

“The Great Blasphemy of the Geneva Bible”
II Corinthians 2:17

Introduction: Under the reign of “Bloody Mary”, a number of men fled from England to Geneva, Switzerland. Among this number of refugees were William Whittingham, Miles Coverdale, and John Knox, who began at once to work on a new translation, which would become known as the Geneva Bible. The Geneva Bible was the exclusive property of the Puritans, who were followers of John Calvin. We also may safely say that it is a Presbyterian Bible (Presbyterians are Calvinists). Its New Testament was published in 1557 and the Old Testament was in 1560. Then, the Geneva Bible was printed continuously from 1560 to 1644.

Body: Try to get a King James Bible believer to buy a new translation and you may have a battle. Ask a King James Bible believer to study from a new translation and the missiles will begin to fly. Yet, if you present them with a Geneva Bible that innocently portrays itself as a 1599 edition (Pre-King James) they will thank you for your thoughtfulness. Where they would never interpret their King James by what is found in a modern version, they will read a Geneva Bible and suddenly find themselves questioning the choice of words used by the King James translators. Therefore, which is more dangerous, Pre-King James or Post-King James versions?

- I. The Perplexities of the Geneva Bible
 - A. The Geneva Bible is in the line of English Bibles that led up to the King James Version because it used the correct Greek text. These early versions were forerunners of the perfect Word of God, the King James Bible.
 - B. However, the Geneva Bible has been revised, reprinted, and promoted as a version that people can trust as much as the King James Bible.
 - C. King James Bible believers view every version printed since the Revised Version of 1881 as a threat to the real Word of God because:
 1. They are inferior.
 2. They use the wrong line of manuscripts.
 3. Their sole reason for existing is to pry the real Bible out of people’s hands and replace it with a corrupt version.
 - D. Two of the three standards apply to the Geneva Bible.
 - E. Notice what is written on the side of the box:
 1. “Word-for-word accuracy of the 1599 Geneva translation”
 2. Notice the next statement. “Modern spelling”. (Contradiction?)
 3. Notice what is written on page xx. “We have also changed the spelling of the proper names in the Bible to that of the NKJV, since this can greatly help the contemporary reader, and does not compromise the meaning of the original edition.”
 4. How can it be a “word-for-word” accurate “1599 Geneva Bible” if it changes the spelling of proper names to those of a bible printed in 1982?
 - F. Have you ever done a word study on the word “corrupt” in II Corinthians 2:17?
 1. “corrupt” (Strong’s)- “to be a retailer, to peddle; to make money by selling anything; to get sordid gain by dealing in anything, to do a thing for base gain; to

- trade in the word of God; peddlers were in the habit of adulterating their commodities for the sake of gain.”
2. Most “Christian” bookstores have an entire section dedicated to selling materials targeted to Roman Catholics. Now how can you hope to get a book on their shelf that unapologetically bashes the Roman Catholic Church? That’s simple. You apologize for it.
 - a. Notice the very first sentence that Gary DeMar, of the Advisory Board, writes under “Notes to the Modern Reader”:
 - b. “The Geneva Bible study notes contain some outspokenly anti-Roman Catholic content, as one might expect considering that Rome was still persecuting Protestants during its development. Keep in mind that the English translators were exiles from England’s Queen ‘Bloody’ Mary who was burning Protestants at the stake while returning her nation to the Roman Catholic faith.”
 - c. Notice the footnotes in:
 - (1) Revelation 13:12—This footnote identifies the Roman Catholic Church and the pope as the religion and person of the Anti-Christ.
 - (2) Revelation 13:18—The number of the Beast, 666, is ascribed to the pope.
 - (3) Revelation 17:3—The colors of the Beast, scarlet and purple are ascribed to the Roman clergy.
 - (4) Revelation 17:4—“That harlot, the spiritual Babylon, which is Rome.”
 - (5) Revelation 17:8—This footnote points out that the Beast is “the Empire of Rome.”
 - (6) Revelation 17:9—“Now that woman that sitteth upon seven hills, is the city of Rome.”
 - d. Notice what else Gary DeMar states. “Our humble prayer is that the Roman Catholic Church will continue to reform by conforming her doctrine and practice to the authority of Scripture. We believe that this will happen one day as the prophet Micah indicates...”
 3. Notice how Dr. Marshall Foster treats the Catholics on page xxiii, “For more than 1500 years, an unfettered spread of the Gospel in the world was stymied without a reliable, written version of God’s Word in the common language of the people. Rome’s missionaries and monasteries had played their roles in civilizing the pagan tribes of Europe and establishing Christian authority.”
 4. Do you think the promoters of the “1599 Geneva Bible” are concerned about losing money on their “Bible”? Would this be corrupting God’s Word?
- G. One of the artificial praises, stolen from the King James Bible and bestowed on the Geneva, is the claim that it was the Bible on which the United States was founded.
1. It was the Bible the Pilgrims carried with them on the Mayflower. They were Puritans. They were Calvinists. They had their own translation. They certainly would not have used the Great Bible or the Bishop’s Bible because they were Church of England Bibles.
 2. However, by 1644 the Geneva Bibles were out of print. By 1776, when the Colonies declared their independence from England, there had not been a Geneva Bible printed for 132 years.

