

MAKING THE BIBLE VERSION DEBATE

SIMPLE

— JOSHUA P. GIMENEZ —

Making The Bible Version Debate *SIMPLE*

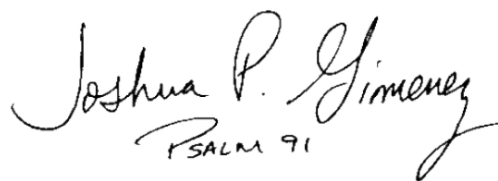
A Note From The Author

For the hundreds of English Bible versions, there seem to be twice as many opinions about which one you should use. The sad fact is that questions, answers, and conversations revolving around this subject have become so deep that the average Christian gets lost in the first paragraph. What is the result?

The average Christian is left in the dark when it comes to the FACTS of the Bible version debate.

The goal of this study is to "unwrap" the contents of the Bible version debate, beginning with what the Bible says about itself, the foundation of the Bible versions, answering controversial questions, and much more! This is accomplished in a simple, easy to read format that will allow the reader to comprehend the facts of the conversation! I pray that it will be a blessing.

For His Glory,



Joshua P. Gimenez
PSALM 91

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Introduction

I am going to shock you: I am not against a modern English version of the Bible – so long as it meets the qualifications of being God’s Word as defined Biblically and logically in this study. I wanted to state this in the introduction so the reader would know clearly where I stand. I am not against a modern English version of the Bible.

I am going to give you another statement to make clear another point on which I stand: there has only been one English version in history that has been able to meet the standards of this criteria. All others have failed. This is not my conclusion or personal opinion – it’s a fact. This book is not your typical “run of the mill” Bible version ramble. It contains no one-sided statements or circular arguments. I care not about my opinions or feelings, and frankly, nor yours either. I care about the truth.

In this book, we take the common debate of Bible translations and bring the “cookies” down to the bottom shelf. I desire the reader to walk away having a better grasp of their stand concerning this matter. I will give Biblical standards, concise doctrine, verifiable facts, and logical arguments. I encourage each and every single reader to study for themselves and research the facts. In doing this, I believe that someone desiring to know the truth can arrive at the correct destination. This issue is critical to our faith, let there be no doubt about it. May this be a charge to stir up a love for God’s Word in you!

I: The Foundation of the Issue

When considering the debate upon which Bible version to use, it is important to first understand why this topic is an important one. This conversation is critical in our lives as Christians. Why? Because the Bible is our sole authority in all matters of faith (what we believe about God) and practice (how we live in response to what we believe about God). Our authority on issues of faith and practice is not man, education, science, nor our heart/conscience. Our final authority is the Word of God. We place a lot of trust in that singular Book. But, praise God, the Word of God is not just any book!

It's a Book of power! It's a Book of miracles! It's a Book that shows us how to live in every area of life! When we consider this topic, we must be reminded of the living miracle we hold in our hands when we hold the Word of God. The writing of the Bible spans over 1500 years, was written by 40 different authors through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, it has 66 books, and it's perfect. Not a single error, imperfection, or contradiction. Only God could do that. The "Bible Version" debate is no small conversation!

When examining any doctrinal issue, such as this one, it is important to first establish the concrete facts in regard to that subject. When we come to the Bible, God is very clear on some critical issues. Consider these facts we must believe before continuing further:

1: The Bible is the inspired Word of God

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Tim. 3:16)

Inspiration simply means "God breathed". These are not words that man simply penned down of his own accord. Each author was penning down the words of God!

"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." (2 Peter 1:21)

Anyone who looks at the Bible and says, “It’s just what a bunch of men say...” has made a statement that contradicts the Bible. Let’s say I were to dictate a letter to my wife. She would grab a pen and a piece of paper and begin penning the words as I dictate them to her. I ask you this question: who’s letter is it? Is it her letter or my letter? It’s mine! She simply penned down the words. In the same way, it’s God’s words that man was given the ultimate privilege of penning down.

Believing that the Bible is the inspired Word of God is important because it lays a critical piece in the foundation of the “Bible version” debate. Man is imperfect. Man has sin. Man fails and fails often. God never fails. God is perfect. Therefore, if God is perfect we can expect anything He does to be perfect. If this is the inspired Word of God – God’s work – it must be perfect!

2: God said that His Words are perfect and pure.

Psalm 12:6-7 says, *“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.”*

Continuing the idea we left off on in point #1, we know that God is perfect. John 1 makes it very clear that the Word of God is God. If He is His Word, then His Word is perfect with no contradictions or errors within it. When someone says that the Word of God has mistakes or errors in it, they violate a clear statement from God’s Word, for if it has one single blemish or inconsistency it then ceases to be PURE.

3: God’s Words should not be added to or taken away from.

“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.”
(Revelation 22:18-19)

God is very clear – don't mess with His words. You can clearly see the seriousness in His voice as you read the verse above. God said that we live by EVERY word, not just some of them. (Matthew 4:4). If this is true, we must have every word and none should be removed.

4: God's Word is our sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Tim. 3:16)

Very simply: doctrine is what is right. Reproof is what is wrong. Correction is how to get right. Instruction is how to stay right. In these 4 simple words, we see that the Word of God encompasses every single area of our life, for every single area falls into one of these categories. This is why our beliefs concerning the Word of God are so critical to our faith. We will discuss the Word of God being our sole authority a little later in this study.

5: God promised that He would preserve His Word.

God promised that His perfect Word would be preserved. Do you know someone who preserves fruits and vegetables? They take the produce and they jar/can it to keep it for a later time. Preserving was a key practice in the times of old. In the same way, God promises to preserve His Word for eternity. It always has been and always will be. God's Word is for all generations. As stated before, God is perfect, His Word must be perfect, therefore His preservation is perfect.

