

## THE KJV -VS- THE MODERN VERSIONS

As Christians, our life is to be based on the Word of God. The Word of God is “truth” and “light.” God instructs us to “believe” it, “study” it, “preach” it, “hide it in [our] hearts,” use it as “the sword of the Spirit” against the adversary, and so much more. Hence, **God promised to preserve His word, perfect and without error, for us:**

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.** (Psalm 12:6-7 KJV)

*See also Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24-25; Psalm 33:11; Psalm 119:160, Isaiah 40:6-8; Isaiah 30:8.*

However, Satan works to corrupt God’s Word and to sow seeds of doubt about its truth and authority. Even from his first interaction with man, he questioned the Word with “Yea, hath God said?” And Satan continues to cause confusion and doubt regarding God’s Word. For example, as the chart on pages 4-7 will show, the hundreds of English Bible versions have a multitude of verses that say very different things, sometimes even with opposite meanings. In addition, the modern versions as compared with the KJV have thousands of words and even

entire verses completely missing. This has led to a common teaching now that limits the inerrancy and infallibility of the scriptures to the original autographs. **BUT NO ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS EXIST ANYWHERE ON EARTH**, so this view leaves Christians believing they do not have the perfect Word of God, that all Bibles have some errors. And if God cannot keep His promise to preserve His own Word perfectly, how can we trust any of His promises?

*The perfect Word of God must exist somewhere accessible to believers for God’s promises and instructions to mean anything.* And from the days of the early church, believers have had the Word of God to study, to preach from, to copy, to collate, and to translate. This produced a multitude of manuscripts that testify to the correct readings and produced the Received Text, which was used to make more copies and more translations that are just as authoritative as “the originals.” The King James Version of the Bible is an example.

However, the modern English versions veered from these manuscripts in favor of a few more recently discovered ancient manuscripts. **The texts underlying modern versions are**

**modern critical texts produced after 1881**, based on the work of two men, Wescott and Hort. These men **created their own entirely new Greek text** by mostly using two recently discovered ancient manuscripts (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) to make thousands of changes to the Received text that had been regarded as the inerrant Word of God for centuries.

***But are those manuscripts reliable?***

No! They disagree among themselves in **more than 3000 places in the gospels alone** and disagree with the vast, vast majority of available texts (about 95%). Also, Vaticanus, found in the Vatican, includes six apocryphal books. For more information about these manuscripts see articles on page 9.

The main argument in support of the use of these manuscripts is that they are among the oldest manuscripts we have.

However, **older does not mean better!!** Even while the New Testament was first being written, there were “many, which corrupt the word of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17 KJV). Corruptions can be found even in the earliest manuscripts.

Further, there is much evidence that Vaticanus and Sinaiticus were considered unreliable by early believers. They were forgotten and then lost for centuries. But Wescott and Hort

used these manuscripts to produce their Greek text, and their text was used to produce the Greek texts of the United Bible Society and the Nestle-Aland Critical Greek Text.

These are the underlying texts of **all modern English versions**. And these texts continually go through revisions. **The Nestle-Aland Text, for example, is on its 28<sup>th</sup> edition!** The textual critics behind them do not believe that God has preserved his word; instead, they believe it is their job to reconstruct it. They continually edit and revise it, leading to more and more modern versions. And **every time a new version of the Bible is created and copyrighted, by law it must be different from current versions**. Think about what that means if there are now hundreds of versions of the English Bible. It’s like the telephone game. Can you trust the outcome?

God would not have us try to reconstruct the Biblical text as though it has been lost. God would have us trust that **HE has preserved His Word, as He promised**, and look to the scriptures to discover how to identify it. **Pages 7-9 will discuss how to do that**, but first take a look at some of the many differences between the modern versions and the KJV and ask, ***Which of each reading more honors the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word?***

## THE KJV -VS- THE MODERN VERSIONS: A FEW OF THE THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENCES

### INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE

VERSE	KING JAMES VERSION	MODERN VERSIONS (NAS, NIV, ESV, ...)	COMMENTS
Mk 1:2-3	“As it is <u>written</u> in <i>the prophets</i> , Behold I send my messenger before thy face...The voice of one crying in the wilderness...”	As it is <u>written</u> in <i>Isaiah the prophet</i> , Behold I send my messenger before your face...The voice of one crying in the wilderness...	The KJV is correct as both Malachi & Isaiah are quoted.  The <b>modern versions are WRONG</b> . The first quote is nowhere in Isaiah. It is in Malachi.  <i>Can the true Word of God contain errors?</i>
Hebrews 3:16	“For <i>some</i> ...did provoke... <b>not all</b> that came out of Egypt by Moses...”	For who provoked...? Indeed did not <b>all those</b> who came out of Egypt led by Moses...?	Again, the KJV is correct as Joshua & Caleb did not provoke. The <b>modern versions are wrong</b> .  Also note that the versions say the <b>opposite</b> of each other.
II Samuel 21:19	“...Elhanan...slew <i>the brother of Goliath</i> ...”	“...Elhanan...killed <i>Goliath</i> ...”	David killed Goliath. Modern versions are wrong again.

