
WHAT WE MEAN BY KING JAMES ONLY

I. WHAT WE DO NOT MEAN. I have felt the need for some clarification on the subject of "King James Only." Confusion and ignorance abound on the subject. Recent correspondence with a brother in England has prompted me to take some time to put forth our position so that there can be no mistake about it. However, I have no doubt some will still twist our words and try to pervert our position. That is their problem, not mine! There are two basic positions. The one makes it a whole new revelation; the other, teaches that it is an accurate copy of the original Word of God.

1. We want to say at the very beginning that we do not mean all the things that Peter Ruckman says concerning the King James Bible. We are not "Ruckmanites" though we have been given that label by many. In some cases, it is a deliberate attempt to discredit our stand upon God's Word. It is common for many who cannot disprove another's position to use smear tactics and to create guilt by association (though we have no association whatever with Mr. Ruckman). In fact, he has so many false teachings that any association would be impossible.

2. We do not mean that the KJV is the only correct Bible in the world. It is the only correct one in the English language, but most of the major languages of the world also have Bibles which have as their basis the Textus Receptus and they are thus also the inspired Word of God. It is interesting to note that all of the leaders of the Reformation had been Roman Catholic priests and yet not one of them who translated the Scriptures used the Latin Bible of the Catholic Church nor faulty Greek ones. They all used the text of Erasmus (it was only completed in 1516) which later became the basis for what is commonly called the TR.

3. We do not mean, as does Ruckman and his followers, that the KJV is superior to the original languages, the Hebrew and Greek of Old and New Testaments. We do not believe that the KJV can be used to correct the Hebrew and Greek. That is preposterous! Ruckman's teaching amounts to added revelation. All sound Bible believers down through the ages, believed that the canon closed after the Book of Revelation was completed around 100 A.D. If the original was the inspired, infallible Word of God, how could it need correction? A copy cannot be better than the perfect original!

4. We do not believe in a second (or third, etc.) inspiration. That is, the KJV was not given to the translators as the original Hebrew and Greek writings were given to Moses, David, Peter, etc. In fact they claimed no such thing for themselves. This is but the invention of men. Such a thing was unnecessary. Did God inspire Luther, Tyndale, etc. as He did the writers of the originals? Certainly not! All we need, and what we have, is a perfect copy of those originals. That is why we say the KJV is the inspired, infallible, and *preserved* Word of God. God watched over it so we have the same writings in our own language. The KJV is a *translation*, not an original! Since it is an accurate copy of the Word of God, it is the Word of God! (For an answer to the question: "Can a Version be inspired?" get our book, "*Is Your Bible Really The Word Of God?*").

II. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY KING JAMES ONLY?

We have already put forth the position of some who speak of "the King James only." But that is a very faulty view. We have a totally different position. In fact, that is the reason for this paper. **There are two basic views of the King James Only issue.** And it is necessary to explain what we mean. We have to do this all the time. For example, there are a good many varieties of Fundamentalists around. The worldly press lumps together everything from Pat Robertson and his kind to cultists like Jehovah's Witnesses. Even among Bible believers there is quite a choice. However, I for one am not giving up the term Fundamentalist - I just explain what I mean. Take the Biblical term "born again." Years ago one would not have dreamed that Roman Catholics, liberals, etc. would be claiming to be "born again." So, we need to explain it; not give it up!

1. By King James Only, we mean that there is only one pure, inspired Word of God in the English language and that is the KJV. We believe that God has preserved His Word for us in the King James Bible and no other! We think it is silly to believe, as many do, that eight or ten, or a hundred Bibles all of which differ, are still somehow each the Word of God. Therefore, we do not use any other version for any reason (except to show that it is perverted). It is the only Bible (actually the others are not Bibles but counterfeits) we use period; in the pulpit, classroom, on the street, etc. It is hypocrisy to use one Bible in public and another in the classroom.

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2. We believe that the King James Version, being the only true inspired Word of God in the English language, cannot be corrected with any other version, nor with the Hebrew or Greek. However, that does not mean we do not use occasionally the Hebrew or Greek to give fuller insight into a word or portion of Scripture. This is not correcting the Bible. It is impossible to translate something from one language to another and always have the *exact* shade of meaning (though the truth is there).

3. We believe that the chapters and verses and italicized words are not inspired. They were added long after the canon was completed. The chapters and verses are a great help but not inspired. The King James Version translators themselves said an italicized word had no corresponding word in the text, but they put it in to help with the sense. They wanted us to know that they added them. For example, in Greek, more often than not, the verb "to be" was not used. It was simply understood. That's the way they spoke and wrote. You will often see *was, is, are*, etc. in italics. The translators added them to make sense. They occasionally added other words. They were not inspired and I personally (along with many others more knowledgeable than myself) do not believe some of them belong there. Now, there are good brethren who differ on this and some other points that I would consider not crucial.

4. We believe that the King James Bible is the inspired, preserved Word of God. We believe that it is just as inspired as the original. If it is not, then it is not inspired at all. It is not necessary to invent a "second inspiration" in order to have this. If it is equal to what was originally inspired then, it too is inspired. It doesn't take a scholar to figure that out. We have shown in our book on the subject that in the Word of God itself, one can see that accurate copies of the original were spoken of as "Scripture" and all Scripture is given by "**inspiration of God.**" If God preserved the originals, whether in copies of the original languages (manuscripts) or in other languages (versions), those copies are also inspired!

III. WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE HERE? There has been a great deal of heat and little light on this subject. There is much smoke but little substance. Why is this such an important issue? And make no mistake, this is an all-important issue though some would have you think it

is a mere trifle or a matter of preference. We believe that preservation is just as important as inspiration - both are taught in the Scriptures. Was God interested in giving His pure Word to a few generations?

1. A most important issue is, can we hold in our hands today, the true, inspired, infallible, Word of God? Many, including a large number of Fundamentalists, say that we cannot. They contend that only the originals were inspired and that a version cannot be thus inspired. They hold that all versions have some errors in them and that God did not perfectly preserve His Word as He promised. Please read the following verses: Psalms 12:6,7 and 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; Luke 21:33; John 10:35; etc. God did promise to preserve His Word. I personally do not want to stand up and say, "**Thus saith the Lord,**" if the Lord didn't say it! If you hold to any of the modern versions, you have made a judgment that there is quite a bit He didn't say.

2. It boils down to this: Do we believe God's Word? He said He would preserve it. We simply believe God! We cannot explain everything to the satisfaction of every Tom, Dick, and Harry. We don't try. If a man doesn't believe God, there is not much you can do for him. If he wants to believe modern "scholarship" that is his problem. We prefer to believe God. We believe His Word! Who ever said we had to understand everything? Where is the man arrogant enough to say he does?

3. King James Only means to us that God has kept His Word and preserved His truth all down through the ages. In the English language, His truth (all of it) is the King James Version of the Bible! It is evident that if the KJV is not the entire, pure Word of God, then we don't have it today. Others may believe that we don't have it or that we have something close to it. We believe God! That is the choice everyone has, to believe God or someone else. Unfortunately, most people, including many Christians, are lazy when it comes to study. They would rather take someone's word on an issue than to look into it for themselves. What could be more important than whether we have the inspired, infallible, preserved Word of God in our language today? God said He would preserve His inspired Word; if you believe that, the issue is settled. If you don't believe it, you do not believe God! It's up to you!

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