If this is all true (which it is if you believe the Word of God) then that means God will preserve His Word to every generation and that preservation will not remove perfection from the Word of God. Let me allow God to speak for Himself on this issue:

- Isaiah 40:8, *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."*
- Psalm 119:89, *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."*
- Matthew 5:18, *"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 24:35, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

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

Before we move on in the “Bible version” debate, I must ask you:

Do you believe what God’s Word says about Itself? Do you believe God to be true or a liar? If you do not believe these 5 key, foundational pieces, there is no need to continue. Your judgment is already skewed and your mind is already set – against the Word of God and what God says about His own Word. If you believe God and trust Him, then let us move forward in this desire to know the truth concerning God’s Word!

II: There Are Only Two

There are hundreds of English translations of the Bible. AmericanBible.org says there are “over 900” English translations of the Bible ¹. If you were to go to a Bible bookstore or even a secular bookstore, you would find shelf after shelf of English translations. May I give you an insight? When you look at shelf after shelf, bookcase after bookcase, you don’t see 900 translations. You don’t see 500. You don’t see 100. You don’t see 50. You don’t see 20. You don’t see 10. You really only see 2. How is that? Because all translations are based on 1 of 2 lines of manuscripts.

When God inspired His Word, He inspired them into Greek and Hebrew, primarily. There is a slight bit of Aramaic, but for all intents and purposes most reference only the Greek and Hebrew. As the writers penned the words of God, they would write them down on parchment. Parchment was incredibly fragile and did not last long periods of time. Because of this, scribes – copyists – would copy down the words and keep them preserved.

The process of copying down the manuscripts by hand was meticulous with many customs to be observed. Over time, the scribes would pass down these manuscripts to others. Eventually, manuscripts made their way to one of two places. Relatively all of our New Testament

manuscripts come from one of two places. In this way, you do not see hundreds of versions – there are only two, because they all come from one of two places.

1: The *Textus Receptus* (TR)

The first was the *Textus Receptus*, which simply means “Received Text”. It is also sometimes referred to as the “Traditional Text”. It came from Antioch of Syria. The second line of manuscripts came from Alexandria in Egypt. The text produced there is called the “Critical Text”. These texts, either the *Textus Receptus* or the Critical Text, form the basis for all modern translations. While similar in some fashions, for they are sharing the stories of the New Testament, there are many, many differences between the two. Let’s examine these texts, their history, and their facts in more detail.

When Jerusalem faded off the scene as the hub of Christianity, Antioch became the place of Christianity and true Christianity at that. Remember, Paul and Barnabas were not sent out of Jerusalem. They were sent out of Antioch. Antioch became the head of the gospel spearhead. The church at Antioch became the head of worldwide missions. This was not a hierarchy but simply a base point.

Antioch also became the head of producing God’s Word. Many critics of the *Textus Receptus* say that Erasmus created the *Textus Receptus* in 1516. This is simply not true. We have much evidence to prove the existence of the *Textus Receptus* years before 1516. For example, in 150 AD, the Antiochian church produced an Aramaic translation of the NT called the “Peshitta” translation.² The Hebrew and Greek were translated in Aramaic. The translation reads as the *Textus Receptus* and contrary to the Critical Text! Proof of the *Textus Receptus* all the way back to 150 AD!

This isn’t a singular happening: in the fourth century, a man by the name of Wulfila translated the New Testament into the Gothic language in Europe to reach the Goths.³ It was a TR (*Textus Receptus*) based translation. The Waldensians, a group of Baptist forefathers, produced translations in their time of TR based New Testaments.⁴ You’ll find that the early churches used the TR. There is much evidence proving the existence of the TR before 1516 when Erasmus supposedly “created” the TR. A careful study will show that Erasmus did not “create” the TR. Erasmus published it – he put it into print! Before this time, all copies of the

TR had been hand copied but now, through the work of Erasmus, they were put on the printing press!⁵

Understanding this is important because many critics of the Textus Receptus discredit it because “it’s not the oldest and the best text”. With the evidence provided, we can easily prove the antiquity of the Textus Receptus. Be careful to never take statements at face value, but to always do your research as we have done here.

2: The Critical Text (CT)

Why is the Critical Text traced back to Alexandria, predominantly? Because the principal text (many say 90% of the critical text) is based off of a text entitled “Codex Vaticanus” or “Book of the Vatican”. The date given to the existence of this text is 330 AD. It was found miraculously, I prefer the term “mysteriously”, in the Vatican library.

Interesting enough, this Codex Vaticanus was never indexed/recorded in the Vatican library until the 14th century – that’s one thousand years after its creation. Codex Vaticanus was produced in Alexandria, Egypt. In this, we trace the Critical Text back to Alexandria.

It is important that we understand the history of Alexandria during this time. In the 4th century, Alexandria was an area filled with early catholic “church fathers”. These men taught many things contrary to Scripture that cannot be discussed in depth in this short study. Alexandria was a hotbed for these false teachings. Origen taught at a religious school in Alexandria. This is sad because he doubted the veracity of God’s Word!⁶

The predominant belief in the minds of these religious “scholars” was that the words of God weren’t even true! Not only these sad beliefs, but this was also a hot spot for Gnosticism – the teaching that Jesus is not Christ because He had a fleshly body. This is where the Critical Text predominantly originated from.

Understanding the history of these manuscripts is important. The importance of knowing the history and setting of the foundation of this debate should not be diminished. Many false statements are made and having a good knowledge of these facts will help us as we continue.

III: Manuscript Evidence

Manuscript evidence is a viable method for tracing the origins and veracity of a manuscript. Some manuscripts were faulty and passed down by those who desired to ruin the efforts of the scribes. To know if a manuscript was true and intact, you would compare the manuscript with the others manuscripts. It's as simple as that

Here's a secret many don't want you to know:

The majority of the manuscripts we have support and verify the accuracy of the Textus Receptus.

How many manuscripts is that? Not 1. Not 10. Not 100. Not 1000. There are over 5,000 manuscripts that support the Textus Receptus⁷. That's an incredible fact! Stacked on top of each other they would stretch over a mile long! No other work of history, religious or secular, comes even close to the proof we have of the reliability, accuracy, and infallibility of the Textus Receptus. This is no scam!