### DIETY OF CHRIST

John 1:18	“...the only <b>begotten Son</b> , which is in the bosom of the Father...”	NAS: the only <b>begotten God</b> , who is in the bosom of the Father	Christ’s deity had no beginning— He is eternally God. The NAS, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses, says here that Christ, as God, had a beginning, implying that he is a created being. <i>How can we accept this translation?</i>
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Acts 8:37	“And Philip said, “If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, <u><i>I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.</i></u> ”	NIV/ ESV: <b>The entire verse is missing</b> NAS: The entire verse is in brackets; a footnote implies it should not be there.	Note <i>what</i> is called into question.
Lk 24:51-52	“...And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he <i>was</i> parted from them, <i>and carried into heaven. And they worshipped him...</i> ”	NAS: The bold words are omitted	The ascension of Christ is left out of the gospels in the NAS. <i>Is the ascension important???</i> Also, the worship of Christ is left out here.
Philippians 2:6	“(Christ)...thought it <i>not robbery</i> to be equal with God...”	(Christ)... <i>did not regard (consider) equality with God a thing (something) to be grasped...</i> ”	Here the modern versions say that Christ did not believe he could grasp equality with God!!!!
I Cor 15:47	“...the second man is <i>the Lord</i> from heaven...”	Omit “ <i>the Lord</i> ”	The title “Lord” is omitted with reference to Christ in well over 100 verses
Ephesians 3:9	“...God, who created all things <i>by Jesus Christ...</i> ”	Omit “ <i>by Jesus Christ</i> ”	Again, an attack on the deity of Christ
Acts 3:13,26	“...God ...hath glorified his <i>Son</i> Jesus...having raised up his <i>Son</i> Jesus	<i>Son</i> is changed to <i>servant</i>	Is there a difference between a son and a servant?
Luke 23:42	“And he said unto Jesus, <i>Lord</i> , remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”	Omit <i>Lord</i>	Another of the MANY omissions of the title <i>Lord</i> in reference to Jesus
Romans 14:10	“...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of <i>Christ.</i> ”	...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of <i>God</i>	
Galatians 6:17	“...I bear in my body the marks of <i>the Lord</i> Jesus.”	Omit <i>the Lord</i>	Another of the MANY omissions of the title <i>Lord</i> in reference to Jesus
Revelation 1:11	“... <i>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last...</i> ”	Omitted	See Rev 22:19: God’s warning about taking words away from this book!

**SINLESSNESS OF CHRIST / VIRGIN BIRTH**

II Samuel 7:14	“I will be his father, and he shall be my son. <i>If</i> he commit iniquity . .	“I will be his father, and he will be my son. <i>When</i> he does wrong...”	In the modern versions, this passage about the coming son of God implies that Jesus Christ will do wrong.
Matt 5:22 w/ Mark 3:5	“But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother <i>without a cause</i> shall be in danger of the judgment...”	Omit <i>without a cause</i> Then, Mark 3:5 says that Christ “...looked round about on them <i>with anger</i> ...”	In the modern versions <i>Christ condemns himself!</i>
Luke 2: 33	“And <b>Joseph</b> and his mother marveled...”	And <i>His (the child’s) father</i> and mother were amazed (marveled)...	<b>God</b> , not Joseph, is the father of Jesus Christ

**SACRIFICE / BLOOD OF CHRIST**

Colossians 1:14	“In whom we have redemption <i>through his blood</i> , even the forgiveness of sins.”	In whom we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins <i>(Omit the blood of Christ!)</i>	<b>The blood of Christ is gone from this verse</b> in the modern versions!!!
Hebrews 1: 3	“When he had <i>by himself</i> purged our sins...”	When (After) he had made (provided) purification of sins...	Priests made purification of sins with animal sacrifices. It was the sacrifice of <i>Christ himself</i> that purged sins completely and forever.
I Peter 4:1	“Christ has suffered <i>for us</i> in the flesh...”	Omit <i>for us</i>	Anyone can suffer.

