. This article explores the history, significance, and various translations of the Bible in Tamil.The History of Bible Translation in TamilThe journey of translating the Bible into Tamil began in the 18th century. The first complete Tamil Bible was translated by the missionary Robert Caldwell in 1860. Caldwells work laid the foundation for future translations and made the scriptures accessible to Tamil speakers. Prior to this, portions of the Bible had been translated into Tamil, but Caldwells translation was the first to be widely accepted.Since then, several translations have emerged, each aiming to make the scriptures more understandable and relatable to Tamil speakers. These translations have varied in style, from more literal translations to those that prioritize readability and contemporary language.Popular Tamil Bible TranslationsThere are several notable translations of the Bible in Tamil, each serving different needs within the Tamil-speaking Christian community:Tamil Bible (1860) The first complete translation, which remains a classic.New Tamil Bible (2001) A modern translation that aims for clarity and contemporary language.Easy Tamil Bible Designed for those who may struggle with traditional language, making the scriptures more accessible.Tamil Common Language Bible A translation that uses everyday language to convey biblical truths.Each of these translations has its unique strengths, catering to different audiences and preferences.The Importance of Bible TranslationThe translation of the Bible into Tamil is not merely a linguistic exercise; it is a vital part of evangelism and discipleship. The ability to read the scriptures in ones native language allows for a deeper understanding of Gods Word. As the Apostle Paul writes inRomans 10:14 (NIV): How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?This verse highlights the necessity of making the Gospel accessible to all people, including Tamil speakers.Scriptural References in TamilHere are some key verses that illustrate the significance of Gods Word, which can be found in Tamil translations:Psalm 119:105 (NIV): Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV): All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.Hebrews 4:12 (NLT): For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.These verses remind us of the transformative power of the Bible and its relevance in our daily lives.Engaging with the Tamil BibleFor those seeking to deepen their understanding of the scriptures, engaging with the Tamil Bible can be incredibly rewarding. Here are some ways to do so:Read Daily: Set aside time each day to read a passage from the Tamil Bible.Join a Study Group: Participate in a Bible study group that focuses on Tamil scriptures.Use Online Resources: Explore websites and apps that offer Tamil Bible translations and study materials.Pray for Understanding: Ask God to reveal His truths to you as you read.A Prayer for UnderstandingIf you are seeking a deeper connection with God through His Word, consider this prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You with a humble heart, seeking to understand Your Word. As I read the scriptures, open my eyes to the truths You want me to see. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, guiding me in my journey of faith. Help me to apply Your teachings in my life and share Your love with others. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.ConclusionThe translation of the Bible into Tamil is a vital aspect of the Christian faith for Tamil speakers. It allows individuals to engage with Gods Word in a meaningful way, fostering spiritual growth and understanding. As you explore the various translations available, remember the importance of reading, studying, and applying the scriptures in your life. For more resources and answers to your questions about faith, visit Honest Christian Answers: Your Questions, Gods Truth.Related

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