

THE HISTORY OF THE KJV BIBLE

A SAVED TO SERVE STUDY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Thy Word Is Truth

We let the Bible interpret itself, comparing Scripture with Scripture and rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). The study runs in one continuous sequence — from Point 1 through Point 35. Read each reference in your Bible and write your answers on the lines provided.

- PURPOSE** In this series of doctrinal lessons we will discuss why Bible-believing Protestant Christians should use the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, and how using the correct Bible version fits into the Great Controversy between Jesus Christ and Satan over our lives.

In This Study

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| 1 | The war that came down to earth | <i>Revelation 12:7-12</i> |
| 2 | Satan's version in Eden | <i>Genesis 3:1-4</i> |
| 3 | How God gave & preserved His Word | <i>Deuteronomy 6:7</i> |
| 4 | The tongues of the nations | <i>Revelation 14:6</i> |
| 5 | Rome forbids the open Bible | <i>The Great Controversy 97, 65</i> |
| 6 | Tyndale, Erasmus & the received text | <i>The Great Controversy 245</i> |
| 7 | Rebuttals & the Apocrypha | <i>Points 21-26</i> |
| 8 | One in Christ & in His truth | <i>John 17:22</i> |

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

JOHN 17:17 (KJV)

Keep your Bible open and let each text speak for itself. This lesson traces how God gave His Word, how He preserved it through the ages, and how the enemy has always worked to obscure it. Weigh the history and the Scriptures together, and answer honestly — from Point 1 to Point 35 — that you may hold fast the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

2. According to Revelation 12:7-9, what took place in heaven?— *Read: Revelation 12:7-9*

3. Since the devil and his angels were cast out of heaven, where has the war come down to?— *Read: Revelation 12:12*

4. What is the war between Jesus and Satan over?— *Read: Matthew 4:8-10; Isaiah 14:12-14*

5. What name is given to Jesus in John 1:1-3, 14?— *Read: John 1:1-3, 14*

6. Fill in the blanks. In the Garden of Eden, what did the serpent (Satan) say to Eve? “Yea, hath -----...” — *Read: Genesis 3:1*

a) What was the devil trying to get Eve to doubt?— *Read: Genesis 3:1*

7. What did the serpent say in contradiction to God’s Word?— *Read: Genesis 3:4; Genesis 2:16-17*

8. **NOTE** God gave Eve His version of the consequence of disobedience. Satan uttered his version of the result of sin. Eve rejected God’s version and accepted Satan’s version. This was the first step that led to the fall of mankind. As it was in the beginning, so it will be in the end — professed Christians will reject God’s version of the Word and accept Satan’s version.

9. **NOTE** Let us now transition and see how God passed down His Word to men and how it was preserved through the ages.

10. How did God communicate His truth and His Word to Adam?— *Read: Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:16*

11. How was the Word of God passed down to each succeeding generation prior to the books of the Bible being written?— *Read: Deuteronomy 6:7; Deuteronomy 11:19*

12. **NOTE** Eventually, God’s Word was written down in books. See 2 Peter 1:19-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

13. Which Bible author was the first to record God's Word?— *Read: Luke 24:27; Exodus 34:27; Deuteronomy 31:24, 26*

14. **NOTE** Notice also that God first spoke the Ten Commandments, and then wrote them and gave them to Moses to share with the people. This is another example which shows us how God communicated and preserved His Word: first orally, then through written language. See Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:1-5.

15. What language was the Bible first written in? What language did Moses speak?— *Read: Exodus 2:6, 7, 11*

16. During the time period of the first advent of Jesus, which languages were prevalent in the surrounding region? And which language was spoken by the majority?— *Read: Luke 2:1; Luke 23:38*

"These Grecians were residents of other countries, where the Greek language was spoken. By far the larger number of converts were Jews who spoke Hebrew; but these had lived in the Roman Empire, and spoke only Greek. Murmurings began to rise among them that the Grecian widows were not so liberally supplied as the needy among the Hebrews. Any partiality of this kind would have been grievous to God; and prompt measures were taken to restore peace and harmony to the believers."

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, VOL. 3, P. 291 {3SP 291.2}

17. What must be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people?— *Read: Revelation 14:6*

18. **NOTE** Since the Bible must go to every "tongue," it means that the Bible, which was written in Hebrew and Greek, must be translated into the languages of various people.

19. According to history, what did the Roman Catholic Church forbid as it related to the Bible? See the quotation below.

"The gospel had been planted in Bohemia as early as the ninth century. The Bible was translated, and public worship was conducted, in the language of the people. But as the power of the pope increased, so the word of God was obscured... a bull was issued forbidding public worship to be conducted in the Bohemian tongue. The pope declared that 'it was pleasing to the Omnipotent that His worship should be celebrated in an unknown language, and that many evils and heresies had arisen from not observing this rule.' Thus Rome decreed that the light of God's word should be extinguished and the people should be shut up in darkness."