The Critical Text does not even come close. For all practical purposes, the Critical Text (CT) has only 2 manuscripts that validate its existence. The reason I say only 2 is because 90% of CT is based on Codex Vaticanus (the Greek New Testament found at the Vatican) and 8% is based on Codex Sinaiticus (a Greek New Testament found near Mt. Sinai). 98% of the CT is based on 2 singular texts. That leaves 2% left over for other texts. That means they put 98% of their eggs in ONE basket! That is why I stated for "all practical purposes".

How many texts are there? It's widely debated how many manuscripts make up the CT. A common number I see thrown around is 45⁸.

If you had to choose a text based on the area of manuscript evidence, would you choose a line of manuscripts equaling over 5,000 or a line of manuscripts equaling less than 50? If you were a textual critic, would you base your career and name on 45 or over 5,000? The answer is obvious: over 5,000 – the Textus Receptus. (Remember, the Critical Text doesn't even come close to 100, much less 5,000 manuscripts!)

IV: The Deeper Problem

Not only does manuscript evidence show us the failure of the Critical Text, but we also find many problems within the CT. Remember, God's Word is supposed to be pure and perfect, with no errors. How can we trust a line of manuscripts that has problems? You may ask, "What problems?" Allow me to demonstrate.

Codex Vaticanus & Codex Sinaiticus

Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus make up 98% of the CT⁹. When examining the two texts, you will find over 3,000 variations between the two in the Gospel's alone. That's over 3,000 errors – 3,000 contradictions – in the first four books of the New Testament! And these two texts form 98% of the "most accurate" line of manuscripts? To say "most accurate" is ridiculous!

If we continue, Codex Vaticanus is missing over 30 verses, has many partial verses, and removes hundreds of words from what is verified by over 5000 other manuscripts (the TR). Codex Sinaiticus does the same! Codex Sinaiticus has corrections written all over its pages. Not only that, but Codex Sinaiticus adds verse passages that weren't there in the first place! It even has some readings that not a single other manuscript has within it. For example:

- Matthew 7:22 adds the word "numerous".
- Matthew 13:54 changed from "to his own country" to "to his own Antipas".
- Luke 2:37 changed 80 (four score) to 70

Dr. Wescott & Dr. Hort

The Critical Text, with all its errors, additions, and contradictions, eventually made its way to London. They came into the hands of two religious doctors: Dr. Brooke Wescott and Dr. Fenton Hort. These two men were instrumental in publishing the Critical Text in the same way Erasmus published the Textus Receptus. They put it in book form and produced it for the masses. They also protracted this theory and promoted it to others: the Critical Text were the oldest and best texts. As we have seen, this statement is simply not true. We found, historically,

evidence of the TR over 100 years before the first text of the Critical Text! How false this line of thinking is – what a lie.

Were these men truly interested in producing a true text? Were these men truly interested in producing an infallible New Testament as God said it would be? Sadly, the answer is no. These men were true heretics. I allow their own words to speak for themselves:

Here is a statement made by Dr Hort: *"If you make a decided conviction of the absolute infallibility of the N.T. practically... I fear I could not join you."*¹⁰ This man did not even believe in the infallibility of God's Word! How can someone work to produce the Word of God when they don't even believe what God has to say about His own Word?

Here is another statement on the subject by Dr. Hort, *"But I am not able to go as far as you in asserting the absolute infallibility of a canonical writing."*¹¹ How sad to hear such heresy. At least he was willing to admit that his compilation of the Critical Text was not infallible, though I do not believe that to be his intention. He clearly believes that there is NO infallible Word of God anywhere.

Dr. Wescott was, unfortunately, no different than his colleague. We find this statement made by him, *"No one now, I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, give a literal history - I could never understand how anyone reading them with open eyes could think they did."*¹² Dr. Wescott did not believe in the literal history of Genesis. Now do they not only doubt the infallibility of God's Word, but they doubt It's veracity as well!

When studying the lives and beliefs of these men, these statements will not shock you. A careful examination shows that these men flirted with the apostasy and heretical beliefs of their day. Notice their quotes below:

- Dr. Hort said this on the subject of Charles Darwin and his book "Origin of Species". (This was of course the foundation man and element of the evolutionary theory.) *"...Have you read Darwin? How I should like to talk with you about it! In spite of difficulties, I am inclined to think it unanswerable. In any case it is a treat to read such a book."* He doubled down on this statement, *"But the book which has most engaged me is*

Darwin. Whatever may be thought of it, it is a book that one is proud to be contemporary with ... My feeling is strong that the theory is unanswerable."¹³

- Dr. Wescott believed Heaven to be a state of mind rather than a literal place: *"We may reasonably hope, by patient, resolute, faithful, united endeavour to find heaven about us here, the glory of our earthly life."*¹⁴
- Dr. Hort made this sad, un-Biblical statement concerning Christ and His atonement: *"The fact is, I do not see how God's justice can be satisfied without every man's suffering in his own person the full penalty for his sins."*¹⁵ I am so glad the Bible disagrees with him for God says that He paid the entire debt for our sin and there is *"now no condemnation."* (Romans 8:1)

The list could go on, but suffice these to prove the heresy of these two men. Dr. Westcott and Dr. Hort are truly responsible for the great falling away from and criticism of the TR. Almost all translations use the Westcott & Hort Greek new testament for translation. Two heretical men, one faulty text, one big issue.

These form the deeper problem of the Critical Text. They remove words, they add words, and they have errors and contradictions. They do not line up when examining them in textual criticism, they have errors and corrections written all over them, they are missing other portions of God's Word. They are in direct violation of the standards we set forth at the beginning of this study – a clear violation of what God says about His own Word! How foolish it would be to use or even consult this faulty text: the Critical Text.

My friend, there are many who tell you that this is just an issue over modern language and modern English. For one who does a careful study of this issue, we find this idea to simply be not true. At the very core of these translations is a line of manuscripts, either the Critical Text or the Textus Receptus. If we base our Bible translation off of a faulty line of texts, can we expect to have a final product that is anything but faulty? The Bible says in Psalm 11:3, *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* There is nothing we can do! Just as a house with a faulty foundation will not stand, so a Bible translation with a faulty foundation cannot stand up to the core standards God gives concerning His Word.

