

The Wartburg Project



July Report
2018

The Wartburg Project is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who are working together to produce a new translation of the Bible called the *Evangelical Heritage Version*® or *EHV*®.

*Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.
Translators come, translations go, but the Word of our God endures forever.*

“Purely Positive”

The Wartburg Project began in the fall of 2013. After all of the debating about Bible translation, we set out to quietly try our best to translate the Bible. We adopted the phrase “purely positive” to remind ourselves to avoid debates and just keep working on our project. God’s Word is our great heritage. We set out to use our gifts to share God’s Word, “to spread its light from age to age.” That’s been our “chief endeavor.” God has richly blessed our efforts.

Progress Report



Since the June report gave a pretty comprehensive update, the July report will just touch on a few highlights. (See the June 2018 report in the archives if you missed it.)

1. The entire EHV is now in print in a single manuscript. NPH and the Wartburg Project are now doing a read-through of the entire printout to look for any electronic blips or typos that were missed, in order to get the EHV ready for large-scale printing.
2. Pre-order forms are planned by NPH for this fall. Watch for the announcement. Ordering in advance by the case will be the best way to get a supply of Bibles for your congregations and schools.
3. The full Bible will also be available on Kindle, Nook, Logos, BibleWorks, Biblegateway, etc.
4. The 2017 preview edition of the EHV New Testament and Psalms has sold well and is available through NPH: <http://online.nph.net/ehv> or call 1-800-662-6022. Kindle and Nook versions are available through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. EHV text of New Testament and Psalms is available on Biblegateway.
5. Work on the EHV study Bible is going more quickly than expected. We have drafts for the study Bible notes for the entire Old Testament. All of these Old Testament drafts are out for comments from reviewers. We expect to allow the rest of this year for this process. Drafts are also complete for almost all New Testament books, though they are in a more preliminary stage. See the chart.

This Month's Articles

Found attached to the email, on the website, or by request.

Here are links to the two latest FAQs:

1. [FAQ 45: Can the exact calendar dates of biblical events be calculated?](#) 
2. [FAQ 47: What does it mean to be clothed with Christ?](#) 

The main article this month is an itemized list of all of the topics on our FAQ list: Here it is for you to scan to find items to read. It also can be downloaded from the link at the end of the list. Online the list is posted in both topical and numerical arrangements.

The Wartburg Project FAQ List

In addition to an Archive of our regular monthly updates, our Resources Section, and the Wartburg Online Library, our Wartburg Project website contains a catalog of frequently asked questions (FAQs). This catalog is now arranged by categories. The original FAQ list was in numerical order. The numbers are still attached to the questions because some of the older resources in our library refer to FAQs by their original FAQ numbers.

The digital version of this list contains links to each FAQ on our website, wartburgproject.org.

I. Questions about the EHV

This section contains questions about the Evangelical Heritage Version and the process by which it was developed.

- [Why is your translation called the Evangelical Heritage Version? \(FAQ 15\)](#)
- [Why should I try the EHV? \(FAQ 27\)](#)
- [What features of the EHV set it apart from other translations? \(FAQ 30\)](#)
- [What were the greatest difficulties encountered in producing the EHV? \(FAQ 29\)](#)
- [Is the Wartburg translation of the Bible a literal translation? \(FAQ 11\)](#)
- [How is the EHV reviewed in order to receive suggestions for improvement? \(FAQ 24\)](#)
- [Has anyone proposed the idea of having Lutherans work toward producing a Bible translation before the Wartburg Project? \(FAQ 25\)](#)
- [Does the EHV want to be the “official WELS Bible”? \(FAQ 21\)](#)
- [Will the EHV Bible be sectarian? \(FAQ 8\)](#)
- [Are you going to make a red letter edition of the gospels, which honors Jesus' words by putting them in red? \(FAQ 6\)](#)
- [Is the Bible produced by the Wartburg Project going to be a study Bible? \(FAQ 13\)](#)
- [What is the difference between the EHV translation and the EHV Study Bibles? \(FAQ 43\)](#)

II. Translation Principles

The questions in this section involve translation principles that apply to many passages. Also miscellaneous questions that do not fit neatly into any category are placed at the end of this section.

