



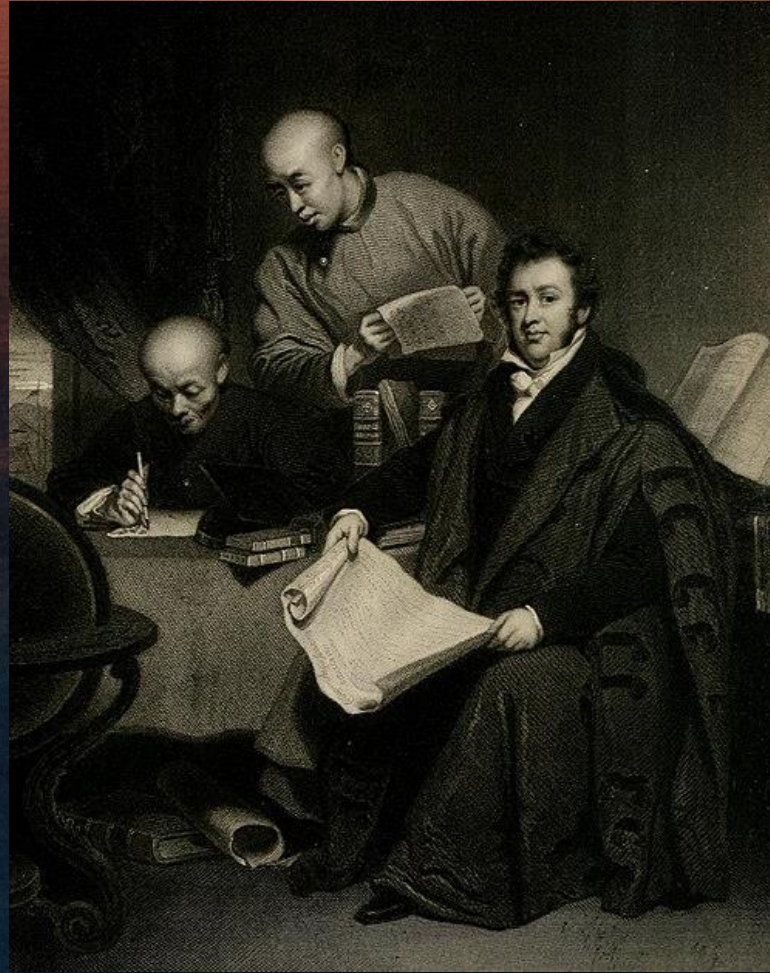
Portrait of Sir Stamford Raffles by George Francis Joseph, c. 1817

Sir Stamford Raffles (1781–1826) was a British colonial administrator best known as the founder of modern Singapore.

He was instrumental in starting the Bible mission in Southeast Asia.

In 1813, an appeal for Bibles by soldiers first drew the attention of the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) to Java. BFBS resolved to send Dutch and English Bibles and Testaments to the then Lieutenant Governor Raffles with a letter, requesting that "His Excellency will have the goodness to give directions that they be placed in the hands of proper persons to distribute the same..."

On March 10, 1814, the Rev William Milne from the London Missionary Society, who later assisted the Rev Dr Robert Morrison with the complete translation of the Chinese Bible, arrived in Java. The Rev Milne met Raffles and secured his help to "do all they consistently could to forward" the Bible cause – he was even granted use of the Government Press. Raffles was appointed President of the Java Auxiliary Bible Society on June 4, 1814.



