

**“A History of the King James Bible”**  
**Psalm 119:89**

Introduction: With the Holy Spirit as my Guide, I entered this wonderful Temple called the Bible. I entered the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art gallery, where pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, and Daniel hung upon the wall. I passed into the music room of Psalms, where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth a dirge like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah to the grand, impassioned strain of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God’s great organ of nature responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the beautiful chapel of Ecclesiastes, where the preacher’s voice was heard, and into the conservatory room of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valley’s sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, and then into the observatory room of the Prophets, where I saw telescopes of various sizes, was pointed to far-off events, but all concentrated upon the Bright and Morning Star which was to rise above all the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience-room of the King of kings, and caught a vision of His glory from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; passing on into the Acts of the Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was performing His work in forming the infant church. Then into the correspondence room, where sat Saints Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude penning their letters. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered in glittering peaks and I got a vision of the King sitting upon His throne in all His glory.

Body: This Book, which we call the Bible, contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities, rewards the greatest labors, and condemns all who trifle with its contents.

- I. The Background of the King James Bible Psalm 119:160- *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*
- A. The Men Behind the Bible II Peter 1:21- *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
  1. The Bible contains 66 books.
  2. It was written by 40 writers over a period of almost 1,600 years.
  3. These writers were separated by a distance of some 1,500 miles.
  4. Although written at different times by diverse men, it bears witness to one God, it tells one story, it unfolds one truth, it speaks of one redemption, and it has one theme—the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- B. The Manuscripts Behind the Bible Matthew 23:34- *“Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city”*
1. The Manuscripts were Transcribed (Transcription means to “write a copy of”.)
    - a. The original writings were known as “autographs”. The autographs were written on papyrus. Papyrus is parchments made of plants and animal skins. Due to the aging process, there are no autographs left today.
    - b. Some believe that only the “autographs” (the originals) are inspired. Not true!
      - (1) Look at the example of Moses. Exodus 32:15
        - (a) Moses broke the originals. Exodus 32:19
        - (b) God told him to, “Take two tablets and call me in the morning.”
        - (c) Moses made a copy of the originals. Exodus 34:1
      - (2) Look at the example of Jeremiah.
        - (a) Jeremiah wrote Original #1 and it was destroyed. Jeremiah 36:21, 23
        - (b) Jeremiah made a Copy #1. Jeremiah 36:32
        - (c) Jeremiah had Copy #1 destroyed. Jeremiah 51:59-64
        - (d) Somehow, we have Copy #2. Jeremiah 45-51
    - c. Moses put the second copy of the Ten Commandments into the ark. Deuteronomy 10:1-5
    - d. Moses made five books into one scroll. The whole scroll was called “Torah”. Scroll in Hebrew is “Sefer”. The Torah Scroll was called “Sefer Torah”. This “Sefer Torah” (the Law of Moses) was put in the side of the ark. Deuteronomy 31:24-27
    - e. Josephus stated that the Levites would be extremely careful to make exact copies of the Sefer Torah.
    - f. The kings were required to make copies of the Bible. Deuteronomy 17:14-19
    - g. Over a period of 1,600 years 40 authors would write 66 books of the Bible.
    - h. Psalms 12:6-7- *“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.”*
    - i. These writings were placed in standard bindings known as “Codex”. The Old Testament is known as the Masoretic Text. The New Testament is known as the Byzantine Text, Majority Text, Received Text, or the Textus Receptus.
    - j. They were gathered into one important city, Antioch of Syria. Acts 11:26
    - k. There would be two places that the “text” to the Bible would come from:
      - (1) Antioch Text—Preserved the Word of God
      - (2) Alexandrian Text—Perverted the Word of God
  2. The Manuscripts were Translated (Translation means to “turn into one’s own or another language”. It means to carry from one language to another.)
    - a. Some have questioned if God’s words can be translated and maintain their inspiration. However, notice these examples.
      - (1) Joseph’s Egyptian statements were translated into the Hebrew and inspired. Genesis 42:23
      - (2) If God was against translation, why did He translate Enoch? Hebrews 11:5
      - (3) God translates sinners into the kingdom of His dear Son? Colossians 1:13

