

Who is Jesus? – Confusion of Modern Bibles

Introduction

In this church we preach and teach from the King James Bible and when we give away bibles, they are also the King James Bible. From time to time, I like to dig into the differences between the different Bible translations and show why the KJV is the best translation for the English-speaking world.

Attack that Jesus was God

1 Timothy 3:16 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.

- This is one of those verse that are so packed with truth, it is amazing how much the Holy Spirit placed in one sentence.
 - This verse describes the fundamental foundation of Christianity and begins by saying that these things are not controversial, they are the Christian faith and without them, you don't have real Christianity.
 - God was manifest in the flesh – Jesus wasn't created, he was born of a virgin, but he existed from the beginning of time and he created this world.
 - He left all of heaven to take on the form of a human body to eventually die for the sins of the world on the cross.
 - Justified in the Spirit – Several versus, such as 1 Peter 3:18 tell us that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit and that was the seal of approval that God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus for sins.
 - Seen of angels – The angels announced his birth, ministered to him after his temptation and in the Garden of Gethsemanie, angels were there when he rose from the grave and when he ascended back into heaven.
 - When Jesus returns to get his church (For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.)
 - Preached unto the Gentiles – Before Jesus came salvation was of the Jews, but Jesus broke down that wall so that we didn't have to become a Jew to get saved.
 - Now he is using Gentiles like us to promote the Gospel around the world.
 - Believed on in the world – There are Christian people in every nation all around the world today all because of what Jesus did two thousand years ago.

- Received up into glory – Jesus was seen by many (over 500 at once) after he rose from the dead and he walked the earth for 40 days before he ascended back into heaven.
- That is the basis of Christianity, that shows in a nutshell how Jesus was different, God came in human flesh, died for our sins, that sacrifice was accepted by God, he raised from the dead, it was witnessed by both men and angels, that Gospel is still being preached today not just to the Jews but also the Gentiles and there are believers worldwide that believe that Jesus ascended back into heaven where he has gone to prepare a place for his bride, the church to meet them in the air and bring them home.
 - Praise God that is without controversy at this church!
 - A verse this powerful and this important for sound doctrine about Jesus Christ, what do the popular modern versions of the Bible say?

1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) 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.

New International Version (NIV) - Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, 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.

English Standard Version (ESV) - Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) - Beyond question, 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.

The Message (MSG) - This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

Isn't it strange that all of these versions are the same, they are supposed to make the Bible more understandable than the outdated King James Version, but they take a verse that is without controversy, without question, a bedrock verse of our faith and they changed the most key word in the entire verse!

- Someone was manifest in the flesh (in a human body), justified, in the Spirit, seen of angels, preach unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world and received up into glory...who was it?
 - The KJV says "God was manifest in the flesh" which means that God was also a man and we understand that Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man.

- Who is this person in the other versions that was manifest in the flesh?
 - Instead of saying God, it says, “He,” well who is He?
 - Some man was born a human, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
 - I’m a human man, justified by the blood of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, angels can see me, I preach to the Gentiles, some people in this world believe what I preach and one day, I will be received up into glory.
 - You could argue this could be talking about many different people, they have made what was without controversy incredibly confusing.
 - Mike you know this is Jesus, well you can argue that but I will say, you removed the deity of Jesus Christ.

Attack that Jesus was Eternal

Remember when the wise men came to Herod’s palace and asked in Matthew 2:1, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

- Herod called all the chief priests and scribes together and demanded where Christ should be born and they quickly answered him, “In Bethlehem of Judea” and they partially quoted this verse...

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

- The sad part of the story is that even though the wise men told everyone that the Messiah, the Christ had been born and the chief priests and scribes knew where to look, none of them followed the wise men to Bethlehem.
 - But the ending of the verse is very powerful, there is one coming that will be a ruler in Israel, born in Bethlehem, “whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.”
 - Not just a normal boy will be born, he will have been already existing before his birth from everlasting.
 - Jesus wasn’t created and his life didn’t begin at his birth in Bethlehem, he was from everlasting and he left all of heaven to be born of a virgin, to live a sinless life to die for the sins of the world on the Cross of Calvary and raise on the third day.

New International Version (NIV) - But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

English Standard Version (ESV) - But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) - But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.

- Confusing, mixing time with eternity, was he in time or outside of time?

The Message (MSG) - But you, Bethlehem, David's country, the runt of the litter—From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He'll be no upstart, no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished.

- One from everlasting has no beginning or it wouldn't be everlasting.
 - We struggle with eternity because we have lived our entire life bound by time (past, present and future) and all is measured by days, months, years, but God is outside of time, he is eternal.
 - He existed before anything and he wasn't created, but he created everything that we measure time with today, he created the sun, cause the earth to spin and be in orbit.
- Jesus was eternal, but the modern versions say that the Messiah's origins (prior to his birth) were from ancient times or days.
 - They are saying that Jesus began or was created a long time ago, you can go back to the ancient day when Jesus began.
 - If Jesus was created, he wasn't God, which is the same thing these versions attacked in 1 Timothy 3:16.
 - If we say Jesus was a god instead of the God, the Jehovah's Witnesses will agree with us!
 - Jesus was God, he is God and he always will be God, he had no beginning and has no end, anything else is blasphemy!

Application

Galatians 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **9** As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

- If anyone creates a different Jesus than the one in the Bible by changing the words of the Bible, let him be accursed with a double curse!
 - That goes for publishers that pervert the pure and preserved Word of God to satisfy the false religions and make money, all while claiming their goal is to make the Bible more readable, they will stand in judgment for their sins.