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 97 {GC 97.1}

20. Which group of people was the first to have the Bible translated in their own language? See the quotations below.

“The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 65 {GC 65.2}

“He [Luther] also performed a most important service for his countrymen by translating the New Testament into the German tongue. From his rocky Patmos he continued for nearly a whole year to proclaim the gospel and rebuke the sins and errors of the times.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 168 {GC 168.3}

“While Luther was opening a closed Bible to the people of Germany, Tyndale was impelled by the Spirit of God to do the same for England. Wycliffe’s Bible had been translated from the Latin text, which contained many errors... In 1516, a year before the appearance of Luther’s theses, Erasmus had published his Greek and Latin version of the New Testament. Now for the first time the word of God was printed in the original tongue. In this work many errors of former versions were corrected, and the sense was more clearly rendered... Tyndale was to complete the work of Wycliffe in giving the Bible to his countrymen.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 245 {GC 245.1}

“Though not actually the first edition of a compiled New Testament in Greek, Erasmus’ edition princeps became an important landmark. Martin Luther used the second edition of Erasmus’ work for his translation of the New Testament into German... The third edition was used as the textual base for the King James Version of the Bible... It became known as the textus receptus, or ‘received text.’”

VATICAN RADIO ARCHIVE, 2016 · archivioradiovaticana.va ↗

“The public school system was de facto Protestant, with religious education based on reading the King James Version of the Bible. Catholics objected to this, and bishops sought that Catholics could be excused from reading the Protestant Bible.”

EWTN NEWS · ewtnnews.com ↗

21. One of the principal reasons why the Papacy tried to kill the Protestant Reformers and burn their Bibles was because the Reformers translated the Bible into the languages of the common people. Which books were rejected by the Protestants which are in the Catholic Bible?

ANSWER The books of the Apocrypha, such as Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, etc. Since these books were not accepted by the Protestants to be translated into the 66 books of the Bible, then we should not trust them nor use them as essential to salvation.

“All Christians — Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant — agree that the Books in the Bible are the inspired, written Word of God but disagree on which Books belong in the Bible... The Catholic OT Canon includes Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, I and II Maccabees — plus sections of Esther and Daniel which are absent from the Protestant OT. Protestant Christians do not accept these Writings as inspired by God and refer to them as the ‘Apocrypha.’”

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY (ARCHIVED) · web.archive.org ↗

“Likewise, these books contain references to concepts that are familiar to Catholics but rejected by Protestants, such as prayer for the dead and intercessions of saints and angels.”

BUSTED HALO · bustedhalo.com ↗

22. **NOTE** When David was about to fight Goliath, Saul tried to give him his armor. However, David rejected it because he had not proved it (1 Samuel 17:38-39). Likewise, the Bible, the Word of God, is described as a sword in Ephesians 6:17, and we are in a spiritual warfare against Satan and his evil agencies, including the Papacy. Wouldn't you want to use a "sword" that is tried and proven to overthrow the Papacy, who will again rise to power in these last days? The KJV Bible is that sword that has been used to defeat the errors of the Papacy in times past, and God will use it again!

REBUTTALS

23. **Since the Old Testament of the Bible was originally written in Hebrew, why don't we read the Bible in the Hebrew translation?**— *Read: Revelation 14:6; Matthew 24:14*

ANSWER The gospel is to go to all the world and then the end will come. Therefore, the Bible must be written in the various languages of the world so that each person can hear the truths, accept them, and be saved. It is not therefore necessary that every human being read the Bible in Hebrew.

24. **Since it is acceptable to use the King James Version of the Bible, then why do we sometimes use a concordance to get a better understanding of a particular word in the original Hebrew or Greek?**
— *Read: 1 Corinthians 2:13*

ANSWER The concordance gives us a starting point to better understand a word, but the understanding of the word from the Hebrew or Greek should not supersede the context of the way it is used in the Bible. For example, in Daniel 8:14 the word "days" means "evenings and mornings" in the Hebrew. However, those days are not literal 24-hour periods but prophetic days (a day for a year — Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6). The symbols of Daniel 8 — the ram and the he-goat (Medo-Persia and Greece, Daniel 8:20, 21) — progress into the future and outlived Daniel; hence the succeeding prophecy of the 2300 days must also reflect a time period after the reign of Greece.

25. **If an individual is unaware of which Bible translation is the most accurate and they use versions such as the NIV, NASB, NLT, etc., will they be lost?**— *Read: Acts 17:30*

ANSWER God only holds us accountable for the truth that we know. God meets us where we are, but He will give us something better (John 4:14). It is the Holy Spirit that will use the Word of God to impress our heart with truth. If we have something better and reject it, then the Holy Spirit will not work on our behalf (James 4:17).

