

WHICH ENGLISH BIBLE?

A Historic Observation

Albert S. Cook, the noted scholar and philologist, describing the effects and influence the *King James Bible* had on the English-speaking world, said...

“For the first time, England was reading one Bible at home (KJV) and hearing the same Bible (KJV) read/preached in church. It thus became bound up with the life of the nation. Since it stilled all controversy over the best rendering, it gradually came to be accepted as so far absolute that in the mind of myriads there was no distinction between this version and the original texts, and they may almost be said to have believed in the literal inspiration of the very words which composed it.”

Perhaps I am too simplistic, but in my mind the following thought is as strong an argument for the KJV as any I’ve ever contemplated before. Consider the following scenario, which I believe can be verified by the facts of history...

Imagine yourself walking through the streets of the average American or English community some 125 to 150 years ago. Likewise, envision yourself knocking on the door of most Protestant homes and asking to see their Bibles. No question, the vast majority (if not every single household), would hand you a *King James Version* of the Bible. Now, visualize yourself asking them, one after another, if they believed their KJV was the infallible, inerrant, and preserved Word of God kept intact for them in English. Again, no doubt, very few, if any, would deny or question whether their Bibles were perfect. If you were privileged to enter these homes, for the most part, you would find large families, where the wives were “stay at home” mothers faithfully tending to their domestic duties and submitted to their own husbands. The females would be modestly dressed and the young men sober-minded, respectful, and possessing a solid work ethic. The children would be well behaved and fluent in the Scriptures. All would consider Roman Catholicism as a dangerous cult and the Pope as an anti-Christ (*1 Jn 2:18*).

Suddenly, near the turn of the century and advancing into the next generation, a movement gains momentum attacking the validity of the KJV and demanding new and more relevant translations. Confusion abounds and shadows of doubt are cast on God’s Word.

Now, imagine yourself in America or the U.K. today. Hardly anyone even knows what a Protestant is and if they do, they don’t like the idea of protesting anything, especially

Romanism, as they count Roman Catholics as brothers in Christ. Ask the average professing Christian in America what Bible he reads and he will first ask his wife for permission to talk with you. If she agrees, as head of the house, she will literally take the conversation over, showing you any number of dozens and dozens of translations or paraphrases (she may invite you in for a beer and a cigar and if you protest she will quickly cry, “*judge not!*”). Few, if any, will believe the translation of the Bible they read is literally the pure, perfect, and infallible Word of God. Their children, should they have any, are rude, arrogant, disrespectful, naked, lazy, tattooed, pierced, have forgotten where their waist is, and are far more familiar with the words of their favorite rock-n-roll, hip-hop, and rap songs than they are with the words of God. Most live in gross sin and suppose they are right with God no matter what they do.

Dear friend, if you suppose the terrible and awful spiritual condition of our culture has absolutely no link to their low views of God’s Word, you are blind. The modern Bible translation movement, with their accusations against the KJV, has spawned a generation of “Bible-agnostics” who believe there are many Bibles, all equally legitimate, but none exclusive or perfect. The fruit is unmistakable. It stands to reason: if we had better Bibles today, we would have more consecrated and mature Christians than yesteryear. The opposite is true. Isn’t the trademark lie of the devil, “*yea, hath God said?*”? How men fail to see this degradation of faith in Western thinking is directly linked to the maddened *Bible translation movement* is beyond me. Obviously, it is the work of Satan. Don't forget, the Bible is the best-selling book in the world, hence, Bible publishing is very lucrative...

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” –1 Timothy 6:10

Today, for the most part, the only English speaking people who believe they have a perfect Bible are the KJV-only believers. Rarely, if ever, do you meet a NKJ-only, or NIV-only, or NAS-only group. Sure, they may believe their translation is the “closest” to the original autographs, but none believe a perfect translation exists. Again, this is an overall lowering of people’s view of God’s Word and it is all because of the modern Bible translations.

Why can’t we believe what God says regarding His Word in His Word? God has promised to preserve His Word...

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” –Psalm 12:6-7

“Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the

LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments... —**Psalm 78:1-7**

“He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.”
—**Psalm 105:8**

“Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” —**Psalm 111:1-10**

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” —**Psalm 119:89**

“Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.” —**Ps 119:152**

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.” —**Ecclesiastes 3:14**

“But he answered and said, It is WRITTEN, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” —**Matthew 4:4**

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one JOT or one TITTLE shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” —**Matthew 5:17-18**

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” —**Matthew 24:35**

“If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken...”
—**John 10:35**

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” —1 Peter 1:23-25

—B.W.