

# What TBFers Need To Know

About the “King James Only” Debate

## What I AM NOT Talking About

Christians who in good conscience hold the conviction that the King James Version of the Bible is the best translation for them and maybe even for every (English-speaking) Christians but who respect believers who prefer other, more recent translations.

## What I AM Talking About

Christians who insist that the King James Version of the Bible is the ONLY legitimate translation (because it has been directly superintended by God) and all other translations are errant and spiritually dangerous.

## Some Say the King James Version is the Only Translation

Warren Wiersbe God Isn't In a Hurry, (Baker Books; Grand Rapids, MI, 1994), p. 111

I was once criticized by a student who disapproved of some of the books I have written because in them I quoted from different translations. “The King James Version is the *only* Bible,” he told me. “It’s the only *authorized* Word of God!”

When he had calmed down, I asked him to answer three questions for me: What was the Word of God before 1611 when the King James Version was published? What is the Word of God on the mission fields where people cannot read English? Who authorized the King James Version to be the Word of God?

Of course, he saw the plight he was in. If some person or group authorized a translation to be the Word of God, then that person or group would have a higher authority than the Bible itself. And it is inconceivable that the great saints and martyrs from Pentecost to 1611 did not have the Word of God. It is even more inconceivable that our missionaries, who dedicate their lives to the translation and distribution of the Bible, are wasting their time on publications that are not the Word of God.

My student friend’s prejudices were showing, but when I confronted him with truth, he refused to budge. I can only pray for him ask God to open his eyes.

### **Inspiration-Class A Miracle of God**

God the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors such that they composed and recorded the exact message God desired as timeless Scripture in the words of the original manuscripts.

### **Preservation-Class B Miracle of God**

God the Holy Spirit has providentially preserved the wording of the original through a myriad of reliable copies-an Indirect Class B Miracle.

### **Translation-Applied Linguistics**

Human scholars rendering the original languages of the OT/NT manuscripts into modern languages using 1 of 2 basic approaches 1: direct translation or 2: dynamic equivalence.

### **Interpretation and Application-Seeking/Submitting to Illumination by the Holy Spirit**

Q1: What does this text mean in its context? = Interpretation (Only One)

Q2: What does that meaning mean to me in my conduct/choices? = Application (Always Many)

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**While the King James Version will no doubt go down in history as the most important English translation of the Bible of all-time...at this time (March 2019) I respectfully disagree with the premise it is still the best English Bible for all Christians today, much less that it is the ONLY Bible all Christians should use today.**

1: The English language has changed significantly since 1611. At least three hundred specific words used in the King James have different meanings today in modern English.

2a: The Hebrew and Greek manuscripts that the King James translators used are not as accurate as those now available by translators today.

2b: Historical and Archeological discoveries since 1611 have allowed modern scholars to more accurately understand certain Hebrew and Greek terms and expressions.

3: When the King James was first published it was resisted by many Christians (including the Pilgrims) because they felt it was "too easy" to understand (IOWs: that it over simplified many statements). Ironically some King James Only supporters today argue just the opposite-that the KJV is the only legitimate Bible because it is often difficult to understand (and thus demands close study and active reliance on the Holy Spirit).

4: Those who insist the KJV is the ONLY true Bible are always English-speaking people...what are all the other languages supposed to use?

5: Evangelicals including scholars who use other translations DO BELIEVE in the seven key doctrinal truths...so using translations other than KJV has not inherently led to heresy/apostasy.

What TBfers

NTKA

The KJV Only View

While the KJV = The Most Important  
English Translation of All-Time

I Disagree with the Premise It is Still The  
Best English Bible for All Christians Today

Much Less That It is the ONLY Bible  
All Christians Should Use Today

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God the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors such that they composed and recorded the exact message God desired as timeless Scripture in the words of the original manuscripts.

## **Preservation-“Class B” Miracle of God**

God the Holy Spirit has providentially preserved the wording of the original biblical texts by means of a myriad of reliable copies.

## **Translation-Applied Linguistics**

Human scholars rendering the original languages of the OT/NT manuscripts into modern languages using 1 of 2 basic approaches 1: direct translation or 2: dynamic equivalence.

## **Interpretation and Application-Seeking/Submitting to Illumination by the Holy Spirit**

Q1: What does this text mean in its context? = Interpretation (Only One)

Q2: What does that meaning mean to me in my conduct/choices? = Application (Always Many)

1: The KJV is Based on the MT > Alexandrian Text

2: The KJV Affirms the Deity of Christ > New Bibles

3: Some of the New Translators... Later Sinned

4: The New Translations Delete Parts of the Bible

5: The Original (1611) KJV is THE Word of God

6: The New Translations Teach Salvation by Works

## Revelation 22:14 KJV

Blessed *are* **they that do his commandments**  
that they may have right to the tree of life  
and may enter in through the gates into the city.

## Revelation 22:14 NASB

Blessed *are* **those who wash their robes**  
so that they may have the right to the tree of life  
and may enter by the gates into the city.



## Jude 1:4 King James Version

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and **denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Jude 1:4 New American Standard Bible

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and **deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## 1 Peter 3:15

but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence

## John 14:14

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

*retained as:*

### **New King James Version (NKJV)**

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

*versus:*

### **English Standard Version (ESV)**

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

**5:7, 8.** Greek manuscripts are unanimous in showing that verse 7 should end with “record.” (Literally it says: “There are three who bear witness.”) Likewise, verse 8 should read simply: “The **Spirit**, the **water**, and the **blood**; and the three are in agreement.” The longer versions of these verses made their way into the traditional printed Greek Testament (TR) and thus into the King James Version due to influence of the Latin Bible and only four late Greek manuscripts. The point of John’s original version was that the witnesses of verse 6 comprise one unified testimony to the veracity of the gospel. This insight in turn paves the way for verse

1: The English Language Has Changed Since 1611AD

2a: We Now Have More and Earlier/Better  
Hebrew and Greek Manuscripts

2b: Historical/Archeological Discoveries Since 1611

3: In 1611 the KJV "Easier to Understand" (-)

Today the KJV is "Harder to Understand" (+)

4: What Bible Should Non-English Speakers Do?

5: Modern Evangelical Scholars (Non-KJVers) Affirm

All of the Major Theological Truths of Christianity

# The English Language Has Changed Since 1611

1: Anon

2: Attendance

3: Careful

4: Charity

5: Conversation

6: Faint

7: Filthy Lucre

8: Peculiar

9: Suffer

10: Without

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