

Understanding the Bible

The English Bible


Tom Wilson

A Bible Study Guide

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This book was typeset in \LaTeX using the *memoir* document class. It is typeset as a one-sided document since the book is intended to be an electronic book. The book was formatted to get as much text onto each page as possible. This is because a good PDF reader should allow annotations (highlighting and comments) to be added. So, there is almost no room for the reader's notes on a printed copy. All of the drawn figures in this book were created either in the Apache OpenOffice Draw program or via .

The back cover caricature of the author was drawn by the well-known artist Jan van Haasteren as a favor to Els Rooswinkel, who maintains a web site dedicated to puzzles with artwork drawn by Jan. I originally created a version of this web site and handed it over to Els, who developed the site far beyond its initial content. In appreciation of my effort, Els asked Jan to draw me.

The latest edition of this book is available via <https://thechurchoforlando.org>.

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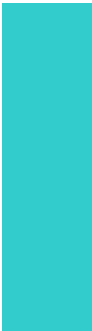
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Preface

It is a shame that every English-speaking Christian isn't introduced to God's word in English, i.e., the *King James Bible*, from the outset. My first bible was a corrupt one. I learned a lot, but, then again, you can drive for a while in a car with a flat tire. Then I got introduced to the proper bible without really any foundation as to why it was the proper bible. Over a long time I learned a lot more. Hopefully, you can learn enough yourself with this study guide.

The first bible study video series that I developed was one about the bible in 2018. There were six sessions with a lot of good information. However, there is so much more material in this guide that was not in that series.

This guide is organized into three parts. The foundation begins with some basics about what the bible is. Four key concepts are developed using scripture: revelation, inspiration, illumination, and preservation. Upon this foundation is built the topics related to the translation of the bible into English. Unfortunately, much of the material in this part is extra-biblical. There is so much more information out there—both good and bad. Finally, more advanced topics are investigated, such as the bible's structure.

A Bible Study Guide

This book is referred to as “a bible study guide” since it is intended to make you study. Depending on the topic, a study guide may not have much discussion. This is typically true for more advance topics, where there may be many verses with little explanation. If you feel overwhelmed in this situation, you may be over your head. A guide is not meant to be a commentary on every given verse.

Typically, I have found most of the scriptures for you and organized them in a way that will help you draw the conclusion that God would have you draw. I don't have everything right, including my limited explanations. So, focus on the scriptures.

If you don't find yourself doing the following, you might not find the guide as useful as it meant to be:

- reading the larger context around the quoted verses,
- reading certain passages again and again,
- searching for words and phrases when you study, and
- looking at concordance information to learn more (if appropriate).

You are in charge of your maturing. Use the guide as you see fit.

A study guide may have side studies that address necessary background material. These side studies are blocked off from the main material so that they can be skipped or revisited. When a side study ends, it should help you return your focus to the interrupted topic.

A traffic light may appear in the margin. A **green** light indicates something positive worth noting. When applied to a verse or passage, it is an important scripture that is fundamental to the teaching. A **yellow** light is a warning that something may not be clear. It might highlight that I am giving my opinion, which could easily be wrong. A **red** light indicates something negative worth noting. It might accompany a quote from a corrupt bible or a tradition that is taught that isn't really the truth of the bible.

A “pointing finger” simply indicates something worth reading in order to help you find important information when skimming pages. A “thumbs up” indicates a positive message. A “thumbs down” indicates a negative one. These are very similar to the yellow, green, and red lights.



The main chapters and appendices have a whirlwind¹ symbol (🌀) in the bottom right corner of each page. This is a hyperlink that takes you to the index of verses. This is an easy way to go that index and look at verses that are elsewhere in the study guide. Hopefully, your PDF viewer has a way to come back to where you jumped from, eventually taking you back to the page where you clicked on the whirlwind.

How to Get the Most out of This Guide

You can certainly print this guide if you would like, but you will get the most out of it by using a good PDF reader and learning how to use that reader. The guide contains many hyperlinks to navigate around in it. Examples are the table of contents and list of figures, chapter and figure references, and the page references in the bible verse index.

A good reader will allow you to navigate the table of contents as a sidebar. You can also create bookmarks and display those bookmarks in the sidebar. You can also highlight text and insert comments. These too can be displayed in the sidebar. Maybe your reader will have more facilities.

Having a good on-line bible will also aid you when you study using this guide. That should have a concordance and you should go to the trouble to learn how to use it. Beware of commentaries! It is possible that someone is not teaching what you are reading here. You get to decide what you believe—whether it is right or wrong.

How to Improve This Guide

You should have gotten this guide for free with no expectation of giving anything in return. But you can give back to it by suggesting improvements.

I am interested in the following:

- Correction of simple typographical or spelling errors
- Suggestions for improved explanations (including explaining something that I didn't explain at all)
- Correcting misapplied verses or suggesting newly applied verses. Either is quite possible
- Asking questions that prompt me to add explanation

I am **not** interested in the following:

- Corrections following outdated publishing guidelines (like putting a period inside the quotes)
- Your belief that other bibles are ok
- Your disbelief that the *King James Bible* is God's word in English (including suggestions about correcting it)
- Your disagreement with right division

I do not know everything, and I make plenty of mistakes. How you present yourself will go along way toward not wasting your time when suggesting improvements.

You can submit feedback by first contacting me through the “Contact” link at <https://thechurchoforlando.org>. A reply will then ask you for your comments. Similarly, if you have clarifying questions, I might end up supplementing the guide as a result.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to something open source or otherwise free. It has been a further motivation for me to make this guide freely available. More specifically, I would like to thank everyone involved with

1. Linux, in general,
2. \LaTeX and its numerous packages, Macintosh ports/tools (MacTex, TeXShop, TeXLive, BibDesk), and the \TeX Users Group,

There is no way to list all of the contributors.

We all benefit from a more robust version of this guide.

¹The bible describes the Spirit as a whirlwind that could carry a prophet to another place.



Introduction

People think that there are many bibles, mostly because they all say “bible” on the cover. People also teach that we need many bibles because we don’t have God’s word. How would we know if we had God’s word? Would he tell us if we did? If we can have God’s word, how many variations of it do we need?

Many people make statements about the bible without using the bible to support what they say. With that approach, they can tell us just about anything. If someone says that we cannot have God’s word as he wants us to have it, is there scripture that tells us that? The answer is “no” and such a person will use man’s reasoning to justify his statements. This study guide will help you understand what God wants you to know.

The bible contains verses that can teach us about *revelation*, *inspiration*, *illumination*, and *preservation*. Understanding these concepts will help us know that we can have God’s word and will keep us from being deceived by those who deny the truths about God’s word.

Warning:

- This study guide contains verses from corrupt bibles. All verses are clearly marked as to which bibles they are from. Corrupt bibles have verses that may look like God’s word, but might not be.
- This study guide contains a lot of non-biblical information, such as the historical details of the bible. It is difficult to determine what exactly is true. Be diligent as you find such information yourself.



Dedication

To Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, without whom nothing would be possible

Colossians 1:16—For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him

To Dahlia, my wife and my helper in all things

Genesis 2:18—And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

To all the members of the body of Christ

2 Corinthians 13:11—Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Part I

Foundational Concepts

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In this part, we define what the bible is and how God gave it to us. The key components to understanding how God gave us the bible are revelation, inspiration, illumination, and preservation. All of these components are well-defined in scripture.

What Is the Bible?

The word *bible* means *book*. Most people mean it to be **the book**, meaning *God's book*. While the bible¹ is a book, it is really a collection of books. The bible refers to itself as (1) a book, (2) books, (3) scripture, or (4) God's word.

The bible is God's communication to us. That doesn't mean that God said everything in it, yet he communicated the contents to the writers of it. Some will say that the Spirit of God spoke all of the words of the bible, but that is not really what the bible says happened. Of course, we will address this in Chapter 3.

The bible was written by over 40 different men. Almost all of these men were Jews. Many books in the bible name the author in the title: e.g., *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Ezra*, *Nehemiah*, *Matthew*, *James*, or *Jude*. Many other books state who the author was: *Romans* to *Philemon* (Paul) and *Revelation* (John). Nonetheless, the bible says that it is really authored by God. This can be affirmed by the consistency within the contents. There is no way that all of the men could have maintained a consistency over the large time interval during which the bible was written.

The bible presents many things that God wants us to know: the revelation of who God is, the history of the creation, man's problem—sin, God's solution—himself, and a preview of the end. There are many other topics and details as well. The bible mostly focuses on Israel and the nations surrounding it. Typically, other nations are mentioned with respect to their treatment of Israel.

The bible covers a period of time that spans about 7000 years: 4000 years precede the birth of Jesus and 3000 years follow (with about 1000 years is yet to come). The earliest books were written by Moses (c. 1500 BC). The book of *Job* is a little older. The latest writings occurred in the 1st century AD. Everything was likely completed a few years before 70 AD. Several books describe events still in the future.

The bible was written so that man would have a written record of what God wanted him to know. Most reasonable questions are anticipated and answered. So are all heresies and false philosophies.

Today's (Christian) bible is organized into two major parts:

- the *old testament* (OT)
- the *new testament* (NT)

Each part consists of numerous *books*. A book is simply a named collection of chapters and verses, although the original writings did not have chapters and verse numbers. Table 1.1 shows the books of the bible and the number of chapters in each.

Most of the OT was written in Hebrew. Some parts were written in Aramaic,² which is very similar to Hebrew. The OT is the same as the Hebrew bible that Israel had, although it is organized differently. The NT is not part of the Hebrew bible. The NT is written in common (*Koine*) Greek. This form of Greek often contains words from other languages (e.g., Latin, Aramaic). English is similar in that it contains words from other language that have been accepted as English over time.

¹I will not capitalize *bible* since it is not really the name of our bible, which is the *King James Bible*. You certainly could decide to capitalize it, but the bible doesn't capitalize the word *scripture* either.

²The Aramaic verses are Ezra 4:8 – 6:18, 7:17-26, Jeremiah 10:11, and Daniel 2:4 – 7:28.



Table 1.1: The 66 books of the bible are listed. Each book name is followed by the number of chapters in it. The 39 old testament books are in yellow; the 27 new testament books are in green.

Genesis	50	2 Kings	25	Isaiah	66	Nahum	3	Romans	16	Titus	3
Exodus	40	1 Chronicles	29	Jeremiah	52	Habakkuk	3	1 Corinthians	16	Philemon	1
Leviticus	27	2 Chronicles	36	Lamentations	5	Zephaniah	3	2 Corinthians	13	Hebrews	13
Numbers	36	Ezra	10	Ezekiel	48	Haggai	2	Galatians	6	James	5
Deuteronomy	34	Nehemiah	13	Daniel	12	Zechariah	14	Ephesians	6	1 Peter	5
Joshua	24	Esther	10	Hosea	14	Malachi	4	Philippians	4	2 Peter	3
Judges	21	Job	42	Joel	3	Matthew	28	Colossians	4	1 John	5
Ruth	4	Psalms	150	Amos	9	Mark	16	1 Thessalonians	5	2 John	1
1 Samuel	31	Proverbs	31	Obadiah	1	Luke	24	2 Thessalonians	3	3 John	1
2 Samuel	24	Ecclesiastes	12	Jonah	4	John	21	1 Timothy	6	Jude	1
1 Kings	22	Song of Solomon	8	Micah	7	Acts	28	2 Timothy	4	Revelation	22

1.1 The Canon

The books of the bible form the canon (i.e., the books that God intended to be in the bible). There are non-canonical books that are not part of the bible, although some proclaim them to be. The book of *Jasher* is mentioned in the bible, but the one available today is an impostor.

One collection of non-canonical books is the Apocrypha. *Apocrypha* means *hidden*. When the *King James Bible* was first printed in 1611, it had the Apocrypha included between the old and new testaments. It was included as interesting reading in the recently established English. A later revision removed it (see Chapter 6 for details) in case some were mistaking it as scripture. Some books in the collection are: *1 and 2 Esdras*, *Tobit*, *Judith*, *Wisdom*, *Ecclesiasticus*, *Baruch*, *1 and 2 Maccabees*, and *Bel and Dragon*. Some corrupt bibles include these books.

Another collection of non-canonical books is the Pseudepigrapha. *Pseudepigrapha* means *false writing* because many of the authors were impostors. Some books in the collection are: *Enoch*, *Jubilees*, *3 and 4 Maccabees*, *Sibylline Oracles*, *3 Baruch*, and *Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs*. Now, many think *Enoch* is quoted in scripture, but it is not:

Jude 14-15	KJB
14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,	
15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.	

It says that Enoch prophesied, which means he spoke. He didn't write a book. When you understand when and why God starting writing scripture, you will know that Enoch did not write a book that should be part of the bible.

Jubilees provides a similar history as *Genesis*, and so some people put a lot of value in what it is teaching, but there's just too much emphasis placed on the 50-year increments of history in the bible. Don't look to add to scripture from something that God did not inspire.

The bible's book of *Isaiah* has 66 chapters, and those chapters have relationships with the 66 books in the bible (see Chapter 11 for more information). That is one way to know that the non-canonical books are not scripture. The fact that they have doctrinal contradictions is another. Most of these books were written during a period of silence between the old and new testaments, where God did not talk to man.

Side Study 1.1: The Periods of God's Silence

There was a period of silence between *Malachi* and *Matthew* where God did not speak to anyone. This was foretold in the prophets:

Amos 8:11-12	KJB
11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:	
12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find [it].	

Micah 3:6-7**KJB**

- 6 Therefore night [shall be] unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.
- 7 Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for [there is] no answer of God.

This period can be identified in Daniel's 70 weeks:

Daniel 9:24-27**KJB**

- 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
- 25 Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.
- 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
- 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Events in *Ezra* and *Nehemiah* align with the first seven weeks (or, 49 years). But, nothing is said about the period of 62 weeks (or, 434 years). Looking back, we can see that God was silent during this period.

Another period of silence began when the bible was completed. That is communicated in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 and will be discussed in Section 3.3. God isn't speaking to anyone today because he has said all that needs to be said until Jesus returns.

We will see later that God's word is likened to bread. Here is an interesting scripture giving that association:

Leviticus 24:5-6**KJB**

- 5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake.
- 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

There are 12 cakes because 12 is the number of Israel (i.e., the number of tribes). But, they are put in 2 rows of 6. If you think about it: 6 next to 6 is 66. As you mature, you will see consistent subtleties in the scripture like this. God declared how many books there would be in the bible when hardly any of it was written. Of course, no one would really see this until it was completed.

1.2 Scripture Speaks for Itself

Here are some things that God's word says about itself:

Psalms 19:7-8**KJB**

- 7 The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalms 33:4**KJB**

- 4 For the word of the LORD [is] right; and all his works [are done] in truth.

Psalms 138:2**KJB**

- 2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Isaiah 55:11	KJB
11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.	
Numbers 23:19	KJB
19 God [is] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do [it]? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?	
Romans 3:4	KJB
4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.	
John 17:17	KJB
17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.	

1.3 Commands Concerning God's Word

God tells us how to handle his word. We are not to add to it, take away from it, change what it says or means.

Deuteronomy 4:2	KJB
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.	
Deuteronomy 12:32	KJB
32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.	
Proverbs 30:5-6	KJB
5 Every word of God [is] pure: he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.	
Jeremiah 26:2	KJB
2 Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:	
Revelation 22:18-19	KJB
18 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: 19 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.	

Bad bibles do all of the things that are not to be done.

Matthew 15:8-9	KJB
8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.	

Teaching traditions of men as God's word is the same thing as adding to it.

2 Timothy 2:15	KJB
15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.	

Most Christians do not know how to rightly divide God's word. This can also lead to traditions of men being taught.

1.4 Attacking God's Word

The bible provides the prime examples of how God's word is attacked. See what God said and how Satan attacked it:

Genesis 2:16-17	KJB
16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:	
17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.	

Genesis 3:1	KJB
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?	

Satan **questioned** what God said.

Genesis 3:2	KJB
2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:	

The woman **omitted** "freely" from what God said.

Genesis 3:3	KJB
3 But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.	

Next, the woman **added** "neither shall ye touch it". Then, she **changed** "surely" to "lest" (i.e., perhaps).

Genesis 3:4	KJB
4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:	

Satan **contradicted** God's word (i.e., he said God was a liar).

In a different story, Satan also tried to use God's word against him by quoting scripture:

Matthew 4:6-7	KJB
6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.	
7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.	

This is essentially misapplying what God said or having the wrong timing (e.g., not being dispensational). Of course, Jesus answered the misapplication of scripture with a proper application of scripture.

1.4.1 Attacks That Rely on Ignorance

Let's look at common attacks on the Bible:

- It was written by men, so we can't trust it.
- It wasn't preserved when copied.
- It was written a long time ago and doesn't apply now.
- It is a collection of myths and stories.
- Impostors wrote parts and attributed them to important characters.
- It contains contradictions—therefore, denying divine authorship.
- It comes from a religion for the Jews.

Anyone can make an accusation, but how can he prove it. He can't. When confronted with an accusation like those above, ask the accuser if he can back the accusation from the bible because that is the only source of truth that you have. Of course, this will be circular reasoning to the accuser since he does not see the bible as an authority to begin with.



Isaiah 55:9	KJB
9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.	

God knows every accusation in advance. He has made it so that the bible can defend itself against accusations. You'll learn that in this book.

1.4.2 Authorship Attack Examples

One example of an attack on authorship is the accusation that Moses didn't write the first 5 books of the bible. The erroneous theory, called the *JEPD theory*, suggests that there were at least 4 authors:

- J: One author used the name *Jehovah*,
- E: One author used the name *Elohim*,
- P: One author wrote to the priests, and
- D: One author wrote *Deuteronomy*.

Even if you dive into the details, it sounds so absurd. But, scripture will defend itself. These verses say that Moses was to write or wrote things down:

Exodus 17:14	KJB
14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this [for] a memorial in a book, and rehearse [it] in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.	

Numbers 33:2	KJB
2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these [are] their journeys according to their goings out.	

Deuteronomy 31:24	KJB
24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,	

New testament verses reference Moses as the writer of some of these books. This references Exodus 3:6:

Mark 12:26	KJB
26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I [am] the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?	

This references Leviticus 14:

Matthew 8:4	KJB
4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.	

This references Deuteronomy 25:4:

1 Corinthians 9:9	KJB
9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?	

Another similar accusation is that there were two authors of *Isaiah*. One wrote the first 39 books and the other wrote the last 27 books. This accusation is based on writing style. However, the differences are simply explained by the former group reflecting old testament judgment and the latter group reflecting new testament redemption. It will be clear that Isaiah wrote the entire book of *Isaiah* when we investigate that book in Chapter 11.

1.4.3 Contradiction Attack Example

Many will focus on what they do not understand and accuse the bible of having contradictions or errors.

Numbers 25:9	KJB
9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.	

1 Corinthians 10:8	KJB
8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.	

24,000 died in the plague: 23,000 died in one day and 1,000 died during other days. Contradictions are usually misunderstandings by the reader. The numerous contradiction accusations that are made will not be defended in this study guide. Books have already been written that refute these accusations.

There actually are contradictions in the bible, but there are no errors in it. The real contradictions are often resolved by rightly dividing God's word (see Section 10.2).

Conclusion

God wrote his word to man in a book. Satan attacks God's word in a few ways. The ungodly, the lazy, the immature will struggle to understand God's word. Studying God's word requires effort:

Ecclesiastes 12:12	KJB
12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.	

Revelation

Revelation is the revealing or unveiling of something not-yet-known. Revelation is what we call God's communication of information to man. Some of the God's revelation is who he is. Revelation is more than what is in the bible because God has said many things that have not been written down.

John 21:24-25	KJB
24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.	
25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.	

Revelation is often viewed as having two forms: natural revelation and special revelation.

2.1 Natural Revelation

Natural revelation concerns what can be physically discerned. This can be thought of as a passive revelation: it is there whether you perceive it or not. When we look at the stars in the sky, we should conclude that there is a God that made it:

Psalms 19:1	KJB
1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.	

Psalms 33:6	KJB
6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.	

Natural revelation can include other parts of the creation, not just the stars in the sky.

Romans 1:18-21	KJB
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;	
19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.	
20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:	
21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.	

Verse 19 says that that which may be known of God is manifest in us and that God has shown it to us. Verse 20 says that we should even see (or, understand) that which is invisible! As previously said, God isn't having to do something specific for us to perceive things from the creation. We know there is a God. We can probably imply that he has made things for a reason, but maybe not much more beyond that. We should also come to understand that God has limited natural revelation for a reason.



2.2 Special Revelation

Special revelation concerns things that God has revealed to man that could not be known naturally. This can be thought of as active revelation since it is a result of God's interaction with man.

Hebrews 1:1	KJB
1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,	

While God spake to men through prophets, he has to initially reveal the message to the prophet. That can happen through a vision or dream:

Numbers 12:6-8	KJB
6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, [I] the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, [and] will speak unto him in a dream.	
7 My servant Moses [is] not so, who [is] faithful in all mine house.	
8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?	

