What makes the ESV Bible unique and special?

First and foremost, the ESV is special because the Bible itself is like no other book. The words of the Bible are the very Words of God. As Jesus said, “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63).

Second, the ESV is special because it is a “word-for-word” translation. The Bible says every word was “breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). For this reason, the ESV seeks to translate the original Greek and Hebrew words with the greatest possible accuracy and precision.

Third, the ESV is special because it carries forward the great historic stream of Bible versions in English—with literary excellence, beauty, and depth of meaning, in a fresh and compelling way.

The ESV is unique and special. It’s the Bible to read and treasure through all your life—a great choice for young and old, for daily reading and personal study, for church and family, for teaching and preaching, and for memorizing the words of life.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

MATTHEW 4:4
How long did it take to translate the ESV Bible?

Would you believe it took nearly 500 years to translate the ESV Bible? That’s because the ESV builds on the great translations of the past—including William Tyndale’s New Testament of 1526 and the King James Version (KJV) of 1611.

But the ESV Bible also builds on the best Christian scholarship of the last 100 years. The result is a fresh and compelling Bible translation with a timeless quality, that’s trustworthy and true.

That’s why the ESV “sounds like” the Bible—with the kind of beauty, clarity, and dignity that we love to hear and read. That’s also why the ESV retains the Bible’s rich imagery and theological words—words like grace and justification and salvation—that are essential to our faith.

The result is a Bible that conveys the timeless quality of God’s Word and that remains trustworthy and true to the original words breathed out by God. As Moses wrote more than 3,000 years ago, the words of God are “your very life, and by this word you shall live” (Deuteronomy 32:47).

“These words are trustworthy and true.”
REVELATION 22:6
Who created the ESV Bible?

Not an easy question to answer!—because the ESV Bible builds on the legacy created by hundreds of devout and godly scholars over the last 500 years. With this legacy as the starting point, a world-class team of Christian Bible scholars carefully compared the ESV text against the best Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.

Altogether the ESV translation work involved an exceptional team of more than 100 worldwide, including: (1) the twelve-member Translation Oversight Committee, led by Dr. J. I. Packer as the General Editor; (2) sixty leading Bible Scholars; as well as (3) a sixty-member Advisory Council—all of whom are committed to historic Christian orthodoxy and to the timeless truth and authority of the Bible.

First published in fall of 2001, the ESV Bible has been widely embraced by churches, ministries, and denominations around the world—and by millions of individuals who believe and know, as Jesus said, that “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

“The word of the Lord remains forever.”

1 PETER 1:25
“The ESV is a great ‘word for word’ Bible translation…a tremendous gift to Bible students and teachers.”
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Dr. Ravi Zacharias, Author and Speaker

“I’m so grateful for a translation that I can trust for its accuracy and enjoy for its clarity. This is the Bible for our entire family.”
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“We are building all our future ministry around the ESV…”
John Piper, Pastor for Preaching and Vision, Bethlehem Baptist Church

“Having now read through the ESV several times in my personal devotional life, I have adopted it as the primary text for my teaching and writing ministry.”
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