- b. The major languages of the world have been:
  - (1) Hebrew
  - (2) Greek- From 300 B.C. to 300 A.D., everyone spoke Greek. It was the trade language.
  - (3) Latin- Around 300 A.D., this new world language developed.
  - (4) English- Around 1500 A.D.
- c. God used the Vaudois (vahd-wah) to translate God's words into Latin.
  - (1) For a few hundred years Latin would be the world language.
  - (2) The Vaudois translated the Old Latin Bible. Christians called it the Vulgate (common) Bible.
  - (3) For 900 years, the Catholics tried to destroy all copies of the Old Latin Bible and their owners.
  - (4) In 1229, the Inquisition killed 32,000 Albigenses.
- d. God would use John Wycliffe (1320-1384) to translate God's words from Old Latin into English.
  - (1) By 1380, Wycliffe translated the New Testament, and by 1382 the complete English Bible.
  - (2) In 1415, 21 years after he died, his body was taken out of the grave and tried for heresy. They then burned his body and poured his ashes into the Severn River.
- e. Erasmus would give us the Genuine New Testament in 1516.
- f. William Tyndale (1494-1536) read God's preserved words in Greek. How? Erasmus was Tyndale's Greek teacher.
  - (1) Tyndale mastered Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, English, and French.
  - (2) In 1525, Tyndale published the first preserved English New Testament.
  - (3) Tyndale suffered in prison for 16 months.
  - (4) On October 6, 1536, Tyndale was put to death. His last prayer was, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."
  - (5) Sixty-eight years later, King James of England started the translation of the Bible into the English language.

### C. The Making of the Bible

1. Now that the English language was at its highest peak, God would begin to translate His words into the English language.
2. King James of England became tired of the Geneva Bible which had John Calvin's notes all in the margins. He wanted the pure text of God's Word.
3. King James met in Hampton Court (containing 1,000 rooms) on January 14, 16, and 18 in the year 1604. He compiled 54 translators and began the translation in the year 1604. Seven translators died by 1607, but the work continued.
4. King James was hated by the Vatican. Therefore, the Jesuit Robert Catesby got together a band of friends to kill King James and the Parliament. It was known as the "Gunpowder Plot".
5. The translators divided into six companies in three locations: Westminster, Oxford, and Cambridge.
  - a. Lancelot Andrews led a team of ten at Westminster and translated Genesis through II Kings.

- b. Edward Lively led a team of eight at Cambridge and translated I Chronicles through Song of Solomon.
  - c. John Harding led a team of seven at Oxford and translated Isaiah through Malachi.
  - d. Thomas Ravis led a team of eight at Oxford and translated the Gospels, Acts, and the Revelation.
  - e. William Barlow led a team of seven at Westminster and translated Romans through Jude.
  - f. John Bois took the remaining seven men at Cambridge and translated the Apocrypha.
6. They examined each part 14 times.
  7. Notice the quality of the men that translated the King James Version.
    - a. King James mastered Latin, Greek, Italian, Spanish, and French at the age of eight years old.
    - b. Miles Smith, who wrote the preface to the KJB, was called the “walking library”.
    - c. Lancelot Andrews was fluent in 15 languages.
    - d. John Bois read Hebrew at five years old and studied from 4 A.M. to 8 P.M. every day. He almost memorized the entire Greek New Testament.
  8. Some say that these men were fallible and therefore we cannot have a perfect copy of God’s Word. However, wasn’t Moses the murderer fallible? What about David the adulterer and murderer? What about Saul?
  9. Although the King James Version was completed in 1611 A.D., it had four modifications. F.H.A. Scrivener lists the changes in his book.
    - a. In 1629 and 1638, the Cambridge editions corrected the earlier printing errors.
      - (1) These versions were printed on the moveable type printing press.
      - (2) Johannes Guttenberg (1398-1468) invented the first moveable type printing press in 1450.
        - (a) He tried to make money by selling Catholic trinkets.
        - (b) He knew there was more money in printing up letters of Indulgence (to reduce the time you burn in Purgatory). Therefore, he invented the printing press. Whoever could print Indulgences the fastest would be the richest.
      - (3) Guttenberg’s secret got out.
      - (4) In those days two archbishops, Diether of Isenburg and Adolph II of Nassau, were warring over who would be the Arch-Chancellor of Germany and archbishop of Mainz. The city supported Diether. But the pope supported Adolph II. And on the night of October 28, 1462, Adolph II invaded Mainz, Germany.
      - (5) In the disturbance, people would sneak out in the night carrying parts of the printing presses. Soon, printing presses showed up in cities all across the “Holy Roman Empire”.
      - (6) The stage was setting for God’s Word to be printed and distributed all over the world.
    - b. The 1762 and 1769 editions standardized the spelling of the King James Version.

