

# Which Bible Translation(s) Should I Use?

October 8, 2023

The Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) was published in 2021. It's a revision of the 1995 NASB that was initiated by John MacArthur. He wanted to make a revision of the 1995 NASB that was different from the 2020 NASB. The work was done by faculty members at The Master's University and Seminary, where he is the chancellor and former president.

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “That they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth” (Psalm 83:18 NASB 1995).
- “That they may know that You alone—Your name is Yahweh—Are the Most High over all the earth” (Psalm 83:18 LSB).
- “That they may know that thou alone, whose name is Jehovah, Art the Most High over all the earth” (Psalm 83:18 ASV).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery” (Matthew 19:9 NASB 1995).
- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery” (Matthew 19:9 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. They laid hands on Him and seized Him” (Mark 14:45–46 NASB 1995).
- “And after coming, *Judas*, having immediately gone to Him, said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him. And they laid hands on Him and seized Him” (Mark 14:45–46 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41 NASB 1995).
- “And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me” (Romans 16:7 NASB 1995).
- “Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding to the apostles, who also were in Christ before me” (Romans 16:7 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16 NASB 1995).
- “All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman” (1 Peter 3:7a NASB 1995).
- “You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman” (1 Peter 3:7a LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB has a good translation:

- “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John” (Revelation 1:1 NASB 1995).
- “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His slaves the things which must soon happen; and He indicated *this* by sending *it* through His angel to His slave John” (Revelation 1:1 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “All Your works, O Yahweh, shall give thanks to You,  
And Your holy ones shall bless You” (Psalm 145:10  
LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us  
from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever. Amen.>]” (Matthew 6:13  
LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You’” (Matthew 12:38 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:  
- “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law” (Romans 3:28 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:  
- “But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin *daughter*, if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry” (1 Corinthians 7:36 LSB).



Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith brings about perseverance” (James 1:2–3 LSB).

Here are some verses where the LSB is not so good:

- “No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or has come to know Him” (1 John 3:6 LSB).

So I can definitely recommend the LSB. I think it's the best literal translation available today.

Here's where I would put the Legacy Standard Bible on our spectrum between 1 and 100, with 1 representing perfect formal equivalence and 100 representing perfect dynamic equivalence:

- Legacy Standard Bible (LSB): 10 (10th grade)

Here's a summary of all the translations we've covered:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| - LSB: 10 (10th) A   | - TLB: 75 (7th) D+  |
| - NASB: 17 (10th) A- | - ASV: 12 (12th) D  |
| - CSB: 30 (8th) B+   | - NIRV: 80 (3rd) D  |
| - ESV: 20 (10th) B   | - RSV: 22 (11th) D- |
| - ICB: 70 (3rd) B-   | - KJV: 15 (12th) F  |
| - NET: 30 (8th) C+   | - MSG: 90 (7th) F   |
| - NIV: 50 (8th) C    | - NRSV: 35 (9th) F  |
| - NLT: 60 (6th) C    | - TPT: 85 (6th) F   |
| - NKJV: 16 (10th) C- |                     |