

Understanding the King James Version of the Holy Bible – PART 1 - A Short Survey of its History and Elementary English with an emphasis on early modern English, and brief lessons on English grammar.

A Brief History of the King James Version of the Holy Bible (KJV) – also known as the Authorized Version (AV), or the King James Bible (KJB).

1. The KJV, especially the New Testament, is derived from the work of William Tyndale (c.1494 – Oct. 6, 1536). He translated the first printed English New Testament translation in 1525, taken mainly from the Greek New Testament Textus Receptus (or Received Text) (GNT-TR). His work and the KJV represents “Early Modern English.”

The three major divisions of the English language:

- A. Old English (OE) (450-1066) aka “Anglo-Saxon.”
 - B. Middle English (ME) (1066-1500).
 - C. Modern English (E) (1500-today).
2. In 1604, King James 1 (1566-1625) convened the Hampton Court to discuss the future of the Church of England, it was here that a discussion of a new English version be undertaken that would remove or correct the Puritan faction (Geneva Bible marginal notes – which were mainly against the monarchy).
 3. 47 Church of England (Anglican) scholars undertook to translate the GNT-TR, the Hebrew Masoretic Text (MT), and the Apocrypha from the Septuagint (LXX) – which is a Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Apocrypha and the Septuagint are not authoritative, nor canonical (measuring up to the standard of truth, reception, and use by the Lord, the apostles, and the Lord’s churches). Only the GNT-TR and the MT were in use by the Lord’s churches.
 4. The translation began in 1608 and was completed in 1611.
 5. The KJV edition we use today is the Cambridge Edition Bible which was edited in 1769. It has 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31, 102 verses, 789, 314 words, which makes up 3,221,202 letters. Modern editions continue to be made (F.H.A. Scrivener’s 1873; David Norton’s 2005). The essential differences are minor and our current KJV Bible is an accurate and time-tested and time-honored translation of the Holy Bible.

Understanding “King James” English. In order to understand the English of the King James Bible one must have a basic understanding of English grammar. There are 26 letters in the English alphabet (A-Z).

English has eight basic parts:

1. Noun (*Pangalan*)
2. Pronoun (*Panghalip*)
3. Adjective (*Pang-uri*)
4. Verb (*Pandiwa*)
5. Adverb (*Pang-akbay*)
6. Preposition (*Pang-ukol*)
7. Conjunction (*Pang-ugnay*)
8. Interjection (*Pandamdang*)

After we look into the eight basic parts of English we will also look briefly into three other areas: “Case,” (*kaso*); “Punctuation,” (*bantas*) and the “Prefix” (*unlapi*) and “Suffix” (*panlapi*). Grammar (*bararila o gramatika*) is important because it guides the meaning and interaction of words.

Do not be discouraged or overwhelmed. Normally, in any learning there is always a “learning curve.” Just take these lessons on step at a time. Soon, you are on your way to a better understanding of English, and the King James Bible.

1. The Noun (*Pangalan*)

- a) The word “Noun” comes from the Latin word *nomen* meaning “name.” (ca. 1398)
- b) There are common or generic nouns – such as “A man, who lived in a city, threw a stone.”

“A” is an indefinite article (*hindi tiyak na articulo*).

“the” is a definite article (*tiyak na articulo*). Remember Jesus said: “I am THE way...”

The nouns in the sentence (*pangungusap*) above are man, city, and stone. These are common/generic nouns because they are not particularly named.

“Proper nouns” are names of persons, places, and things in particular and begin with capital letters.

Example: Samuel, who lived in Mizpeh, threw an Ebenezer. (1 Sam. 7:12).

- c) The way a noun functions in a sentence is classified by a “Case” (Kaso). In English, the location of the noun indicates its case. In Greek and Hebrew, the noun is inflected (changed, usually in the ending of the stem or “root” or “lema”) to indicate its case. In Modern English there are three cases:
 - 1) The Nominative Case (nom.) – The noun functions as the subject (*paksa*). Normally, it is put in the beginning of a sentence, followed by a verb. A basic sentence features a subject-verb (SV) pattern. Example: “Samuel threw a stone.” Samuel is a proper noun, and it functions in the nominative case because he is the subject of the sentence.
 - 2) The Accusative Case (acc.) – The noun functions as the object (*layan*) of a sentence. Example: “Samuel threw Eli’s stone.” This sentence illustrates a subject-verb-object (SVO) pattern. “stone” is a common noun, and it functions in the accusative case because it is the object of the sentence.
 - 3) The Genitive Case (gen.) – The noun “Eli’s” is a proper noun, and it functions in the genitive case because it shows the ownership (*pagmamay-ari*) in the sentence.
 - i. Nominative comes from the Latin (14th century) *nominativus* meaning “pertaining to naming, serving to name” (the subject of the verb). Accusative shows the destination or goal of motion from the Latin (15th century) *accusativus* meaning “to call to account, make complaint against.” Genitive is taken from the Latin (14th century) *genitivus* meaning “of belonging to birth.”
 - ii. In Greek there are a few more cases: The Ablative Case (case of separation, “from...”). The Dative Case (case of interest, usually, the indirect object). The Instrumental Case (case of how or means, “by the...”). The Locative Case (case of position or location, “in the...”). The Vocative Case (case of address, “Brethren,...”). We will look into these when we go over elementary Greek.
- d) Besides “case,” a noun has a number (singular or plural) and a gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter). Remember: NOUNS deal with case, number, and gender.