D. The Miracle of the Bible

1. Look at all the revivals that it has brought! How many revivals have come from the NIV?
2. There are over one billion copies of the KJB.
3. Nine is the fruit of the Spirit. Count how many letters are in King James, Holy Bible, Scripture, and Word of God. Add up 1611.

II. The Battle of the King James Bible II Corinthians 2:17- *“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”*

A. The History of Other Versions Genesis 3:1- *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

1. To correct God’s Word is to corrupt God’s Word!
2. Greek was the language of Philosophy. People that wanted to be “smart” would read the writings of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and the Epicureans.
3. Colossians 2:8- *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*
4. These Philosophers that wanted to be Scholars made Alexandria, Egypt their headquarters.
5. These “scholars” from Alexandria got hold of the pure Bible from Antioch and began to change it.
6. The main source of perversions came from Origen.
  - a. Origen made up a strange Greek Bible.
  - b. He added some old folk tales called the Apocrypha.
  - c. He put his Old Testament and the Apocrypha together and called it the ancient Septuagint.
7. Origen’s counterfeit Bible was copied by other “scholars” which would produce three Bible perversions:
  - a. Sinaiticus (about 350 A.D.)
  - b. Vaticanus (before 400 A.D.)
  - c. Alexandrinus (about 450 A.D.)
8. The Catholics wanted their own Bible. Jerome (340-420 A.D.) would rewrite the Old Latin Bible.
  - a. By 405 A.D., Jerome finished his Latin perversion.
  - b. It was known as the Vulgate by Jerome—“Roman Catholic Latin Vulgate”
9. In 1853, Fenton John Anthony Hort (1825-1901) and Brooke Foss Westcott (1828-1892) began to “revise” the King James Bible.
  - a. Because of these men, we have the English Revised Version (1881), American Standard Version (1901), and the Revised Standard Version (1952). In addition, many other versions are a result of these men.
  - b. Westcott and Hort believed in purgatory and final restoration of all the spirits, including the devil.
  - c. Westcott and Hort defended the Catholics.
  - d. Westcott and Hort dabbled in the occult.

- e. In 1851, Hort founded a society for the investigation of Ghost and physical phenomena.
  - f. Hort was a sodomite. He had a love for sodomite Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. He wrote documented letters to Westcott that suggested sodomy.
  - g. Hort said Mary worship and Jesus worship has much in common.
  - h. Hort believed in baptismal regeneration.
  - i. Hort believed in Darwin's evolution.
  - j. Westcott studied the Book of Mormon.
  - k. In 1847, Westcott (22 years old) acknowledged his inability to believe in Bible miracles.
  - l. Westcott rejected infallibility of the Holy Scriptures.
  - m. Westcott declared he was a communist by nature.
  - n. Westcott could not see how someone could hold the first three chapters of Genesis as literal history.
  - o. Where are these men's salvation testimonies?
10. Job 14:4- *"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one."*
- B. The Heresy of Other Versions I Corinthians 14:33- *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."*
- 1. To endorse new Bibles is to say that the Holy Spirit has failed to preserve the Word of God.
  - 2. Psalm 12:6-7- *"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."*
  - 3. Other versions base their foundational text off the Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus. The KJB is the only Bible to take the text from the Textus Receptus.
  - 4. These (Sinaiticus and Vaticanus) disagree with each other over 3,000 places in the gospels alone. It averages 19 disagreements per page.
  - 5. Tischendorf found the Sinaiticus in a monastery trash can.
  - 6. The Vaticanus was found in a Vatican library.
  - 7. They hold that Jesus is "a god" (not Son) and that He was begotten somewhere in eternity.
  - 8. There are four ways to corrupt the Word of God: Omissions, Additions, Changes (Substitutions), and Transpositions (reversing word order).
  - 9. Deuteronomy 4:2- *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."*
  - 10. Deuteronomy 12:32- *"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."*
  - 11. Proverbs 30:5-6- *"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*
  - 12. Romans 3:4- *"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar..."*
  - 13. John 14:23- *"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."*