This passage is really detailing the clarity of the message: *clearly versus veiled in dark speech*. Regardless, it says that God spoke to Moses *mouth-to-mouth*. Another verse calls this *face-to-face*:

Exodus 33:11	KJB
11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.	

Here are a few examples of revelation from God to man:

Genesis 15:1	KJB
1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I [am] thy shield, [and] thy exceeding great reward.	

2 Samuel 7:4	KJB
4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,	

1 Kings 12:22	KJB
22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,	

2 Corinthians 13:3	KJB
3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.	

God can put his words in a man's mouth:

Exodus 4:14-15	KJB
14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, [Is] not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.	
15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.	

Moses and Aaron spoke what God wanted to be said. They didn't paraphrase or summarize: it was as if God himself spoke. This concept eliminates the unbeliever's view that the bible contains man's ideas and thoughts once we see that the same is applied to what the men wrote.

This verse conveys the same idea:

2 Samuel 23:2	KJB
2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word [was] in my tongue.	

God tells Moses what to say, and then Moses tells the people what God said:



Exodus 19:25-20:1	
25 So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.	
1 And God spake all these words, saying,	
God spoke through men:	
Numbers 22:38	KJB
38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.	
Galatians 1:11-12	KJB
11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.	
12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught [it], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.	
Galatians 2:2	KJB
2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.	
Ephesians 3:3	KJB
3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,	
God accomplished this through his Spirit:	
2 Samuel 23:1-2	KJB
1 Now these [be] the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man [who was] raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,	
2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word [was] in my tongue.	
Luke 21:14-15	KJB
14 Settle [it] therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:	
15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.	
Matthew 10:19-20	KJB
19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.	
20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.	
Acts 2:1-4	KJB
1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.	
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.	
3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.	
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.	
1 Corinthians 2:9-10	KJB
9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.	
10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.	
Verse 10 says that God revealed things by his Spirit.	
Hebrews 3:7-8	KJB
7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,	
8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:	

2 Peter 1:21	KJB
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.	
God spoke through prophets:	
Deuteronomy 18:18	KJB
18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.	
Acts 3:18	KJB
18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.	
Acts 3:21	KJB
21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.	
Acts 28:25	KJB
25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,	
Luke 1:67	KJB
67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,	
Luke 1:70	KJB
70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:	
Jeremiah 1:4-7	KJB
4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, [and] I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I [am] a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I [am] a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.	
Jeremiah 1:9	KJB
9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.	
Jeremiah 5:14	KJB
14 Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.	
Jeremiah 6:19	KJB
19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, [even] the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.	
Ezekiel 2:1-2	KJB
1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. 2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.	
Ezekiel 3:10-11	KJB
10 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.	

11 And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

Hebrews 3:7	KJB
7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,	

Hebrews 10:15-16	KJB
15 [Whereof] the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,	
16 This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;	

God has given revelation in the following ways: Face-to-face discussion, speaking by a voice, dreams, visions, messages delivered by angels, his finger writing in stone, and a hand writing on a wall.

Conclusion

God has communicated to men in several ways. What men have told us is what God wanted us to know.

1 Thessalonians 2:13	KJB
13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.	

Also, note this:

Jeremiah 28:15-17	KJB
15 Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie.	
16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD.	
17 So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.	

We'll look at how God inspired what was written down. This is how past revelation is presented to us.

Inspiration

Inspiration is the communication of ideas into the minds of men by God through his Spirit. We can know that God has communicated things to men that were written down for others to read. We can know what he wants us to do and not do. We can also know God through his word!

Note the end of this verse:

Psalms 45:1	KJB
1 My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue [is] the pen of a ready writer.	

Inspiration is what God wants man to write down (for keeping). Inspiration follows revelation.

Many of the things recorded are not things that God said or did (e.g., historical accounts or sins by men). We might think of these as something God *said* to write down, but we will see what that really means shortly. Regardless, what is recorded is still referred to as *the word of God*.

Everything you need to know has been written down. And, you don't need to know what is not written down. Furthermore, God wants you to know some things that you don't yet understand.

3.1 Write It Down

Scripture is what was written. The words are inspired, not the men who wrote them. The language (e.g., Hebrew) and the medium (e.g., papyrus) are not part of the inspiration either.

2 Timothy 3:16-17	KJB
16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:	
17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.	

2 Peter 1:20-21	KJB
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.	
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.	

What the prophets spoke came by revelation. What they wrote as scripture came by inspiration.

Mark 12:35-36	KJB
35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?	
36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.	

What David *said* was actually written down in Psalms 110:1.



Acts 1:16	KJB
16 Men [and] brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.	

When it says “the Holy Ghost... spake”, it means that David was moved by the Spirit to write it down. So, what we call *God’s word* isn’t something that God audibly spoke through the Holy Ghost; it is what God moved men to write down through his Spirit. In the verse, it was David who actually said the words.

God’s spoken word is equal to his written word:

Romans 9:17	KJB
17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.	

That’s a quote of:

Exodus 9:16	KJB
16 And in very deed for this [cause] have I raised thee up, for to shew [in] thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.	

God said what was to be written.

Matthew 4:4	KJB
4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.	

Matthew 22:31	KJB
31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,	

John 5:45-47	KJB
45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is [one] that accuseth you, [even] Moses, in whom ye trust.	
46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.	
47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?	

A prophet in the dispensation of grace could also identify that what Paul wrote was God’s word:

1 Corinthians 14:37	KJB
37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.	

Consider the details of this next passage and the people involved:

Jeremiah 36:2-8	KJB
2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.	
3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.	
4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.	
5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I [am] shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD:	
6 Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD’S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.	
7 It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great [is] the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.	
8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD’S house.	

God told Jeremiah what to write; Jeremiah told Baruch. Baruch wrote it and then read it to the people. Regardless of the people involved, it was still God's word.

In this next passage, John was supposed to write what he saw:

Revelation 1:10-11	KJB
10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,	
11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.	

What John wrote down was still God's word because God's Spirit was inspiring what John wrote.

God could provide inspiration without necessarily providing illumination. This is demonstrated by a prophet not understanding what he wrote or heard.

1 Peter 1:10-11	KJB
10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [that should come] unto you:	
11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.	

Matthew 13:17	KJB
17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them].	

Daniel 7:15-16	KJB
15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of [my] body, and the visions of my head troubled me.	
16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.	

Daniel 8:16	KJB
16 And I heard a man's voice between [the banks of] Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this [man] to understand the vision.	

Side Study 3.1: Was Paul's Opinion Still Scripture?

Many question a few things Paul wrote as not being inspired:

1 Corinthians 7:6	KJB
6 But I speak this by permission, [and] not of commandment.	
1 Corinthians 7:12	KJB
12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.	
1 Corinthians 7:25	KJB
25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.	

Paul is saying that he wasn't told these things directly by Jesus. These things, and probably many others, were given by inspiration. Remember 2 Timothy 3:16!

3.2 Write a Book

Men were told not only to write things down, but to collect those writings in a book. The latter enabled preservation.



Exodus 34:27	KJB
27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.	
Numbers 33:2	KJB
2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these [are] their journeys according to their goings out.	
Deuteronomy 31:9	KJB
9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.	
Deuteronomy 31:24-26	KJB
24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, 25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, 26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.	
Men were told to add to the book. They didn't add their words; they added God's words.	
Joshua 24:26	KJB
26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that [was] by the sanctuary of the LORD.	
1 Samuel 10:25	KJB
25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote [it] in a book, and laid [it] up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.	
2 Chronicles 32:32	KJB
32 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they [are] written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, [and] in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.	
Jeremiah 30:2	KJB
2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.	
Nahum 1:1	KJB
1 The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.	
Luke 4:17	KJB
17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,	
Luke 20:42	KJB
42 And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,	
Acts 7:42	KJB
42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices [by the space of] forty years in the wilderness?	
Revelation 1:11	KJB
11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.	

3.3 Inspiration Ended

God said inspiration would stop:

1 Corinthians 13:8-10	KJB
8 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away.	
9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.	
10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.	

Many misunderstand this passage. *Knowledge* and *prophecy* were partial as the new testament was being written. When the new testament (and the bible as a whole) was completed, these two things were no longer partial—they were complete (or perfect).

This passage tells us that Paul was going to fulfill (or complete) the word of God:

Colossians 1:25	KJB
25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;	

As Side Study 1.1 stated, we are in a period of silence where God isn't talking to man today. Of course, he still is through his written word.

Conclusion

There are many scriptures that deal with inspiration. The bible is God's words, not men's words. When someone says otherwise, ask for a confirmation verse. Not everything in the bible is "God said..." But God's Spirit moved someone to write the words! We can trust the proper bible (it just takes faith once we understand preservation).



Illumination

Illumination is God-given understanding of what God said. Just reading God's word does not guarantee understanding. Study is required. Also, faith is required to believe what you read (or heard). Likewise, lack of faith will hinder illumination. Illumination enables the power of God's word in our lives.

Numbers 16:28	KJB
28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for [I have] not [done them] of mine own mind.	

4.1 How Illumination Works

The book of *Exodus* has several descriptions of the tabernacle and its furnishings. Of particular note is the table of shewbread and the lampstands. Here is one of those descriptions:

Exodus 40:22-25	KJB
22 And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the vail.	
23 And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.	
24 And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward.	
25 And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.	

The shewbread typified the word, and man is to live by the word. The candlestick illuminated the table (and thus the word). The candlestick burned olive oil:

Exodus 27:20	KJB
20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.	

Olive oil typified the Spirit of God. These concepts are echoed in the visions in *Revelation*:

Revelation 4:5	KJB
5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.	

In this case, the seven Spirits of God typify the Holy Ghost (which is not really 7 Spirits). These burn before the throne. It is Jesus, or the Word, that sits on the throne. The table in the tabernacle typified a throne as well.

So, it is God's Spirit that illuminates his word.

4.2 Understanding Comes Via the Spirit

Let's see that the Spirit of God gives understanding of the word:

John 14:26	KJB
26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.	
Luke 24:45	KJB
45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,	

Understanding came when the apostles were given the Holy Ghost (see John 20:22 for that event).

The next passage explains that it is God's Spirit that enables our understanding. To compare spiritual things with spiritual, we must study.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14	KJB
11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.	
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.	
13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.	
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.	

There are some subtle differences between "Spirit of God" and "spirit of God". You can keep it simple and ignore the capitalization for now. Refer to *The Revelation of God* study guide [5] for more information.

The Spirit could give understanding apart from God's word in the old testament:

Job 32:8	KJB
8 But [there is] a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.	

That mentions *inspiration* but we should apply that with respect to what the verses in the section are teaching.

Isaiah 11:2	KJB
2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;	

Exodus 31:1-5	KJB
1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,	
2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:	
3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,	
4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,	
5 And in cutting of stones, to set [them], and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.	

1 Chronicles 28:11-12	KJB
11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasures thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,	
12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasures of the house of God, and of the treasures of the dedicated things:	

1 Chronicles 28:19	KJB
19 All [this, said David], the LORD made me understand in writing by [his] hand upon me, [even] all the works of this pattern.	

What verse 12 refers to as "by the spirit", verse 19 calls it "by his hand upon me". David had full understanding as he wrote it all down (think of this as a blueprint more than many words). We have to understand that alternate



language might be used in the scripture, but the simple explanation is that something happens between God's spirit and our spirit.

2 Peter 3:15-16	KJB
15 And account [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;	
16 As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.	

Lack of understanding will lead to problems. False teachings will follow.

The following passages tell us that illumination comes with maturation:

1 Peter 2:1-3	KJB
1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,	
2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:	
3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious.	

1 Corinthians 3:1-2	KJB
1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ.	
2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able.	

Romans 2:20	KJB
20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.	

Luke 10:21	KJB
21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.	

That passage tells us that man's religious education and wisdom do not guarantee understanding of the word. Many that go to a seminary will still not understand as they are mostly taught the traditions of men rather than the truth of scripture.

This passage aligns very much with what we saw in 1 Corinthians 2:11-14 above:

Isaiah 28:9-13	KJB
9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts.	
10 For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little:	
11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.	
12 To whom he said, This [is] the rest [wherewith] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing: yet they would not hear.	
13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.	

Hebrews 5:11-14	KJB
11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.	
12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.	
13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.	
14 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.	

4.3 Unbelief Hinders Illumination

If you do not believe one part of what God's word says, that will hinder other areas of your understanding.

Mark 9:9-10	KJB
9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.	
10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.	

Luke 9:45	KJB
45 But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.	

When it was *hid* from them, it was a result of their unbelief.

Luke 18:34	KJB
34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.	

Matthew 13:58	KJB
58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.	

Mark 16:14	KJB
14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.	

Luke 24:25	KJB
25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:	

Unbelief is also called *hardening one's heart*. This concept is demonstrated in the early chapters of Exodus (i.e., chapters 4-14) as God, through Moses, dealt with Pharaoh. The verses say that God hardened his heart—that came because God gave him truth (and miraculous signs). But, it also says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart since it is really his choice whether to believe or not:

Proverbs 29:1	KJB
1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth [his] neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.	

4.4 Study Is Required

Consider these verses that tells us that study is required when dealing with God's word:

Joshua 1:8	KJB
8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.	

Ecclesiastes 12:12	KJB
12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.	

Romans 15:4	KJB
4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.	

2 Timothy 2:15	KJB
15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.	

Hebrews 4:12	KJB
12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.	

Let's also see that the bible has *dark sayings*:

Proverbs 1:1-7	KJB
1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise [man] will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. 7 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.	

Matthew 13:12-17	KJB
12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them].	

Parables, dark sayings, visions, and dreams require interpretation of the symbols used. Such passages are not literal and are not reality. But they teach truth—a truth that can be rejected due to unbelief because of lack of study.

Conclusion

The bible will not be understood with casual reading, nor in unbelief. God gives illumination to his word through his Spirit. Reading, studying, and believing are key elements of your faith.

Be careful not to believe everything that your teacher teaches. Traditions are not truth: “We believe” does not necessarily mean “the bible teaches”.

Ephesians 1:17-18	KJB
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,	

Preservation

Preservation is God's method for keeping his revelation to man forever. This is achieved by writing down what was inspired and then copying it, not only for retaining it, but also for distributing it. Copying God's word does not disqualify it from being God's word. Only changing God's word does that. Consider this:

Isaiah 29:18	KJB
18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.	

This verse tells us that in a day that is still in our future, the people will hear the words of the book (i.e., God's word). How are they going to do that if the bible has been lost or corrupted?

God will preserve his word through a large number of copies. While the copying process can introduce mistakes, the large number of copies will allow the copies to be refined. The large number of copies make it easy to reject corrupted manuscripts that introduce changes on purpose (although man may foolishly refuse to reject them).

We will also see that God intends his word to be translated. God created languages and can put his word in any of those languages that he chooses. God does not intend for everyone to learn Hebrew and Greek, nor for them to be dependent on a small group of people who have. Of course, mistranslation is possible, but illumination and the refinement process make a valid translation possible.

5.1 To Be Kept Forever

You should notice in the many following scriptures that God's word will be kept forever. It is not conditioned on man's faithfulness.

Psalms 119:89	KJB
89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.	

Psalms 119:152	KJB
152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.	

Psalms 119:160	KJB
160 Thy word [is] true [from] the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments [endureth] for ever.	

Isaiah 30:8	KJB
8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:	

Isaiah 40:8	KJB
8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.	



Isaiah 59:20-21	KJB
20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.	
21 As for me, this [is] my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that [is] upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.	

Luke 21:33	KJB
33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.	

John 10:34-35	KJB
34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?	
35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;	

Thus, God's word is intended for all generations:

Deuteronomy 31:9-13	KJB
9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.	
10 And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of [every] seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,	
11 When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.	
12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that [is] within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:	
13 And [that] their children, which have not known [any thing], may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.	

Psalms 12:6-7	KJB
6 The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.	
7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.	

Psalms 33:11	KJB
11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.	

Isaiah 29:18	KJB
18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.	

It is preserved for others:

Exodus 17:14	KJB
14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this [for] a memorial in a book, and rehearse [it] in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.	

And, therefore, it is preserved for you too:

1 Peter 1:23-25	KJB
23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.	
24 For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:	
25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.	

5.2 Make Copies

Scripture makes it clear that an original writing can be destroyed and the replacement is still God's word. Copies are not inferior; they are equivalent to the predecessor. In the first example, the ten commandments tables were destroyed and replaced.

Exodus 31:18	KJB
18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.	
Exodus 32:17-19	KJB
17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, [There is] a noise of war in the camp.	
18 And he said, [It is] not the voice of [them that] shout for mastery, neither [is it] the voice of [them that] cry for being overcome: [but] the noise of [them that] sing do I hear.	
19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.	
Exodus 34:1-2	KJB
1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon [these] tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.	
2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.	

In the second example, a scroll is destroyed and replaced:

Jeremiah 36:8	KJB
8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house.	
Jeremiah 36:14-16	KJB
14 Therefore all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, unto Baruch, saying, Take in thine hand the roll wherein thou hast read in the ears of the people, and come. So Baruch the son of Neriah took the roll in his hand, and came unto them.	
15 And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears. So Baruch read [it] in their ears.	
16 Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words.	
Jeremiah 36:21-23	KJB
21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.	
22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and [there was a fire] on the hearth burning before him.	
23 And it came to pass, [that] when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast [it] into the fire that [was] on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that [was] on the hearth.	
Jeremiah 36:27-28	KJB
27 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying,	
28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.	
Jeremiah 36:32	KJB
32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.	

Not only did God replace the original, he added to it the story of destroying the original and then replacing it.



In this third example, Jeremiah was to write something that was to be cast into the river:

Jeremiah 51:60-64	KJB
60	So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, [even] all these words that are written against Babylon.
61	And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;
62	Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.
63	And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, [that] thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:
64	And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far [are] the words of Jeremiah.

Evidently, it was copied so that we still have it.

Of course, the objection will be that God gave the word again (rather than man copying it for himself). But the scripture clearly states to make copies of the word:

Deuteronomy 17:14	KJB
14	When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that [are] about me;

Deuteronomy 17:18-19	KJB
18	And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of [that which is] before the priests the Levites:
19	And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

The king was to have a copy of the word. The command to copy the scripture was carried out:

2 Kings 11:12	KJB
12	And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and [gave him] the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

This verse suggests that the king had someone copy the scripture for him:

Proverbs 25:1	KJB
1	These [are] also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

We will see why that was the case in the next section.

Joshua 8:32	KJB
32	And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

Even the common people had copies of some of the scriptures:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9	KJB
6	And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
7	And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
8	And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
9	And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Daniel had what Jeremiah wrote while in captivity:

Daniel 9:2	KJB
2	In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:11	KJB
11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that [is] written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.	

Daniel 10:21	KJB
21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and [there is] none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.	

In fact, Daniel had all of the scriptures.

There are many scriptures that demonstrate that the many Jewish synagogues had copies of the scriptures:

Luke 4:16-17	KJB
16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.	
17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,	

Acts 15:21	KJB
21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.	

Acts 17:1-2	KJB
1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:	
2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,	

Here, a eunuch had a copy of *Isaiah* with him:

Acts 8:27-28	KJB
27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,	
28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.	

It is foolish to think that the original letter was circulated around a large region:

Galatians 1:1-2	KJB
1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)	
2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:	

There were many cities with churches in the region of Galatia.

1 Thessalonians 5:27	KJB
27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.	

Timothy had copies of scriptures from his youth:

2 Timothy 3:15	KJB
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.	

5.3 Stewards of the Word

A *steward* is someone appointed to take care of something that belongs to another. While there can be unfaithful stewards, God always has some faithful stewards who would get the job done (i.e., a faithful remnant). God had appointed Israel as stewards of his word:

Romans 3:1-2	KJB
1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit [is there] of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.	

In this context, the oracles would be the scriptures. Within Israel, the scriptures were typically handled the Levites:

Deuteronomy 31:24-26	KJB
24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, 25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, 26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.	

So, it wasn't God's plan that everyone, or even just anyone, was given responsibility as a steward.

2 Chronicles 34:13	KJB
13 Also [they were] over the bearers of burdens, and [were] overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites [there were] scribes, and officers, and porters.	

And, not just any Levite, but a special class called *scribes*.

The king had a scribe; perhaps the scribe copied the book for him when he became king.

2 Samuel 8:15-17	KJB
15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people. 16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah [was] over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud [was] recorder; 17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, [were] the priests; and Seraiah [was] the scribe;	

A *recorder* probably captured the commands of the king, whereas the scribe dealt with the scriptures.

1 Kings 4:1-3	KJB
1 So king Solomon was king over all Israel. 2 And these [were] the princes which he had; Azariah the son of Zadok the priest, 3 Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder.	

Jeremiah 8:8-9	KJB
8 How do ye say, We [are] wise, and the law of the LORD [is] with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he [it]; the pen of the scribes [is] in vain. 9 The wise [men] are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom [is] in them?	

