

Which Bible Translation(s) Should I Use?

July 9, 2023

In 1995 the NASB was revised again, and all the archaic pronouns were removed. Here are some examples:

- “O Lord GOD, Thou hast begun to show Thy servant Thy greatness and Thy strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Thine?” (Deuteronomy 3:24 NASB 1977).
- “O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours?” (Deutereonomy 3:24 NASB 1995).

In 1995 the NASB was revised again, and all the archaic pronouns were removed. Here are some examples:

- “Thou, even Thou, art to be feared; And who may stand in Thy presence when once Thou art angry?”

(Psalm 76:7 NASB 1977).

- “You, even You, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?” (Psalm 76:7 NASB 1995).

In 1995 the NASB was revised again, and all the archaic pronouns were removed. Here are some examples:

- “I manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word” (John 17:6 NASB 1977).

- “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word” (John 17:6 NASB 1995).

So the 1995 NASB is considerably more readable than the 1977 NASB. But some of the changes to the 1995 NASB were questionable. Here are some examples:

- “And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him” (Mark 14:45–46 NASB 1977).
- “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).

So the 1995 NASB is considerably more readable than the 1977 NASB. But some of the changes to the 1995 NASB were questionable. Here are some examples:

- “And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41 NASB 1977).
- “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).

So the 1995 NASB is considerably more readable than the 1977 NASB. But some of the changes to the 1995 NASB were questionable. Here are some examples:

- “You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman” (1 Peter 3:7a NASB 1977).
- “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).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!” (Psalm 1:1 NASB 1995).
- “Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!” (Psalm 1:1 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers” (Psalm 37:1 NASB 1995).
- “Do not get upset because of evildoers, Do not be envious of wrongdoers” (Psalm 37:1 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, do not be far from me!” (Psalm 38:21 NASB 1995).
- “Do not abandon me, LORD; My God, do not be far from me!” (Psalm 38:21 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]” (Matthew 6:13 NASB 1995).
- “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “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 NASB 1995).
- “The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “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 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “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 immediately went to Him and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him. And they laid hands on Him and arrested Him” (Mark 14:45–46 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH’” (Romans 1:17 NASB 1995).
- “For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: ‘BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *ONE* WILL LIVE BY FAITH’” (Romans 1:17 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “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 NASB 1995).
- “But if anyone thinks that he is acting dishonorably toward his virgin, if she is past her youth and it ought to be so, let him do what he wishes, he is not sinning; let them marry” (1 Corinthians 7:36 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “*This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger” (James 1:19 NASB 1995).

- “You know *this*, my beloved brothers *and sisters*. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, *and* slow to anger” (James 1:19 NASB 2020).

In 2020 the NASB was revised again, and most of the changes were good. Here are some examples:

- “No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him” (1 John 3:6 NASB 1995).

- “No one who remains in Him sins *continually*; no one who sins *continually* has seen Him or knows Him” (1 John 3:6 NASB 2020).

So I'm happy to recommend the NASB. It's one of the best Bible translations available today. It's a pretty literal translation, and so it's very valuable for careful Bible study.