3. Why? The Geneva Bible had been surpassed by the popular King James Bible. It was the King James Bible that America was founded upon.
 4. It was King James I that was approached by Puritan scholars, namely Dr. John Reynolds, which requested that he allow a new translation of the Scripture in English. Isn't that amazing, they were willing to abandon their Geneva Bible for a new English translation. They apparently did not view the Geneva Bible with the esteem of its 21st century advocates.
 - a. Notice how Dr. Marshall Foster distorts history on page xxv.
 - b. "The Calvinist notes of the Geneva Bible infuriated King James I at Hampton Court in 1604, prompting him to authorize a group of Puritan scholars to produce a version of the Bible without annotation for him; ironically, the excellent Authorized Version might never have been written were it not for King James's antipathy toward the Geneva Bible."
- H. On the front cover of the Geneva reprint are the words, "1599 Geneva Bible". Obviously that makes the viewer think it is an authentic copy of a 1599 Geneva Bible. It is not.
1. In reality it is a 2006 edition of the Geneva Bible. They started with a failed publication of an updated version that was published in 2003 by L.L. Brown.
 2. How do I know? Read the first page of the Preface where it plainly states, "Our source copy was published by L.L. Brown (The 1599 Geneva Bible. Ozark, MO: L.L. Brown Publishing, 7th printing, 2003)..."
 3. Why didn't the proponents of the 1599 reproduce the 1557 original Geneva Bible? Why didn't they use the final edition of 1644 as the Geneva Bible was in its purest form?
 4. ANSWER: The 1599 was the most convenient because it had already been done in 2003 by L.L. Brown. There's no desire to reproduce the perfect Word of God. They simply reproduced the most available. They do not care about the Geneva Bible; they care about getting you to use something other than the King James Bible.

II. The Promoters of the Geneva Bible

A. Dr. D. James Kennedy

1. He was founder and president of the Knox Theological Seminary; senior pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church
2. On the front of the box Kennedy states, "The publication and promulgation of the 1599 Geneva Bible will help restore America's rich Christian heritage and reclaim the culture for Christ."

B. Dr. Peter A. Lillback

1. He was president of the Westminster Theological Seminary; senior pastor of the Proclamation Presbyterian Church
2. On the front of the box Lillback states, "This is the Bible that our forefathers brought with them to the new world. They made history and left this treasure of Scriptural wisdom as our legacy. The Geneva Bible once changed the world...and is about to change the world—again."