Ezra 7:6	KJB
6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he [was] a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.	

Ezra 7:21	KJB
21 And I, [even] I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which [are] beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,	

Side Study 5.1: Did Jews Write All Scripture?

Romans 3:1-2 is often misunderstood and is used to teach that all of the scriptures were written by Israel. It clearly does not mean that. If you read Daniel 4, you should conclude that Nebuchadnezzar wrote that chapter. Obviously, Daniel, as a steward of the scriptures, is the one that put it in his book.

Paul told us this about some of his companions:

Colossians 4:10-14**KJB**

- 10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)
- 11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only [are my] fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.
- 12 Epaphras, who is [one] of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
- 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them [that are] in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.
- 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

He named those that were part of the circumcision (i.e., Jews) in verses 10 and 11. Then he named those that were not in verses 12-14. That would make them Gentiles. Of course, Luke wrote *Luke* and *Acts*.

In Romans 3:1-2, Paul said that the oracles of God **were** committed to Israel. Later in the chapter he said:

Romans 3:21-22**KJB**

- 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- 22 Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

But now is a common phrase in Paul's letters that always indicates a change from the past to the present (of his day at least). As we would expect, the stewards of the new testament was the church. The kingdom program came to an end and those believers eventually died. But the generations of the Christian church kept the scriptures.

This verse highlights that something was *committed unto us*:

2 Corinthians 5:19**KJB**

- 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

The new stewards not only kept the new testament, but also the old testament. Part of that preservation included a reorganization of the old testament books. This will be a topic of discussion in Section 10.1.

So, how did the church know what was scripture? Paul said that some in the church were *prophets*:

1 Corinthians 12:28-29**KJB**

- 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- 29 [Are] all apostles? [are] all prophets? [are] all teachers? [are] all workers of miracles?

But instead of speaking for God (which Paul was doing), a prophet could identify if what was written was scripture:

1 Corinthians 14:37**KJB**

- 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

This was because Paul wrote other letters that were not scripture. The office of the prophet no longer exists since the scripture has been completed.

Just as God did not intend for all of Israel to be the stewards, not all Christians are expected to be the stewards. Such stewards need to be mature and have the illumination of the Spirit. But the job is much easier now since the foundation was clearly laid in the first forty years of the church's existence. We, as stewards, are also warned about the those who corrupt the word:

2 Corinthians 2:17**KJB**

- 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.

5.4 Translation

God's translated word is still God's word. Consider this:

Acts 22:2	KJB
2 (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)	

Paul spoke in Hebrew, yet Luke wrote it down in Greek. Of course, some might complain that God inspired Luke to write it in Greek and so translation is irrelevant.

Recall this verse from the beginning of the chapter:

Isaiah 29:18	KJB
18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.	

God intends for future Jews to have his word. But they aren't all going to speak Hebrew and likely won't know Greek. If you understand the purpose of the gift of tongues, the scattered Jews will not speak the same language. They will need the scriptures in their languages. For more on tongues, refer to the *How to Study the Bible* study guide [2].

The book of *Esther* exemplifies how the king's message (typifying God's message) was to be translated into all languages for all people to read.

Esther 1:22	KJB
22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that [it] should be published according to the language of every people.	

Esther 3:12	KJB
12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that [were] over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and [to] every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.	

Esther 8:9	KJB
9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that [is], the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth [day] thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which [are] from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.	

The people were not required to learn the language of the king. God intends to have his word available to all in other languages.

Properly translating God's word does not stop it from being God's word. If you start with God's word, it is possible to end up with God's word. It would require knowledge of the two languages and a mature translator who has illumination of the word by the Holy Ghost. If you don't start with God's word, you certainly won't end up with God's word.

Should we expect to get the bible into all languages? Probably not. When Israel was the stewards of the word, only they had it. It is possible that some of the old testament was translated into other languages while Israel was in captivity, but that wouldn't be all languages. When the new testament was written in Greek, there were parts of the world that did not speak Greek. God has the bible in the most dominant language in the world today. So, it is available to many.

Conclusion

God didn't reveal his word only to have it become lost. He intended for it to be preserved. God's word is written to be read repeatedly:



Joshua 1:8	KJB
8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.	

Preservation requires copying. Making copies allowed God's word to be distributed to others. While copying could introduce mistakes, the multitude of copies allow the mistakes to be filtered out and destroyed.

1 Corinthians 14:33	KJB
33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.	

God has provided an orderly approach to preserving his word. It is Satan that introduces the confusion of many versions with errors.

Advances in printing allowed all of the scriptures in one book, making them portable. This also made the word available to everyone, making everyone accountable.

Part II

Translation into English

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This part focuses on the translation of the bible into English. First, there is a brief history of the English bible that attempts to go back to when the new testament was written. Then, we will see some examples of how counterfeiting the bible has been done. Finally, we will see how to identify bibles that come from corrupt sources and those that come from the proper source, but have problems nonetheless.

The History of the English Bible

We know that God said that he would preserve his word. By faith, we can seek to find it. God preserved his word through many copies. The many copies will help us reject the corrupt manuscripts and refine the mistakes in the correct ones. It really is that easy.

This entire chapter involves historical information. Most of the many topics are only briefly discussed. I will not claim accuracy in the details that I do have. You can learn much more by doing your own research. However, you should discover the overwhelming slander against the true scripture and the subsequent English bible as you do so.

Figure 6.1 shows a summary of what will be covered in this chapter. Essentially, there are two lines of manuscripts: God's true word and a corrupted word. As a type, they originate in two places: Antioch and Alexandria. This isn't meant to be viewed literally. Much of what is shown can be further researched. Expect to find many lies about the truth. To fully understand the history of the English bible, you need to understand the history of the corrupt Roman Catholic Church and its Satanic influence (e.g., the dark ages).

6.1 Source Texts

We will focus on the new testament in this discussion. But first, let's address the old testament. The old testament Hebrew manuscripts are called the *Masoretic Text*. There isn't as much conflict about these manuscripts, although it is possible to corrupt them. The biggest conflict today comes from the *Septuagint*. But it didn't really exist when the new testament was completed and the canon established. This will be discussed in Subsection 7.4.1.

For the new testament, there are two groups of texts that are sources of translation: the Majority Text and the Minority Text. We will also discuss the Received Text, which is derived from the Majority Text.

6.1.1 The Majority Text

The *Majority Text* is a large collection of Greek manuscripts of the new testament scriptures. Each manuscript is not the entire new testament. Many are incomplete fragments. Nonetheless, there are over 5000 manuscripts that cover the entire new testament. Many of the manuscripts overlap, and, when they do, they almost always agree in what is written. The Majority Text is also referred to as the *Byzantine*, *Syrian*, or *Traditional Text* (as well as a few other names). Also, the Majority Text is written in (lower-case) *Koine* Greek, which was the common language spoken at the time of the writing of the new testament.

The Majority Text aligns with God's concept of preservation by having a large number of copies. This allows comparison to be made in order to filter out errors that can arise when making copies. One of the accusations against the Majority Text is that the copies are not very old. That should make sense: they are copies of the originals which were destroyed long ago. But, most assuredly, the lineage of copies goes back to the originals with purity. The oldest copies are dated between 900 and 1600 AD. Of course, the original manuscripts come from the first century AD. A little later, we will investigate where these manuscripts have been found.



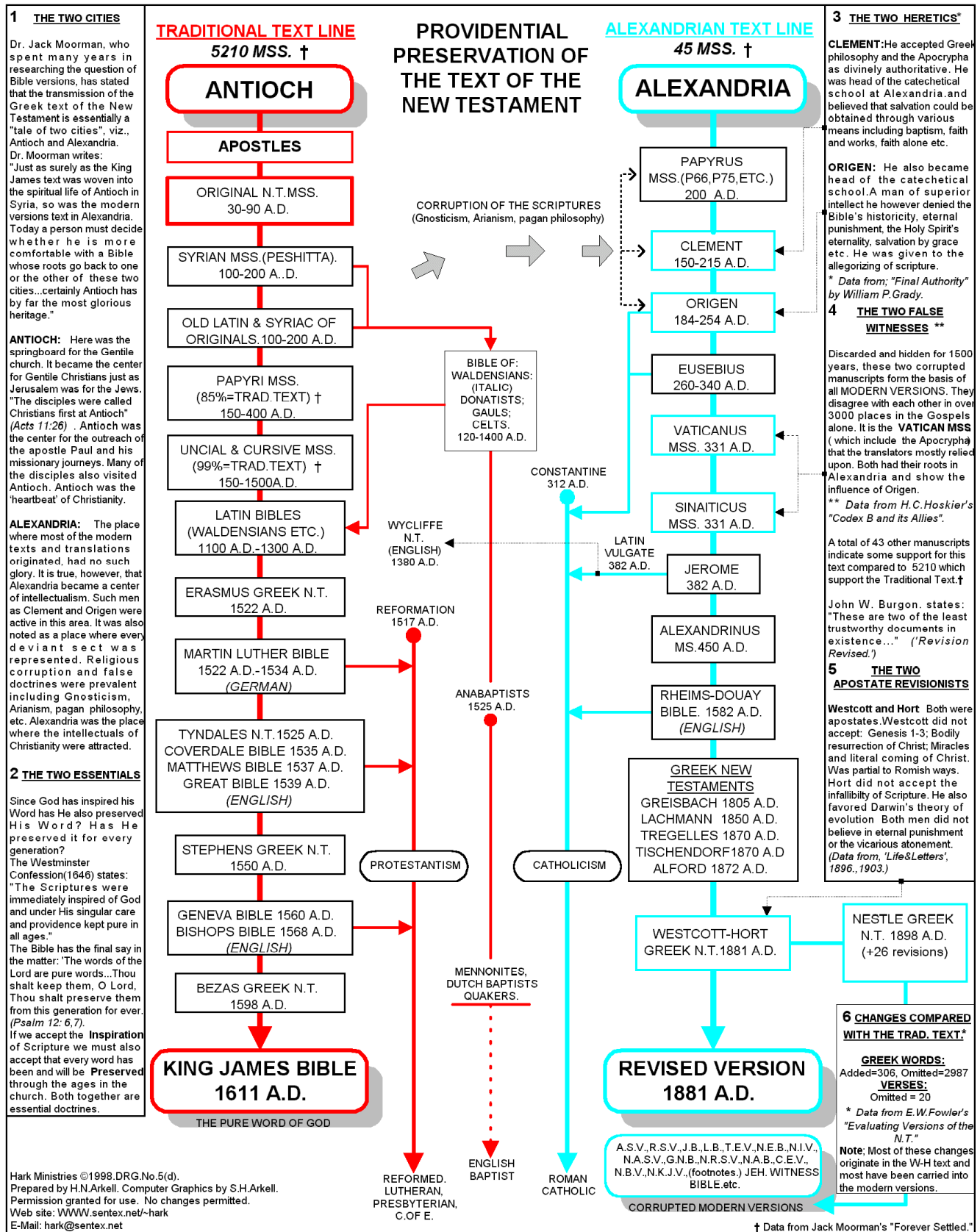


Figure 6.1: The history of the English bible is summarized in the diagram and surrounding text.

Side Study 6.1: Early Translations from the Majority Text

There were many non-English translations that came from the Majority Text manuscripts:

1. *Greek Orthodox Bible* (100 AD)
2. *Peshitta* (150 AD): This was the first Syrian translation.
3. (Old) *Latin Vulgate* (157 AD): The word *vulgate* is Latin for *vulgar* or *common*.
4. *Italic Bible* (157 AD)
5. *Gallic Bible* (177 AD)
6. *Gothic Bible* (330 AD)
7. (Old) *Syriac Bible* (400 AD)
8. *Armenian Bible* (400 AD)
9. *Palestinian Syriac* (450 AD)
10. *French Bible* of Oliveton (1535 AD)
11. *Czech Bible* (1602 AD)
12. *Italian Bible* of Diodati (1606 AD)

Some of these predate the Minority Text, which validates that the predecessors of the surviving Majority Text manuscripts are older than the Minority Text manuscripts. The *Latin Vulgate* is not the same as *Jerome's Vulgate* (a corrupt translation which was also in Latin). It was used by the Waldenses, Gauls, Celts, Albigenses, and other groups throughout Europe. Copies of some of the bibles still exist today.

Translation doesn't have to start with only the Hebrew and the Greek. Other languages can provide insight to accuracy.

6.1.2 The Minority Text

The *Minority Text* is a small collection of Greek manuscripts of the new testament scriptures. They comprise about 5% of all of the manuscripts that are used for any bible. The few manuscripts disagree in many places and often contradict one another. Over 200 verses are missing when compared to the Majority Text. The Minority Text is also called the *Alexandrian Text* because of where it originates.

The Minority Text does not align with God's concept of preservation because there are not very many copies and they differ from the multitude of others. The Minority Text is written in (upper-case) classical Greek, which was **not** the Greek commonly used at the time of the new testament. One of the claims made about the Minority Text is that they are older and more reliable. The manuscripts date to about 400 AD. But they are not older than the sources of the copies of the Majority Text. And we will see that they certainly aren't correct! So, how can they be *reliable*?

The Minority Text manuscripts were first modified by Clement and Origen. They were later compiled and edited by Wescott and Hort, resulting in even more changes. The Minority Text manuscripts are the source for most of the (corrupt) English translations that we have today.

They predominately consist of the Codex Sinaiticus (found in Vatican Library in 1400's) and the Codex Vaticanus (found in trash in St. Catherine's Monastery in 1844). These two manuscripts disagree with each other in more than 2,000 places. There are others in the text family.

6.1.3 The Received Text

The *Received Text* is an often misunderstood manuscript. It is a printing of the Majority Text into one cohesive book. This would refine the few differences in the collection of Majority Text manuscripts. So, in a sense, it is the Majority Text, but it has been developed much later in time than the Majority Text source manuscripts.

The Received Text is also called the *Textus Receptus* (the Latin name). It includes about 90% of the Majority Text, but includes other manuscripts as well. It was compiled by Erasmus. There were editors that followed him such as Stephanus, Beza, and the Elzevir brothers. The Received Text agrees with the many bibles that predated it. It was used as the source for many bibles that followed it.

6.2 Early English Translations

Isaiah 34:16	KJB
16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.	

We are told to seek the book of the LORD. Other scriptures tell us how to identify the word.

Side Study 6.2: Where to Look for the Scriptures: Antioch or Alexandria?

The bible provides great witness about where we should expect to find the true scriptures (and I mean copies, not originals). Let's see what the bible has to say about Antioch and Alexandria.

We will start with Antioch. The believers there were the first *Christians*.

Acts 11:26	KJB
26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.	

Paul started and ended each of his apostolic journeys from Antioch. His journeys never went into Egypt. Antioch was in Syria. This was where some in Abraham's family (e.g., Laban, Rebekah) were from.

Alexandria was named after Alexander the Great. Daniel 8 depicts Alexander as a type of the antichrist. Alexandria doesn't show up in *Acts* until many chapters later than Antioch does:^a

Acts 18:24-26	KJB
24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, [and] mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto [them], and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.	

This passage says that Apollos was very educated and knowledgeable. But, his knowledge was lacking, leaving him to be teaching error. The bible mentions him as a type. Apollos corrected his erroneous teaching and is mentioned positively a few times by Paul. Today's "Alexandrians" (those who embrace the corrupt manuscripts) typically will not be corrected by the truth.

Would you expect to find accurate copies of the new testament where Paul established churches or in Egypt? In scripture, Egypt typifies the world and bondage. The one thing in Alexandria's favor was its dry climate. That made it possible for documents to survive longer. It may have older documents, but they are still the wrong ones.

^aNow, if you notice Alexandrians were mentioned earlier in Acts 6:9, don't overlook that a proselyte of Antioch was mentioned before that in Acts 6:5.

The Majority Text has been used by the Orthodox Church of Eastern Europe, but has been rejected by the Roman Catholic Church, which embraces the Minority Text. The latter church has also rejected the Received Text. The same church is the source of the propaganda that we have to refute today. Many good copies of the Majority Text were confiscated and destroyed by the Catholic Church authorities during the time of the persecutions.

Side Study 6.3: The Languages of the Bible

It is interesting to look back to see the languages of the bible. Of course, Israel were the stewards of the old testament. Only they had God's word and it was written in Hebrew. As Israel went into captivity, the scriptures may have been translated into other languages, but Israel kept the Hebrew copies.

Then, as Israel was cast aside, the new testament was written in common Greek. The Greek of the new testament is called *Koine*, or *Common*, Greek because it was the language of the common (Gentile) people. It adopted many words from other languages (just as English does). Some examples are: mammon (Aramaic); talitha cumi (Syrian); and legion, tribute, and denarius (Latin).

It isn't clear that anyone had all of the scriptures in one language. As the centuries passed, translation into other languages was performed. But, it wasn't until the *King James Bible* that the bible was on its way to becoming



available to the whole world. As English became the predominate language of the world, more and more people could get God's word without having to learn Hebrew and Greek. It also became easier to get the bible into other languages by starting from the KJB English rather than the difficult-to-get original-language documents, although the Received Text made that easier. While the corruption of the bible has always been going on, it wasn't until the establishment of the KJB that a buffet of corrupt bibles appeared. What a witness to God's true word in English!

The important languages of the bible—ancient Hebrew, common Greek, and old English—are dead languages that allow the meanings in the scriptures to be static rather than dynamically changing with the whims of the world. **The word lives through dead languages (a type of resurrection)!**

Here is a list of English bibles that preceded the KJB:

1. 1526: *Tyndale New Testament*
2. 1535: *Coverdale Bible*
3. 1537: *Matthews Bible*
4. 1539: *The Great Bible*
5. 1560: *Geneva Bible*
6. 1568: *Bishops' Bible*

These were all shown in Figure 6.1. The story that goes with each bible will not be told here (you can research that for yourself). The early bibles were greatly persecuted, but they weren't stopped by Satan's ministers.

Side Study 6.4: Chapter and Verse Numbers

Chapter numbers were added to the bible by Stephen Langton in 1205 AD. Old testament verse numbers were developed by Rabbi Nathan in 1448. New testament verse numbers were developed by Robert Stephens in 1551. The first bible to incorporate all of these features was the *Geneva Bible* in 1560.

Many people think that the numberings appear to be random. But studying verse numbers and chapter numbers can be very revealing. We won't do that here, but consider those with the number 13. You will begin to get great insight to what numbers can mean in the bible by doing this. You will also begin to conclude that illumination will often compel someone to allocate the numbering that resulted. God has structured his word so that this comes about through the hard work that is associated with illumination. That's amazing! But for those who are not illuminated, it appears random.

6.3 The KJB Translation

The period from the Tyndale NT to the Bishops' Bible was 42 years. It was another 43 years before the KJB was produced. The first corrupt English bible appeared in 1582, but it was too late. God's church was completing the work of the appointed stewards and getting God's word into English. Satan's ministers were lagging behind, although he was not going to stop—he would produce many more.

If you look back at the predecessors of the KJB, there were 6 of them. That would make the KJB the 7th:

Psalms 12:6	KJB
6 The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.	

That is an amazing coincidence!

There were 54 men that began the translation process in 1604, while only 47 remained when the job was completed in 1611. These men were Godly and highly educated. There were two groups each at the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, and Westminster. Each group was given some portion of scripture to translate. The results from each group were given to another group for review. After the original group modified the translation as a result of the review, it was then given to yet another group to review. The translators had access to the Received Text and bibles in other languages. They had access to and rejected the corrupt Minority texts.

The translators were given a set of 15 guidelines, of which only 3 are shown here:

- The ordinary bible read in the church, commonly called the *Bishops' Bible*, to be followed, and as little altered as the original will permit.
- The old ecclesiastical words to be kept, as the word *church*, not to be translated *congregation*.
- The division of chapters to be altered either not at all, or as little as may be, if necessity so require.

The first guideline resulted in the *Apocrypha* being retained. However, a later edition would remove it.

King James of England funded the translation effort. Note this verse:



Ecclesiastes 8:4	KJB
4 Where the word of a king [is, there is] power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?	

The translation was completed in 1611 and was called the *Authorized Version* (AV). The usage of the word *version* was appropriate since there were other, less mature bibles. We know now that the KJB is superior to the others (the *Geneva Bible* wasn't printed after 1644). No new translation from the Received Text or Majority Text has been done since the KJB. More detail about the translators and the process they followed can be found on-line.

6.4 Later KJB Editions

It is important for you to ignore propaganda and false criticisms concerning the editions of the KJB, and understand things for yourself. One such thing that you need to understand is the difference between an *edition* and a *revision*. An *edition* typically consists of edits that correct mistakes. A *revision* typically consists of additions, deletions, and/or changes to the material. A revision can include edits, but an edition should not include revisions. Now, people can blur these distinctions as they improperly talk about publishing. With the definitions that I have given here, let's understand that the KJB has had 5 editions (including the first publishing) and 0 revisions.¹ The translation has been purified (as suggested by Psalms 12:6), but not revised:

Editions consisted of the following changes:

1. A font or typography change from Gothic to Roman,
2. corrections to typographical printing errors (there were about 400 of these),
3. spelling and word usage changes due to maturing English standards,
4. capitalization changes, and
5. the removal of the apocryphal books.

