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## The Geneva Bible

The Geneva Bible is one of the most historically significant translations of the Bible into English, preceding the King James Version by 51 years.

The Geneva Bible followed the Great Bible of 1539, the first authorized Bible of the Church of England.

During the reign of Queen Mary I of England (1553–58), a number of Protestant scholars fled from England to Geneva, Switzerland, which was then ruled as a republic. Amongst them was John Calvin, a French theologian and, later came Theodore Beza a French protestant Christian theologian who lived most of his life in Geneva. They provided the primary spiritual and theological leadership. Among these scholars was also William Whittingham who supervised the translation now known as the Geneva Bible.

The first full edition of this Bible appeared in 1560, but it was not printed in England until 1575 (New Testament) and 1576 (complete Bible). Over 150 editions were issued; the last probably in 1644. It was also the very first Bible printed in Scotland. In fact, the involvement of Knox and Calvin in the creation of the Geneva Bible made it especially appealing in Scotland, where a law was passed in 1579 requiring every household of sufficient means to buy a copy.

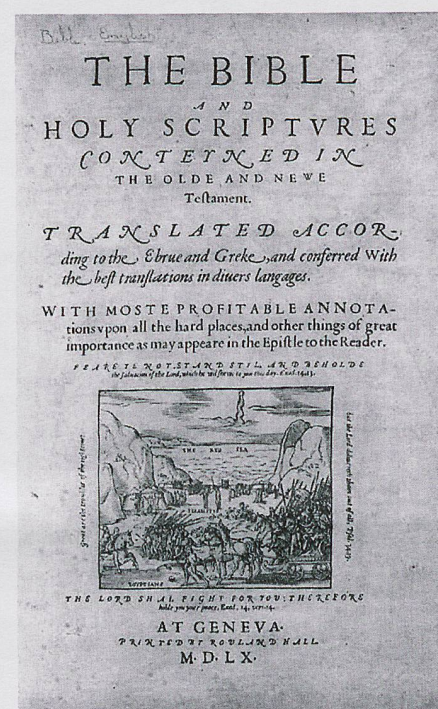
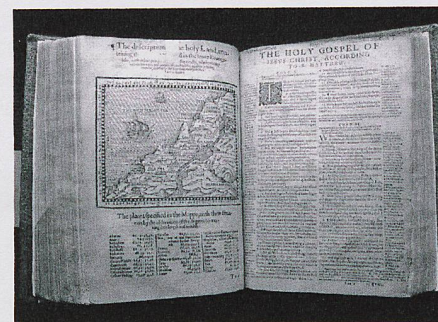
The Geneva Bible is significant because, for the very first time, a mechanically printed, mass-produced Bible was made available directly to the general public which came with a variety of scriptural study guides and aids (collectively called an apparatus), which included verse citations that allow the reader to cross-reference one verse with numerous relevant verses in the rest of the Bible.

Because the language of the Geneva Bible was more forceful and vigorous, most readers strongly preferred this version to the Great Bible. In the words of Cleland Boyd McAfee, an American theologian, Presbyterian minister and hymn writer, "it drove the Great Bible off the field by sheer power of excellence".

The annotations, which are an important part of the Geneva Bible, were Calvinist and Puritan in character, and as such they were disliked by the ruling pro-government Anglicans of the Church of England, as well as King James I, who commissioned the "Authorized Version", or King James Bible, in order to replace it.

The Geneva Bible remained popular among Puritans and remained in widespread use until after the English Civil War. The Geneva notes were surprisingly included in a few editions of the King James Version, even as late as 1715.

wikipedia



## Requirements for becoming Swiss

Most of us are aware that requirements for becoming Swiss changed on 1st January 2018.

On the 1st of January 2018 the process got tougher. New language requirements, the need to have a C-permit and more questions on applicants' knowledge of Switzerland are the main changes.

Every commune (Gemeinde) and canton (Kanton) has its own particularities when it comes to quizzing wannabe Swiss.

This week the canton of Vaud published a list of 128 multi-choice questions with the aim of harmonizing the cross-examination process undertaken by communes.

Those applying will need to answer these 128 and a further 32 questions of a more local nature set by their commune, according to a press release.

Running through the list reveals a few surprises. Some are very easy, one is

technically unanswerable and a few likely to bring tears or laughter depending on perspectives.

Here are few of the very easy ones translated:

- What is the main ingredient in rösti? *potato; carrot; onion; cabbage.*
- Lake Geneva is situated in Switzerland and which other country? *France; Italy; Austria; Germany.*
- Which country does not have a border with Switzerland? *Italy; Belgium; France; Germany.*

The technically unanswerable one is: What is the capital of Switzerland? *Zurich; Basel; Geneva; Bern.* Technically Switzerland does not have a capital. Statute refers to Bern as the Federal City, a fudge resulting from the cantons' failure to agree on an official capital.

**Ones likely trigger mirth or despair include:**

- What is the rösti graben? *a typical Swiss dish; a song title; differences in*

*mentality between French- and German-speaking Swiss; a suburb of Bern.*

- What is Schwyzerdütsch? *a culinary speciality; a mountain; a Swiss-German dialect; a sport.*
- Another asks whether Ursula Andress is on Swiss coins.

Then there is the question which would probably destroy any chance of qualifying if answered incorrectly: In Switzerland, paying tax is... *an obligation; a freedom; a choice; optional.*

Finally, there is one with a linguistic twist: What does the word Vaud mean? *land of forests; land of forts; land of valleys; land of bouchon vaudois* – (these are cork-shaped almond treats that pay homage to the region's wine industry).

The correct answer is the land of forests and derives from the canton's German name Waadt, an old German word for forest, which is now Wald in modern German.

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