3. In the Foreword Lillback states, “The restoration of the Geneva Bible to American life is both a remarkable achievement and an event that readers can best celebrate by reading and sharing with everyone possible.”
 4. He also states, “In your hands you have been given the greatest source of the greatest ideas known to man. The Scriptures, and the wisdom of the theological minds who brought forth the Geneva Bible, will enable you to think God’s thoughts after Him because the Bible is His special revelation.”
 5. Lastly, he states, “So use this Bible with care. Use it faithfully with faith. Then watch God once more do above and beyond all that we can ask or imagine.”
- C. Dr. George Grant
1. He was co-pastor of the Christ Community Church, PCA (Presbyterian Churches of America); founder of King’s Meadow Study Center; president of Franklin Classical School.
 2. On the front of the box Grant states, “The 1599 Geneva Bible was used by God to spread the blessings of reformation, liberty, freedom, and productivity throughout the English-speaking world four centuries ago. May He now be pleased to use its republication to do the same thing in our own day.”
- D. James W. Bennett
1. On the first page of the Preface is a quote by James W. Bennett given in the introduction of an edition of the Geneva Bible which was published in 2003 and is the basis for the 2006 Geneva Bible, erroneously labeled “1599 Geneva Bible”.
 2. Bennett stated, “The Geneva Bible was written during a period where the English language was transforming from Middle English to Early Modern English.... English was also going through a shift in pronunciation that was caught in the printing press.... Grammar was also changing, due to influence from other languages, the printing press, and from natural simplification.... Sentence structure also changed....” [Bennett, introduction to *The 1599 Geneva Bible*, 2003, xv-xvii].”
 3. In other words the English of the Pre-King James versions was simply unstable and changing radically. Believe it or not, the English language has remained remarkably stable since the publication of the King James Bible in 1611.
- E. Notice who sponsored the 1599 Geneva Bible restoration project:
1. Peter A. Lillback—Pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church
 2. William J. Federer—(I wondered why he did not mention any Baptists in his book, *America’s God and Country*.)
 3. Paul W. Jehle—Pastor of the New Testament Church and Education Director of Plymouth Rock Foundation (Calvinist)
 4. Douglas Kelly—Reformed Theological Seminary (Calvinist)
 5. Joe Morecraft III—Pastor of the Chalcedon Presbyterian Church
 6. Joseph Pipa, Jr.—Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
 7. Mark R. Rushdoony—President of the Chalcedon Foundation (Calvinist)
 8. Benjamin Shaw—Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
 9. C.N. Willborn—Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
 10. NOTE: This list reads like a Calvinists’ family reunion.
- F. Vision Forum

- Some of these Presbyterians are hiding in Baptist churches disguised as Baptists, but they are in truth Presbyterians. WARNING: Presbyterians are Calvinists!
- Today, many preachers and religions that used to take a vocal stand against the Roman Catholic Church have become advocates for it or at least toned down their vehement condemnation.

G. David C. Gibbs, Jr.

1. Dr. David C. Gibbs, Jr. was the author of *One Nation Under God*. This was done in connection with Jerry Newcombe. Jerry is a senior producer of *The Coral Ridge Hour*, the internationally syndicated television outreach of Dr. D. James Kennedy. Jerry is the author or co-author of ten books, five with Dr. Kennedy.
2. This book has the endorsement of D. James Kennedy on the back. D. James Kennedy was the senior pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.
3. Dr. Gibbs states on pg. 133 of his book, “John Calvin greatly influenced the founding of America. Some historians have even gone so far as to call him the ‘father of America.’ In fact, although Calvin never lived in America, his religious influence on the founding of America was profound. Calvin’s writings provided much of the framework for the covenants, compacts, constitutions, and bodies of liberty, which ultimately culminated in the United States Constitution.”
4. Is Dr. Gibbs a Calvinistic Presbyterian?

H. Clarence Sexton

1. Why did he have Ian Paisley preach in his chapel service?
2. Tell Bro. Tooley’s testimony.

I. Phil Stringer

1. Stringer was the author of *The Faithful Baptist Witness*.
2. Why is he preaching in a Presbyterian church with Presbyterian preachers?

III. The Problems of the Geneva Bible

A. In its Tally of Words

1. Where is Syria?
 - a. The words Syria/Syrian/Syrians appear 138 times in the King James Bible. One hundred and twenty-nine of those are in the Old Testament while the remaining nine are in the New Testament.
 - b. In the Geneva, the word “Syrian” only appears once in the Old Testament. The other times it is rendered “Aram”, “Aramite”, or “Aramites”.
2. Where is the Euphrates?
 - a. The Euphrates River is mentioned 21 times in the King James Bible.
 - b. In the Geneva, the word “Euphrates” only appears five times.
3. There are no backsliders in the Geneva.
 - a. The words backslider/backsliding/backslidings appear seventeen times in sixteen places in the King James Bible.
 - b. These words do not appear in the Geneva.
4. Where is the word “propitiation”?
 - a. The word “propitiation” occurs three times in the King James Bible.
 - b. It appears nowhere in the Geneva Bible.
5. Where is “hell” in the Geneva?

