

History of the English Bible

KJV to the 21st 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

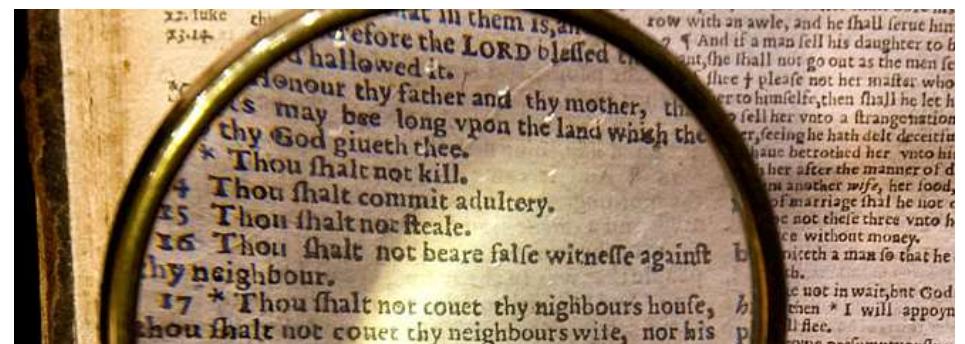
King James Bible, 1611 -----
King James "Wicked" Bible, 1631 -----

GREEK BIBLE

1600
----- 1633 Elzevir GNT, "textus receptus"
----- 1657 Brian Walton polyglot, A
----- 1665 John Field's Cambridge LXX
----- 1675 John Fell GNT, B
1700
----- 1719 Edward Wells GNT, first non-TR
----- 1734 Johann Bengel GNT, marginal variations
----- 1752 Johann Wettstein GNT, modern text app
----- 1763 William Bowyer GNT, Wettstein's var.
----- 1776 Edward Harwood GNT, D
1800
Charles Thompson's Bible (LXX + TR), 1809 -----
----- 1831 Karl Lachmann GNT, text of 4 th cent.
----- 1869 Tischendorf GNT, 8 th ed., X
English Revised Version, NT, 1881 ----- English Revised Version, 1885 ----- American Standard Version, 1901 -----
1900 ----- 1881 Westcott & Hort GNT ----- 1898 Novum Testamentum Graece (NAI) ^{¶⁴ – 1892} ----- 1896 ^{¶¹ – 1896} ----- 1901 ^{¶^{54,67 – 1901}}

▲ 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?