Just as there was a time where the new testament was not complete, there was a time when the translation of the bible into English was not complete. The maturation of the English translation culminated with the 1611 KJB. However, the presentation of the translation continued to be perfected over the next 150 years through edits, but not revisions. See Side Study 12.1 for examples of capitalization and spelling changes.

Here are some details about the 5 editions by date:

- 1611:** The original edition was produced using a Gothic type font. Although this was the standard that people were used to, it was hard to read. A year later, the first KJB was printed using a Roman type font. Within a few years, this font was the standard.
- 1629:** This edition corrected misprints and minor errors in translation. Changes were also made by incorporating a more literal interpretation of certain words; these came from the marginal notes of the 1611 edition. This edition was produced by Cambridge University and included two of the original translators.
- 1638:** This edition, also by Cambridge University, continued what was done in the 1629 edition. These two editions are simply two stages of one process: the purification of printing errors.
- 1762:** This edition, also by Cambridge University, and the next were also two stages of one process: the standardization of English spelling.
- 1769:** This was an edition printed by Oxford University. There were 5 categories of changes:
1. Italics were used to show words added by the translators.² The 1611 edition used a smaller Roman type font to indicate these words. It was hard to tell with the Gothic-to-Roman font change.
 2. Minor changes in word usage were made. For example: "had not root" became "had no root".
 3. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation changes were made that aligned with the standard of English at that time.
 4. Changes to the marginal notes and the removal of the Apocrypha.
 5. Corrections to printing errors.

Some corrupt bibles claim to be a revision of the KJB. Although likely to be false, that claim is fine: It is not the KJB any more, and, therefore, not God's word any more!

¹ If you have a KJB, it probably will not have any indicator of editions. This is likely to be a result of the publisher not viewing it as any editions that it has made. I have a KJB that says it is the "1611 Authorized King James Bible", which it clearly is not. That is because the man behind the publication does not understand this issue.

² Some object to the added words in italics. If you remove the words in italics altogether, then 2 Samuel 21:19 would contain an error. Of course, other translations add words without emphasizing them with italics!

Side Study 6.5: Should I Be "KJB-only"?

Many argue that Christians should not limit themselves to only the KJB. The "KJB-only" is a slur implying that such believers are not open-minded. Nonetheless, the answer to this study title should be: Absolutely not! If someone does the work that the translators put into the KJB, then we should consider it! But no one has done that. Every other translation has started from the corrupt texts or has included them. A better question is: Why should someone do another translation?

The issue is predominately about the source texts. If someone creates a new translation from the proper ones, then there can be a discussion of which translation to cling to. But why would God make another English translation?

You can consider a predecessor of the KJB, but why would you want a bible with immature English? For example, Section 9.1 will demonstrate why you wouldn't want a *Geneva Bible*. As an aside, this bible had Calvinist notes in it. Beware of any bible's notes!

Conclusion

Is the KJB superior to the *original texts*? Yes—the original texts do not exist. Is the KJB superior to copies of the Hebrew and Greek? Yes—you do not have to learn Hebrew and Greek or the usage of those languages at the time they were written. You do not have to get the copies to translate them. You do not have to figure out which texts to keep or reject. You have chapter and verse references as an aid. You have the whole Bible in one affordable book. And, as a result, you do not have to be controlled by Nicolaitans and Gnostics who refer to the Hebrew and Greek.

When it comes to bibles in English, the list is short: The *King James Bible*. Many will not agree, but the issue isn't open to a vote. There were bibles that preceded it, but none have followed it. Contrary to established notation, the KJB is not a version. Calling the KJB the *King James Version* (KJV) is an attempt to demote it to the level of the corrupt versions. None of the "other versions" are God's word. The proof that the KJB is God's word is in the fruit it produces and how it has withstood the attacks over time.

The KJB was called the *Authorized Version* at the time since it replaced its predecessors, which were valid translations. However, they are inferior and no other competitor remains. The predecessors only have historical value today and should not be used to question the KJB. The many corrupt versions are not God's word, as we will see in the next two chapters. Therefore, God's word in English is only available in the KJB. If you want to call the KJB the "King James Version", then go ahead.

Bible Counterfeiting Strategies

If you went to another country for the first time, how would you know if you had real money? Would you even suspect that it could be fake? Figure 7.1 shows a picture of a recent US \$100 bill. Is it a picture of a real one? How would you know? People are trained to identify counterfeit money by knowing what real money looks like. But if you are not trained, you will not know what to look for.



Figure 7.1: Can you spot counterfeit money? The first step is to acknowledge that there might be counterfeit money among the real money. The next step is to know what real money looks like.

But why would someone even bother to counterfeit money in the first place? The idea is to gain the power and authority that the money gives you, but without going through the effort to obtain it properly (i.e., earning it). No counterfeiter would be interested in counterfeiting a few one dollar bills. Rather, he would like a large sum of counterfeit money obtained at a fraction of the cost of the value that it pretends to be. Then, he needs to perform transactions with people who cannot tell it is fake.

7.1 What Is a Counterfeit Bible?

A counterfeit bible looks like a real bible but isn't. Satan isn't going to write a whole book himself. That's a lot of work! Rather, he would take God's word and change it. Here's why:

Galatians 5:9	KJB
9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.	

A little error in the bible makes the whole thing erroneous! The result is no longer God's word; it becomes Satan's word. In Section 1.4, we saw the ways that Satan attacked God's word. All of them corrupt the truth.

Corruptions can occur in two ways. The first is to change the words in the source language (e.g., the Hebrew or the Greek). This is how most errors are introduced. The second is to change how the words are translated. Changing the translation can change the meaning. This happens too because people don't understand what the bible says (i.e., they have a lack of illumination). Translation of a corrupt manuscript will never overcome the error in the source.

Textual criticism assumes that the bible is lost and must be found and reconstructed. But, since God has preserved his word, where is it?

7.2.1.3 Align Changes with False Teachings

It is quite easy to teach the true bible incorrectly. Once that happens, it becomes pretty easy to change the bible to align with the teaching. The error will be widely received if many already believe the error. While we will look at many examples of changes made to the bible, we won't categorize them into what types of changes they are and what doctrines are corrupted. This is an area of more advanced study. I would suggest not wasting your time studying Satan's word and organizing its errors.

7.2.2 Translation Strategies

Translation strategies provide justification for having different translations. These strategies are strengthened by the assumption that we don't have God's word to begin with.

7.2.2.1 Types of Translations

There are a number of ways to translate a group of words. Here are three general categories:

- Word-for-word
- Thought-for-thought
- Paraphrase

In reality, there is a range rather than a discrete set. Figure 7.3 demonstrates this idea.

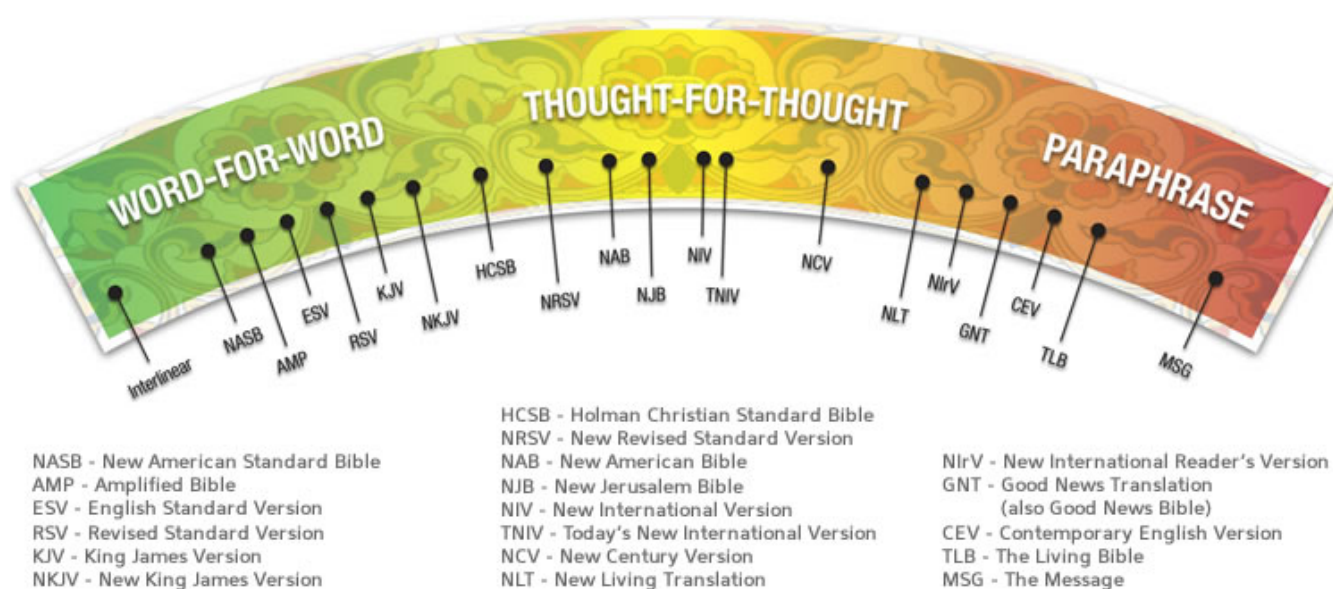


Figure 7.3: The spectrum of translations ranges from *word-for-word* to *thought-for-thought* to *paraphrase*. These are not discrete categories but are themselves ranges. But, don't let concepts like this fool you: the KJB is not just another version (i.e., KJV).

A *word-for-word* translation tends to be the best type of translation. It is closest to the source text. However, the translation can be clumsy due to differences in the language structures. It might be necessary to re-order the words and add a few words, which are not changing the meaning.

A *thought-for-thought* translation can appear to be a good translation. It might communicate the intent rather clearly. The use of specific words that God intended might be lost. Trying to retain these words moves the translation to a word-for-word translation. A man's interpretation of the text tends to be introduced.

A *paraphrase* translation is essentially a commentary rather than a translation. The translator's interpretation is present throughout. Only the immature or lost will prefer such a translation. Some parts of the Bible are quite difficult to understand, so great illumination is required. How can such parts be paraphrased by the unenlightened?

In Figure 7.3, notice how easily the true English bible can become lost among the others. This is aided by calling it a *version*.

7.2.2.2 Copyright Laws

Bible translations are a derivative work from the original. In order to be copyrighted, each must differ from others that already exist. This causes new words to be used in the translation even if they are not appropriate to the meaning. Making money is at the foundation of copyrighting.

1 Timothy 6:10
10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

7.3 The Alexandrian Philosophy

Over time, the counterfeiting strategies have come together in what is called the *Alexandrian philosophy*. That philosophy encompasses the following:

- 1. Only the original texts were inspired (even though they don't exist)
 - 2. Man must continually revise any translations since all are flawed
 - 3. The contradictions in the texts highlight the philosophy (so, never discard what is clearly wrong!)
 - 4. Translations should be adapted to attract the masses
 - 5. Any reader must have the meaning explained from the Hebrew/Greek
 - 6. The oldest texts are the most reliable (they are closer to the originals)—so, only the Minority Texts are used
 - 7. There is only one Hebrew or Greek text: e.g., **the** (original) Greek
 - 8. The Catholic church has been the guardian of the scriptures
 - 9. Other texts besides the bible are as important as the bible (the traditions of men)
- There are probably more points.

Many of the points are easy to refute. For example, the assumption that only the original texts were inspired ignores that the scripture tells us that God would maintain his word using copies and that translation is fundamental to disseminating his word to all people. If God had intended for his word to survive for thousands of years in the original texts, he would have done that.

7.3.1 The Hebrew/Greek Trap

One point of the Alexandrian philosophy used to dupe people is the one where you need someone to explain the meaning from the original language. This is the *Hebrew/Greek trap*. You need someone's help since you don't know the language. The translation has to be considered to be *imperfect* to require this to be necessary.

The classic argument concerns the words translated *love(st)* in the following passage. The English words are highlighted using colors that link them to the source words in the Greek: *agapao* and *phileo*.

John 21:15-17	KJB
15	So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.
16	He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.
17	He saith unto him the third time , Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time , Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Notice that Jesus used *agapao* the first two times and *phileo* the last time. Peter used *phileo* every time. Supposedly, there is some deeper meaning hidden in the words that you need to dig into to find out (better yet, seek the scholar's book!). The translators could have added an adjective in brackets/italics if necessary, or selected a different word altogether. Yet, the scripture says that he has asked the question three times (highlighted in bold). This is the scripture telling you that there is no distinction in this case. So, learn to trust your translation.

If you are not convinced, you can prove the same thing using other verses. Table 7.1 shows a few verses where *agapao* and *phileo* are translated into some form of *love*. Are they really different? Is the first a *sacrificial*, or *godly*, love and the second a *brotherly* love? No, the KJB translators are getting it right.

In the first row, both verses say that the Father loves the Son. The two different Greek words are translated into the same English word. They mean the same thing. In the second row, John 11:5 says that Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, while John 11:3 says that Jesus loved Lazarus. Does the former convey a deeper love than the latter? Of course, it doesn't. The third row demonstrates the concept yet again.

A mature, Berean student (refer to Acts 17:10-11) will reject this *Alexandrian* teaching.



Table 7.1: Example verses from the KJB which demonstrate that the source language word doesn't dictate a different meaning than the English word. Here, two different Greek words are translated as a form of *love*. Each row demonstrates equivalence between the words in the two columns.

<i>agapao</i>		<i>phileo</i>	
John 3:35	The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.	John 5:20	For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.
John 11:5	Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.	John 11:3	Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.
John 12:42-43	Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.	Luke 20:46	Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts;

7.3.2 Uniform Translation

Uniform translation is a mentality that a Hebrew or Greek word should always be translated into the same (English) word. This essentially ignores context. The classic example is the translation of the Greek word *pascha*. This word can mean *passover* or *Easter*. The KJB translates this word as *Easter* once out of 28 instances. Uniform translation demands that a word is translated the same each time.

Acts 12:3-4	KJB
3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)	
4 And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.	

Peter was put in prison during the days of unleavened bread. That period of time (Abib 15-21) follows the passover (Abib 14).¹ So, is Herod saying that he is waiting until after passover, which is already over? No, *Easter* is not a synonym for *passover*. This same passage will be used to expose counterfeit bibles in Chapter 9.

Of course, if you look at more examples, you will see that very many words do not have a uniform translation. For example, the Greek word for *son* (G5207) is translated as (1) son, (2) sons, (3) child, (4) children, and (5) foal. Try to imagine a bible where uniform translation really occurred—yikes! Those who argue for this, do not really believe it should be done everywhere. They are selective when they do it.

7.4 Source Language Lies

There are a couple of lies concerning the source language that the bible was written in. One involves the old testament being translated from the Hebrew into Greek, and that that Greek text is a better source than the Hebrew texts. The other supposes that the new testament was originally written in Hebrew and was later translated into Greek. Yikes! What is going on?

7.4.1 The Septuagint

The *Septuagint* is a Greek translation of the Hebrew old testament (which means it comes into conflict with the Masoretic Text). It is falsely claimed to be translated in c. 250 BC. This allows another false claim that Jesus and disciples quoted from this text. By establishing this lie, more credence is given to the other corrupt Alexandrian texts. This deception will be explained shortly.

The story is that a translation of the old testament into Greek was desired for the Jews living in Alexandria, Egypt. 72 scholars (6 from each tribe of Israel) performed the translation. The *Septuagint* is called the *LXX* (which

¹For more information on Jewish holydays, see the *Biblical Time* study guide [1].

means 70—not 72!). We should remember that only certain Levites, called *scribes*, usually handled the scriptures (refer to Section 5.3). Like the corrupt Alexandrian texts, the *Septuagint* contains the *Apocrypha* (mixed in with the canonical books).

Side Study 7.1: Which Is It? 70 or 72?

“70 or 72” is a funny issue. Another example of this has nothing to do with the *Septuagint*, but it shows up in corrupt translations. Here is what the proper bible says:

Luke 10:1	KJB
1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.	

The corrupt *New International Version* (NIV), like many others, says:

Luke 10:1	NIV
1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.	

This says 72 rather than 70. This is not a translation issue. See *The Biblical Angels* study guide [4] to understand why the number must be 70.

Any references to the *Septuagint* occur no earlier than 200 AD. No one has found any document from the third century BC resembling such a text.

The Christian scholar, Origen, was interested in the textual differences between the Hebrew and the Greek. He arranged the church’s Old Testament in six columns: (1) the Hebrew, (2) a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew, (3) Aquila’s translation, (4) Symmachus’s translation, (5) the *Septuagint*, and (6) Theodotion. The volumes were compiled in Caesarea, probably between 230 and 240 AD, a project funded by Origen’s patron. The resultant work, called the *Hexapla* (meaning *six-fold*), was massive, and has perished except for fragments. Origen was a very careful scholar, but he did not observe modern editorial conventions. His version of the LXX draws from several different manuscript families and embraces readings that bring the text closer to the Hebrew text of his day. Thus, this fifth LXX column, while establishing the first *standardized text* of the Christian church, created problems for modern scholars who would seek to recover a pre-Christian version of the LXX. Like the other corrupt Alexandrian manuscripts, it is written in classical Greek. Origen noted how the new testament writers did not quote the old testament scriptures exactly, so he set out to make them match.

Jesus refuted any claim that he quoted from the *Septuagint* rather simply:

Matthew 5:18	KJB
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.	

A *jot* and *tittle* are markings of the Hebrew language. Similar in concept to a dot on an *i* or a crossing on a *t* This makes no sense to readers of Greek.

Let’s see examples of the edits made to make the *Septuagint*. Brenton’s 1851 *English Septuagint* (BLXX) is an English translation of the *Septuagint*.

7.4.1.1 Substituting a Phrase

In this example, Origen takes information from the new testament and adds it to the old testament. First, the proper verses:

Genesis 47:31	KJB
31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed’s head.	

Hebrews 11:21	KJB
21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, [leaning] upon the top of his staff.	

Genesis 47:31	BLXX
31 And he said, Swear to me; and he swore to him. And Israel did reverence, leaning on the top of his staff.	

7.4.1.2 Joining Verses

Here is another example where new testament information is added to the old testament.

Deuteronomy 32:43	KJB
43 Rejoice, O ye nations, [with] his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, [and] to his people.	

Hebrews 1:6	KJB
6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.	

Deuteronomy 32:43	BLXX
43 Rejoice, ye heavens, with him, and let all the angels of God worship him; rejoice ye Gentiles, with his people, and let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him; for he will avenge the blood of his sons, and he will render vengeance, and recompense justice to his enemies, and will reward them that hate him; and the Lord shall purge the land of his people.	

7.4.1.3 70 not 75

Many Christians are troubled by the next 3 passages, thinking that the bible has an error:

Genesis 46:26-27	KJB
26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls [were] threescore and six;	
27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, [were] two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, [were] threescore and ten.	

Exodus 1:5	KJB
5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt [already].	

Acts 7:14	KJB
14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to [him], and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.	

The differences can be explained by understanding that different lists of people are being counted. This will not be done here.

It might be that Origen couldn't resolve it. So, the second number in *Genesis* and the number in *Exodus* were changed to align with *Acts*.

Genesis 46:26-27	BLXX
26 And all the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, who came out of his loins, besides the wives of the sons of Jacob, even all the souls were sixty-six.	
27 And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in the land of Egypt, were nine souls; all the souls of the house of Jacob who came with Joseph into Egypt, were seventy-five souls.	

Exodus 1:5	BLXX
5 But Joseph was in Egypt. And all the souls born of Jacob were seventy-five.	

7.4.1.4 Adding a Son

Here is another example of putting new testament information back into the old testament. Here is the old testament verse:

Genesis 11:12-13	KJB
12 And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah:	
13 And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.	

Here is what the new testament says:

Luke 3:35-36	KJB
35 Which was [the son] of Saruch, which was [the son] of Ragau, which was [the son] of Phalec, which was [the son] of Heber, which was [the son] of Sala,	
36 Which was [the son] of Cainan, which was [the son] of Arphaxad, which was [the son] of Sem, which was [the son] of Noe, which was [the son] of Lamech,	

In this genealogy, Luke adds a step-father. There are no ages given.

Origin added this information into his version:

Genesis 11:12-13	BLXX
12 And Arphaxad lived a hundred and thirty-five years, and begot Cainan.	
13 And Arphaxad lived after he had begotten Cainan, four hundred years, and begot sons and daughters, and died. And Cainan lived a hundred and thirty years and begot Sala; and Cainan lived after he had begotten Sala, three hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters, and died.	

When this was translated into English, the established verse numberings were retained. So, the added verse piggy-backs the previous, making it one really long verse.

