

INSPIRATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE

(Based on the book entitled "Is Our English Bible Inspired" by Sam Gipp)

INTRODUCTION TO THE WAR

- A. The war for God's word is **not** a new war. Battles have been ongoing (**and lost**) in:
1. The Garden of Eden when Satan cast doubt on God's word. - Genesis 3:1
 2. Ezekiel's time when inspiration was being questioned. - Ezek. 20:49
 3. Institutions of higher education in Europe, including Cambridge and Oxford.
 4. Institutions of higher education in the U.S., including Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.
 5. Mainline Christian denominations: Methodists, Presbyterians, and Southern Baptists.
- B. Nowadays, the skeptics within Independent Baptists churches have subtly crept into pulpits and classrooms and we are facing a real battle that exists within our own ranks.
- C. The Adversary's Battle Plan is always the same:
1. The Adversary always presents himself as "more enlightened" than those who stand for and believe the KJB is the inspired and perfect word of God.
 2. He always offers a "different spin" when he questions what God said in the KJB.
 3. Those who stand for the KJB are made to look like uneducated hicks if they maintain an absolute faith in the inspiration, perfection, and inerrancy of the KJB.
- OUTCOME**: The King James Bible believer loses if he gives even one inch!

THE PROBLEMS

- A. Most Christians today are prone to side with the consensus of the majority, spiritual leaders they respect, or Bible "scholars" and are too lazy to study the issue for themselves.
- B. Most Christians are prideful and naturally do not want to appear uneducated, ignorant, or inferior to those whom they consider more educated than they are (Academia and Scholarship).
- C. Teachers, society, and especially media have taught all of us that "scholars are never wrong!"
- D. A King James Bible believer gets into a mess when he tries to **BOTH** adhere to his belief in the perfect KJB while also trying to appease the scholars...**it is impossible to accomplish both!**
- E. They attempt this **impossible task** by: REDEFINING what a Bible believer is by pushing perfection (and inspiration) BACKWARDS to only the original manuscripts which they know no longer exist, thus assuring their position cannot be disputed.
- F. Cowards fear the ridicule of man **more than** they fear God (Gal. 1:10) and will only claim the originals were inspired, perfect, and without error; but they **will not** defend the King James Bible as the inspired, perfect, and inerrant words of God.

THEORIES OF INSPIRATION

A. Naturalistic Theory - The belief that God did not inspire the Bible at all.

B. Neo-Orthodox Theory - The belief that God did not inspire the Bible but He uses it for His purposes, just as He might use other books written by other people.

C. Partial Inspiration Theory - The belief that God inspired only portions of scripture.

D. Concept Theory - The belief that the Bible contains God's ideas but not His exact words. This theory is followed by the translators of many of the modern bibles (NIV, TLB, Good News for Modern Man, etc.) and is disguised within the technical sounding title "Dynamic Equivalence."

E. Mechanical Dictation Theory - The belief that the men writing the scripture were similar to a secretary writing down a letter, i.e. God said the words He wanted written down, and the human vessels dutifully wrote those precise words down.

F. Verbal Plenary Inspiration Theory - The belief that God chose every word used in the writing of the Bible, including writing, quoting the words of men, spontaneous statements and everything else that appears in Scripture.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER: When were statements in the Bible inspired? Was it when they were spoken? Or quoted by the person speaking (or by God)? Or when they were written down? (Prov. 31:1) Were the verses taken from the OT (in Hebrew) and quoted *differently* in the NT (after having been translated into Greek) inspired? (cf. Hab. 2:4 with Rom. 1:17 and Micah 5:2 with Matt. 2:6) Is a scripture inspired when ascribed to someone who plainly didn't write it? (Jer. 36:4; Rom 16:22; cf. Matt. 27:9 with Zech. 11:12) Are the words expressly attributed to be from a man inspired by God? (1 Cor. 7:12, 40)

WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? - Review Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7

Quote from Pastor Rick Sowell: "The inspiration of the scripture is the divine process by which God conveys His words through man to man in such a miraculous manner that the personality of the human instrument is discernable, yet the works are as truly the exact works of God as if they had been written down by God Himself."

BIBLE BELIEVER POSITION: All the words in the King James Bible are inspired by God.

BIBLE BELIEVERS STAND ON TWO GREAT PILLARS, NOT JUST ONE

A. The inspired and perfect King James Bible rests on two pillars, inspiration and preservation.
1. Both are equal in importance and each is useless without the other.

