

## History of the English Bible KJV to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Why was the King James Bible created?

- There were known \_\_\_\_\_ and difficulties with earlier versions.
- The king took offense at some of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the very popular Geneva Bible
  - A note at Ex 1:19 commended \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A note at 2 Chr 15:16 criticized Asa for not having executed his \_\_\_\_\_.
- The king wished to have a version that supported \_\_\_\_\_.

### Some interesting facts regarding its origin:

- At least \_\_\_\_\_ men worked on the translation; all but one were ordained priests of the Church of England; some were Calvinist, some were Arminian.
- It was a revision of the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible.
- Notes were limited to comments on textual issues, although maps and genealogical charts were included.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ was included (15 books in all).
- \_\_\_\_\_ editions were printed in 1611 (all with variations).
- A stated aim was to use a great \_\_\_\_\_ of English words.
- Supplied words were \_\_\_\_\_.

### Evaluation of the KJV

- Its language was \_\_\_\_\_ even when it was created.
- Spelling had not yet been \_\_\_\_\_.
- Its \_\_\_\_\_ was decent for its day, but huge strides have been made since then that make it a second-tier choice today.

ENGLISH BIBLE	GREEK BIBLE
King James Bible, 1611 -----	<b>1600</b>
King James "Wicked" Bible, 1631 -----	----- 1633 <b>Elzevir GNT</b> , "textus receptus"
	----- 1657 <b>Brian Walton polyglot</b> , <b>A</b>
	----- 1665 John Field's Cambridge LXX
	----- 1675 <b>John Fell GNT</b> , <b>B</b>
	<b>1700</b>
	----- 1719 <b>Edward Wells GNT</b> , first non-TR
	----- 1734 <b>Johann Bengel GNT</b> , marginal variations
	----- 1752 <b>Johann Wettstein GNT</b> , modern text app
	----- 1763 <b>William Bowyer GNT</b> , Wettstein's var.
	----- 1776 <b>Edward Harwood GNT</b> , <b>D</b>
Charles Thompson's Bible (LXX + TR), 1809 -----	<b>1800</b>
	----- 1831 <b>Karl Lachmann GNT</b> , text of 4 <sup>th</sup> cent.
	----- 1869 <b>Tischendorf GNT</b> , 8 <sup>th</sup> ed., <b>N</b>
English Revised Version, NT, 1881 -----	----- 1881 <b>Westcott &amp; Hort GNT</b> <span style="float: right;">Ⲑ<sup>4</sup> – 1892</span>
English Revised Version, 1885 -----	----- 1891 <b>Novum Testamentum Graece (NA1)</b> <span style="float: right;">Ⲑ<sup>1</sup> – 1896</span>
American Standard Version, 1901 -----	<b>1900</b> <span style="float: right;">Ⲑ<sup>64,67</sup> – 1901</span>

▲ Chart illustrating the development of the Greek New Testament during the dominance of the King James Bible.  
▼ Text of the Ten Commandments in the 1631 KJV "Wicked Bible."



### Points to Ponder

- Changes happen very slowly in Bible translations; tradition becomes entrenched, even for specific wording, and tends to have a chilling effect on change of any kind. This has both advantages and disadvantages.
  - Advantages:
  - Disadvantages:
- Our possession of God's Word in English gives us great responsibility. How well do you know your Bible?