V: The Offspring of A Faulty Foundation

If we use something faulty to begin with, how can we expect for the final product to be pure and perfect? We cannot! This sad truth was discarded by many Bible translators. In their desire to produce a more “modern” English translation of Scripture, they decided to use the supposedly “oldest and best” manuscripts – a falsehood. Because of this decision, many faulty translations were produced. Why are they faulty? Psalm 11:3 reminds us: *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

I will not take an exorbitant amount of time to discuss the fallacy of each translation. If you will allow me, I believe we can effectively make a decision regarding almost all modern translations in a simple, straightforward fashion. How shall we do this? By simply marking the versions that violate a core doctrine concerning God’s Word. In short review, those doctrines were:

- 1. God said that He inspired the Word of God. (God never does anything imperfect.)*
- 2. God says His Words are perfect and pure.*
- 3. God said that His Words should not be added to or taken away from.*
- 4. God’s Word should be our sole authority in all areas of life.*
- 5. God said He would preserve His Word.*

If we come across a translation that violates even one of those clear doctrines, it is in violation of what God has said. My friend, I remind you, God will never contradict Himself. He won’t tell you, “This is My Word!” and then have things within it that contradict His doctrine. In this way, we will bring this all to a climax.

Acts 8:36-37

Let us examine Acts 8:36-37:

“(36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

We have the story of Philipp who has been witnessing to the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch has listened intently as Philipp has expounded upon the truths of Isaiah 53 and now believes. He asks Philip if he may be baptized and Philip responds with the requirement of baptism: “Do you believe?” We find the eunuch answers in the affirmative with a very clear and concise statement: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

This passage is such a practical validation of many doctrines we believe concerning salvation and baptism. In this, God provides an up close and personal example of soul-winning and leading a convert to baptism. Notice, for baptism, it took belief – a very specific belief. This was not just any belief. This was a specific belief in Jesus as the Son of God and the only way by which we can go to Heaven and receive eternal life. This is a truly critical statement and an invaluable example for us!

As you read Acts 8 in the extremely popular New International Version, you begin to come to this exciting example God has given us. You read verse 35, then verse 36, then verse 37, then verse 39... Wait a second. There is no verse 38. No text. No verse marker. It’s gone. With great curiosity, you search up and down and all around but it’s clearly gone!

You grab the old Revised Standard Version only to find it not there either. Surely the venerated American Standard Version contains the verse but no, not the ASV either. A small bit of research would find you that many versions do not include the critical vs. 37, such as:

- The New Living Translation
- The New Revised Standard Version
- The English Standard Version
- The Good News Translation
- The Message
- And many, many more.

Matthew 18:11-12

If you were to turn to Matthew 18:11-12, you would find this wonderful passage:

“(11) For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. (12) How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?”

What a wonderful mission statement from Christ! Why did He come to earth? To seek and save that which was lost. You and I were lost. We could not make it to Heaven on our own. We needed someone to not only seek us but to save us. That was Christ's purpose! But if you were to examine the majority of modern translations you will find verse 11 missing. Just like Acts 8:37 - it's gone.

Let me remind you: Revelation 22:19 is very careful to point out that we should not remove any of the words of God. Just these two missing passages alone show us the unreliability of these translations. They violate a core doctrine of God's Word.

By my own research, I can verify missing verses within many of the popular translations. Below you will find a list of some popular modern translations and the verses they are missing in just the first 6 books of the New Testament (Matthew – Romans) alone. As you examine the list below, I would encourage you to sit down and verify this for yourself. The outcome of your own study will prove alarming.

Missing Verses

New International Version (NIV): 26+

Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 15:28, 16:9-20, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, 7:53-8:11, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 25:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24

Revised Standard Version (RSV): 22+

Matthew 12:47, 17:21, 18:11, 21:44, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44, 9:46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 22:43-44, 23:17, 24:12, John 5:4, 7:53-8:11, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

Good News Translation (GNT): 17+

Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, 7:53, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV): 15+

Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 13:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

Amplified "Bible" (AMP): 29+

Matthew 12:47, 17:21, 18:11, 21:44, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 15:28, 16:9-20, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 7:53-8:11, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

English Standard Version (ESV): 15+

Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

New English Translation (NET): 16+

Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44+46, 11:26, 15:28, 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24.

You may be asking, "Why are these verses missing?" The reason is simple: because these modern versions were based on the Critical Text and the Critical Text is missing these verses too. The Critical Text has no trace of them! I don't find this shocking from the sad facts of all the additions and subtractions we have previously talked about.

Satan Works In Half-Truths

Here is where we arrive to the inner soul of the Bible version debate: Satan works in half truths. Satan has found half truths to be most effective at turning people away from the pure truth. When he deceived Eve, he did not tell her a complete lie – he told her a half-truth. Notice that he said their "eyes would be opened". This was true because they would now see sin and their own condition. This was not completely a lie, but it was a half-truth. For truth's sake, I remind you of the statement "a half-truth is always a whole lie."

How does this work in the Bible translations? By removing verses and saying they are not there in the "oldest and best texts", many scholars have come to the illegitimate conclusion that there is no perfect Word of God. A mentality of: "We do the best we can with what we have but there is no longer a perfect Word of God." The offspring of that line of thinking is:

A: “If there is no perfect Word of God, it’s up to each person to interpret for themselves what is true and false.”

We place the validation of God’s Word in the hands of man and not in the perfect God who gave us His Word. By saying there is no perfect Word, we give man the excuse to correct and edit the Word of God without any standard by which to hold that person accountable. How can I tell someone he is wrong when we really don’t know the truth?

B: “If there is no perfect Word of God, then why should I live in complete subjection to it?”

If God’s Word is not perfect then we cannot require men to follow Its every command. Why? Because for all we know, that passage may have inconclusive evidence to support it! It could just be some “scribe commentary”. Maybe it’s not really part of God’s Word! This is a fallacy and error! This is a sad conclusion so many come to. The grievous part is that by talking about the CT as “the oldest and best text” we validate their excuses to not live in subjection to God’s Word. How can we expect others to believe otherwise?

