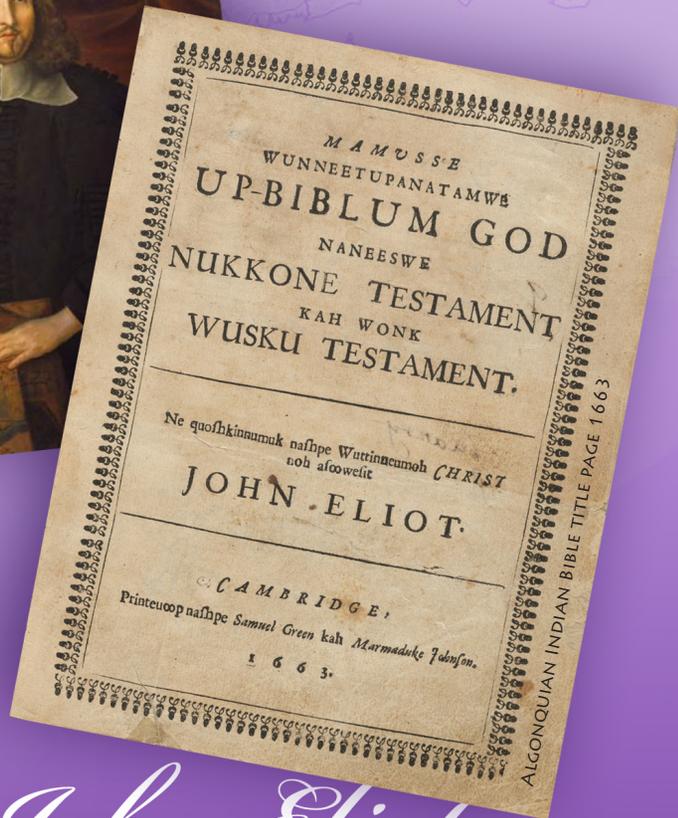
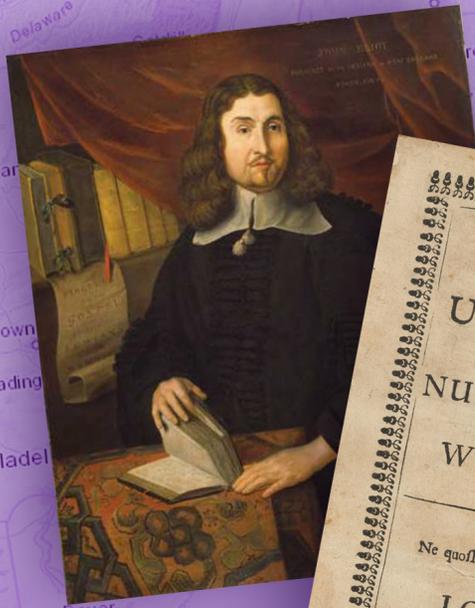
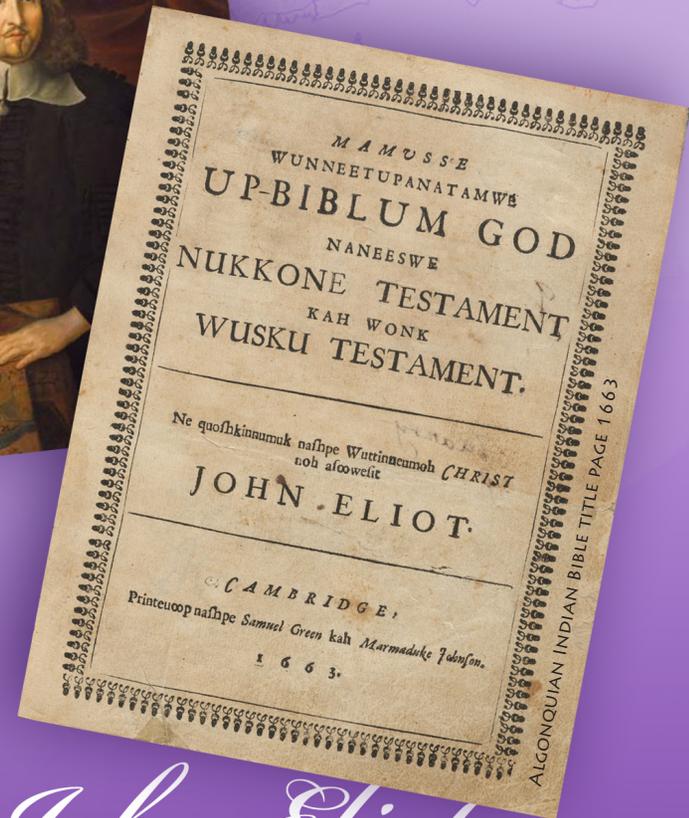
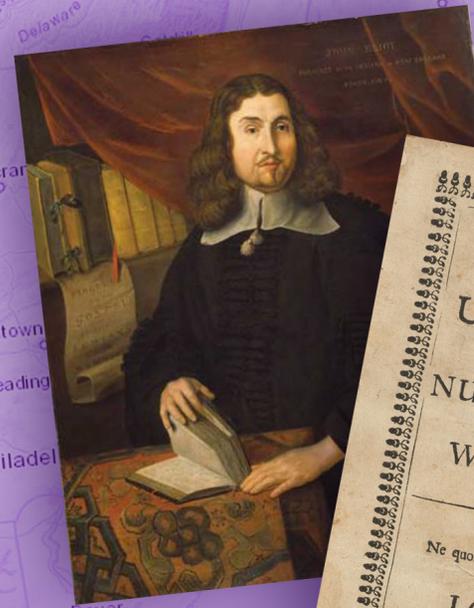