7.4.1.5 Do the Math

The timeline in the bible has all of history occurring in about 7000 years. The time from creation until the call of Abraham is about 2000 years. The time from Abraham until the birth of Jesus is about 2000 years. The dispensation of the grace of God has been almost 2000 years. The millennial reign will be 1000 years. See the *Biblical Time* study guide [1] for details that support these claims. Figure 7.4(a) shows the 7000 years with a breakdown of the first 2000 years.

The *Septuagint* adds 100 to many of the patriarchs' ages in Genesis. The time until Abraham's call becomes over 3000 years. Figure 7.4(b) shows the erroneous timeline. This forces creation to be before 4000 BC. It also has Mathusala surviving the flood! That's an even bigger problem!

7.4.2 The Hebrew Roots Movement

There is a claim that the new testament was originally written in Hebrew. The result of this claim is that we will question the Greek texts. Like the *Septuagint's* claim, the bible easily refutes it.

John 1:41	KJB
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.	

John 4:25	KJB
25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.	

If the NT was originally written in Hebrew, then both passages wouldn't be explaining the Hebrew word *Messias* (Messiah) using a Greek word (*Christ*). The explanatory phrases have not been added. Reject anything that leads you to question the Bible.

Conclusion

Can you use a counterfeit bible? Absolutely—a counterfeit bible has a lot of God's word in it. Are you mature enough to figure out what's right and what's wrong? Expect to have consequences when communing with Satan. What happened to the woman when she listen to the serpent: ... Yea, hath God said... ?

As a Christian matures spiritually, God will lead him to his word. The lost do not mature spiritually: they wander wherever they will.



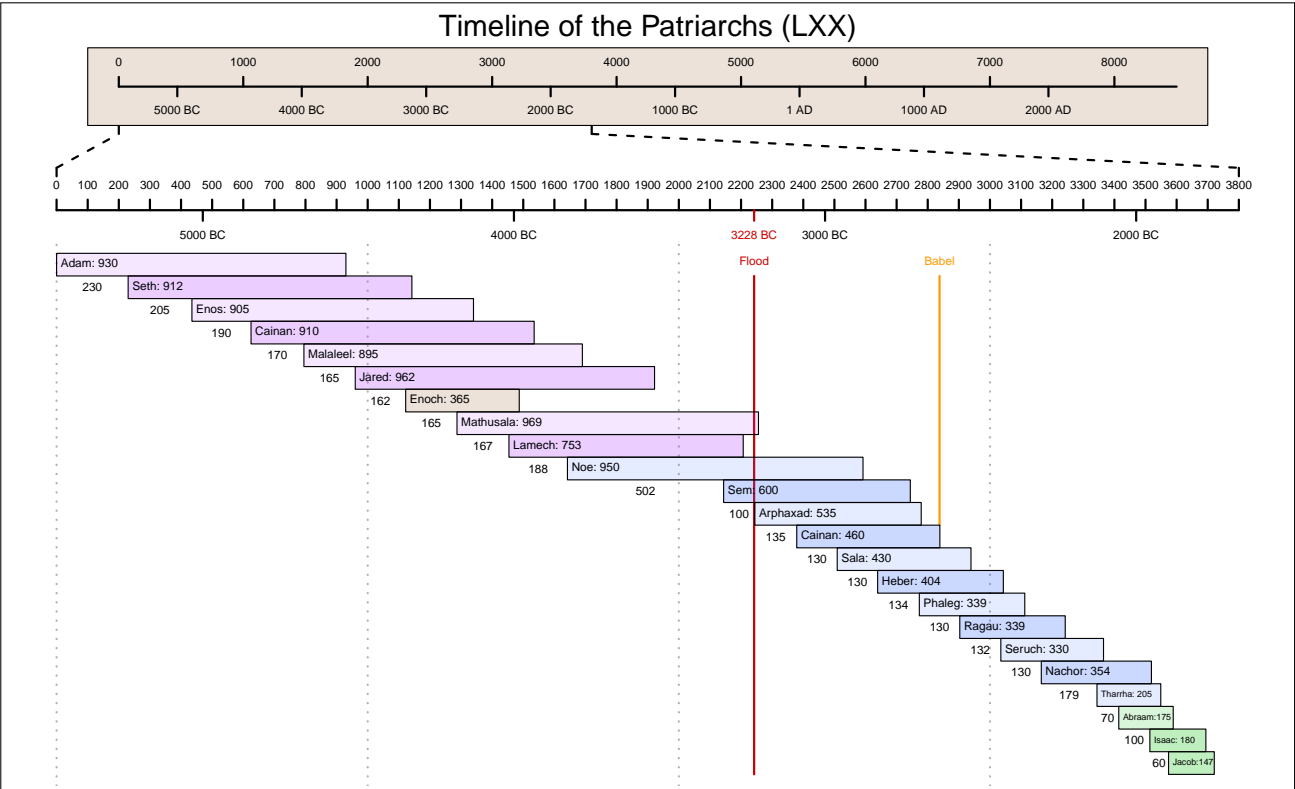
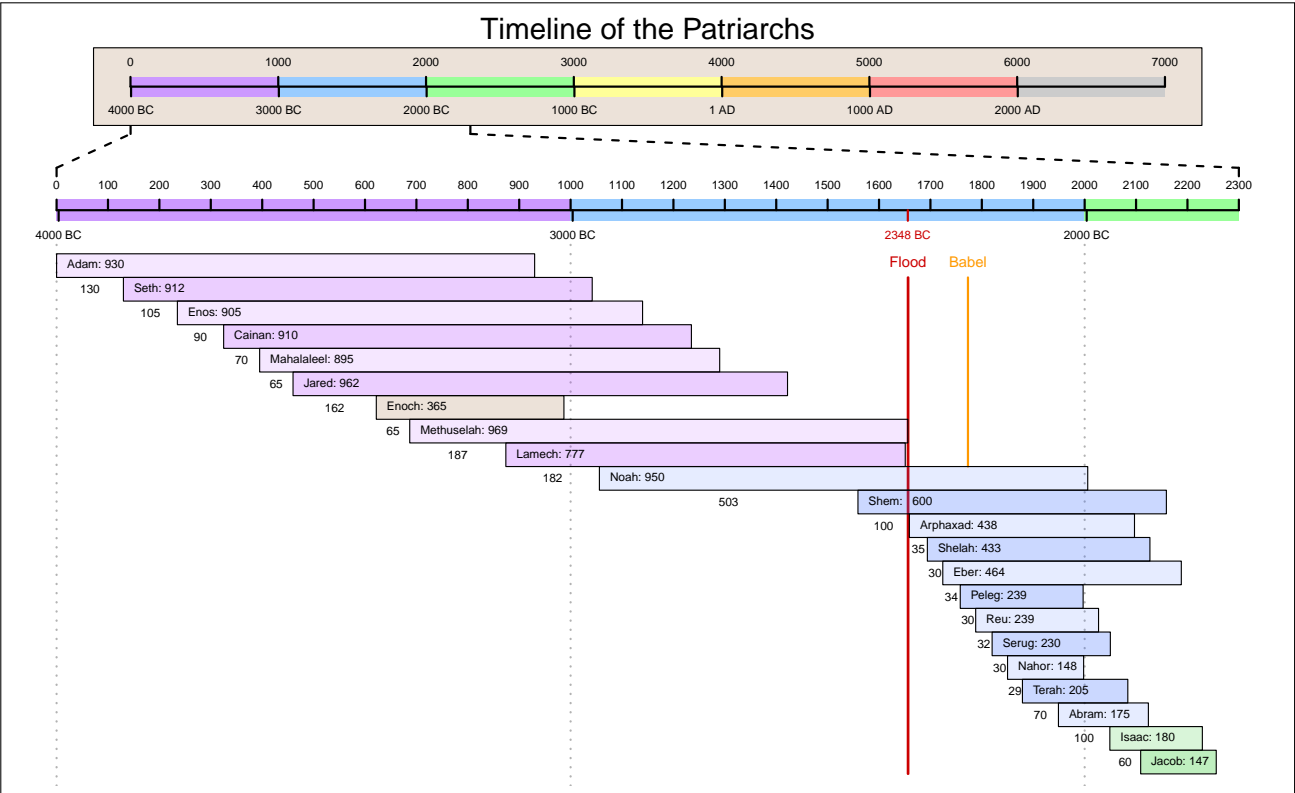


Figure 7.4: The timelines of the patriarchs according to (a) the KJB and (b) the BLXX.

Identifying Corrupt Sources

When picking a bible, you would like one without errors in it. You might ask: “Well, how am I going to know that?” This chapter will show you a simple test that will eliminate most bibles from the list of candidates (we’ll eliminate almost all the others in a later chapter). We’ll also look at the fact that these bibles have errors in the source text. This means that translation has nothing to do with it. We will look at translation problems later.

2 Corinthians 4:2	KJB
2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.	

We will notice that corrupt bibles acknowledge the true bible with footnotes and verse numberings. In the latter case, verse numbers might have missing numbers for verses that have been removed. The true bible simply acknowledges that corrupt bibles will exist because there are false teachers.

8.1 The “Mark 1, 2, 3” Test

There are many verses that can be used to expose the bibles with a corrupt source text. I will just highlight one. “Mark 1, 2, 3” should be an easy thing to remember. It really stands for “Mark 1:2-3”. Let’s see that passage in the *King James Bible*:

Mark 1:2-3	KJB
2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.	
3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.	

Because two different prophets are referenced, the scripture says “written in the prophets”. Verse 2 references Malachi 3:1:

Malachi 3:1	KJB
1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.	

Verse 3 references Isaiah 40:3:

Isaiah 40:3	KJB
3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.	

Here’s what the NIV says:

Mark 1:2-3	NIV
2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” [a]___	
3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” [b]	
footnotes: [a] Malachi 3:1, [b] Isaiah 40:3	

Obviously, the quote in verse 2 isn't written in *Isaiah*. You can try looking for it, but you'll never find it in there. The footnotes aren't scripture, and these footnotes are actually highlighting the error. Is it a translation error? How could someone have messed that up?

Let's see what was in the original source texts for the KJB and the NIV.¹

Mark 1:2	KJB
As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, <i>hos grapho en to prophetes idou ego apostello mou aggelos pro sou prosopon</i>	
which shall prepare thy way before thee. <i>hos/he/ho kataskeuazo sou hodos emprosthen sou</i>	

Mark 1:2	NIV
as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who <i>kathos gegraptai en Esaia to prophete apostello mou angelon pro hos</i>	
will prepare your way”— <i>kataskeuasei sou hodon</i>	

One thing that you should notice is that there are similar English words, like “it is written”, in the two translations, yet they seem to come from different Greek words (i.e., *grapho* vs. *gegraptai*). Why is that? Well, the KJB comes from a common (or, *Koine*) Greek. This was the Greek spoken by most of the Roman empire during the first century. The NIV comes from a classical Greek. It was not the Greek of the first century. That should tell you something very definitive right there.

The other thing to notice is that the NIV's Greek specifically calls out *Isaiah* (i.e., *Esaia*), while the KJB's Greek does not. This is **not** a difference in translation. The source texts are different. And we know that one of the quotes is **not** from *Isaiah*. The NIV clearly demonstrates itself to be wrong.

The NIV's source Greek cannot be the text with the words inspired by God since it contains an error. So, the simplest explanation is the the KJB's Greek came first and someone translated into the other Greek later. But why would someone change the text? Is this a mistake or was it intentional? We shouldn't care: Just stick with the bible that is known to be correct. But, of course, Satan's ministers want you to think that the KJB has errors too. That has never been demonstrated once in over 400 years.²

We're going to look at this problem in many bibles. They are summarized for you below in Table 8.1. We will look at Mark 1:2-3 from each bible shortly. The bibles are divided into those that appear to have the correct source and those that definitely do not. The verses were taken from <https://www.biblegateway.com>. You may be able to find a bible that is not listed in Table 8.1, but you can simply look at Mark 1:2-3 in it to see the evidence.

For the bibles that appear to have the correct source, we will investigate these further in Chapter 9 to see what is wrong with most of them.

Side Study 8.1: The “Zechariah 11, 12, 13” Accusation

Those that want corrupt bibles will justify the error in Mark 1:2-3 with these passages:

Matthew 27:9-10

- 9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;
- 10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

¹I did my best to find the source language words for the NIV.

²Yes, there are accusations that the KJB has errors. But every accusation is answered with proof as to why it is a false accusation. You'll have to research this yourself since it will not be done in this book.



Table 8.1: A summary of bibles that appear to have the correct and incorrect source.

Correct Source	Incorrect Source	
King James Bible 21st Century King James Version Blue Red and Gold Letter Edition Bible Geneva Bible Jubilee Bible Modern English Version Modern King James Version New King James Version New Life Version New Matthew Bible Revised Geneva Translation World English Bible Worldwide English (New Testament) Young's Literal Translation	American Standard Version Amplified Bible Amplified Bible, Classic Edition Christian Standard Bible Complete Jewish Bible Common English Bible Contemporary English Version Darby Translation Disciples' Literal New Testament Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition Easy-to-Read Version <i>English Standard Version</i> (ESV) ESV Anglicised Evangelical Heritage Version Expanded Bible GOD'S WORD Translation Good News Translation Holman Christian Standard Bible International Children's Bible International Standard Version J.B. Phillips New Testament Lexham English Bible Living Bible	The Message Mounce Reverse Interlinear NT Names of God Bible New American Bible (Revised Edition) New American Standard Bible New American Standard Bible 1995 New Catholic Bible New Century Version New English Translation New International Reader's Version New International Version New International Version - UK New Living Translation <i>New Revised Standard Version</i> (NRSV) NRSV, Anglicised NRSV, Anglicised Catholic Edition NRSV Catholic Edition New Testament for Everyone <i>Revised Standard Version</i> (RSV) RSV Catholic Edition The Voice Tree of Life Version Wycliffe Bible

Zechariah 11:12-13

- 12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give [me] my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty [pieces] of silver.
- 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty [pieces] of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

It appears that what is referenced to be in *Jeremiah* actually is written in *Zechariah*. So, the accusation is that the KJB also has an error (because all bibles are supposed to have errors).

But note that *Matthew* said that it was spoken by Jeremiah, not written by him. The bible often provides challenges like this to see if you will study and convince yourself that God is always right!

8.1.1 Bibles That Get It Right

Next we will show Mark 1:2-3 from the bibles that appear to have the proper source text. Some words are highlighted because of excessive capitalization. This isn't an error, but a preference of the translation. Capitalization often suggests a reference to God. If that is the case, why capitalize "prophets"? The KJB will often capitalize names and titles, but not pronouns. Excessive capitalization can be problematic, as we will investigate later.

There are a couple of bibles that try to steal the authority of the KJB by putting "King James" in their names. But I have left these as *versions* because they compromise like corrupt bibles do.

Mark 1:2-3	
King James Bible	As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
21st Century King James Version	As it is written in the Prophets : "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way before Thee ." "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'"

Blue Red and Gold Letter Edition Bible	As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
Geneva Bible	As it is written in the Prophets , Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, is, Prepare the way of the Lord: make his paths straight
Jubilee Bible	as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.
Modern English Version	As it is written in the Prophets : “Look, I am sending My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You .” “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.’”
Modern King James Version	As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, Which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight.
New King James Version	As it is written in the Prophets : “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You .” “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”
New Life Version	begins with the words of the early preachers: “Listen! I will send My helper to carry the news ahead of you. He will make the way ready. His voice calls out in the desert, ‘Make the way ready for the Lord. Make the road straight for Him !’”
New Matthew Bible	as it is written in the prophets: Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you. The voice of a crier in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight!
Revised Geneva Translation	As it is written in the Prophets , “Behold, I send My Messenger before your face, Who shall prepare your way before you. “The voice of him who cries in the wilderness, is, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord! Make His paths straight!’”
World English Bible	As it is written in the prophets, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you: the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!’”
Worldwide English (New Testament)	The men of God, called prophets, long ago wrote about it this way: God said, ‘See, I send my man ahead of you to tell about you. He will make the way ready for you. A man is calling out in the desert, “Make the way ready for the Lord. Make the road straight for him.”’
Young’s Literal Translation	As it hath been written in the prophets, ‘Lo, I send My messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee;— ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, straight make ye his paths,’

8.1.2 Bibles That Get It Wrong

For the bibles that get it wrong, we will simply highlight the reference to “Isaiah”. This is the proper translation of a text that has obviously been modified. You might find some translational problems like “angel” (e.g., Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition and Wycliffe Bible). John the Baptist was not an angel. Excessive capitalization is not highlighted since we are not really interested in what any of these translations have to say.

Mark 1:2-3	
American Standard Version	Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, Who shall prepare thy way; The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ye ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight;
Amplified Bible	As it is written and forever remains in the [writings of the] prophet Isaiah : “Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way— A voice of one shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’”
Amplified Bible, Classic Edition	Just as it is written in the prophet Isaiah : Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will make ready Your way— A voice of one crying in the wilderness [shouting in the desert], Prepare the way of the Lord, make His beaten tracks straight (level and passable)!
Christian Standard Bible	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight

Complete Jewish Bible	It is written in the prophet Yesha'yahu , "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare the way before you." "The voice of someone crying out: 'In the desert prepare the way for Adonai! Make straight paths for him!'"
Common English Bible	happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah : Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."
Contemporary English Version	It began just as God had said in the book written by Isaiah the prophet, "I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you. In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'"
Darby Translation	as it is written in [Isaiah] the prophet, Behold, *I* send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way. Voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of [the] Lord, make his paths straight.
Disciples' Literal New Testament	Just as it has been written in Isaiah the prophet—"Behold, I am sending-forth My messenger ahead of Your presence, who will make Your way ready: A voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord; be making His paths straight'"—
Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition	As it is written in Isaia s the prophet: Behold I send my angel before thy face, who shall prepare the way before thee. A voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.
Easy-to-Read Version	with what the prophet Isaiah said would happen. He wrote: "Listen! I will send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare the way for you." "There is someone shouting in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight for him.'"
English Standard Version	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
English Standard Version Anglicised	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
Evangelical Heritage Version	This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah : Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way for you. A voice of one calling out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."
Expanded Bible	as the prophet Isaiah wrote: "[Look; Behold,] I will send [am sending] my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." "This is a voice of one who calls out [shouts; cries out] in the desert [wilderness]: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight [a clear path] for him.'"
GOD'S WORD Translation	The prophet Isaiah wrote, "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare the way for you." "A voice cries out in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord! Make his paths straight!'"
Good News Translation	It began as the prophet Isaiah had written: "God said, 'I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!'"
Holman Christian Standard Bible	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way. A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!
International Children's Bible	as the prophet Isaiah wrote: "I will send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare your way." "There is a voice of a man who calls out in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight for him.'"
International Standard Version	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , "See! I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way. He is a voice calling out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord! Make his paths straight!'"
J.B. Phillips New Testament	this prophecy of Isaiah —"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you'. 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'.
Lexham English Bible	Just as it is written in the prophet Isaiah , "Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!'"
Living Bible	In the book written by the prophet Isaiah , God announced that he would send his Son to earth, and that a special messenger would arrive first to prepare the world for his coming. "This messenger will live out in the barren wilderness," Isaiah said, "and will proclaim that everyone must straighten out his life to be ready for the Lord's arrival."*

The Message	following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah . Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you; He'll make the road smooth for you. Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!
Mounce Reverse Interlinear NT	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, a voice calling out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"
Names of God Bible	The prophet Isaiah wrote, "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare the way for you." "A voice cries out in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord! Make his paths straight!'"
New American Bible (Rev. Edition)	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"
New American Standard Bible	just as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending My messenger before You, Who will prepare Your way; The voice of one calling out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"
New American Standard Bible 1995	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way; The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.'"
New Catholic Bible	It is written in the prophet Isaiah : "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"
New Century Version	as the prophet Isaiah wrote: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." "This is a voice of one who calls out in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight for him.'"
New English Translation	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , "Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.'"
New International Reader's Version	Long ago Isaiah the prophet wrote, "I will send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare your way." "A messenger is calling out in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him.'"
New International Version	as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
New International Version - UK	as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' — 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
New Living Translation	just as the prophet Isaiah had written: "Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!'"
New Revised Standard Version	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight",
New Revised Standard Ver., Ang. Catholic Ed.	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight",
New Revised Standard Version Catholic Ed.	As it is written in the prophet Isaiah , "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
New Testament for Everyone	Isaiah the prophet put it like this ('Look! I am sending my messenger ahead of me; he will clear the way for you!'): 'A shout goes up in the desert: Make way for the Lord! Clear a straight path for him!'
Revised Standard Version	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—"
Revised Standard Version Catholic Ed.	As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—"

The Voice	Isaiah the prophet told us what would happen before He came: Watch, I will send My messenger in front of You to prepare Your way and make it clear and straight. You'll hear him, a voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Eternal One, a straight way in the wandering desert, a highway for our God."
Tree of Life Version	As Isaiah the prophet has written, "Behold, I send My messenger before You, who will prepare Your way. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of Adonai, and make His paths straight.'"
Wycliffe Bible	As it is written in Esaias , the prophet, Lo! I send mine angel before thy face, that shall make thy way ready before thee. The voice of a crier in desert, Make ye ready the way of the Lord, make ye his paths right.