The danger of half-truth translations is that they remove the authority of God’s Word. By removing verses, adding verses, or including a footnote to excuse the exclusion of a verse, they strip God’s Word of Its authority! “We can’t trust it because it’s not perfect!” By doing this, we removed its authority in dictating how we should live, what we should believe, and what we should do with our lives. By removing the authority from the Word of God, we strip our pulpits, preachers, and churches of their authority to declare “thus hath God said!”

When we do this, we only validate this decaying culture to discredit God’s Word and not live according to Its standards. After-all, why should we follow a God that claims to be perfect but can’t even produce a perfect book? This Bible translation is no small issue. The decay of culture and variance from God’s true Word can be traced directly back to Satan’s deception of half-truths.

In response to this overwhelming evidence, what should we do? Allow me to illustrate and I leave the decision to you:

Imagine you crave a dark chocolate cake. You are in luck, for your family has passed down a prize-winning dark chocolate cake recipe for the past 100 years. You go to the back of the cupboard and pull out your grandmother's old recipe box. Dusting the lid off, you open it to view the contents. Smells from kitchens long ago fill your nostrils and thoughts of dark chocolate cake gnaw at your stomach.

As you flip through the 3x5 note cards you come across a startling discovery. There are 10 different recipe cards for the prize winning dark chocolate cake! What should you do? Your dark chocolate dreams shatter and tears fill your eyes!

Upon further examination, you find 8 of the 10 cards to be exactly the same. No changes, no contradictions – all of them are just the same as the others. The steps are the same, the ingredients are the same, even the preparation and cook time are the same. 8 of the 10!

Then there were 2.

They were different in a few points here and there. They are both missing butter on the ingredient list. One is missing vanilla extract and the other is missing baking powder. One adds blueberries and the other adds orange zest. Both add an extra cook time of 20 minutes. I ask you, which recipe card would you follow? The 8 that agree or the 2 misnomers?

I rephrase the example and ask the same question: let's say this world was in need of God's Word (and it is!). You come across a line of manuscripts that have over 5,000 that agree with each other. Then you find a few that are different from the "over 5,000". They've added some passages and removed others. In some areas they've gone their own way. Which line of manuscripts would you use to help this world? The answer is clear.

VI: The Two Pretenders

Anyone familiar with the Bible versions debate may be quick to say, "I agree with you! We should not use or consult a faulty text like the Critical Text. But there are two translations, other than the KJV, that used the Textus Receptus. Those are the New King James Version and

the Modern English Version. Are they good to use since they are based on the TR and only updated the language of the King James Version?”

Allow me to be frank: though this is commonly promoted, it's simply not true. Let us take a moment to examine these two Bible versions (the NKJV and the MEV) a little more in depth to find out if this line of thinking is true:

The New King James Version

The New King James translators were not truthful when they say they used the Textus Receptus and only updated the KJV. As we will prove, they didn't use only the Textus Receptus, they also used and consulted the Critical Text. I am reminded again, *“If the foundations be destroyed...”*

If we go back to Matthew 18:11, a passage missing in most modern translations, the NKJV contains the verse! Isn't that great? Then what's the problem? While the NKJV contains the verse, it also has a footnote that says the verse was omitted in the “NU”.

What is the “NU”? It's the Nestles Alon Critical Text and the United Bible Society's Critical Text. Combined together, they form the NU – simply another Critical Text New Testament. If you were to examine the NKJV, you will find notes all throughout the New Testament that say the same exact thing. If the translators used the Textus Receptus, how would they know it was missing in the Critical Text. If the Critical Text is faulty, broken, and unreliable, why would you tell your readers of its exclusion? Is this not another deception to introduce a doubt that there are conflicting views of God's Word? This is clearly the case.

The NKJV translators did not use the TR alone and only updated the KJV. We find many examples where they used the CT instead of the TR! For example in Jude 1:3, the TR reads *“THE common salvation”* and the CT reads *“OUR common salvation”*. The words “the” and “our” are not synonyms – they are not interchangeable. They are two different readings from two different texts. Which text did the NKJV translators follow? They followed the Critical Text for the NKJV reads *“our common salvation”*. There are many more passages we could note, but how much more evidence does one need to understand the truth?

On top of the lie, you will find many, many times throughout the NKJV where they side with modern translations, not the KJB they claim to be “updating”! There are scores and scores of times where they sided directly against the KJV! I will provide clear examples and direct readings from the KJV, the NKJV, and other modern translations in the following paragraphs.

In Acts 3:26, we come upon God raising up His Son. Many modern translations changed “Son” to “Servant”. My friend, there is a difference between a son and a servant. In this way, they begin to discredit the deity of Christ. Notice, below, the readings of the KJV, some popular translations, and the NKJV at the bottom. Please make note of what the NKJV follows. You will find they went opposite of the KJV which they claimed to be updating:

- KJV: *“Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”*
- NIV: *“When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”*
- ESV: *“God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”*
- NKJV: *“To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”*

In Matthew 16:18, Christ is talking about the foundation of the church and how not even Hell can win against the church. It’s a bold proclamation of the power of Christ’s church! Many translations change the word “hell” to “hades”. This is not modern. The general public understands the word “hell” light years beyond the word “hades”. That’s not an update – that’s a change! Notice what the NKJV follows:

- KJV: *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*
- NIV: *“And I tell you that you are Peter,[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it.”*
- ASV: *“And I also say unto thee, that thou art [a]Peter, and upon this [b]rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*
- NKJV: *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not [a] prevail against it.”*

In 1 Corinthians 1:18, the Apostle Paul tells of the importance of preaching. It is strength and power to the saved! Sadly, many modern translations add the word “*being*” before the word “*saved*”. It now reads “*being saved*”. They changed salvation into a process. I ask you, “Are you saved or are you being saved?” There is a difference. Notice what the NKJV follows:

- KJV: “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”
- NIV: “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*”
- RSV: “*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*”
- NKJV: “*For the [a]message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*”

Sadly, these are but a few of many examples. To top it off, there is a clear cut contradiction within the New King James Version! There’s no way around it and no alternative answer – it’s a contradiction. If God’s Word is perfect, as He said it would be, there should be no contradictions present. Examine the two passages, from the NKJV, below:

- 2 Kings 23:29 – “*In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him.*”
- Chronicles 35:20 – “*After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him.*”

These are parallel passages meaning they discuss the same story and events. Who is Carchemish? He is the Assyrian king. This being true, there is an error. In one passage it says he “*went to the aid*”, the other says he “*came up to fight against*”. Those are completely opposite ends of the spectrum! They are a contradiction!