- a. There are 54 references to hell in the King James Bible.
 - b. There are only 41 references to hell in the Geneva Bible.
6. What about repentance in the Geneva?
- a. The words repent/repented/repentance appears 59 times in the New Testament of the King James Bible.
 - b. Notice what appears only 45 times in the Geneva:
 - (1) Luke 13:3- "...but except ye amend your lives..."
 - (2) Luke 13:5- "...but except ye amend your lives..."
- B. In its Translation of Words
1. Deuteronomy 4:7
 - a. KJV- "*who hath God so nigh*"
 - b. Geneva- "unto whom the gods"
 2. Psalm 23:6
 - a. KJV- "*...and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*"
 - b. Geneva- "and I shall remain a long season in the house of the Lord."
 3. Isaiah 2:20
 - a. KJV- "*...to the moles and to the bats*"
 - b. Geneva- "...to the moles, and to the backs"
 4. Isaiah 11:1
 - a. KJV- "*...and a Branch shall grow...*"
 - b. Geneva- "...and a grass shall grow out of his roots."
 5. Ezekiel 38:11
 - a. KJV- "*...unwalled villages...*"
 - b. Geneva- "...the land that hath no walled towers..."
 6. Romans 8:9
 - a. KJV- "*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*"
 - b. Geneva- "Now ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, because the spirit of God dwelleth in you: but if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, the same is not his."
 - c. The 1557 and 1560 Geneva Bibles capitalize all three. Is this really a "word-for-word accuracy"?
 7. II Corinthians 2:11
 - a. KJV- "*devices*"
 - b. Geneva- "enterprises"
 8. John 14:2
 - a. KJV- "*In my Father's house are many mansions...*"
 - b. Geneva- "In my Father's house are many dwelling places..."
- C. In its Transformation of Words
1. II Samuel 21:19
 - a. KJV- "*...Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite...*"
 - b. Geneva- "...where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim, a Bethlehemite slew Goliath the Gittite..."
 - c. I thought that in I Samuel 17 that David slew Goliath.

2. Psalm 138:2
 - a. KJV- "...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."
 - b. Geneva- "...for thou hast magnified thy Name above all things by thy word."
3. Isaiah 17:4
 - a. KJV- "...the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean."
 - b. Geneva- "And in that day the glory of Jacob shall be made clean."
4. Zechariah 9:9
 - a. KJV- "...and having salvation..."
 - b. Geneva- "...and saved himself..."
5. Malachi 3:8
 - a. KJV- "Will a man rob God?"
 - b. Geneva- "Will a man spoil his gods?"
6. Matthew 5:22
 - a. KJV- "without a cause"
 - b. Geneva- "unadvisedly"
 - c. In Mark 3:5, Jesus was very angry. Does this mean that Jesus was worthy of hell?
7. John 1:3
 - a. KJV- "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."
 - b. Geneva- "All things were made by it, and without it was made nothing that was made."
 - c. The Geneva Bible denies the personhood of the Word.
8. I Peter 1:25
 - a. KJV- "...by the gospel..."
 - b. Geneva- "by the gospel" is omitted
9. Hebrews 10:12
 - a. KJV- "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God"
 - b. Geneva- "But this man after he had offered one sacrifice for sins, sitteth forever at the right hand of God"
 - c. By placing the comma where they did, the translators of the 2006 Geneva Bible have the Lord making His sacrifice and then sitting forever at the right hand of God. He is never coming back.
 - d. What about Acts 7:55?
 - (1) KJV- "...and Jesus standing on the right hand of God"
 - (2) Geneva- "...and Jesus standing at the right hand of God"

Conclusion: By the way, have you noticed the symbol in the middle of the cross in the "1599 Geneva Bible"? It is the exact satanic symbol found on the New King James Version. Interesting!