The fact that many of the corrupt bibles put *Bible* in their titles does not make them God's word.

8.2 Omitted Verses

Omitted verses are missing from the source text. Of course, the advocates of the corrupt bibles will say that the verses were added to the proper source text. Because these verses are missing in the corrupt source text, they aren't translated. The omissions are predominantly in the new testament. What is presented is not a complete list.

So, what do corrupt bibles do with the missing verses? They often get them from another source that has them. Consider this verse which is in the KJB but not in many corrupt bibles:

Acts 8:37	KJB
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.	

I'll never forget hearing about this when I had an NIV bible. I opened my bible to Acts 8 and this is what I saw (I've only shown the verses before and after the missing one):

Acts 8:36-38	NIV
36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"	
38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.	

There was no verse 37 yet the numbering skipped 37! Corrupt bibles will often have footnotes that fill in what's missing. That acknowledges the true source text. And so does the numbering. Recall from Side Study 6.4 that translations from the proper source text had verse numbers added before the corrupt English versions were produced.

Many of the following groups of omissions are presented with little to no discussion.

8.2.1 Omissions from *Matthew*

Matthew 9:34	KJB
34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.	
Matthew 12:47	KJB
47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.	
Matthew 17:21	KJB
21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.	
Matthew 18:11	KJB
11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	
Matthew 21:44	KJB
44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.	

8.2.2 Omissions from *Mark*

Mark 9:34	KJB
34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who [should be] the greatest.	

The KJB has a particular verse three times as Mark 9:44, 46, and 48. The corrupted source removes two of the three:

Mark 9:44	KJB
44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.	

Mark 9:46	KJB
46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.	

Mark 11:26	KJB
26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.	

Mark 15:28	KJB
28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.	

Mark 16:9-20	KJB
<p>9 Now when [Jesus] was risen early the first [day] of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.</p> <p>10 [And] she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.</p> <p>11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.</p> <p>12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.</p> <p>13 And they went and told [it] unto the residue: neither believed they them.</p> <p>14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.</p> <p>15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.</p> <p>16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.</p> <p>17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;</p> <p>18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.</p> <p>19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.</p> <p>20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.</p>	

That is a large passage to have missing. Mark's account ends rather suddenly without this passage.

8.2.3 Omissions from *Luke*

Luke 17:36	KJB
36 Two [men] shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.	

Luke 22:20	KJB
20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup [is] the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.	

Luke 23:17	KJB
17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)	

Luke 24:12	KJB
12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.	

Luke 24:40	KJB
40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them [his] hands and [his] feet.	

8.2.4 Omissions from *John*

John 5:3-4	KJB
3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.	

John 7:53-8:11	KJB
53 And every man went unto his own house. 1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with [his] finger wrote on the ground, [as though he heard them not]. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard [it], being convicted by [their own] conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, [even] unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.	

8.2.5 Other New Testament Omissions

Acts 15:34	KJB
34 Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.	

Acts 28:29	KJB
29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.	

Romans 16:24	KJB
24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.	

8.3 The Consequences of Corruptions

Some do not think the Mark 1:2-3 issue is very serious since the footnotes supposedly fix the problem. Man doesn't come behind God's word and add footnotes to it in order to correct it. But, they miss the point that there can be a multitude of other errors.

Let's see some other examples. In the examples, comparisons will show the KJB in green. The NIV will be in grey when it is not particularly erroneous; it will be in red when it is.

8.3.1 Who Slew Goliath?

An unreliable bible can cause confusion when different verses are involved. An easy example involves who killed Goliath. 1 Samuel 17 tells the story of David killing Goliath. Here is one verse that states the fact.

1 Samuel 17:51	
KJB	Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.
NIV	David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

Both say that David killed Goliath and that Goliath carried a sword. But now, trouble comes in the NIV:

2 Samuel 21:19	
KJB	And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew [the brother of] Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear [was] like a weaver's beam.
NIV	In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod.

The KJB says that Elhanan killed the brother of Goliath. Note that "the brother of" appears in brackets (printed bibles probably will use italics). This means the translators have added these words. Did they add to God's word? Let's keep going. The NIV says that Elhanan killed Goliath! What? I thought David did. Let's confirm that this is an error.

1 Chronicles 20:5	
KJB	And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff [was] like a weaver's beam.
NIV	In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod.

Now, both the KJB and NIV state that Elhanan killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath. This is why the KJB translators have added words in the previous verse. The NIV translators might have been faithful to the translation, but clearly have introduced an error in the resulting NIV.

8.3.2 Is Anger a Sin?

Let's see the difference between the true English bible and a corrupt one. A corrupt bible will declare Jesus to be a sinner!

Matthew 5:22	
KJB	But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.
NIV	But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

The KJB qualifies that anger without a cause is a sin; however, when there is a proper cause it is not. The NIV leaves out the qualification and opens the door to the accusation against Jesus.

Mark 3:5	
KJB	And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts , he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.
NIV	He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts , said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

Both of the translations says that Jesus was angry with a cause. But the NIV has already established that the cause is irrelevant when determining whether it is sin.

8.3.3 Drink No Wine Before the Time

Jesus said that he would drink no more wine before the kingdom comes.

Matthew 26:29	
KJB	But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.
NIV	I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

But let's see what happened on the cross:

John 19:29	
KJB	Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put [it] upon hyssop, and put [it] to his mouth.
NIV	A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

The NIV puts wine in his mouth. That's shameful because it makes him a liar and a sinner (again).

8.3.4 Who's Your Daddy?

The KJB makes distinctions when referring to Joseph as Jesus' step-father. Here is a great example:

Luke 3:23		KJB
23	And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was [the son] of Heli,	

Other people who knew Joseph and Mary would think of Jesus as Joseph's son. But scripture continues to teach you that Joseph is not really Jesus' father:

Luke 2:33	
KJB	And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.
NIV	The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

The NIV does not distinguish and presents Joseph as Jesus' father. This is not a translation issue. The KJB's Greek has the word for *Joseph*. The NIV's corrupt Greek has the word for *father*. The NIV's translators translated into English correctly; the mistake is in the source Greek.

The distinction continues here:

Luke 2:43	
KJB	And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not [of it].
NIV	After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

Note the subtle insertion of *parents* into the NIV's source text. The change in the text may be a result of what happens elsewhere in scripture. In this verse, we read that Mary refers to Joseph as Jesus' father:

Luke 2:48	
KJB	And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
NIV	When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

This is because Mary is talking. She treats Jesus like he is Joseph's son, and so she refers to Joseph as "thy father". Also, note the lowercase "f".

Compare that with what follows, in which case the NIV gets this one correct.

Luke 2:49	
KJB	And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
NIV	"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

The KJB is consistently correct; the NIV is only sometimes correct. These examples mean little to the casual reader, but are big problems to the one who seriously studies.

8.3.5 Is It "Not" or Not?

Here is another easy-to-demonstrate source text problem:

Colossians 2:18	
KJB	Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
NIV	Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

The KJB has the word "not" in the source text; the NIV does not. Well, these are completely opposites. The KJB says that the person has not seen what he's telling you. The NIV says that he is telling you what he has seen. Perhaps you will still conclude that the person really hasn't seen what he is telling you. But the point is that the source texts are different.

Here's another example where the KJB has "not" and the NIV does not:

Isaiah 9:3	
KJB	Thou hast multiplied the nation, [and] not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, [and] as [men] rejoice when they divide the spoil.
NIV	You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

In this case, we are not dealing with the common vs. classical Greek of the new testament. We are in the old testament where we would expect no difference in the Hebrew. But, someone changed something!

8.4 Comparisons of Corrupt Perversions

We'll look at how other versions change the meaning of the text. I will show some other corrupt translations besides the NIV. The other corrupt bibles are:

- NRSV: 1989 New Revised Standard Version
- NAS: 1995 New American Standard Version
- BLXX: Brenton's 1851 English Septuagint (old testament only)

The Septuagint will be discussed further in Subsection 7.4.1. The Septuagint is a translation of the old testament Hebrew to Greek and then to English. However, the translation to Greek included further changes.

The KJB will be shown in green. Acceptable corrupt translations are in grey. Questionable translations are in yellow and unacceptable ones are in red.

We will start with the simple example of Exodus 3:14. It is hard to say that the questionable translations are bad. The BLXX is definitely strange.

Exodus 3:14	
KJB	And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.
NIV	God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
NRSV	God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
NAS	God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
BLXX	And God spoke to Moses, saying, I am THE BEING ; and he said, Thus shall ye say to the children of Israel, THE BEING has sent me to you.

Job 30:15 is likely to be a source text problem. Can "soul" and "dignity/honor" come from the same word? Are there different Hebrew source texts?

Job 30:15	
KJB	Terrors are turned upon me: they pursue my soul as the wind: and my welfare passeth away as a cloud.
NIV	Terrors overwhelm me; my dignity is driven away as by the wind, my safety vanishes like a cloud.
NRSV	Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.
NAS	"Terrors are turned against me; They pursue my honor as the wind, And my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.
BLXX	My pains return upon me; my hope is gone like the wind, and my safety as a cloud.

Psalms 12:6-7 demonstrates how far off these corruptions can get. Is God preserving his word? or his people?

Psalms 12:6-7	
KJB	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.
NIV	And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay , purified seven times. O LORD, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people for ever.
NRSV	The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure, silver refined in a furnace on the ground , purified seven times. You, O LORD, will protect us; you will guard us from this generation forever.
NAS	The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth , refined seven times. You, O LORD, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever.
BLXX	The oracles of the Lord are pure oracles; as silver tried in the fire, proved [in] a furnace of earth , purified seven times. Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us, and shalt preserve us , from this generation, and for ever.

Psalms 72:5 is another case that demonstrates how different the KJB is from the others. Some people think that other translations can help you understand the KJB better. How can darkness shed light on truth?

Psalms 72:5	
KJB	They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.
NIV	He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.
NRSV	May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
NAS	Let them fear You while the sun [endures], And as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
BLXX	And he shall continue as long as the sun, and before the moon for ever.

In the next example, is it Satan, or the devil? or any accuser/adversary?

Psalms 109:6	
KJB	Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.
NIV	Appoint an evil man to oppose him; let an accuser stand at his right hand.
NRSV	They say, "Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand on his right.
NAS	Appoint a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand.
BLXX	Set thou a sinner against him; and let the devil stand at his right hand.

You'll have to decide if the different translations of Proverbs 18:24 are saying the same thing or not.

Proverbs 18:24	
KJB	A man [that hath] friends must shew himself friendly : and there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother.
NIV	A man of many companions may come to ruin , but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
NRSV	Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.
NAS	A man of [too many] friends [comes] to ruin , But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
BLXX	[omitted in source text]

Proverbs 26:10	
KJB	The great [God] that formed all [things] both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.
NIV	Like an archer who wounds at random is he who hires a fool or any passer-by.
NRSV	Like an archer who wounds everybody is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.
NAS	Like an archer who wounds everyone , So is he who hires a fool or who hires those who pass by.
BLXX	All the flesh of fools endures much hardship; for their fury is brought to nought.

Is it the spirit? or wind?

Ecclesiastes 8:8	
KJB	[There is] no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit ; neither [hath he] power in the day of death: and [there is] no discharge in [that] war ; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.
NIV	No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no-one has power over the day of his death. As no-one is discharged in time of war , so wickedness will not release those who practise it.
NRSV	No one has power over the wind to restrain the wind , or power over the day of death; there is no discharge from the battle , nor does wickedness deliver those who practice it.
NAS	No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind , or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge in the time of war , and evil will not deliver those who practice it.
BLXX	There is no man that has power over the spirit to retain the spirit ; and there is no power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in the day of the battle ; neither shall ungodliness save her votary.

Note how the newer translations use more archaic language: prefects and satraps. Yet they claim to be using more modern English.

Daniel 6:7	
KJB	All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors , and the princes , the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.
NIV	The royal administrators, prefects , satraps , advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.
NRSV	All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps , the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions.
NAS	"All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps , the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den.
BLXX	All who preside over thy kingdom, captains and satraps , chiefs and local governors, have taken counsel together, to establish by a royal statute and to confirm a decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

Seems the NIV, NAS, and BLXX missed this one.

Hosea 11:12	
KJB	Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God , and is faithful with the saints.
NIV	Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, the house of Israel with deceit. And Judah is unruly against God , even against the faithful Holy One.
NRSV	Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit; but Judah still walks with God , and is faithful to the Holy One.
NAS	Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit; Judah is also unruly against God , Even against the Holy One who is faithful.
BLXX	Ephraim has compassed me with falsehood, and the house of Israel and Juda with ungodliness : [but] now God knows them, and they shall be called God's holy people.

The BLXX will not have an new testament passages and so will be omitted from the remaining examples. Next, the NIV, NRSV, and NAS claim that no repentance necessary!!!

Matthew 9:13	
KJB	But go ye and learn what [that] meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance .
NIV	But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
NRSV	Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."
NAS	"But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The NIV, NRSV, and NAS do not know what time it is!

Matthew 25:13	
KJB	Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh .
NIV	"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
NRSV	Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
NAS	"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Luke 2:22	
KJB	And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;
NIV	When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
NRSV	And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord
NAS	When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

The NRSV and NAS omit an important phrase from the text:

Luke 4:4	
KJB	And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.
NIV	And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.
NRSV	Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"
NAS	And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"

Evidently, the NIV, NRSV, and NAS are much clearer with the text omitted:

Luke 4:8	
KJB	And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
NIV	Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
NRSV	Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"
NAS	Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

Luke 10:1	
KJB	After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.
NIV	After this the Lord appointed seventy-two ^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. footnote ^[a] : some manuscripts read "seventy"
NRSV	After this the Lord appointed seventy ^[b] others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. footnote ^[b] : some manuscripts read "seventy-two"
NAS	Now after this the Lord appointed seventy ^[b] others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. footnote ^[b] : some manuscripts read "seventy-two"

Whoops, here is a major omission from the NIV, NRSV, and NAS!

Romans 8:1	
KJB	There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
NIV	Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
NRSV	There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
NAS	Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Next, the Alexandrian philosophy allows lying!

Romans 13:9	
KJB	For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness , Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
NIV	The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself."
NRSV	The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
NAS	For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

In the next verse, what is all that capitalization in the NAS for?

1 Timothy 3:16	
KJB	And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
NIV	Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
NRSV	Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.
NAS	By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

KJB exposes the false science that exists today.

1 Timothy 6:20	
KJB	O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:
NIV	Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge ,
NRSV	Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge ;
NAS	O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called " knowledge "—

"Rightly dividing" is a better explanation for stating that some scriptures are only applicable in some dispensations. But, of course, the Alexandrian philosophy denies dispensationalism.

2 Timothy 2:15	
KJB	Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
NIV	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
NRSV	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.
NAS	Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Why is "eagle" a better translation when the whole book is full of references to angels?

Revelation 8:13	
KJB	And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!
NIV	As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in mid-air call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"
NRSV	Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew in midheaven, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"
NAS	Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

There's a big difference between "I" (John) and "the dragon"! The NRSV resolves this by leaving out the underlined phrase/sentence altogether.

Revelation 13:1	
KJB	And <u>I stood upon the sand of the sea</u> , and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
NIV	<u>And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea.</u> And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.
NRSV	And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names.
NAS	<u>And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.</u> Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

Again, these are not translational differences.

Revelation 22:14	
KJB	Blessed are they that do his commandments , that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
NIV	"Blessed are those who wash their robes , that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.
NRSV	Blessed are those who wash their robes , so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
NAS	Blessed are those who wash their robes , so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Conclusion

If you want a bible with errors, you have a lot of choices. I call it *Satan's bible buffet*! The text that these bad bibles come from are Catholic in origin. If you don't want errors, it looks like you have a few choices. Further studies will show that there aren't really that many. Some of these still have translation problems.

The perversions are not "other versions" of the bible. They come from a different source. God said not to make changes to his word. The perversions have done that. It isn't God's word any more. Use one at your own risk.

Identifying the KJB Impostors

The KJB impostors leverage the name and strong foundation of the *King James Bible*, but then compromise both with the philosophies of the corrupt bibles. If God has established his word in English, how could one think of improving it? The *English* of the KJB is a dead version of English. Trying to *update* it with a modern version of English destroys the clarity of the definitions of the updated words. You have to start with the wrong perspective of the bible to think you can improve it!

One of the bibles that comes from the proper source texts is the *Geneva Bible*. It is a predecessor to the KJB, which will simply highlight its lack of maturity. A recent attempt to revise this bible is a foolish effort since God has already preserved his word in English in the KJB. Why does God need two differing English translations? But it is easy to show a flaw in both of these bibles (i.e., *Geneva Bible* and *Revised Geneva Translation*).

9.1 The “Acts 1, 2, 3, 4” Test

Just as “Mark 1, 2, 3” stood for “Mark 1:2-3”, “Acts 1, 2, 3, 4” stands for “Acts 12:3-4”. Let’s see how the bibles that passed the former test do on this one. We’ll start with the KJB and the ones that use the word *Easter*:

Acts 12:3-4	
King James Bible	And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
21st Century King James Version	And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (This was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to guard him, intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
Blue Red and Gold Letter Edition Bible	And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

It is sad that people think they are going to improve a translation by changing a few words. They think it is an improvement because of the Alexandrian philosophy of uniform translation (this example was discussed in Subsection 7.3.2). When the changed words violate the doctrine, then the changes are a failure. The word *Easter* is appropriate word choice since the passover has already passed. But the impostors will introduce error by trying to make an improvement.

Acts 12:3-4	
Geneva Bible	And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further, to take Peter also (then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had caught him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to be kept, intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people.

Jubilee Bible	And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him, intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people.
Modern English Version	Seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to arrest Peter also. This happened during the Days of Unleavened Bread. When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him before the people after the Passover .
Modern King James Version	And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he went further to seize Peter also. (And they were days of Unleavened [Bread].) And capturing [him], he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four sets of four soldiers to keep him; intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover .
New King James Version	And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover .
New Life Version	When he saw that it made the Jews happy, he took hold of Peter also. This was during the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Herod took Peter and put him in prison and had sixteen soldiers watch him. After the special religious gathering was over, he planned to bring Peter out to the people.
New Matthew Bible	And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further and took Peter also. This was during the days of sweet bread . And when he had caught Peter, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to be kept, intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people.
Revised Geneva Translation	And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further, to take Peter also (during the Days of Unleavened Bread.) And when he had caught him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to be kept, intending to bring him forth to the people after the Passover .
World English Bible	When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This was during the days of unleavened bread. When he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers each to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover .
Worldwide English (New Testament)	He saw that this pleased the leaders of the Jews, so he caught Peter also. This happened at the Jewish feast which they had each year to remember leaving Egypt. (It was called the Passover Feast .) After Herod had caught Peter, he put him in prison. He told four groups of soldiers to guard him. There were four soldiers in each group. He planned to bring him out for trial before the people. But he would do it after the Passover Feast .
Young's Literal Translation	and having seen that it is pleasing to the Jews, he added to lay hold of Peter also – and they were the days of the unleavened food – whom also having seized, he did put in prison, having delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to guard him, intending after the passover to bring him forth to the people.

A couple of versions attempt to resolve the problem using other terminology: e.g., “special religious gathering” and “Passover Feast”. But these phrases will probably make it hard to study the entirety of scripture. This is a case where deep understanding is needed to avoid changing words on a whim. The KJB does refer to the *feast of unleavened bread* as the *feast of passover*:

Luke 2:41	KJB
41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.	

The passover was to be eaten the first day and not after. This passage makes that fact clear:

Mark 14:1	KJB
1 After two days was [the feast of] the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put [him] to death.	

The two phrases are not synonyms. Note that Luke wrote both Luke 2:41 and Acts 12:3-4. He made it clear in the latter that he is talking about the days of unleavened bread. The passover is already passed.¹

¹For more information on Jewish holydays, see the *Biblical Time* study guide [1].

9.2 The BRG Perversion

Many rave about the red-letter edition bible, which has the words of Jesus in red. The problem with this concept is that it draws attention to Jesus' ministry to Israel and draws us away from the teachings of our apostle Paul. Since most of Christianity does not rightly divide, of course, such a bible is popular.

Then came the *Blue Red and Gold (BRG) Bible*. While this has the same English words as the KJB, the visual distractions introduce an emphasis that the scriptures do not directly present. The BRG puts the words of the Father (or, God) in blue, the words of Jesus in red, and references to the Holy Ghost in gold. Anything said by the Holy Ghost is actually underlined (why aren't they gold?). The words of angels are also underlined. Supposedly, other heavenly hosts are also underlined, but what other heavenly hosts are there besides angels (well, tradition teaches that there are others)?²

First let's notice that the words of angels are underlined:

Luke 1:13	BRG
13 But the angel said unto him, <u>Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.</u>	

Now let's see where they are not, but should be:

Genesis 3:1-3	BRG
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?	
2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:	
3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, <u>Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.</u>	

In verse 1, "Yea, hath God. . . garden" should be underlined. This bible is teaching that Satan (the serpent) is not an angel (nor, one of the heavenly host). The even bigger problem is verse 3. God did not say the words in blue. What God said is captured in Genesis 2:16-17. While the young believer is excited about "coloring" in his bible, it introduces error that must be overcome later in life. Of course, some will never mature because of hindrances like this.