# Bible Day 2022



*John Eliot*  
MISSIONARY  
TO THE ALGONQUIN INDIANS

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## *John Eliot:* MISSIONARY TO THE ALGONQUIN INDIANS

If you were asked to identify John Eliot, would you be able to do so? Some might immediately think of Jim Elliot, the young man who gave his life in an effort to reach the Hua-orani or Auca Indians. John Eliot was a missionary, just as Jim Elliot was. However, John came from England to the United States to minister to the Massachusetts Indians.

Just as translators do today, Eliot believed that the Indians would respond better to the Bible and Christianity if they could hear and read God's Word in their own Massachusetts language. So, rather than trying to teach the Massachusetts or Algonquin Indians English, a language they knew little of, he began the arduous task of translating the Bible into the Massachusetts language.

Up until that point in history, this was an unwritten language. Thus, Eliot's first task was to set about learning the Massachusetts language with the aid of

a few of the Indians. After learning the language, he had to create a dictionary and a book of grammar. With the help of a few Algonquins, he translated the New Testament. It was printed in 1661 with the help of Cockenoe, John Sassaman, Job Nesuton, and James Printer, all Massachusetts Indians, and was printed by the first American print shop, a forerunner of the Harvard University Press.

Eventually, following 14 years of grueling work, Eliot completed the entire Bible. It was published in 1663 in America, the first Bible printed in America; it was funded by donations from England.

Today, translators follow the same technique that John Eliot used. We commend this man who recognized the importance of translating Scripture into the language of the people, the same principle Bibles International follows today.

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### God's Word Still Changes Lives

Just as the translation work of John Eliot changed the lives of people, God's Word continues to do the same today. Without His Word in their own language, people struggle to understand God's truth. They may trust Christ, but without His Word in a language they can easily understand, spiritual growth is very difficult.

**If you would like to be involved in the life-changing ministry of Bible translation, you may contact us at 616.942.7712 or [inbox@biblesint.org](mailto:inbox@biblesint.org).**



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Catch the vision for a reliable Bible translation in every language, a Bible in every hand.

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