- How does EHV deal with so-called “gender inclusive” or “gender accurate” language? (FAQ 23)
- In the passion history Jesus twice says, “Who are you looking for?” Isn’t that bad grammar? (FAQ 2)
- Does Jesus use bad grammar? (FAQ 20)
- The spelling of personal names and place names in various Bibles is very inconsistent. Is the EHV going to have a consistent system of spelling? (FAQ 17)
- Why don’t you capitalize the pronouns that refer to God? That seems to give more honor to God. (FAQ 3)
- Why do you capitalize the Devil? Isn’t that honoring the devil? (FAQ 7)
- In Psalm 110:1 “The decree of the LORD to my lord,” why is the second occurrence of *lord* not capitalized? It refers to Christ, the Son of God. (FAQ 12)
- Why does Jesus say, “Amen, Amen, I tell you”? (FAQ 1)
- In certain passages of the New Testament some translations have the term *Messiah* where your translation has *Christ*. Why the difference? (FAQ 9)
- Why do you use the terms *inn*, *manger* and *swaddling cloths* in Luke chapter 2? Aren’t these terms outdated? (FAQ 14)
- Why do you sometimes say *John the Baptizer* and sometimes *John the Baptist*? (FAQ 18)
- In Isaiah 55:1 the EHV says, “Hey, all of you who are thirsty, come to the water.” Isn’t *hey* too slangy? (FAQ 37)
- Isn’t the term *aliens* confusing or offensive? (FAQ 32)
- Why does the EHV use the term *mammon*? (FAQ 22)
- Why does the EHV read *walk* where some other modern translations say *live*? What does it mean to *walk with God*? (FAQ 28)

III. Applications of Translation Principles

The questions in this section apply to translation problems that pertain to one particular discipline of Bible study, such as archaeology, textual criticism, geography, etc.

A. Geography

- Why does the account of the Wise Men say that they saw the star “in its rising” when many translations say that they saw the star “in the East”? (FAQ 4)
- How are the locations of biblical sites identified on a map? (FAQ 44)

B. Archaeology

- How does archaeology help in Bible translation? (FAQ 16)
- Why do you often translate the term which many other translations render “horsemen” as “charioteers”? (FAQ 19)
- Did ancient Israel have toilets? (Mt 15:17) (FAQ 5)
- Did Israelites eat cheese curds like ours? (Isaiah 7) (FAQ 31)

C. History

- Can the exact calendar dates of biblical events be determined? (FAQ 45)

D. Textual Studies

- Your translation sometimes has more words and occasionally even more verses than other recent translations of the New Testament. Why is that? (FAQ 10)
- Why do you include the long ending of Mark as part of the text? (FAQ 39)
- Do variants and typos affect the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy? (FAQ 40)
- Why is there so much confusion concerning the spelling of *Peniel* and *Penuel*? (Genesis 32:30-31) (FAQ 42)

E. Grammatical Studies

- Why does the EHV use *through* instead of *by* in John 1:3, 10, and 1 Corinthians 8:6? (FAQ 36)

F. Doctrinal Studies

- Why is *koinonia* translated *communion* in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17? (FAQ 33)
- In Philippians 2:6 should *morphe* be translated *form* or *nature*? (FAQ 35)
- Why does the EHV use *through* instead of *by* in John 1:3, 10 and 1 Corinthians 8:6? (FAQ 36)
- Why does the EHV translate the Greek term *dia* as *because of* in Romans 4:25? in the words “for our justification”? (FAQ 38)
- In Matthew 28:19 why do you translate “gather disciples” instead of “make disciples”? (FAQ 41)
- Why does the EHV use the term “only-begotten” in John 3:16 instead of “one and only”? (FAQ 26)
- How should the term *men and brothers* be handled? (FAQ 46)
- What does it mean to be clothed in Christ or to put on Christ? (FAQ 47)



Excerpt from FAQ 46:

How should the term “men and brothers” be handled?

In the book of Acts, assemblies of the church are sometimes addressed with the special term “men and brothers” (*andres adelphoi*). How does the EHV handle this?

A much-discussed issue concerning some recent Bible translations has been the rendering of the Greek word *adelphoi* as “brothers and sisters” in those translations. The gist of the problem is that *adelphoi* is not strictly equivalent to the English word “brothers,” since in some contexts it may be addressed to mixed groups that include men and women. On the other hand, *adelphoi* is not strictly equivalent to the English term “brothers and sisters” or “siblings” since those expressions explicitly include females, whereas *adelphoi* does not. This is an issue which deserves its own article. Here we will address only those cases in which the term *adelphoi* (*brothers*) is reinforced by the addition of the term *men* (*andres*).

One such passage is Acts 1:16, in which those who are to participate in choosing a replacement for Judas, are addressed as *andres adelphoi*, “men, brothers.” It is very likely that women were present in the crowd, but were they asked to participate in the selection of the new apostle?