B. If God did not inspire the Bible, then preservation is irrelevant since there would be nothing for God to preserve.

C. If God did not preserve that which he inspired, then there is no perfect Bible anywhere on this earth right now, and the Bible cannot be true. - Psalm 12:6-7; 119:89; Matt. 24:35

D. Inspiration without preservation is a "Divine waste of time."

E. If God inspired and preserved the King James Bible, then it is not just "a good book" on a list of other good books; it becomes THE GOOD BOOK!

F. If God inspired and preserved the King James Bible, it is the **only thing** on the face of this earth that is not degenerating within the "closed dying system" of everything else on this earth.

THE ORIGINALS - INSPIRATION AND PRESERVATION

A. Everybody agrees the originals were inspired and without error, as God cannot make an error.

B. There was never a time in history when all of the originals of the Bible were in a single bound book, nor was there ever a time in history when even the 27 originals of the NT were even in the same room, let alone in a single bound book.

C. The originals no longer exist, due to reasons such as:

1. Many were thrown away when they became too worn out to read and since they had been copied, it was safe to destroy them.
2. Some were undoubtedly destroyed by the enemies of the Bible, such as the RCC.
3. Some were probably destroyed by fires or weather disasters.

D. Many fundamentalists today, but not all, argue that **only the originals** were inspired and perfect and scoff at the idea that copies and translations of those copies (which they say are nothing but products of uninspired men, all of whom make mistakes) can be inspired and perfect.

E. The fallacy in this line of thinking is as follows:

1. Why couldn't God **use sinful men** to do his translating and copying (preservation) when He was able to **use sinful men** to write down His originally inspired words?
2. It takes the same power from God to accomplish preservation of His words throughout history as it did to inspire the scriptures in the first place.
 - a. Remember that God used Moses and David (murderers), David (an adulterer), Solomon (an idolater), and Peter (who denied the Lord). Certainly our God who was powerful enough to overcome sinful men to inspire His words in the originals is also powerful enough to overcome sinful men to preserve them for us today as He promised He would!

F. Those who believe in Divine inspiration without Divine preservation cannot explain why God would inspire the originals and then allow them to be lost.

1. It is men who have never seen Jesus (us today) who really need a Bible much more than those who walked and talked with Jesus when He was on the earth.

2. Additionally, if God did not preserve His Bible for mankind forever, then the Bible can neither be inspired nor true. - Psalm 12:6-7
3. Thus, those who believe in the inspired perfect originals, but do not believe a perfect English Bible is available today, **believe nothing at all**, they just blow a lot of smoke.

THE ORIGINALS - HOW IMPORTANT ARE THEY?

A. Since the originals no longer exist, then either 1) God did not regard the originals highly enough to preserve them or 2) He attempted to preserve them, but failed to do so (which cannot be true).

- B. It is **wrong** to put more emphasis on the originals than God does. Example: Jeremiah
1. In Jer. 36:1-2, Jeremiah had written a roll of a book. In vv. 21-23 Jehudi, reads 3-4 leaves and then King Jehoiakim got so upset that he cut it up with a penknife and cast it into the fire on the hearth until it was destroyed. (This is the end of original #1)
 2. In Jer. 36:28-32, original #2 is written, and it not only recovered original #1, it "added besides unto them many like words." What original #2 said is found in Jer. 45-51
 3. **WHAT IS GOING ON? "CONTINUAL INSPIRATION" AND "PRESERVATION"**
 4. Jeremiah told Seraiah to read this roll when came to Babylon. - Jer. 51:59-61 When Seraiah finished reading it Jeremiah instructed him to bind a stone to it and cast it into the Euphrates River. - Jer. 51:63 (This is the end of original #2)
 5. Since we have a copy of the text of this roll found in Jer. 45-51 in our King James Bible, where did it come from? It could not have come from original #1 or original #2 because both of them were destroyed. It had to come from a copy of original #2.
 6. God didn't have the least bit of interest in preserving the original, once it had been copied and its message delivered.
 7. **LESSON:** Since we have the text of the originals preserved in the KJB, we have no need for the originals themselves (and they are not available to us anyway).

CAN A TRANSLATION BE INSPIRED?

A. All modernist Bible "scholars" declare that the KJB is just a translation and "everybody knows" that no translation can be inspired. Is that what the Bible says? Chapter? Verse?