With this insurmountable evidence, we can come to a sure conclusion that the NKJV is faulty and not a reliable translation. It breaks our core doctrines concerning the Word of God and therefore should be rejected for it cannot be and never will be God’s Word.

THE MODERN ENGLISH VERSION

In discussing the MEV, we find the same sad tale of the NKJV. The translators followed the CT in some passages instead of the TR they claimed to be translating. Just like the NKJV, we have many instances where they follow the modern versions rather than the KJV they claim to be updating or revising. Consider the following and decide for yourself if they were only updating the KJV and translating the TR:

I ask you, did Eve gain the gift of her child from the Lord or with the help of the Lord in Genesis 4:1? There is a difference. Note the readings below:

- KJV: *“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.”*
- NIV: *“Adam[a] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.[b] She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth[c] a man.”*
- ESV: *“Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten[a] a man with the help of the Lord.”*
- MEV: *“Adam had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived, gave birth to Cain and said, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.”*

Let me ask you, which way is negev? That’s a head scratcher. What does “negev” even mean? That’s what many translators changed the word “south” to in Genesis 12:9. May I say, that’s not updating the language!

- KJV: *“And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.”*
- NIV: *“Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.”*
- ESV: *“And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.”*
- MEV: *“Then Abram continued his journey toward the Negev.”*

Since the arrival of Christ, Satan has done everything he can to remove the deity of Christ. What is the deity of Christ? It is the belief that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. He is 100% man, yet still 100% God. It’s a critical Bible doctrine. When the MEV steps out on a limb and follows the modern translations, it removes the deity of Christ! Christ was equal with God according to Philippians 2:6! But note that many translations, including the MEV below, say that Jesus could not “*grasp*” (reach, take hold of) equality with God!

- KJV: *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:”*
- RSV: *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,”*
- ESV: *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,”*
- MEV: *“Let this mind be in you all, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.”*

To finish the MEV, you will find a translation of a passage that no other Bible translation agrees with! It’s a complete misnomer in the translation world and a total error on the part of the translators. If an error is contained in its pages, the MEV can never be perfect and can never be God’s Word.

In Ezekiel 16:49, God is reminding the reader of the sins of Sodom and the reason for its destruction. You will notice at the end of the verse where God says, *“neither did she (Sodom) strengthen the hand of the poor and needy”*. What does that mean? Sodom did nothing to help the poor and needy! The NIV reads similarly. So does the ESV. The only translation that changes this is the MEV. Again, a clear error within the MEV, for the MEV says that Sodom DID help the poor and needy.

- KJV: *“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*
- MEV: *“This was the iniquity of your sister Sodom. Pride, abundance of bread, and careless ease was in her and in her daughters, but she did strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*

To conclude on the subject of the NKJV and the MEV, I believe we have enough evidence to prove that they belong in the category of the other translations as a half-truth. There are errors and contradictions as well as clear deviations from the texts they claim to be translating and updating.

The foundation was cracked when the Critical Text was used and consulted. Their footnotes only lead the reader to doubt the authority of God’s Word. They violate our core doctrines on

God's Word. Therefore, they cannot be God's Word. Though they make great claims and check off some boxes, they are simply pretenders and nothing more.

VII: THEN THERE WAS ONE

Dear reader, I submit to you that only one translation meets the core doctrines concerning the Word of God. Only one was translated off of a line of manuscripts with no faults and no failures – the Textus Receptus. Only one translation is perfect with no contradictions and no errors. That translation is the King James Version. I believe the evidence provided in this study allows us to definitively conclude the errors of the modern translations and any offspring of the Critical Text. In response, how do we then defend the King James Version? Let us look at the most common questions and critiques of the KJV.

Before we get into the details, I first want to bring a reality to mind: most who dislike and debate the veracity of the KJV are not really against the KJV itself. Often, you will hear critics say, “It’s the Bible my parents used. It’s the Bible I read when I was young. I still use it from time to time.” If this is true, then why the attack on the KJV?

The truth is that the soul of their grievance is not the KJV, but the reality of a perfect Bible. Most critics argue and debate because they do not believe there is a perfect and inspired Word of God in existence today. This is why they will point you back to the Greek and Hebrew (“the originals”) as the only perfect Word. In this, just as the half-truths we discussed before, they strip God's Word of Its authority. If there is a perfect Word of God they must live in subjection to it. My friend, there is a perfect Word of God, for God did the work and He promised it would remain. If we believe in inspiration, we must also believe in the preservation God promised.

Do not call God a liar.

As we approach the questions concerning the KJV, we must see the two types of people asking questions. There are people who ask questions just to ask questions. They care not about

answers nor seeking the truth. They are set in their way and there is no changing them. They just want a fight. They just want a debate. Do you know anyone like this?

Secondly, there are people who ask questions to get answers. They ask sincere questions because they really don't know, but they want to know! They are willing to study. They are teachable. You can waste hours of time talking to people who ask questions just to ask questions. Be careful to not waste your time with those, but be careful to take time to answer the sincere questions of those who seek the truth.

In speaking with someone who is looking for truth, start with the foundational doctrines of God's Word, as we did in the beginning of this study. As the questions and objections arise, we use Biblical, logical and factual answers to allow wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to come to those searching. Be careful to take your time and go over the details thoroughly. Here are some common objections people give when examining the KJV and answers for them:

Objection #1: "The KJV is full of old, archaic words. It's too hard to read!"

For years and years and years, the King James Version was considered to be written on a 5th grade reading level. In today's society, it is considered to be written on the 12th grade level. May I say, this has absolutely nothing to do with the Word of God as much as it has to do with the "dumbing down" of our nation. For those who truly desire to read the Word of God, they can understand the words.