**SALVATION BECAUSE OF THE FAITH OF CHRIST**

Romans 3:22 Galatians 2:16 and 20 Ephesians 3:12 Philippians 3:9	Read each of these verses carefully. They teach that salvation/righteousness is available because of the faith <i>of Christ</i> and applied to those who have faith (believe) <i>in Christ</i> . “...the righteousness of God which is by <i>faith of Jesus Christ</i> unto all and upon all them that believe...” (Rom. 3:22)	In the new versions, <b>every</b> reference to the faith <i>of Christ</i> is changed to our faith <i>in Christ</i>	The modern versions remove every mention of the faith <b>OF Christ</b> . HIS faith is far more important than our faith to pleasing God and saving our souls. It was HIS faith that led him to the cross and that ensures our eternal security. <b>Without CHRIST’S faith, OUR faith is vain.</b>
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## SALVATION

John 3:36	"...he that <i>believeth not</i> the Son shall not see life..."	NAS: "...he who does not <i>obey</i> the Son shall not see life..."	Are we saved by faith or by works (obedience)?
John 6:47	"...He that believeth <i>on me</i> hath everlasting life."	He who believes has eternal life ( <i>Omit on me</i> )	It is important to know the object of our belief! Many people say they "believe in God" but don't believe on Jesus Christ.
Mark 10:23	"...How hard it is <i>for them that trust in riches</i> to enter into the kingdom of God..."	NAS/NIV "...How hard it is to enter the kingdom of God..." ESV: ... who have wealth	Is it hard for all to be saved? Does having wealth mean the same thing as trust in riches?
2 Cor 11:3	"I fear...your minds should be corrupted from <i>the simplicity that is in Christ.</i> "	<i>simplicity and purity of [sincere and pure] devotion to Christ</i>	The simplicity of being IN CHRIST, is changed to something WE must DO or have!! A dangerous corruption.

## GOD'S WORD

Luke 4:4	"...Man shall not live by bread alone, <i>but by every word of God.</i> "	Omit <i>but by every word of God</i>	
Psalms 12:6-7	"The words of the Lord are pure words...thou shalt keep <i>them</i> , O Lord, thou shalt preserve <i>them</i> from this generation forever."	NAS: "The words of the Lord are pure words...Thou, O Lord wilt keep them; Thou wilt preserve <i>him</i> ..." NIV: "The words of the Lord are flawless...O Lord, you will keep <i>us</i> safe and protect <i>us</i> from such people forever."	It is interesting that this verse about God preserving his Word is changed
Psalms 138:2	"...thou hast magnified thy word <i>above all thy name.</i> "	NAS: "...thou hast magnified thy word <i>according to thy name.</i> " NIV/ESV: "...you have exalted above all things your name and your word."	These verses do not say the same thing.

## MISCELLANEOUS DIFFERENT READINGS

II Tim 2:15	" <i>Study</i> to shew thyself approved..."	NAS: " <i>Be diligent</i> to present yourselves..." NIV/ESV: " <i>Do your best</i> to present yourselves..."	"Be diligent" and "Do your best" do not mean "Study"
Col. 2:18	"...things which he hath <i>not seen</i> ..."	"...he <i>has seen</i> ..." ESV: visions	Did he see them or not?
Luke 9:31	"...he spake of his <i>decease</i> which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."	"...his <i>departure</i> ..."	One can depart without dying.
2 Cor 2:17	"...many, which <i>corrupt</i> the word of God..."	All change <i>corrupt</i> to some form of <i>peddle</i>	"Corrupt" and "peddle" do not mean the same thing.

Clearly the idea that all Bibles say the same thing is not true! There are thousands of substantial differences between the KJV and the Modern Versions. This can only mean one of two things:

1. **One is the infallible Word of God, and the others are not**
2. **None are the infallible Word of God, so all contain errors**

By faith, we can believe that God is able to keep his word pure and perfect, even in English (particularly since English is the predominant language of the world).

