

Missions #1

Ascent

Winter Session, Lesson 8

Introduction

Review last week

This week: **Missions #1**

Definition of Missions

“The cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ which results in the extension of the church across cultural, geographic and linguistic barriers.”

Missions in the Bible

Creation of the Nations: Genesis 11, the Tower of Babel

Revelation of God’s Plan for the Nations: Genesis 12:1-3

Blessing

Responsibility

Missions themes in key Old Testament passages

Missions themes in key New Testament passages

The actions of Christ

The words of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

The actions of the early Church

Missions issue brought to the forefront in the New Testament

Organization

Strategy

Personnel

The Modern Missions Movement

First Era – To the Coastlands (1792 – late 1800's)

Second Era – To the Inland Areas (1865 – late 1900's)

Third Era – To the Hidden Peoples (1934 - present)

The Missions Task Today

Digging Deeper:

The Joshua Project” <https://joshuaproject.net>
Operation World, <http://www.operationworld.org>
Let the Nations Be Glad, by John Piper

Next Week: Missions #2

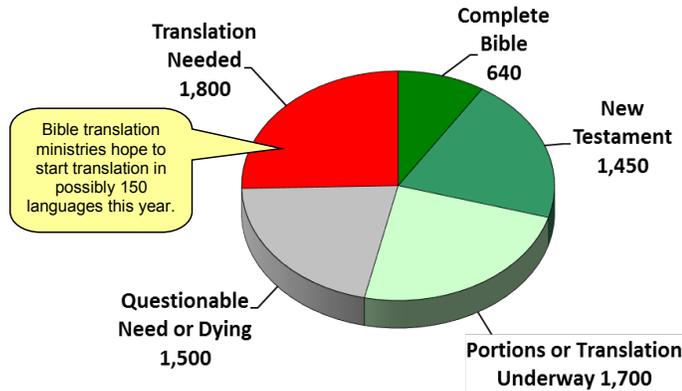
Bible Translation Status

1. Overall Task

Estimated Total Languages in the World	7,100
Questionable Translation Need or Dying Languages	-1,500
Total Languages Definitely Needing Translation	5,600

2. Current Status

About 640 languages have a complete Bible. Another 1,450 languages have a New Testament and about 1,700 additional languages have some Scripture portions or translation has recently started.



3. Availability

Never before has the Bible been more available to more people. Faith Comes By Hearing now has the New Testament available in audio format in over 1,220 languages online and totally free. See: www.bible.is

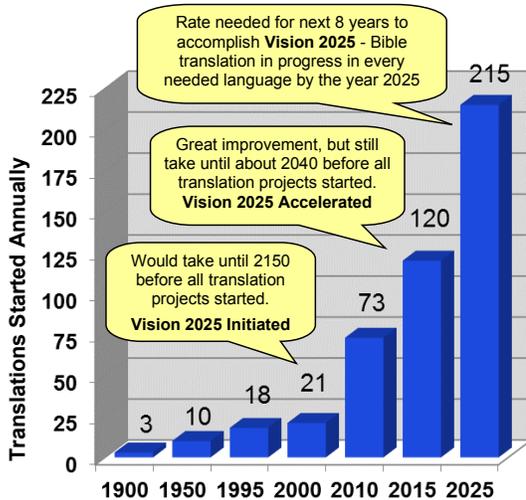
YouVersion has more than 1,477 Bible versions in 1,070 languages available by computer, phone, or tablet. The YouVersion Bible App has been installed on more than 260 million mobile devices, all over the world. Add it for free to your mobile device and carry the Scriptures with you. See: www.youversion.com

4. Vision 2025

In the late 1990s Bible translators figured that at the then current rate of starting new translations it would not be until 2150 that work would have started in every language needing Bible translation. Translation ministries set a goal of starting translation in all languages by 2025. Better technology, improved use and training of national translators, and crowd-sourcing have brought the timeframe down to about 2035. Bible translators are still hoping to reach the 2025 goal.

5. Old Testament Importance

A great many languages still need the Old Testament translated. Researchers are realizing that among many unreached people groups the OT is critical to a full understanding of the Gospel and God's plan of redemption. One researcher commented "It is extremely difficult to make disciples without the Old Testament Scriptures explaining the character of God."



6. In This Generation?

A full Bible translation takes anywhere from 10 to 20 years or more. At the current rate of starting new translations, the task might be finished around 2055-2060. If Vision 2025 succeeds in starting translation in all languages by 2025, then possibly the task of Bible translation could be completed by around 2040-2045. Of course there will always be need for ongoing revisions.