My little brother, when he was 7 years old, read through the 4 Gospels. Did he understand every single thing he read? No. Here's the key – did he understand MOST of it? Did he get the general context and idea of what was going on? Yes, he did. How is that so if he was only in 2nd grade? The fact is that those who desire to read it, will understand it. I can take you to hundreds of churches across our nation and introduce you to kids who are well below the 12th grade and they read the Bible on a daily basis. As the old saying goes, "it's all in your want-to!"

I am concerned for those who read a portion of the Bible once or twice and throw it down saying "it's too difficult to read". The Word of God teaches us plain and simple that we won't

understand everything we read the first time we read it, nor the second or third. If we did, how could there be a milk of the Word and a meat of the Word? Hebrews 5:13-14 says, *“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”* God has created His Word to be a well – each time we drop the bucket and draw it back up, He gives us new and fresh water for our journey.

We still cannot dismiss the fact that there are old words in the King James Version. There simply are. There are words that are old and no longer common anymore. There is a reality to the question. How do we answer it? We will answer the question in 3 ways:

A: Old words are often understood by context.

Many of the old words within the KJV can be understood simply by where they are placed and how they are used. Take, for example, Isaiah 14:23, which says, *“I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of hosts.”* Most of us have never used the word *“besom”* before. Read it again. Does the verse clue you in to what a *“besom”* might be?

With a little examination, it would take no time at all to guess that a besom is a broom. A quick trip to the dictionary would prove this assumption to be true. God is using the analogy of sweeping them with the besom (broom) of destruction. This is true of hundreds and hundreds of words that are considered to be “old”!

B: We should follow the Biblical example of how to handle old words in God’s Word.

The Bible has a clear example for how we should handle old words that are not derived by context. Allow me to show you where the Bible illustrates how we should handle this issue:

In 1 Samuel 9, we arrive at the story of Saul and his servant looking for their father’s lost donkeys. (This is before Saul would be king.) They search and search and can find no trace of the donkeys. The servant advises that they should go see the man of God. Maybe he could tell them where the donkeys were! Notice the verses below (vss.8-9):

“And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. Beforetime in Israel, when a

man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)”

Samuel is instructing the reader about an old word in existence at the time of the story. The word was “seer”. It was simply another name for the man of God. The word they used now is “prophet”, but the word used back then was “seer”. The story continues in verses 10 and 11:

“Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was. And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?”

Did you notice what happened at the end of the verse? What word did they use? They used the old word “seer”! The writer didn’t change it out for “prophet” because he thought they would understand better. Here, we are taught to define the old word, but leave it there! Just because there is an old word, does not mean that we have to remove it. Define it and leave it there!

If you were to watch a tennis match and the score read 15 – Love, what would you do? Many do not know what the tennis score “love” means. A 21st century person would grab their phone and google “love” only to find that love means “0”. I ask you this: would you take a sharpie marker, go the TV, cross out “love”, and write “0” over it? Absolutely not! Why then would we do that to God’s Word?

Too often, a so-called “preacher” will be reading a passage of God’s Word and say, “That’s not a very good word. A better word would be _____.” I submit that the 47 scholars who translated the KJV, along with the groundwork laid by other incredible men, were much smarter and more gifted than any of these “preachers”. Define the old words and leave them there! On this note, one of the best study tools every Christian should have is a good dictionary to use when needed.

C: The finest point of English in history is considered to be the 17th century.

Many professors of the English language will tell you that 17th century English was English in its finest form. There is a reason that it is referred to as “the King’s English”. Such terms as “my wit’s end”, “got away by the skin of my teeth”, and “the drop of a bucket” are still used today.

Where did they come from? 17th century English. Since then, the English language has downgraded, become less specific, and added more slang. The language of the King James Version allows the language of the Bible to remain untainted from our lingual decay.

These three answers provide a conclusive answer to the question of old and archaic words. I would like to address one more portion of the “old word” debate. As admitted before, there are old words in the King James Version.

D: Old Words

Listed below are some old words. Please examine them carefully, reading through the list entirely. I will draw a startling point to your mind following the list.

- *Abutted* – Ezekiel 40:18
- *Elation* – Proverbs 28:12
- *Frolic* – Psalm 104:26
- *Melodious* – Psalm 81:2
- *Jeered* – 2 Kings 2:23
- *Didst* – Gen. 12:18 (plus 160 other references)
- *Doest* – Gen. 4:7 (plus 43 other references)
- *Doth* – Gen. 3:5 (plus 198 other references)
- *Gavest* – Gen. 3:12 (plus 26 other references)
- *Bemoan* – Jer. 15:5 (plus 4 other references)
- *Beggarly* – Gal. 4:9
- *Loins* – Deut. 33:11 (plus 13 other references)
- *Vanity* – Ecc. 1:2 (plus 30 other references)
- *Milch* – Gen. 32:15, 1 Sam. 6:7, 1 Sam. 6:10
- *Forth* – Gen. 1:11 (plus 456 other references)
- *Thee* – Gen. 3:10 (plus 407 other references)
- *Thou* – Gen. 3:12 (plus 767 other references)
- *Thine* – Ex. 32:13 (plus 18 other references)
- *Betrothed* – Ex. 22:16 (plus 15 other references)
- *Reclined at table* – Matt. 9:10

- *Lamentation – Gen. 50:10 (plus 25 other references)*

Those are old words, are they not? Many, maybe most, would have to look many of those words up in a dictionary before they would understand their meaning. You may ask, “Why did you just provide a list of ammo for those who critique the KJV because of old words?”

My friend, I didn’t get that list of words from the KJV. The first group of words came directly from the New International Version. The second group of words came from the American Standard Version. The third group of words came from the New King James Version. The fourth group is from the New Revised Standard Version. And last, but not least, the fifth group of words is from the English Standard Version.

Yet, I ask you, how many times have you heard someone say, “I don’t like the New King James Version because it has lots of old words.” Or say, “I can’t use the NIV because it’s too hard to read.” I have never once heard that. Can I submit that the line of questioning revolving around old words in the KJV is the proverbial “straw man” of the Bible version debate? It’s just an excuse because every single translation contains old words!