The NET translates *brothers* but adds this footnote: “Grk: ‘Men brothers.’ In light of the compound phrase ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί (*andres adelphoi*) Peter’s words are best understood as directly addressed to the males present, possibly referring specifically to the twelve.” ...

In Acts 6:3 the same pattern holds. NET has this note: “It is not clear from a historical standpoint (but it is unlikely) that women would have been involved in the selection process too. For this reason the translation ‘brothers’ has been retained, rather than ‘brothers and sisters’ (used in contexts where both male and female believers are clearly addressed).” ...

In Acts 1:16 the EHV reads:

In those days, when the group there numbered about 120 people, Peter stood up among the brothers and said, ¹⁶“Gentlemen, brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David about Judas... ²¹Therefore it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us during the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from his baptism by John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection.

The EHV agrees with the rationale presented by the NET that the text does not provide clear evidence that the assignment to choose an apostle was addressed to both the men and the women. For that reason the translation should remain relatively literal to avoid prejudging the discussion concerning the relative roles of men and women in the early church.

Read the entire FAQ at wartburgproject.org



July 2018 Progress Chart for the EHV STUDY BIBLE

We still will accept additional reviews and suggestions for all books through the end of 2018.

Key
No Work Yet
+ Draft in Progress
○ Initial Draft Complete
● Undergoing Review
✓ Editing Done
➤ New this month

OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch	Historical I	Historical II	Poetical	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
➤ ✓ Genesis	● Joshua	✓ Ezra	● Job	● Isaiah	✓ Hosea
➤ ✓ Exodus	● Judges	✓ Nehemiah	✓ Psalms	● Jeremiah	● Joel
● Leviticus	● Ruth	✓ Esther	● Proverbs	● Lamentations	● Amos
● Numbers	● 1 Samuel		● Ecclesiastes	✓ Ezekiel	✓ Obadiah
● Deuteronomy	● 2 Samuel		✓ Song of Songs	● Daniel	● Jonah
	● 1 Kings				● Micah
	● 2 Kings				✓ Nahum
	● 1 Chronicles				✓ Habakkuk
	● 2 Chronicles				✓ Zephaniah
					✓ Haggai
					● Zechariah
					✓ Malachi

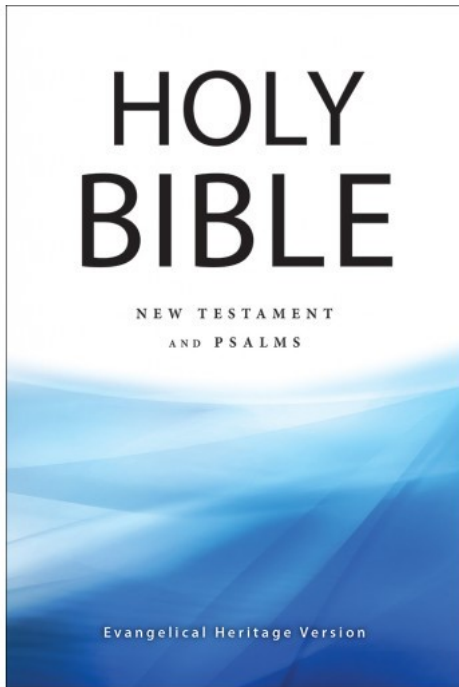
NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II and Prophetic
➤ ● Matthew	➤ ● Romans	➤ ● Hebrews
➤ ● Mark	➤ ● 1 Corinthians	● James
➤ ● Luke	➤ ● 2 Corinthians	● 1 Peter
➤ ● John	● Galatians	● 2 Peter
● Acts	● Ephesians	● 1 John
	● Philippians	● 2 John
Passion History	● Colossians	● 3 John
	➤ ● 1 Thessalonians	➤ ● Jude
	➤ ● 2 Thessalonians	● Revelation
	➤ ● 1 Timothy	
	➤ ● 2 Timothy	
	➤ ● Titus	
	➤ ● Philemon	

Books marked as *New this month* are ones that have a newly completed draft.

Coming Studies

1. Biblical Grammar—Mechanics vs Meaning?
 2. An updated catalog of our library.
 3. Preview edition of the study Bible of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.
 4. Preview edition of the study Bible of Ezekiel.
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The Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version New Testament and Psalms

Available for purchase

nph.net



Website

See our website (wartburgproject.org) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the name EHV. A paper explaining our name is posted in the “Library” section.

Sign up on the “Contact” page to receive free e-reports. Like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates posted there. (The purpose of our Facebook posting is not debate, but we’ve been able to share information with many people very quickly that way (sometimes more than 12,000)).

The address of our financial office is:

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