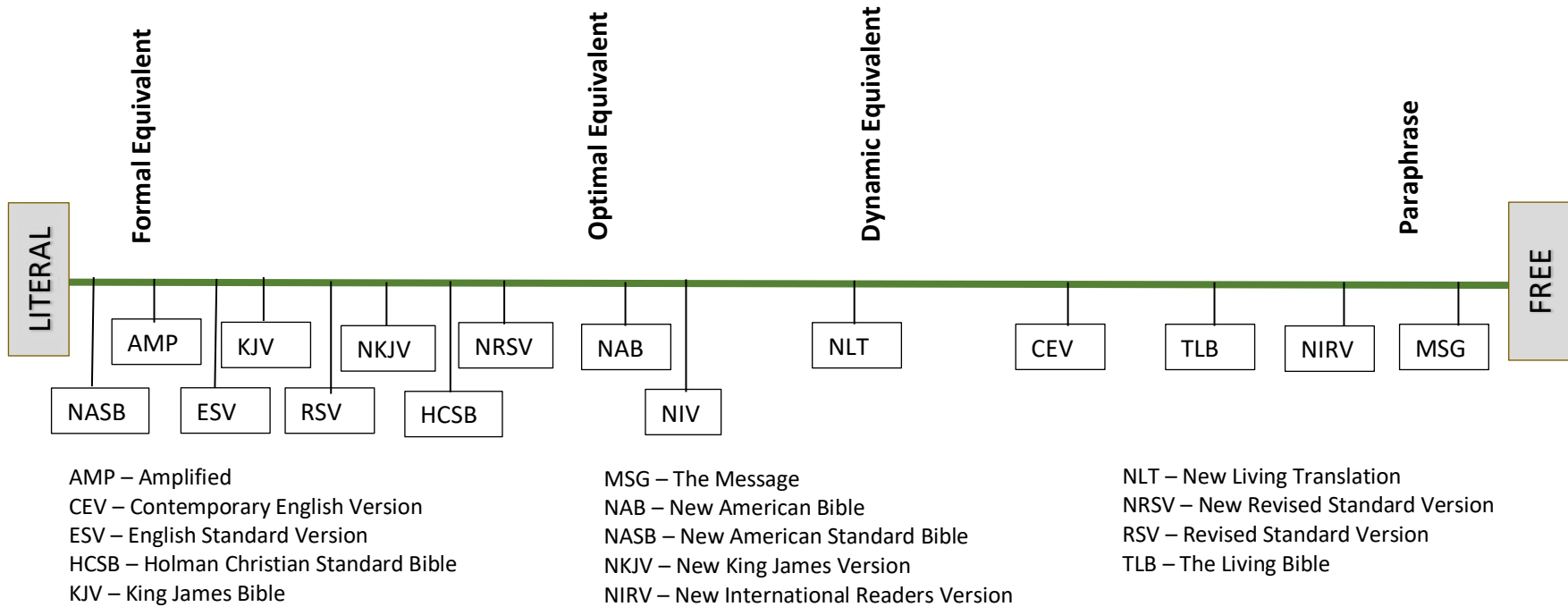


## BIBLE TRANSLATIONS



**Formal Equivalent** (also known as **Word for Word** or **literal**) – These translations are the closest to the grammar and syntax of the original language, but can often sound wooden. These translations make no consideration for cultural changes.

**Dynamic Equivalent** (also known as **Thought-for-thought**) – These translations work to keep the overall original *thought* rather than attempt a literal word for word translation. Although not as technically accurate as the Formal Equivalent, they are much easier for 21<sup>st</sup> century westerners to understand. These translations change idioms, figures of speech, and measurements into updated “equivalent” terms, yet work to maintain historical and factual accuracy.

**Optimal Equivalent** – This “**in-between**” philosophy group is not on all the lists. But the NIV is the prime example. Works to soften the stilted reading of the Formal Equivalent but still stay closer to the original language than the Dynamic Equivalent.

**Paraphrase** (Also known as **Free**) – This translation group departs the furthest from the original language but gives a fresh reading experience. A paraphrase is more of a **big-idea-for-big-idea** translation. It takes liberties with the literal words to create a “storytelling” feel. This translation group is fine for casual and inspirational reading but not recommended for study.