Objection #2: “The Translators Were Common Men and Could Not Produce Something Perfect!”

This statement disregards so much knowledge. Were the Hebrew and Greek perfect? Absolutely! Were not the original writers “common men”? Was not David an adulterer? Was not Solomon an idolator? Did not Paul kill Christians for a living before his salvation? Were these men not “common” men? They absolutely were. If God inspired it as He said He would, God preserved it like He promised – common men included.

Objection #3: “The King James Version is full of contradictions and errors.”

Anyone who makes this statement to me receives this response:

“Show me. Show me where the contradictions are.”

I have not had a single person yet who, after I have placed my Bible in their hands, is able to show one single contradiction or error. They begin to stammer, “Well, I don’t know where they are at. That’s just what I’ve heard and a lot of people say.” Since when do we believe “just what people say”? Since when should a Christian follow the masses? We must learn to verify what we believe before we say it. Don’t trust any single person, learn to study and verify teachings. That’s why I have encouraged readers, multiple times, to do your own research and prove it for yourself.

Flipping to the opposite side of the coin, if you were to google “contradictions in the KJV”, lots of articles, posts, and videos would pop up. I will not lie and say otherwise. Here’s what I have found: every single time there is no contradiction or error. With simple study and research, there is an explanation for the supposed “contradiction”. What may appear to be an error at first glance is really no error at all. A plausible answer removes the title of “contradiction”. The sad fact is that too many Christians are quick to believe click-bait articles instead studying them out for themselves.

Those are what I find to be the 3 biggest and most common objections I find that people give against the KJV. These, however, are easily remedied and explained. Before we conclude on the King James Version, I want to answer two common questions I hear in regards to the KJV and other versions:

Two Common Questions

1: Can people be saved out of other translations?

To answer this question we must understand how we get saved. It’s by simply placing our faith and trust in Christ alone for eternal life – a life we do not deserve because of our sin but a life attainable because of the death, burial, and resurrection of God’s Son. By simply asking Christ to come into our hearts to save us (Romans 10:13) we are saved. There is nothing more we need to do for salvation.

In response to the question, someone can understand the basic facts of salvation when reading another version. I have personally met those who have come to a saving knowledge by reading

another Bible version. Truth be told, when leading someone to the Lord, I use 5 or 6 verses of Scripture when witnessing to them. I have led many souls to the Lord and I didn't read them the entire Word of God, I just gave them bits and pieces. In the same way, people can get "bits and pieces" of the plan of salvation from another version.

The question I ask you: if someone can get saved off of one page of the Word of God, what is the rest for? It is for growth. The Bible refers to it, in Hebrews 5, as the milk and meat of God's Word – it's food for our spiritual lives. It is vital that we have pure and perfect food that will enable us to grow healthy and strong. That can only be found in the KJV.

Yes, someone can be saved through another version of Scripture if the version is clear and concise in explaining salvation. Yet, using another version will not give that person the best means by which to grow strong as a strong Christian.

2: Do you believe in "double inspiration"?

This question is posed quite frequently and is one that someone asked me not too long ago. The question is: do I believe in double inspiration? Really, the question should be rephrased: "Do I believe that the King James translators themselves were inspired?" Here is the Biblical answer, not a personal one:

As far as double inspiration, it is almost a matter of terminology rather than theology. Inspiration, of course, means in the simplest of terms "God breathed". Do I think that the translators of the KJV were inspired? The answer is "no". If they were, they would have sat down with a blank sheet of paper, a pen, and been able to write it into English without even having to look at the originals. That would be true inspiration.

While I do not think they were necessarily inspired, I do believe they were led by God to produce the KJV and I believe that He guided these men through the process for what His purpose was. That process being a perfect English translation of God's Word.

The reason I said that it is a matter of terminology rather than theology is because preservation and inspiration are two different things, yet so many lump them together as one and the same. God said that He inspired the words and promised that He would preserve

them. If they took the inspired Words of God and through translation preserved them, would we classify the preserved words as inspired? I pose the question because if we say "yes, the preserved words are inspired", then people would say we believe in "Double Inspiration". If we answer "No, the preserved words are not inspired" we have a different issue. To preserve means to keep something in its original state. So, the preserved words would have to be inspired if we followed the definition of preservation and God's promise of it.

Do I believe in double inspiration? No, I believe God inspired His Words and then preserved them through the process of translation in the King James Bible. In essence, do I believe the King James Bible is inspired? Yes, for God promised to preserve His inspired Word. I believe in one inspiration, yet still, one preservation.

In simplicity, let me tell you why I use the King James Version. I lead Junior Church every single week for kids 4-12. Inevitably, I am often asked about the Bible. I tell this to the kids and I repeat it to you:

"We use the King James Version because it has all the words of God."

The King James Version contains all the words of God, unlike so many other translations. It's perfect - not a single error, imperfection, or contradiction. Only God could do that. It has over a mile's worth of manuscripts (over 5,000) to verify its truth and over 66,000 if you include the manuscripts of the Old Testament. There is no other translation like the King James Version. It holds true to the core doctrines concerning God's Word. It starts with a solid foundation – the Textus Receptus. It has stood the test of time. It's the #1 selling book in history. No other translation meets those standards. That's why I use the King James Version and no other.

CONCLUSION

This issue is critical to our nation, our churches, and our homes. We must give God's Word the authority and respect it deserves. If we conclude that it is imperfect, then there is no need for the world or even the Christian to change – it's all up to personal interpretation. If it's not

perfect, then there could never be a perfect God. The devil has done a good job at producing doubting Christians in today's society and culture. Why should that shock us when he has so deceptively removed the sole authority of our faith and practice?

As we conclude, I am reminded of how magnificent it is to have the Word of God. Men and women in history have died for this Book. People in nations around the world long for just one page of this Book. We get to sit in comfortable homes with this Book, yet how sad that most don't even read it. I'm compelled to be reminded that I should never become so involved in a Bible version debate that I do not read and heed God's Word as I should. My friend, take time to do all three: read, heed, and defend. If we fail not to do those things, then there is hope for our nation, our churches, and our homes.

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