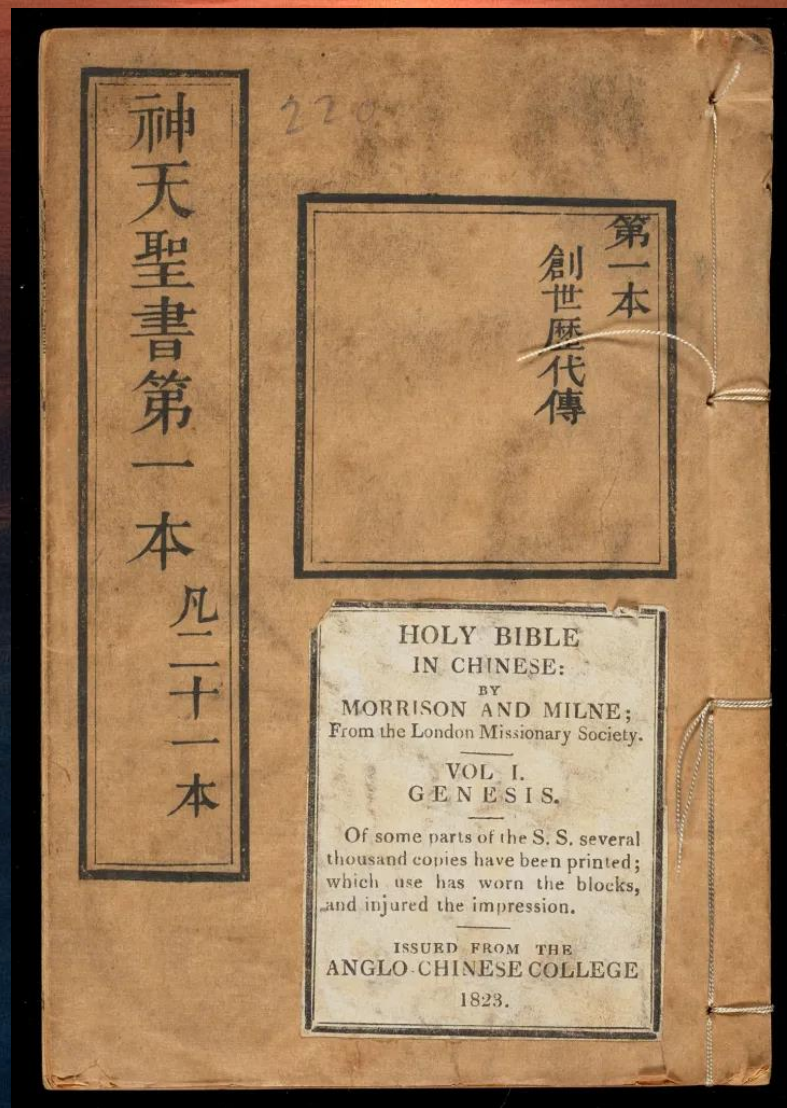
Li Shigong (far left) and Chen Laoyi translating the Bible as Morrison looks on, an engraving after George Chinnery's now-lost c. 1828 original.

Rev Dr Robert Morrison (1782–1834) was the first Protestant missionary to China. He arrived in Guangzhou (Canton) and Macau in September 1807, facing strict imperial laws that made teaching Chinese to foreigners or spreading Christianity punishable by death.

Bible Translation: Translated the entire Bible into Chinese, with the New Testament finished in 1813 and the full Bible published in 1821.

Dictionary Work: Compiled a massive, six-volume Dictionary of the Chinese Language, which set the standard for Western Sinology.

First Converts: Baptized his first convert, Cai Gao, after years of hidden and dangerous labor.



Holy Bible in Chinese: Translated by Morrison and Milne
Printed at the Anglo-Chinese College in Malacca, 1823.

The founding of Singapore by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 has its roots in propagating the Gospel.

In 1819, Raffles signed an agreement on behalf of the East India Company with the Sultanate of Johor to establish a trading post in Singapore. Singapore and Malacca served as a hub for missionaries who were awaiting permission to enter China. Singapore was considered particularly strategic due to its large Chinese population. In 1823, Robert Morrison of the London Missionary Society requested for 1,000 copies of the Chinese translation of the New Testament for Singapore.

This request was supported by Raffles who also requested that the British and Foreign Bible Society appoint an agent for Singapore after his return to England in 1826. A Bible depository was set up in the premises of the Institution Free School (subsequently renamed as the Singapore Institution in 1856 and then as the Raffles Institution in 1868) marking the beginning of Bible mission work in the region.

Acts 12:1-11

- ¹ Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.
- ² Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
- ³ And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:1-11

- ⁴ So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.
- ⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

Acts 12:1-11

⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

Acts 12:1-11

- ⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."
- ⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Acts 12:1-11

¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:1-11

¹¹ And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

Exodus 13:18

¹⁸ So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

Ephesians 6:10-19

- ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-19

- ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-19

- ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
- ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:10-19

- ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
- ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
- ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,