One verse that is touted is this:

1 John 5:7	BRG
7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the <u>Father</u> , the Word, and the <u>Holy Ghost</u> : and these three are one.	

If you search for "Father" elsewhere, it does not appear in blue. Why only here? The BRG bible says that the highlighting is to promote the trinity. Unfortunately, the trinity is a destructive tradition that most of Christianity has embraced.³

Now this passage:

Psalms 2:1-12	BRG
1 <u>Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?</u>	
2 <u>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying.</u>	
3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.	
4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.	
5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.	
6 <u>Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.</u>	
7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, <u>Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.</u>	
8 <u>Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.</u>	
9 <u>Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.</u>	

² Angels is an advanced study topic. When you understand them, you will see that the concepts of the BRG bible will likely undermine that knowledge. For more information on angels, see *The Biblical Angels* study guide [4].

³ Understanding who God is also an advanced study topic. It requires deep understanding of most of the bible. For more information on this topic, see *The Revelation of God* study guide [5]. If you are still understanding the bible issue, you may not be open to this topic yet.

- 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

What is going on here? Why is verse 6 colored blue and not underlined, but verses 7-9 are colored blue and underlined? It is a common teaching that the Spirit of God is speaking in verse 12 (perhaps in verses 1 and 2 as well), but this really does not make sense. This is essentially someone's commentary overlaid on the scripture. Yes, that is not as bad as corrupting the text, but it is still straying from the pure word of God.

You have the freedom to choose what ever bible you want. When you become very mature, you will likely find yourself simply with the KJB.

9.3 The Other Perversions

We will investigate the other versions that are supposed to be comparable or superior to the KJB. They are:

- NKJV: New King James Version
- MKJV: Modern King James Version
- KJ21: 21st Century King James Version

Even though the MKJV and the NKJV should be ruled about by the "Acts 1, 2, 3, 4" rule, I will include them since they steal the "King James" name. New revisions of these bibles keep coming out, so it is possible that you find differences from what I am showing. New revisions will suggest that someone is changing God's word (if he even started with it). I will show the inferiority of these perversions using examples.

Many prefer the NKJV, but this next verse is one of many deviations from the truth:

Genesis 3:5	
KJB	For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods , knowing good and evil.
NKJV	"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God , knowing good and evil."
MKJV	for God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods , knowing good and evil.
KJ21	for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods , knowing good and evil."

NKJV misses another one! The lamb will be God himself:

Genesis 22:8	
KJB	And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.
NKJV	And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.
MKJV	And Abraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering. So they both went together.
KJ21	And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." So they went both of them together.

You can decide whether or not there is an issue here, but the NKJV aligns with the corrupt source translations (see Section 8.4):

Exodus 3:14	
KJB	And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.
NKJV	And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
MKJV	And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM. And He said, So you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.
KJ21	And God said unto Moses, "I AM THAT I AM." And He said, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'"

The NKJV might align its thinking with uniform translation since the word translated as *JEHOVAH* is usually translated as *LORD*. *JEHOVAH* does not appear in the NKJV anywhere:

Exodus 6:3	
KJB	And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.
NKJV	"I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.
MKJV	And I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty. But I was not known to them by the name JEHOVAH .
KJ21	And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob by the name of God Almighty, but by My name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

In the next verse, is it Satan/the devil? or any accuser/adversary?

Psalms 109:6	
KJB	Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.
NKJV	Set a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand.
MKJV	Set a wicked man over him; and let an adversary stand at his right hand,
KJ21	Set Thou a wicked man over him, and let Satan stand at his right hand.

In the next verse, the MKJV doesn't even make sense!

Proverbs 18:24	
KJB	A man [that hath] friends must shew himself friendly : and there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother.
NKJV	A man who has friends must himself be friendly , But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
MKJV	A man who has friends may be broken up , but there is a Lover who sticks closer than a brother.
KJ21	A man that hath friends must show himself friendly , and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

The MKJV has missed the next one and NKJV added the error in the footnote:

Isaiah 14:12	
KJB	How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer , son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
NKJV	"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [footnote adds: Day Star], son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
MKJV	How you are fallen from the heavens, O shining star , son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!
KJ21	"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer , son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, who didst weaken the nations!

The MKJV gets this next one wrong. The NKJV would have gotten it right, but introduced the error in a footnote again.

Daniel 3:25	
KJB	He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God .
NKJV	"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God ." [footnote adds: or, a son of the gods]
MKJV	He answered and said, Behold! I see four men loose, walking in the middle of the fire, and there is no harm among them. And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods .
KJ21	He answered and said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God ."

Like the corrupt source perversions, the NKJV and MKJV went for even more archaic language (see Section 8.4):

Daniel 6:7	
KJB	All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors , and the princes , the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.
NKJV	"All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps , the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.
MKJV	All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects , and the satraps , and the officials and governors, have planned together to establish a royal law, and to make a strong ban that whoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, he shall be thrown into the den of lions.
KJ21	All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors and the princes , the counselors and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

In the next verse, does *kneeling down* equate to *worshipping*'?

Matthew 20:20	
KJB	Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping [him] , and desiring a certain thing of him.
NKJV	Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.
MKJV	Then the mother of Zebedee's children came to Him with her sons, worshipping and desiring a certain thing from Him.
KJ21	Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him and desiring a certain thing of Him.

Doesn't God work through me? . . . but I am not the Son of God:

John 1:3	
KJB	All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
NKJV	All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
MKJV	All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one [thing] came into being that has come into being.
KJ21	All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

This is the same problem as the previous:

Colossians 1:16	
KJB	For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
NKJV	For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
MKJV	For all things were created by Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him.
KJ21	For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.

Words mean things, and *superstitious* is very different from *religious*:

Acts 17:22	
KJB	Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious .
NKJV	Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious ;
MKJV	And standing in the middle of the Areopagus, Paul said, Men, Athenians, I see that you are fearful of gods in everything.
KJ21	Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' Hill and said, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious .

Like colors and underlining in the BRG bible, capitalization can introduce error. The KJB and NKJV capitalize the *W* in the phrase *word of God* only once, and that occurs in Revelation 19:13. The KJ21 does it every time the phrase appears, while the MKJV is more selective. But both of these are incorrect in those other instances.

2 Corinthians 2:17	
KJB	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.
NKJV	For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God ; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.
MKJV	For we are not as many, hawking the Word of God ; but as of sincerity, but as of God. We speak in Christ in the sight of God.
KJ21	For we are not as many who corrupt the Word of God ; but as out of sincerity, but as from God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

For the KJ21 to capitalize *word* here is a major problem. If the "Word of God" is Jesus, how can one corrupt Jesus? Also, don't overlook the poor word choices in the NKJV and MKJV.

You might not think the differences in the next verse are important, but they are:

1 Timothy 6:10	
KJB	For the love of money is the root of all evil : which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
NKJV	For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil , for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
MKJV	For the love of money is a root of all evils , of which some having lusted after, they were seduced from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
KJ21	For the love of money is the root of all evil ; and while some have coveted after it, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Again, words mean things:

1 Timothy 6:20	
KJB	O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:
NKJV	O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge —
MKJV	O Timothy, guard the Deposit, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and opposing the theories of falsely-named science ,
KJ21	O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science , falsely so called,

The bible's old and new covenants are very different from its old and new testaments:

Hebrews 9:15	
KJB	And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament , that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament , they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
NKJV	And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant , by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant , that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
MKJV	And for this cause He is the Mediator of the new covenant , so that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant , those who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
KJ21	And for this cause He is the Mediator of the new testament , that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were covered under the first testament , those who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

If you consider all of the example comparisons, the NKJV and the MKJV didn't do very well. You might think the KJ21 is an acceptable alternative to the KJB, but the over-capitalization is a big problem.

Conclusion

The BRG bible, the NKJV, the MKJV, and the KJ21 all claim to be equal to or better than the KJB. Hopefully, you can see what is wrong with them. All of the other versions that appear to come from the proper source text have their problems too. While I only showed one problematic verse for these, you can research any of them further if you are not convinced.

Deuteronomy 30:19	KJB
19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:	

God only needs his word in English in one bible. He doesn't need other variations that only introduce confusion and error.

Part III

Advanced Bible Topics

10 The Structure of the Bible	77
11 Isaiah's Miniature Bible	85
12 Capitalization in the KJB	92

There are a few advanced topics that help you appreciate the great wonder of God's word. God has given us so much more beyond the simplicity of the words on a page.

The Structure of the Bible

The bible has amazing structures that most Christians are completely ignorant of. We will look at these structures. These structures exist in both the old and new testaments. Hopefully, your faith will be strengthened in that you have God's word to us.

10.1 Old Testament Structure

Our bible's old testament corresponds to Israel's Hebrew bible, which has no new testament equivalent. The Hebrew bible has 24 books, but with the same content as our old testament's 39 books.

Side Study 10.1: The Hebrew Bible

The Jews called their bible the *Tanakh*, and that comes from the first letters of its three divisions: the *Torah* (meaning, *teaching*), the *Nevi'im* (meaning, *prophets*), and the *Ketuvim* (meaning, *writings*). Chapter 11 shows organization of the Hebrew bible. The *Tanakh* (a Hebrew word) is also called the *Pentateuch* (a Greek word).

Jesus referenced the major divisions in the Hebrew bible:

Luke 24:44

KJB

44 And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me.

Those divisions are the law (*Torah*), the prophets (*Nevi'im*), and the psalms (*Ketuvim*).

Jesus also sets the bounds of the Hebrew bible:

Matthew 23:35

KJB

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

He made reference to the first book (*Genesis*) and the last book (*Chronicles*) in the Hebrew bible. These bounds provide additional confirmation that the *Apocrypha* is not part of the bible.

Jesus also confirmed that the Hebrew bible was written in Hebrew and not in Greek:

Matthew 5:18

KJB

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.

A *jot* and *tittle* are elements of letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

The Hebrew bible's books have a different organization than our old testament books. Table 10.1 shows a detailed comparison of the two. The Christians, who were the new stewards of the bible after Israel, reorganized



the books in a different way. How did they know to do that? While I cannot answer that, we will see in Chapter 11 that the Christian ordering of the old testament books is the one that God wants.

Table 10.1: A comparison of the Hebrew bible and the Christian old testament: The Christian old testament has 39 books. The Hebrew bible has 24 books put into 3 divisions. These divisions can have groupings of books. The colored Hebrew books correspond to one or more Christian books of the same color. In spite of the differing organizations, the Hebrew bible and the Christian Old Testament have the same scriptures. There are amazing observations about the ordering of the books and the number of books.

Hebrew Bible			#	Christian Old Testament
Division	Group	Book		
Torah		Genesis	1	Genesis
		Exodus	2	Exodus
		Leviticus	3	Leviticus
		Numbers	4	Numbers
		Deuteronomy	5	Deuteronomy
Nevi'im	The Former Prophets	Joshua	6	Joshua
		Judges	7	Judges
		Samuel	8	Ruth
		Kings	9	1 Samuel
	The Latter Prophets	Isaiah	10	2 Samuel
		Jeremiah	11	1 Kings
		Ezekiel	12	2 Kings
		The Twelve	13	1 Chronicles
Ketuvim	Poetry	Psalms	14	2 Chronicles
		Proverbs	15	Ezra
		Job	16	Nehemiah
	Five Scrolls	Song of Songs	17	Esther
		Ruth	18	Job
		Lamentations	19	Psalms
		Ecclesiastes	20	Proverbs
		Esther	21	Ecclesiastes
	Others	Daniel	22	Song of Solomon
		Ezra/Nehemiah	23	Isaiah
		Chronicles	24	Jeremiah
			25	Lamentations
			26	Ezekiel
			27	Daniel
			28	Hosea
			29	Joel
			30	Amos
			31	Obadiah
			32	Jonah
			33	Micah
			34	Nahum
			35	Habakkuk
			36	Zephaniah
			37	Haggai
			38	Zechariah
			39	Malachi

Yet another way to confirm the reorganization of the old testament is to view the books in their structured view. Figure 10.1 shows this structure. The books are divided into three groups: History, Heart, and Hope. Each of these consists of 5 core books. Two of the groups have additional books that can be thought of as *pillars*. Each of these pillars consists of 12 books, which are divided into 9 pre-exile books and 3 post-exile books. Using your imagination,



this structure might look like the front of the temple.

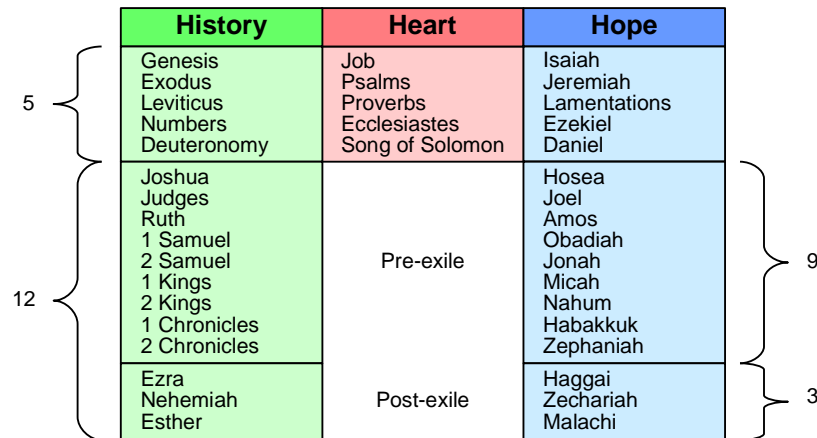


Figure 10.1: The structure of the old testament. The books are divided into the groups, each having 5 core books. Two groups have 12 more books, which are divided into 9 and 3 groups according to the exile.

Side Study 10.2: Is There Structure in the Psalms? (Advanced Study)

The psalms are divided into 5 parts. Some bibles might demonstrate this above the chapter headings, calling each part a *book*. The parts are easily identified by the presence of “Amen” at the end of each part (except for the last one):

Psalms 41:13 KJB

13 Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 72:19 KJB

19 And blessed [be] his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled [with] his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 89:52 KJB

52 Blessed [be] the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 106:48 KJB

48 Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen.
Praise ye the LORD.

Each of the 5 parts deals with an aspect of the predicted messiah:

1. Psalms 1-41: the redeemer (the first coming)
2. Psalms 42-72: the deliverer (the tribulation)
3. Psalms 73-89: the avenger (the tribulation)
4. Psalms 90-106: the king (the kingdom)
5. Psalms 107-150: the blesser (the kingdom)

The contents of each part educate the believer about one aspect of the messiah when he is manifested (shown above by the description in the parentheses).

Each part can be further divided into three groups of psalms. The first group will present a need. The second group will present the solution. The third group will present the result. Those divisions are not presented here.

10.2 New Testament Structure

The new testament not only has structure that most Christians do not know about, but the same are likely to refuse to receive it. The new testament is divided into two parts according to this verse:

2 Timothy 2:15	KJB
15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.	

The new testament (as well as the bible as a whole) can be divided into *prophecy* and *mystery*.

Side Study 10.3: Prophecy vs. Mystery

Prophecy is a foretelling, a prediction, or a declaration of something to come. It has existed since the creation:

Luke 1:70	KJB
70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:	

A *mystery* can be a secret, something concealed, or something not understood until explained.

Romans 16:25	KJB
25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,	

This is just the beginning of understanding these two aspects of what God has been doing and how he has divided his word. The *Respecting Distinctions* study guide [3] discusses the distinctions in numerous topics (such as apostles, gospels, churches, and baptisms) that right division reveals.

Figure 10.2 shows the organization of the new testament books. There are predominately two groups of 13 books: *prophecy* and *mystery*. The remaining book is *Acts* which provides a transition to the dispensational interruption that is reflected in the mystery books.

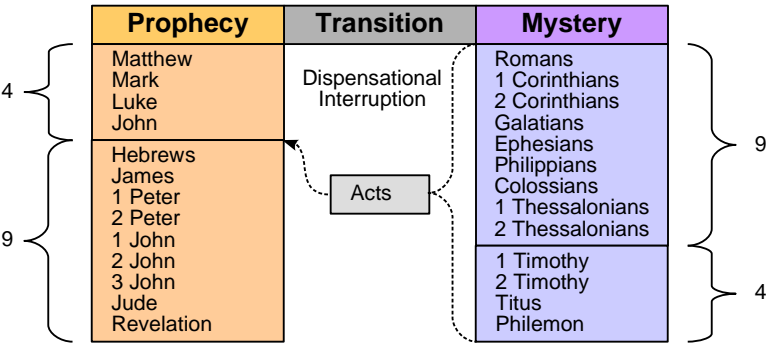


Figure 10.2: This diagram shows how the New Testament books are rightly divided. The book of *Acts* explains what happened to Israel during the transition to the dispensation of grace. The mystery books are divided into 9 church epistles and 4 pastoral epistles. The prophecy books are divided into 4 gospel accounts (or, leadership books) and 9 church epistles.

Side Study 10.4: What Does “13” Mean? (Advanced Study)

Numbers often carry meaning in the bible. Thirteen has two meanings, which are themselves related. The meanings of numbers are often suggested in their first occurrence or the chapter number of *Genesis* (*Acts* is also helpful). Consider this:

Genesis 13:11	KJB
11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.	

Genesis 13 is about the **separation** of Abram and Lot due to conflict. Note the same concept here:

Acts 13:2	KJB
2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.	



Here, in Acts 13, Barnabas and Saul are separated to a new ministry.

Likewise, the new testament has two groups of 13 books. These are to be separated due to the conflict between them.

Now, consider this verse:

Genesis 14:4

KJB

4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Here, *thirteen* is associated with *rebellion*. Separation often follows rebellion. Rebellion often appears in verses numbered 13 or multiples of 13. If you look back at the old testament in Table 10.1, there are $3 * 13 = 39$ books! Pay attention to this as you study in the future.

10.2.1 The Mystery Books

The division of the new testament books is trivial since the first word in all of the mystery books is *Paul*. It is Paul who gives us the revelation of the mystery. The appropriate verses are iterated here for you:

Romans 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, called [to be] an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes [our] brother,

2 Corinthians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy [our] brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Galatians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Ephesians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus [our] brother,

1 Thessalonians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians [which is] in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, [which is] our hope;

2 Timothy 1:1

KJB

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1	KJB
1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;	

Philemon 1	KJB
1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy [our] brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,	

The mystery is revealed through only one author! God did this to make it obvious!

As shown in Figure 10.2, the mystery books are divided into 9 church epistles and 4 pastoral epistles. These church epistles have structure according to this verse:

2 Timothy 3:16	KJB
16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:	

Doctrine defines what to believe. *Reproof* realigns behavior with belief. *Correction* realigns belief with the doctrine. But, don't be confused, doctrine can still be presented in reproof and correction. Yet, all scripture (e.g., the old testament) is for our learning:

Romans 15:4
4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Figure 10.3 shows the church epistles organized according to doctrine, reproof, and correction with respect to 3 key topics: the cross, the church, and his (Jesus') coming (for us).

	Doctrine	Reproof	Correction	
His Coming	1 & 2 Thessalonians			
The Church	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Meat for Adults
The Cross	Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians	Galatians	Milk for Babes

Figure 10.3: This diagram shows how Paul's church epistles are organized according to 2 Timothy 3:16.

Additionally, a contrast is shown in the structure according to this verse:

1 Corinthians 3:1-2	KJB
1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ.	
2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able.	

Most of Christianity are either babes or carnal believers (just keep reading 1 Corinthians 3 for the reasons why). In either case, they are really on milk. They cannot handle the stronger meat of scripture.

There is also some structure in Paul's pastoral epistles. This structure has more to do with the congregation rather than the individual believer. This structure is shown in Figure 10.4.

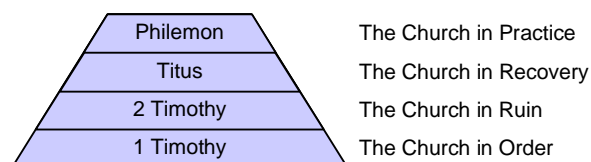


Figure 10.4: The structure of Paul's pastoral epistles. These show the transition of the church during its establishment.

10.2.2 The Prophecy Books

All of the prophecy books are written to Israel. That is not as obvious, but it is easy to figure out. The gospel accounts are written about Jesus' ministry to Israel (i.e., the circumcision):

Romans 15:8	KJB
8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises [made] unto the fathers:	

Hebrews is written to Hebrews (i.e., Jews).

Side Study 10.5: Did Paul Write *Hebrews*?

