

**Words to know:**

**Presbytery:** The ruling body of a group of churches. A Presbytery is made up of representative of leaders and pastors from each congregation. In England, the King or Queen is the supreme ruler of the church. King James I, was strongly opposed to allowing the church of England to be ruled by a Presbytery form of government.

King James was the son of an ungodly queen of **Scotland**, known as "Mary, Queen of Scots." She lived from 1542-1587. When James was 1 year old his mother was removed from her throne and imprisoned. Baby James was crowned King of Scotland.

He was raised in the Scotland castle, and educated by a very hard and strict tutor. By the time he was eight years old, James was able to master Latin, Greek, and French, **fluently!** He was also educated in Italian and Spanish.

When James VI, King of Scotland, received word that Queen Elizabeth named him to be the next king of England, he eagerly made his journey to the new throne to become King James I of England.

King James was excited to take his new place as King of England. He was 36 years of age, and believed that God had appointed him to be King. This was a time in England's history when there was a lot of religious and political uncertainty.

The Church of England, established by King Henry VIII had been the official church for forty years. The Bishops of the church loved the security of the established church and were not quick to acknowledge corruption in the church.

On the other side of the debate were the Puritans and Presbyterians. They wanted to **purify** the Anglican Church (Church of England) from corruption.

"Before arriving [in England], he was intercepted by a...delegation of Puritan ministers who presented him with a statement of grievances against the Church of England. With close to a thousand signatures attached thereto (10%) of the English clergy), it came to be known as the Millenary Petition."  
--*Final Authority*, William P. Grady, Grady Publications, 1993, pg. 149

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This petition contained things these Puritans were hope the new king would change in the church of England. They wanted to remove anything in the church that reminded them of Roman Catholicism.

They wanted to remove pastors who were not preaching the Bible correctly. They wanted Sunday to be honored. The list was long, and these Puritan clergymen hoped the new King would be willing to make these changes.

King James called for a meeting of the **Puritans** and the **Bishops** of the church. This angered the Bishops. They saw no need for change. They did not like the Puritans and feared that the king would take their side.

The conference was held January 14, 16, and 18, 1604 at Hampton Court, the largest of the royal palaces. Hampton Court Palace had over 1000 rooms.

King James appointed a delegation of four Puritans to represent the Puritans to the meeting. This delegation was led by John Rainolds, president of Corpus Christi College of Oxford. The other three men were Lawrence Chaderton, Thomas Sparke and John Knewstubs.

Over 50 high church officials represented the Church of England. These were led by Richard Bancroft, Bishop of London.

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Watch Video: You may take notes on the video here:

As you can see, King James had wanted **unity** in England. He also wanted to establish himself as supreme ruler of the church of England.

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"Although James appreciated the Puritans' anti-Catholic position, he strongly disapproved of their Presbyterian form of government as a threat to his royal absolutism. On one occasion, he stated that 'presbytery and monarchy agreed together as well as God and the devil'"

--*Final Authority*, William P. Grady, Grady Publications, 1993, pg. 150.

The two English Bibles available at the time were the **Bishops Bible** and the **Geneva Bible**.

The Geneva Bible was the work of English Puritans who had fled to Geneva, Switzerland during the brutal reign of Queen "Bloody" Mary. Although the Geneva Bible was a good translation, it contained notes and commentary that were strongly slanted by Puritan thinking. These notes spoke against the authority of kings. Thus, King James hated the Geneva Bible because of the notes.

The Bishops Bible was the work of Anglican Church bishops. This was poorly translated and not well received.

In the meeting at Hampton Court, the Puritans suggested to King James that a new Bible version was needed that would become the standard for all of England.

King James saw this as an opportunity to unite the Kingdom of England under his authority.

He assigned a team of over 50 Bishops and Puritans and others to work together on an entirely new version of the Bible.

This new Bible was to be as close as possible to the original Greek and Hebrew. It was to contain no commentary notes in the margin. James wanted the **pure** Word of God without any **human opinions** inserted.

James assembled a team of scholars that included Anglican bishops as well as Puritans and Presbyterians. The Bishops feared that the Puritans would insert their ideas. The Puritans did not trust the Bishops.

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Because the Puritans and Bishops did not trust each other, each side watched the other carefully to make sure everyone followed the rules and no one made unnecessary or incorrect changes to the Bible.

To guard against error, the translating committee was divided into six subcommittees called companies. Each company had eight members, with six directors supervising the six companies.

These companies were instructed to pay very close attention to detail. Each company had to supervise the work of every other. The committees were arranged so that every passage of Scripture was examined and verified at least fourteen times! The entire process was carefully **guarded** to make sure no errors were inserted into the Bible.

The scholars on the committees were well qualified to translate the Scriptures.

God's providence brought about the right events and people to continue to preserve His word to every generation.

In 1611 The translation was complete and the King James Version of the Bible was printed.

The language of the King James Bible carries an authority and power that is unmatched in the English language.

For over 400 years the King James Bible has been standard Bible of the English language. It has been the Bible of revival and awaking. The King James Bible has been the dominant Bible of English-speaking Protestants for centuries. God chose to preserve His word in the English language through the King James Bible.