14. Revelation 22:18-19- *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*
15. In the Gospels alone the Sinaiticus omits 3,455 words, adds 839, substitutes 1,114, transposes 2,299, and modifies 1,265.
16. In the Gospels alone the Vaticanus omits 2,877 words, adds 536, substitutes 935, transposes 2,098, and modifies 1,132.
17. The Vaticanus leaves out words and clauses. Matthew- 330 times, Mark- 365 times, Luke- 439 times, John- 357 times, Acts- 384 times, Epistles- 681 times. This totals 3, 556 times in all.
18. It is easier to find two verses that differ than two that agree.
19. Vaticanus attacks the Deity of Jesus Christ. The revision committee of 1871-1881 changed I Timothy 3:16 to “he who was manifest in the flesh”.
20. Thomas Nelson Publishers prints RSV and NKJV that contradicts each other. All other versions have copyright. It is for filthy lucre.
21. RSV had 95 translators of which 30 were communist.
22. A woman lesbian sodomite that graduated from Bob Jones University headed the NIV up.
23. NASV has Catholic stamp on front flap of the jacket.
24. NKJV has Satanic symbol on it.
25. NKJV omits Lord- 66 times, God- 51 times, repent- 44 times, blood- 23 times, and hell- 22 times.
26. Many claim that other versions are easier to read. Is this true?
  - a. Isaiah 28:1 NKJV- verdant KJV- fat
  - b. Ezekiel 31:4 NKJV- rivulets KJV- little rivers
  - c. Matthew 21:15 NKJV- indignant KJV- displeased
  - d. Acts 18:12 NKJV- proconsul KJV- deputy
  - e. Acts 21:34 NKJV- ascertain KJV- know
27. I Corinthians 14:33- *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*

III. The Blessings of the King James Bible Psalm 119:161- *“...my heart standeth in awe of thy word.”*

A. The Salvation of the King James Bible I Peter 1:23- *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

1. Romans 10:17- *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
2. II Timothy 3:15- *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
3. They do not need a new Bible; they need a new birth!
4. They do not need a new translation; they need a transformation!

5. They do not need to re-write it; they need to re-read it!
  6. It will take you out of the mire and put you into the choir. It will make a pervert into a convert. Salvation will take a bottle out of your hand and put a Bible in it!
- B. The Strength of the King James Bible Acts 20:32- *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”*
1. I Peter 2:2- *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”*
  2. It is Inerrant—It contains no errors!
  3. It is Infallible—It will not fail!
  4. It is Indestructible—It will not pass away!
  5. It is Inspired—It is God breathed!
- C. The Serenity of the King James Bible Romans 15:4- *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*
1. The Word of the Lord is right.
  2. It is forever settled in heaven.
  3. It is a lamp and a light.
  4. It is true from the beginning.
  5. God has magnified His Word above all His name.
  6. Every Word of God is pure.
  7. The Word of God is not bound.
  8. It is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.
  9. It liveth and abideth forever.
- D. The Simplicity of the King James Bible
1. Some say that the King James is hard to read. However, our salvation hinges on nineteen one-syllable words.
  2. I John 5:12- *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*
  3. We do not have to run to the Greek to understand our Bible. Grandpa, with a fifth grade education can understand the Word of God.
- E. The Survival of the King James Bible Isaiah 40:8- *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*
1. Matthew 24:35- *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*
  2. The history of the King James Bible is bathed in blood. Does the NIV or the NKJV have this history?
  3. God thought it, Christ wrought it, the Holy Spirit brought it, the Devil fought it, but I got it!

Conclusion: We can read the King James Version through in 70 hours and 40 minutes. It contains 1,189 chapters. There are 365 days in a year. If a person reads 3.26 chapters a day, they would have read the Bible through in one year. Will you read four chapters a day (three in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament) and have your Bible read through in one year? Acts 17:11- *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

Verse One:

What light is that shining so brightly for me?  
That gives me such courage, the right way to see.  
What hope for my trusting soul ever shall be?  
God's wonderful Book Divine.

Verse Two:

What hope for the traveler when strength's almost gone?  
That makes him determined to keep plodding on.  
What sweet consolation from Heaven's White Throne?  
God's wonderful Book Divine.

Verse Three:

What chart can you trust as a guide for your soul?  
When tempests would strand you on some treacherous shore.  
What compass will point you to Heaven's bright door?  
God's wonderful Book Divine.

Chorus:

I love the old Bible, precious old Bible  
Light on my pathway to shine  
It keeps me so happy, always so happy  
God's wonderful Book Divine