- B. There are at least three times in Scripture that we find an inspired translation:
1. Joseph's reunion with his brothers. - In Gen. 42:23, it is clear that Joseph spoke Egyptian rather than Hebrew. The Egyptian interpreter obviously translated Joseph's word into Hebrew and Moses wrote them down in Hebrew. Which words did God inspire...Joseph's original spoken Egyptian? The Egyptian's original spoken translation? Moses' original writing of the translation? Answer: All were inspired.
 2. Every word in Acts 22:1-21 spoken by Paul after his arrest in Acts 21 was spoken in Hebrew but Luke wrote them down in Greek. Were the words spoken by Paul in Hebrew inspired or only Luke's written translation into Greek? Answer: Both were inspired.
 3. Cf. Acts 9:5-6 with Acts 26:14 - Acts 9:5-6 are the words that Jesus said to Saul during their encounter on the road to Damascus. Paul giving his testimony before Agrippa in

Acts 26:14 credits Jesus with speaking in Hebrew and of course Luke wrote everything down in Greek, thus an inspired translation of Jesus' originally inspired Hebrew.

COMPARING TRANSLATIONS WITH THE ORIGINALS

A. All modernist Bible "scholars" declare and we have all heard many people say that a translation cannot be as good as the original. So what does the KJB, our final authority, teach about translations as compared to an original? What will you do if what the KJB teaches runs counter to your personal opinion? Is the KJB your final authority or you personal biases?

B. A translation as compared to its original must be either: 1) inferior, 2) equal, or 3) superior.

C. Forms of the word "translate" appears only five times in scripture in three different verses.

1. 2 Sam. 3:7-10 - After the death of Saul in 1 Samuel 31, Abner, the captain of Saul's army, installed Ish-bosheth as king instead of David (2 Sam. 12:8-9) Ish-bosheth and Abner had a falling out and Abner announced he was going to "translate" the Kingdom of Israel (all 12 tribes) from Ish-bosheth to David (2 Sam. 3:9). The split kingdom God set up in 1 Kings 11:29-32 (10 northern tribes-Israel and 2 southern tribes-Judah) was never God's will.

Result: The original was a divided nation contrary to God's will. The translation was David ending up as king over the entire 12-tribe kingdom, which was God's will. Hence, the translation was **SUPERIOR** to the original.

2. Col. 1:13 - A salvation reference showing all born again believers in Jesus Christ have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God.

Result: The original was a lost person under the power of darkness. The translation was deliverance out of the power of darkness into the Kingdom of God. Hence, the translation is **SUPERIOR** to the original.

3. Hebrews 11:5 - Enoch's translation is a type of the Rapture of the Church and the blessed hope spoken of in Titus 2:13 when believers will be translated from this world to Heaven. The original was Enoch as a godly man living in a world whose imagination was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5) who someday would die. Enoch was translated alive to Heaven so that he would never experience death (Gen. 5:24).

Result: The translation is once again **SUPERIOR** to the original.

D. If all translations are superior to originals within the KJB, then the clear conclusion is that in some ways the KJB should be superior (but of course not more inspired) when compared to the originals. Here are some ways the KJB is superior to the originals:

1. The whole Bible is bound into a single volume.
2. Chapter and verse divisions were not available in the originals.
3. Durability of our Bible today is better than the originals.
4. The language is superior as far more people today have access to the scriptures through the use of English than the Hebrew and Greek of the originals.
5. Multiple copies allow for many more people to have a preserved copy of the scriptures than just one person having one original.

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE AND THE TEXTUS RECEPTUS

A. There are over 5700 Greek manuscripts or manuscript fragments of the New Testament extant (available) today. They are classified in one of four ways:

1. Unclassified Manuscripts - (About 180) Fragments so tiny they cannot be classified.
2. "D" - (only 8) These have no input in the issue of Bible translations.
3. Alexandrian Family - (less than 60) Manuscripts which originate from *Alexandria, Egypt* and were corrupted by Egyptian influence and form the basis for the "Critical Text" which is the text used to produce virtually all the modern translations.
4. Antiochan Family - (over 5400) These manuscripts originate from the center of early New Testament Christianity in *Antioch, Syria* and many are complete copies of the entire New Testament. This is the main source of the English translations prior to the King James Bible, the King James Bible itself, and a few since then (albeit the few since the KJB all contain some readings from the corrupt Alexandrian Family, e.g. the NKJB).

B. Every Bible on every Christian bookstore shelf is from either 1) the *Antiochan Family* or 2) the *Alexandrian Family*. Thus, **there are only two Bibles**.

C. **ANTIOCHAN Approach to the Bible:** The Bible is perfect and cannot be improved. A genuine Bible believer approaches the KJB is inspired, perfect, and without error, and needing to only to be re-read, re-studied, and re-preached, **NOT RE-WRITTEN**.

D. **ALEXANDRIAN Approach to the Bible:** The Bible we have is not perfect and can be improved. This approach produces "Bible correctors" who believe the Alexandrian Family is the best source of truth.

