

WHICH ENGLISH BIBLE?

A Scriptural Defense

DEFENDING THE KING JAMES BIBLE BY THE SCRIPTURES

“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. The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.” –Psalms 12:6-8

In this article, we consider God’s Word for us, preserved in English. As we know, in the first century men risked their lives to faithfully declare the Word of God. During the Reformation men were willing to be burned alive at the stake to have the pure Word of God translated in their own language. In fact, the *King James Bible* is considered the crowning jewel of the Reformation period: *the Scriptures translated into the common language of the people was at the heart of the Reformation revival*. Throughout history, men have been willing to hazard all, simply to give God’s Word to some spiritually hungry soul. Today, the modern church languishes in sin, unbelief, and apostasy and yet few seem to realize there is a crisis of faith. I believe, at the root, there is a war raging against God’s Word. Sadly, few professing Christians care to even discuss the issues. And it should not surprise us, as the Bible foretells as much...

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears...” –2 Timothy 4:3

What could be more important than the doctrine of God’s Word? Now, in our first article, "*Which Bible In English? Part I*", we concentrated more on the evidential and circumstantial evidence for the KJV in English. And I certainly believe the historic/linguistic arguments made for the KJV. Nevertheless, in this article, I want to give you a very basic and very simple spiritual argument rooted in the promises of God’s Word. It begins with the fact that...

GOD’S WORD IS PERFECT

*“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”
–Psalm 12:6*

It is only reasonable to conclude: the very words of God are intrinsically perfect, infallible, and without contradiction.

“The law of the LORD is perfect...” –Psalms 19:7

Not only is this the Scripture’s testimony of itself, it is also logical. If God is perfect and He is, then His Word must therefore, be perfect. If God were not perfect, He would cease to be God: this is an absolute. Likewise, God’s Word, by nature, is perfect.

“Every word of God is pure...” –Proverbs 30:5

Thus, if any translation of the Scripture ceases to be perfect it cannot, by strict definition, accurately be referred to as God’s Word.

“For the word of the LORD is right...” –Psalms 33:4

This is critical to the topic under consideration. As Christians, the Word of God is our highest authority.

“My ground is the Bible. Yea, I am a Bible-bigot. I follow it in all things, both great and small.”

–John Wesley

Thus, as our highest authority, it is self-attesting. Simply meaning, it verifies itself. God’s Word is a reflection of God’s character and the Scriptures declare of God...

“...(God) he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself” –Hebrews 6:13

There is no higher ground to appeal to; as self-attesting, the Word of God judges us, we don’t judge it. Seeing this is true, we stand, by faith, on the bedrock of God’s Word, even to verify God’s Word. Thus, any appeal to verify its authenticity by any other means than itself, is to actually cast a shadow on its self-attesting nature. This doesn’t mean that we can’t point to the historic/linguistic proof, but that ultimately, we believe God’s testimony of His book. Hence, we must agree, God’s Word is perfect and if we have His Word, our translation must be perfect. This is something that all professing Christians confess, at least in theory.

GOD HAS PROMISED TO PRESERVE HIS WORD IN HIS WORD

“Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” –Psalm 12:7

The promise is clear: God will keep His Word from that generation (to which this promise was spoken/written) and forever. God’s Word is perfect and He has promised to preserve His perfect Word. What could be more settling and comforting than this? Many, even most, say this is impossible and manifestly false: *“there are no perfect Bibles, all have been corrupted,”* they declare. In the garden, the enemy used a beautiful and clever serpent as a vessel to speak to Eve, the bride of Adam. Again, today, Satan is using another beautiful and clever vessel, *“textual critics, bible-correctors-agnostics”* who echo the same yarn to the unsuspecting and naive Bride of Christ...

“...yea, hath God said” –Genesis 3:1

This lie, along with, *“ye shall not surely die,”* are the two greatest spiritual weapons in the devil’s arsenal. The question is, *“Who will we believe?”* The devil or the Word of God?

“Beware of reasoning about God’s Word, obey it.” –Oswald Chambers

It is heart-rending to see bumbling, unbelieving, professing Christians embrace the accusation that God’s Word has not been preserved. Of course, their confidence is broken because they reason, *“if fallible men had anything to do with the copying of the original manuscripts it must be questioned.”* Of course, they arrive at this conclusion by reading textual criticism written by *“men.”* But we read in *John 19:19-22...*

“And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.” –Jn 19:19-22

Notice, God providentially overrides the evil and wicked intentions of godless men as they attempted to change the written truth of God. This should be a great encouragement and comfort to all Christians, seeing we believe God has divinely preserved His Word (KJV).

As we discussed in our first *KJB Defense*, *‘Four Superior Reasons’*, amazingly, Bible-correctors

question the King James Bible because God used men to translate, while they, by faith, hold to the opinions of men. How do they know that their favorite analysis attacking God's Word is accurate? How can they be sure these documents, questioning the King James Bible, are reliable, seeing they are written/copied/published by fallible men?