God made it clear what Paul wrote and did not write. Yet, immature believers keep the tradition going that Paul wrote *Hebrews*. First, Paul's name does not appear as the first word:

Hebrews 1:1	KJB
1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,	

Many will argue that God did not let Paul put his name so that *Hebrews* would not be confused with his other letters. As usual, you should follow such a statement with the usual question: "...Scripture?"

Paul said that he had the same salutation in all his letters:

2 Thessalonians 3:17-18	KJB
17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.	
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.	

All of his letters have a form of "Grace... and peace... from God our/the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (usually at the beginning of the letter). *Hebrews* does not have the phrase "God the Father" or "Lord Jesus Christ".

Consider this verse:

Hebrews 3:1	KJB
1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;	

It says that Jesus is the "High Priest of our profession". Paul makes it clear that there is no priesthood in our profession.

This verse contradicts grace without law:

Hebrews 5:9	KJB
9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;	

Our salvation is by faith, not obedience. There are other potential issues with Paul writing *Hebrews*. It shouldn't take more to convince you.

This next passage gives us more help:

Galatians 2:7-9	KJB
7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as [the gospel] of the circumcision [was] unto Peter;	
8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)	
9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we [should go] unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.	

James, Cephas (or Peter), and John are mentioned with respect to the circumcision. James is Jesus' brother and Peter and John were apostles to Israel. This is order of the authors of several prophecy church epistles: James—*James*, Peter—*1* and *2 Peter*, and John—*1*, *2*, *3 John* and *Revelation*. Two of these letters make it clear to whom they are written:

James 1:1	KJB
1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.	

1 Peter 1:1	KJB
1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,	

Both of those call out Israel. Jude is either Jesus brother or one of the apostles:

Jude 1	KJB
1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, [and] called:	

The gospel accounts have a structure that is only apparent when you understand each one's audience. They form a chronological view from Jesus' ministry until his second coming:

1. *Matthew*: The period of time when the offer of the earthly kingdom was still valid.
2. *Mark*: The period when the Jews were provoked to be saved like Gentiles.
3. *Luke*: The period where Gentiles are saved by grace. This overlaps the previous.
4. *John*: The period after the dispensation of grace leading up to and including the tribulation.

Understanding this takes much study.

Next, we will look at the structure of the prophecy church epistles according to 2 Timothy 3:16 shown earlier. They are shown in Figure 10.5. This structure is identical to the structure that we saw for the mystery church epistles.

	Doctrine	Reproof	Correction	
His Coming	Revelation			
The Church	2 Peter	1, 2, & 3 John	Jude	Meat for Adults
The Cross	Hebrews	James	1 Peter	Milk for Babes

Figure 10.5: This diagram shows how the prophecy church epistles are similarly organized.

The same contrast is given in this warning:

Hebrews 5:12-14	KJB
12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.	
13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.	
14 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.	

Conclusion

The bible has fascinating structure to its books. Both the old and new testaments each have their own structure. The new testament must be rightly divided into prophecy and mystery. Each of those has its similar structure.

Isaiah's Miniature Bible

The book of *Isaiah* provides a template to know that you have all of the books of the bible in the order that they are supposed to be in. *Isaiah* has 66 chapters, and the bible has 66 books. Each chapter of *Isaiah* has a concept or theme that aligns with each book of the bible. So, chapter #1 aligns with book #1, which is *Genesis*. This only works with the Christian bible; it does not work with the Hebrew bible, which is only our old testament.

A Hebrew bible has 24 books. That does not align with our old testament, which has 39 books. God knew that the bible wasn't complete and that the old testament would be reorganized. A Catholic bible does not have 39 old testament books because it includes the *Apocrypha* books.

Not all chapters/books are demonstrated.¹ There is very little discussion presented with the verses given.

11.1 Old Testament Examples

1 - Genesis

Isaiah 1:2	KJB
2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.	
Genesis 1:1	KJB
1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.	
Isaiah 1:9	KJB
9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, [and] we should have been like unto Gomorrah.	
Genesis 10:19	KJB
19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha.	

Adam and Woman rebel in Genesis 3.

2 - Exodus

Isaiah 2:2-3	KJB
2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.	

¹ Let me know of other examples and they will be added.



3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Exodus 24:12 **KJB**

12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Isaiah 2:7 **KJB**

7 Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither [is there any] end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither [is there any] end of their chariots:

Exodus 12:35 **KJB**

35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

Isaiah 2:8 **KJB**

8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Exodus 32:8 **KJB**

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

3 - Leviticus

Much of Isaiah 3 is about curses or judgments on Israel. Leviticus 26:14-46 has similar content.

4 - Numbers

Isaiah 4:5-6 **KJB**

5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory [shall be] a defence.
6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Numbers 9:15 **KJB**

15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, [namely], the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

5 - Deuteronomy

Isaiah 5:8-22 has 6 woes described. Deuteronomy 27:15-26 and 28:15-68 both list numerous curses.

Isaiah 5:5 **KJB**

5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; [and] break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

Deuteronomy 28:52 **KJB**

52 And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.



6 - Joshua

Isaiah has a vision in Isaiah 6 where the LORD appears to him before he is commissioned to be a prophet.

Isaiah 6:1	KJB
1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.	

Isaiah 6:5	KJB
5 Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.	

The LORD appears to Joshua before he goes into the promised land:

Joshua 5:13-15	KJB
13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, [Art] thou for us, or for our adversaries?	
14 And he said, Nay; but [as] captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?	
15 And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy. And Joshua did so.	

22 - Song of Solomon

Isaiah 22:4	KJB
4 Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.	

Song of Solomon 1:6	KJB
6 Look not upon me, because I [am] black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; [but] mine own vineyard have I not kept.	

39 - Malachi

Isaiah 39:6-7	KJB
6 Behold, the days come, that all that [is] in thine house, and [that] which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.	
7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.	

Malachi 4:6	KJB
6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.	

11.2 New Testament Examples

40 - Matthew

Isaiah 40:3	KJB
3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.	

Matthew 3:1-3	KJB
1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,	
2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.	

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

41 - Mark

Isaiah 41:8-9	KJB
8 But thou, Israel, [art] my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.	
9 [Thou] whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou [art] my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.	

The whole book of *Mark* presents Jesus as a servant.

42 - Luke

Isaiah 42:1	KJB
1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, [in whom] my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.	

Isaiah 42:6	KJB
6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;	

Luke 2:32	KJB
32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.	

Luke 3:6	KJB
6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.	

43 - John

Isaiah 43:3	KJB
3 For I [am] the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt [for] thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.	

Isaiah 43:10-11	KJB
10 Ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I [am] he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.	
11 I, [even] I, [am] the LORD; and beside me [there is] no saviour.	

There are many "I am" statements. Here is one:

John 15:1	KJB
1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.	

44 - Acts

Isaiah 44:3	KJB
3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring;	

Acts 2:1-4	KJB
1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.	
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.	
3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.	

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Isaiah 44:17**KJB**

17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, [even] his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth [it], and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou [art] my god.

Acts 17:23**KJB**

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

45 - Romans**Isaiah 45:3****KJB**

3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call [thee] by thy name, [am] the God of Israel.

Romans 16:25**KJB**

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Isaiah 45:8**KJB**

8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Righteous(ness) is mentioned 43 times in Romans.

Isaiah 45:9-10**KJB**

9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! [Let] the potsherd [strive] with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?
10 Woe unto him that saith unto [his] father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

Romans 9:20-21**KJB**

20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed [it], Why hast thou made me thus?
21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Isaiah 45:17**KJB**

17 [But] Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

Romans 11:26**KJB**

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Isaiah 45:20-21**KJB**

20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye [that are] escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god [that] cannot save.
21 Tell ye, and bring [them] near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? [who] hath told it from that time? [have] not I the LORD? and [there is] no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; [there is] none beside me.

Romans 1:18-22**KJB**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;



- 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.
 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Isaiah 45:23	KJB
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- 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth [in] righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Romans 14:11	KJB
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- 11 For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Isaiah 45:25	KJB
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- 25 In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

This is essentially Romans 11:26 which we saw above.

66 - Revelation

Isaiah 66:7	KJB
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- 7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

Revelation 12:2	KJB
------------------------	------------

- 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Revelation 12:5	KJB
------------------------	------------

- 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.

Revelation 12:13	KJB
-------------------------	------------

- 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child].

Isaiah 66:15	KJB
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- 15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Revelation 19:11-12	KJB
----------------------------	------------

- 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
 12 His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Isaiah 66:22-24	KJB
------------------------	------------

- 22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.
 23 And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.
 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Revelation 21:1	KJB
------------------------	------------

- 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.



Revelation 20:15

KJB

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Conclusion

Even though I didn't show them all, this is amazing! You can know that you have the correct books and they are in the correct order.



Capitalization in the KJB

Capitalization is an interesting detail in the KJB since the source languages did not capitalize anything. Part of the task of translating into English would be capitalizing words that we would expect to be capitalized, such as the beginning of a sentence or a name. But capitalization occurs in a few other situations. We will look at other situations where capitalization carries meaning. When you better understand how the KJB capitalized words, you will wonder why some of the corrupt bibles capitalized things that shouldn't have been.

12.1 The First Word of a Verse

One simple observation is that the first word in a verse is always capitalized regardless of whether it begins a sentence. One long sentence spread across many verses will be a sufficient demonstration.

Romans 1:1-7	KJB
1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,	
2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)	
3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;	
4 And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:	
5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:	
6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:	
7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.	

12.2 Titles for God

There are numerous titles for God (which is really a title), the Lord (also a title), and Jesus (a name), all of which are capitalized. A few examples are: Father, Son, Highest, Holy One, and Creator. For an extensive list, refer to *The Revelation of God* study guide [5].

It can be intriguing to look at names that are sometimes not capitalized. Notice “spirit of God” and “Spirit of God”:

Numbers 24:2	KJB
2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding [in his tents] according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.	

1 Samuel 10:10	KJB
10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.	

So, the capitalization, or lack thereof, appears to carry some meaning. Again, refer to *The Revelation of God* study guide [5] for more information on this topic.

Side Study 12.1: KJB Edition Impacts on Capitalization

As discussed in Section 6.4, later editions of the KJB changed capitalization. The following passages will highlight capitalization differences between the final (1769) and first (1611) editions: the first edition will show the changed word in bold. Similarly, spelling changes are shown in red.

Luke 11:13

1769	If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?
1611	If ye then, being euill , know how to giue good gifts vnto your children: how much more shall your heauenly Father giue the holy Spirit to them that aske him?

Isaiah 63:10-11

1769	But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, [and] he fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, [and] his people, [saying], Where [is] he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where [is] he that put his holy Spirit within him?
1611	But they rebelled, and vexed his holy spirit : therefore hee was turned to be their enemie , and he fought against them. Then he remembred the dayes of old, Moses and his people, saying; Where is hee that brought them vp out of the Sea , with the shepherd of his flocke ? where is hee that put his holy Spirit within him?

Numbers 24:2

1769	And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding [in his tents] according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.
1611	And Balaam lift vp his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents, according to their Tribes : and the Spirit of God came vpon him.

1 Samuel 10:10

1769	And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.
1611	And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of the prophets met him, and the spirit of God came vpon him, and hee prophesied among them.

Also, words shown in “[]” highlight words that would normally appear in italics. In the first edition, they were in a different font.

Strangely, *Pharaoh* is always capitalized, although it does not appear to be a name.

12.3 Quotations

Another situation involves the capitalization of the first word of something spoken. We would think of this as something in quotations, which the KJB does not use. Here's an easy example where *Let* is capitalized:

Genesis 1:3	KJB
3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.	

Today, we would write this verse as: And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Recognizing quotations is important when searching for phrases. Here are a few matches for a case-insensitive search for *Son of man*:

Ezekiel 2:1	KJB
1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.	

Ezekiel 2:8	KJB
8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.	

Matthew 12:8	KJB
8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.	

“Son of man” is a title for Jesus. It only appears that way in *Ezekiel* because it begins a quotation.

12.4 Showing Emphasis

There are many instances where something is named and it appears with the first letter capitalized even though the name is not normally capitalized. Here's an easy example:

Genesis 1:5	KJB
5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.	

This is simply emphasis. Today, we normally express emphasis by using italics. But in the KJB, italics is used to show words that were added to the translation (in this guidebook, they appear in brackets []).

Notice that *heaven* and *earth* are used here:

Genesis 1:1	KJB
1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.	

But they are not named until later:

Genesis 1:8	KJB
8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.	

Genesis 1:10	KJB
10 And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good.	

This helps you understand that Genesis 1:1 is a summary verse that tells you about two important things that have not been formed and named yet.

Here is an interesting one:

Genesis 2:23	KJB
23 And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.	

Woman is named, but why is *Man* capitalized? *Man* was referenced several times before this verse. Again, this should be viewed as emphasis.

Seer and *Prophet* appear similarly:

1 Samuel 9:9	KJB
9 (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.)	

12.5 Words in All Capital Letters

Next, we will look at the many words that appear in all capital letters.

12.5.1 LORD and GOD

There are a couple of Hebrew words that frequently appear as GOD. These will be shown by the Strong's Concordance numbering, followed by the English spellings of the Hebrew words: H3068 (*y^ehōvâh*) and H3069 (*y^ehōvîh*). Likewise, there are a couple of Hebrew words that frequently appear as LORD: H3068, H3069, and



H3050 (*yâhh*). The fact that some words can appear as either comes from potential combinations of “LORD God” and “Lord GOD” (there are a few other Hebrew words that can accompany those already mentioned in those two combinations). Investigating this is a complicated study. For more information, refer to *The Revelation of God* study guide [5]. But, the takeaway is simple: “LORD” / “Lord” means *Lord* and “GOD” / “God” means *God* regardless of how each appears!

12.5.2 The Hebrew Alphabet

Psalms 119 has 22 words that appear in all capital letters (e.g., ALEPH and BETH). They are really the letters of the Hebrew alphabet written in English. I won't print the verses here, but they are easily found at the beginning of the appropriate verses when skimming the psalm. The first occurs in verse 1 and then every 8th verse thereafter: 9, 17, 25, 33, 41, 49, 57, 65, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105, 113, 121, 129, 137, 145, 153, 161, and 169. The capitalization is basically emphasizing the letter.

12.5.3 Emphasized Names and Titles

Table 12.1 shows the words and phrases that appear in all capital letters besides those previously mentioned. They can be divided into two groups: emphasized names/titles and inscriptions. We'll look at the emphasized names and titles first.

Table 12.1: The various emphasized names and titles and inscriptions that appear in all capital letters. Such special emphasis almost always suggests a quotation. Is there more meaning to it than that?

#	Category	Reference	Text
1	Emphasis	Exodus 3:14	I AM THAT I AM / I AM
2	Emphasis	Exodus 6:3	JEHOVAH
3	Inscription	Exodus 28:36	HOLINESS TO THE LORD
4	Inscription	Exodus 39:30	HOLINESS TO THE LORD
5	Emphasis	Deuteronomy 28:58	THE LORD THY GOD
6	Emphasis	Psalms 68:4	JAH
7	Emphasis	Psalms 83:18	JEHOVAH
8	Emphasis	Isaiah 12:2	JEHOVAH
9	Emphasis	Isaiah 26:4	JEHOVAH
10	Emphasis	Jeremiah 23:6	THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
11	Inscription	Daniel 5:25	MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN
12	Inscription	Daniel 5:26	MENE
13	Inscription	Daniel 5:27	TEKEL
14	Inscription	Daniel 5:28	PERES
15	Emphasis	Zechariah 3:8	BRANCH
16	Emphasis	Zechariah 6:12	BRANCH
17	Inscription	Zechariah 14:20	HOLINESS TO THE LORD
18	Emphasis	Matthew 1:21	JESUS
19	Emphasis	Matthew 1:25	JESUS
20	Inscription	Matthew 27:37	THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS
21	Inscription	Mark 15:26	THE KING OF THE JEWS
22	Emphasis	Luke 1:31	JESUS
23	Emphasis	Luke 2:21	JESUS
24	Inscription	Luke 23:38	THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS
25	Inscription	John 19:19	JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS
26	Inscription	Acts 17:23	TO THE UNKNOWN GOD
27	Inscription	Revelation 17:5	MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH
28	Inscription	Revelation 19:16	KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS

Names are capitalized and emphasized words are capitalized. Perhaps an emphasized name appears in all

capital letters. Some might say they are capitalized because they are names for God. But that isn't always true. This is one that you will have to decide for yourself.

Exodus 3:14	KJB
14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.	

Just as LORD appears in all capital letters, so does same word when translated as JEHOVAH:

Exodus 6:3	KJB
3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by [the name of] God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.	

Psalms 83:18	KJB
18 That [men] may know that thou, whose name alone [is] JEHOVAH, [art] the most high over all the earth.	

The other word translated as LORD also appears with JEHOVAH:

Isaiah 12:2	KJB
2 Behold, God [is] my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH [is] my strength and [my] song; he also is become my salvation.	

Isaiah 26:4	KJB
4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH [is] everlasting strength:	

That same word also appears as JAH:

Psalms 68:4	KJB
4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.	

The next phrases appear in all capital letters as if they indicated something emphasized:

Deuteronomy 28:58	KJB
58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;	

Jeremiah 23:6	KJB
6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.	

It is interesting to see BRANCH as if it were emphasized:

Zechariah 3:8	KJB
8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they [are] men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.	

Zechariah 6:12	KJB
12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name [is] The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:	

But consider these verses where only the first letter is capitalized:

Isaiah 11:1	KJB
1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:	

Jeremiah 23:5	KJB
5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.	

Jeremiah 33:15	KJB
15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.	

We see JESUS as if it were emphasized:

Matthew 1:21	KJB
21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.	

Matthew 1:25	KJB
25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.	

Luke 1:31	KJB
31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.	

Luke 2:21	KJB
21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.	

12.5.4 Inscriptions

There are various phrases that are said to be engravings, superscriptions, or inscriptions (all are called *inscriptions* in Table 12.1). The capitalization always suggests a quotation.

Exodus 28:36	KJB
36 And thou shalt make a plate [of] pure gold, and grave upon it, [like] the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.	

Exodus 39:30	KJB
30 And they made the plate of the holy crown [of] pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, [like to] the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.	

Zechariah 14:20	KJB
20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.	

Matthew 27:37	KJB
37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	

Mark 15:26	KJB
26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.	

Luke 23:38	KJB
38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	

John 19:19	KJB
19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put [it] on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.	

Revelation 19:16	KJB
16 And he hath on [his] vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.	

These few do not reference the LORD or Jesus:

Daniel 5:25-28	KJB
25 And this [is] the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26 This [is] the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.	
Acts 17:23	KJB
23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.	
Revelation 17:5	KJB
5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.	

Conclusion

Adding capitalization is natural consequence of translating into English. However, there are other situations where capitalization was introduced. How did the editors know what to capitalize? I guess that this is a result of illumination. We should be careful that we do not read something more into the capitalization.



Conclusion

We must understand that there are false teachers and those who would corrupt God's word. Such will add, remove, change, question, and contradict it. But, God has given us 4 pillars to his word to help us:

1. Revelation
2. Inspiration
3. Illumination
4. Preservation

The doctrine of these give us assurance that we can have God's word today.

This study guide has presented an overview of the history of the English bible, the *King James Bible*, so that we should not be swayed by the false accusations against it. Then it has demonstrated some of the counterfeiting strategies that are used to overwhelm us with counterfeit bibles. The guide gave two very simple tests:

- The "Mark 1, 2, 3" test exposes most bibles that come from corrupt sources.
- The "Acts 1, 2, 3, 4" test exposes most bibles that come from the proper source, but compromises in other ways.

Finally, the guide provided insight into more advanced topics such as the structure of the bible and what capitalization can mean.



Reference Materials

All materials were developed by Tom Wilson and are available via <https://thechurchoforlando.org>.

- [1] *Biblical Time*, e-book; First Edition, TBD (but coming soon)
- [2] *How to Study the Bible*, e-book; First Edition, TBD
- [3] *Respecting Distinctions*, e-book; First Edition, TBD
- [4] *The Biblical Angels*, e-book; First Edition, Revision A, 8/8/24
- [5] *The Revelation of God*, e-book; Draft Edition, 1/19/25 (first edition coming soon)



Index of Bible Verses

This index of bible verses is provided so that you can quickly find where passages appear. The index is organized by book name. Each book name is followed by an ordered list of chapters, followed by the verse(s) cited. Each reference is followed by the page(s) on which it appears. In the soft copy, the page numbers are hyperlinks. Boldface page numbers, if any, refer to references to verses rather than quoted verses.

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Tom Wilson has assembled an extensive collection of scriptures that will help you be confident in identifying God's word so that you can learn what he wants you to know. After your salvation, understanding your bible is probably the next most important topic.

There is also an extensive index of scripture references so that you can find where certain passages are discussed in the presentation of the topic. All this information is put at your fingertips because God wants his people to know and understand him.

Do you have faith to believe what God says about his word? Or will you be faint and bow to the common traditions of men? Prove yourself today!

Look for other books in the "Understanding the Bible" series.