E. A "**TR-Man**" believes in the Antiochan Family of manuscripts but has an Alexandrian approach to the Bible. He believes the KJB is the best translation available, and will often state that he believes the KJB is the perfect "Word of God", but he does not truly believe in his heart that the KJB is inspired and without error. A "**TR-Man**" holds to the standard Alexandrian teachings such as: 1) the italicized words are not inspired and don't belong in the Bible, 2) the archaic words in the KJB make it hard to understand and hinder spiritual growth, 3) that King James was a homosexual, 4) there is no written final authority on this earth, but only God, etc.

F. A genuine Bible believer truly believes the KJB he holds in his hand is inspired, perfect, perfectly preserved, and without error, just as the originals were.

G. Anyone who believes or teaches that no Bible on earth today is inspired, perfect, perfectly preserved, and without error makes the KJB and God Himself out to be a liar! - How do we know? Psalm 12:6-7; Matt. 24:35; Prov. 30:5-6; Psalm 119:89, 140, 152, 160

H. Modernists who retreat to the TR (when they don't even know Greek and even less about the Greek text) in order to be able to claim they believe the Bible (they mean the TR) is the perfect word of God is nothing short of first-rate hypocrisy. If absolute truth is only found in the Greek

and Hebrew, then why don't these hypocrites teach all of their congregations Hebrew and Greek and only preach from the Hebrew and the Greek? Why do church members ignorantly allow their preachers play the "the Greek says this game" or "the KJB correcting game?"

I. The "**TR-Man**" paints himself into a corner. - Review italicized words in 1 John 2:23. When the KJB translators put the italicized words in the text, they had no Greek text to support them but knew they belonged in the Bible. A Greek manuscript discovered about 200 years later verified the italicized words were correctly included in the verse, but lo and behold, they were found in the two **corrupt** manuscripts (Sinaiticus and Vaticanus) that form the backbone of the corrupt Alexandrian Family (the corrupt manuscripts are correct in 1 John 2:23). The Textus Receptus **fails** the "**TR-Man**" throughout the Bible wherever italicized words are found (and in many other ways), just as it **fails** to be correct in 1 John 2:23. (See KJV compared with TR handout.)

WHO KILLED GOLIATH ANYHOW?

A. An example of removing italicized words. - 2 Samuel 21:19 When the italicized words "*the brother of*" are removed (which were added by the King James translators), then the verse claims that Elhanan killed Goliath, rather than his brother. Such a rendering contradicts 1 Sam.17:50-51 where David is correctly credited with killing Goliath. Removal of these (and other) italicized words has created errors the modern bibles such as in the RSV, NRSV, ASV, NASV, NIV, NCV, TLB, and many others (and also including the 1599 Geneva Bible).

B. To eliminate the obvious contradiction, the KJB translators corrected the Hebrew they had available (**which was not the original Hebrew**) and added "*the brother of*" to 2 Sam. 21:19. They did this on the authority that: 1) 1 Samuel 17 plainly states that David killed Goliath and 2) 1 Chron. 20:5 (which is the parallel passage to 2 Sam. 21) shows the phrase "**the brother of**" (**not in italics**) which means it was in the Hebrew they had and no doubt the original Hebrew.

C. **LESSON**: The KJB may be used to correct **the copies** of the Hebrew and the Greek **WE HAVE NOW**, but it would never be used (as well as unnecessary) to correct the originals since they obviously were inspired, perfect, and without error.

CONCLUSIONS

A. The KJB we have in our hands is both inspired and preserved. The KJB is the word (and words) of God and it is inspired, perfect, and without error.

B. The KJB was not inspired in the same way as the originals, i.e. it did not begin from a blank sheet of paper as did the originals. The KJB's inspiration is the result of God's preservation.

C. The words of God are not some pile of manuscripts that have been lost for thousands of years.

D. The preserved Bible is **not** the Textus Receptus Greek.

E. Believing the King James Bible is inspired, perfect, perfectly preserved, and without error may seem ridiculous to some. But don't people who believe the Bible also believe even more "ridiculous" (miraculous) things than that, such as in: 1) God parting the Red Sea and the Jordan River and the children of Israel to cross on dry ground, 2) Peter walking on water, 3) a talking jackass, 4) Jesus being born of a virgin, 4) Jesus rising from the dead and raising other people from the dead, 5) the Rapture of the Church?

F. Closely review Psalm 12:6-7 ("them" = "words" of v.6, not "the poor" of v. 5)

Note: The context of Ps. 12 is comparing the **words** of the Lord versus the **words** of the wicked.

G. *If* the KJB contains even a single word error, it could have many more, and then we can never know what God's words to us really are (nor if we even have the correct plan of salvation).