

The Story of Our King James Bible

- Psalm 68:11 The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.



What these classes are not:

- A reaction to controversy within the congregation
- A reaction to controversy within the Christian community
- An attempt to undermine or criticize the King James Bible
 - I realize that others will be the ultimate judge of whether or not I'm critical



What these classes are:

- An attempt to familiarize us with the history of the KJV
 - The men involved
 - The methods they used
 - The dilemmas they faced
- An attempt to familiarize us with the complexities of translating anything from one language to another



What these classes are:

- An attempt to address the flawed way that some Fundamentalists address conflict and complexity
 - Unbiblical reductionism
 - Misrepresentation of opposing views
 - Unwillingness to let “uncomfortable” facts stand
- A reminder that we have God’s word in our possession



With reference to the KJV, we adopt one of 4 views:

- It is inspired.
 - Breathed out by God
- It is uniquely preserved
 - Preserved by God in a way that other versions are not
- It is a superior translation from the best texts
- It is an adequate translation, but it could be improved because of the existence of other texts



Issues that must be addressed in translation

- Historical origin:
 - The KJV was a revision of the Bishop's Bible
 - King James approved 15 rules for translation, including this one: that “the old ecclesiastical words to be kept, viz. the word ‘church’ not be to translated ‘congregation,’ etc.



Issues that must be addressed in translation

- Textual basis
 - What texts did they use?
- Theological bias
 - Many of the translators were “high church” Anglicans
 - A few were Puritans, or “non-conformists”
 - Some were staunchly Calvinistic, and some were anti Calvinism



Issues that must be addressed in translation

- English uses
- Mat 5:18 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.
- What is a jot?
- Or a tittle?



- Jot is the Hebrew letter “yod.” (Greek word “iota”)
 - It’s the smallest Hebrew letter
 - Like our “I”
- Tittle means point, or horn
 - It was a line that distinguished one Hebrew letter from another
 - Like the squiggle that turns an “O” into a “Q”
- They are not punctuation



English words and grammar was used

- Ezekiel 35.6

- The Hebrew word is used 999 times in 871 verses
- This is the only time “sith”
- It’s a conditional word that means “if,” “since,” “rather”

- I Peter 3.8

- Pitiful means “full of pity or compassion”



English words and grammar was used

- Colossians 3.16
 - What if the semi colon was moved back 3 words?
- Romans 9.5
 - Wouldn't moving the comma one word magnify the deity of Christ?