Again, a bit ironic isn't it?

To chide us for clinging to God's Word, by faith, while basing their arguments on fallible writings of men, is hypocrisy in the extreme. Make no mistake, God has promised to preserve His Word and there are many kindred promises throughout the Scripture, for example...

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." —**Isaiah 40:8**

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." —**Mark 13:31**

If we reject the idea, as many apostates do, that a perfectly preserved Bible exists, then we call God a liar and we are guilty of unbelief. Moreover, we would certainly be disqualified to discern God's Word while we, by default, resist and renounce His declaration of Himself. To that uninformed mechanic, *"Put down the hammer, that is not a screwdriver, you aren't going to fix my car out of ignorance."* Likewise, no man can tell us what is or isn't God's Word out of an admitted position of ignorance.

GOD'S PEOPLE NEED GOD'S WORD

"Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever." —**Psalms 12:7**

Some, to undermine this promise, insist the object of the promise in Psalm 12:7 is God's people, rather than God's Word. Now, even if this were true, as we have pointed out, Psalm 12:6-7 is hardly the only passage where God promises to preserve His Word. Nonetheless, I believe this is a poor exegesis of this verse. The rule of nearest antecedent indicates it refers to the Words of God. The tense also favors God's Words being preserved. Nevertheless, let us assume this poor interpretation is true. Obviously, God's people cannot be preserved apart from the promise to preserve them, hence, His Word is preserved as well. So, this is a non-issue in our argument, but it does establish another Scriptural absolute: *God's people need God's Word*. Remember, Jesus quoting the law, declared to Satan...

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." —**Matthew 4:4**

According to God's Word, if we do not have *every Word of God*, we cannot live. In other words, preservation is a matter of spiritual life and death. And therefore, we can conclude, based on God's testimony of Himself, that He would not leave His people without His Word. And so, we see God's Word is perfect, God has promised to preserve His perfect Word, and God's people must have God's Word...

HENCE, THERE MUST BE A PERFECT BIBLE

"Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever." –Psalm 12:7

Based solely on the promises in Scripture, we must conclude, there must be a perfect Bible. If we deny this, we are not denying a movement, or the opinions of men, but we are denying the Scriptures themselves. In light of this crisis of simple trust in God, one should wonder, *"if God can't keep His book together, how is he going to raise us up on the last day?"* Hence, at the root and the foundation of this controversial issue is faith. Whatever anyone believes about the Word of God is grounded in faith. We either exercise faith in God, or faith in man, one or the other. When God convicted us, we first had to change our mind about His Word. Nevertheless, it is every man's responsibility, once he sees this fact, to identify God's preserved Word. And this is a matter of the heart, rather than the intellect; a matter of spirit, rather than merely the mind...

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me..." –John 10:27

Indeed, this is why many will admit, *"I prefer the King James Bible, but I don't believe it is perfect,"* which, of course is unbelief and illogical. Thus, if we believe the Scriptures, we must believe there is a perfect Bible. Will it be in every language? Not necessarily, the promise is not that pervasive, but I certainly believe that would be God's intention. But why then in English? Consider that God, in His providence, perhaps separated the English language for His use, somewhat like He did Greek. He knew English would be the primary world language, a standard for many missionaries, etc. Many languages have the Scriptures translated into their language which is equivalent to the KJV. Many others do not, but this does not prove the KJV is not God's perfect Word for the English speaking people.

FINALLY, TWO PERFECT BIBLES CANNOT DISAGREE

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" –Amos 3:3

Many erroneously believe that both the King James Bible and the modern versions are all

God's Word. This is not only illogical, but impossible. This is quite easy to comprehend: two records that disagree cannot both be perfect and faithful renditions. Hence, if we believe there is a perfect Bible, we must concede the KJV and the modern translations cannot both be it, as they vastly differ. The modern versions come from different manuscripts, using different translation methods, and often under questionable scholarship. It is not merely a matter of syntax or spelling. There is a real, genuine controversy that we must wax irrational to ignore. As we have documented, the modern versions agree against the KJV, hence, they cannot both be right. The original autographs do not exist, so, where is God's preserved Word? Think about it, why is it that the KJB is the only version that people actually believe is the pure word of God? There is no NIV only movement, no ASV only, ESV only, etc. Being there is only one true God, one true faith, one body, one Spirit, etc., why wouldn't there be one true Bible?

Make no mistake, this is of the utmost importance. There are many who refuse to believe God will deliver them from all sin. How can such men believe God to deliver them from any sin, seeing they could never be sure which sins God would free them from? Likewise, if we cannot believe God has kept His Word perfect, which promises are inspired and which are not? Any shadow cast on God's Word weakens faith.

Let us thank God for His perfect and preserved Word.

—B.W.