#### **HOW CAN WE IDENTIFY THE WORD OF GOD IN ENGLISH?**

In the Bible, God reveals principles that tell us how He has preserved His Word through history. (Summary of material from Bryan Ross of Grace Life Bible Church):

##### **1 . MULTIPLICITY OF COPIES**

God's design is to preserve His word in a multiplicity of accurate, reliable copies (and translations) that are just as authoritative as the originals. (Josh 8:32+; Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Isaiah 30:8; Acts 12:24; Acts 8:27-28). For example, when

Jesus Christ, or any New Testament men, read the from the scriptures, they were not reading from the original writings; they were reading copies of copies of copies that had the authority of documents written hundreds of years prior. With respect to translations, there are many examples of words spoken in one language being recorded in the scriptures in another. For example, in Exodus, Joseph speaks in Egyptian, but his words are recorded in Hebrew. These, among many other passages, show that it is possible to have a translation that accurately conveys God's Word. **We can observe in history a collection of manuscripts (copies and translations) that are plenteous and in substantive agreement with one another.**

##### **2 . AVAILABLE & ACCESSIBLE**

Scripture teaches that the preserved text would not only exist in a multiplicity of copies, but these copies would be available to God's people to possess, study, copy, believe, translate, and preach from. They would not be hidden under a rock, buried in the sand, or in an inaccessible library (in the Vatican) or monastery (Psalm 12:6-7; Matt 24:35; I Pet 1:24-25; Romans 4:3 & 10:17; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).

### 3 . IN USE

The preserved text would be in use by God’s people for generations. God’s Word was preserved through the dynamic of people handling it, not in one copy sitting on a bookshelf for 500 or 1000 years far away from God’s people who were doing the work of the ministry. God preserves His word by it being in the hands of Bible-believing people, whom God calls “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15).

(Note: The manuscripts that were most heavily used are the ones that deteriorated and had to be preserved in later copies. That is why the most accurate manuscripts are not the oldest. The oldest manuscripts survived because were not used by believers who regarded them as unreliable.)

### **IN ENGLISH, ONLY THE KING JAMES VERSION MEETS ALL THESE CRITERIA**

The King James Bible is an accurate translation of the Received Text. This text bears the scriptural marks of preservation:

- Its underlying text is witnessed by the vast majority (about 95%) of extant textual witnesses—a multiplicity of copies (Over 5000 as opposed to fewer than 10 relied on by the modern critical text)
- It was available and accessible throughout the church age for the body of Christ to possess, study, copy, and translate. (It is also the text that gave rise to the Protestant Reformation.)

**In stark contrast, THE CRITICAL TEXT underlying the modern versions fails on all three counts:**

1. It has very few manuscript witnesses and **even those substantively disagree with one another in thousands of places.**
2. The ancient texts underlying the Critical Text were not accessible nor available to believers at large until the late 1800s.
3. Given their lack of availability, they certainly were not copied and/or used by Bible believing people until the late 1800s.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

At least three times God has strong warnings for those who would add to or take away from his words. See Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6, and Revelation 22:18-19. Compared to the KJV, most modern versions remove tens of thousands of words.

From the chart of the differences between the KJV and the modern versions of the English Bible, note that modern versions consistently diminish or call into question important doctrines such as the deity of Christ, the inerrancy of the scriptures, and salvation by grace through faith alone in the shed blood of Christ alone. They also omit the title of Lord with the name of Jesus at least 200 times.

**Psalms 138:2 (KJV)** says, “. . . thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” We must give it the same honor that God gives it.

*How could we not believe that He would keep it perfect and without error?*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:

**A MUST-WATCH video message: *The KJV and the Logic of Faith*** by David Reid (From [Columbusbiblechurch.org](http://Columbusbiblechurch.org))

<https://www.columbusbiblechurch.org/conferences?sapurl=Lyt2NzRwL2xiL21pLytrcHhuanE0P2VtYmVkpXRydWUmcmVjZW50Um91dGU9YXBwLndYi1hcHAubGlicmFyeS5saXN0JnJlY2VudFJvdXRlU2x1Zz0lMkMmNDc2eHJo>

**Where Is God’s Word Today?** by Stephen Reid

Available from [Columbusbiblechurch.org](http://Columbusbiblechurch.org) (free PDF)

or a printed copy from

<https://dispensationalpublishing.com/product/where-is-gods-word-today/>

**For a much deeper study:**

<https://gracelifebiblechurch.com/sermon-category/the-word-for-all-ages/>

or <https://gracelifebiblechurch.com/why-use-the-kjv/>

**“The Corrupt Manuscripts of the Modern Bible Versions:**

<https://jesusismysavior.medium.com/the-corrupt-manuscripts-of-the-modern-bible-versions-4d2029e0517b>

**More info about texts underlying modern versions:**

<https://www.preservedword.com/content/the-unreliability-of-the-alexandrian-manuscripts/>