26. The Bible makes references to other books which are not contained among the 66, such as the Book of the Wars of God (Numbers 21:14), the Book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13), the Book of Nathan and the Book of Gad (1 Chronicles 29:29). Should we read these books and regard them as sacred since they are mentioned in the Bible?— *Read: Deuteronomy 29:29; 1 Corinthians 14:32*

ANSWER These are called the lost books of the Bible. They were relevant for their time but are not a part of the 66 canonical books. God would not allow these books to be excluded if they were needful and essential to our salvation. Books presently containing their names have been corrupted and forged by men.

AS WE CLOSE

27. Let us read John 17:22. What is Jesus' desire for His people?— *Read: John 17:22*

28. What must be done for God's people to be one in Jesus?— *Read: Acts 2:1*

29. Who must we pray for to be unified in Jesus and in His truth?— *Read: Acts 2:2-4*

30. What will the Holy Spirit convict us of so that we can put aside our differences?— *Read: John 16:7-8*

31. **NOTE** As we submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit, He will teach us all things that we need to comprehend. In order for us to come to an understanding of what truth is, we must be led by the same Holy Spirit of God. See John 14:26.

32. Whose message must come to the forefront before the Second Coming of Jesus?— *Read: Malachi 4:5-6*

33. **NOTE** It is Satan's desire to separate families. Churches are made up of families. Therefore, by spreading Bibles which contain error, the devil is doing his work of lowering God's standards of truth. In order for us to be united in Jesus and share the everlasting gospel with one voice, as one man, we must understand, believe, and teach the same Biblical truth. Read Nehemiah 8:1-2.

34. **FURTHER STUDY** Besides the KJV being the version that the Protestant Reformers used, there are additional reasons why other modern versions of the Bible are dangerous to read and study. Many modern versions make the message of the Bible pluralistic (that there are many ways to God), and they add to and take away key points from the verses. Notice also that most versions of the Bible are copyrighted, which means you need permission to use them commercially. The KJV Bible, without commentary in it, is not copyrighted and can be used freely. Compare the readings below.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

KJV All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...

DOUAY All scripture, inspired of God, is profitable...

HEBREWS 11:21

KJV Jacob... worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff...

DOUAY Jacob... adored the top of his rod.

HOSEA 11:12

KJV but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.

NIV And Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One...

MARK 2:17

KJV I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

NIV I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

JOB 26:5

KJV Dead things are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof.

AMP The spirits of the dead tremble underneath the waters and their inhabitants.

LUKE 4:4

KJV ...man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

NASB ...Man shall not live on bread alone.

OMISSIONS

KJV Acts 8:37 — “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

NIV Missing. Also Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11 are missing. The NIV has removed over 64,000 words from the Bible, including Jehovah, Calvary, and Holy Ghost.

WORD CHANGES

KJV Acts 8:9 — “bewitched the people.”

NKJV/NASB Changed to “astonished”; the NIV and RSV change it to “amazed.”

PHRASES REMOVED

KJV Isaiah 11:3 — “And shall make Him of quick understanding”; Isaiah 66:5 — “But He shall appear to your joy.”

MODERN Both phrases are eliminated from the NKJV, NASB, NIV and RSV.

35. What judgments are pronounced upon those who take away and add to God’s Word?— *Read: Revelation 22:18-19*

Notes



That They May Be One

From Eden onward the controversy has turned on one question: will we accept God's version of His Word, or the enemy's? God spoke His truth, wrote it, preserved it through faithful hands, and carried it to the common people at the cost of the Reformers' blood. The sword that overthrew the errors of Rome in ages past is the same sword God will use again. Hold it fast, be filled with His Spirit, and speak the truth with one voice.

REVELATION 22:18-19 (KJV)

"If any man shall add unto these things... and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life."

Will you take up the sword of the Spirit, and be one with Him in His truth?

REFERENCES

Sources & Notes

THE COST OF AN OPEN BIBLE

"Thus Rome decreed that the light of God's word should be extinguished and the people should be shut up in darkness."

ELLEN G. WHITE · THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 97 {GC 97.1}

SCRIPTURE & STUDY HELPS

- 1 Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, pp. 65, 97, 168, 245 {GC 65.2; 97.1; 168.3; 245.1}.
- 2 Ellen G. White, The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, p. 291 {3SP 291.2}.
- 3 Vatican Radio Archive — 500th anniversary of the first edition of Erasmus' New Testament. archivioradiovaticana.va ↗
- 4 EWTN News — When American Catholic politics split the church. ewtnnews.com ↗
- 5 Catholic News Agency — The Apocrypha (Old Testament canon resource), archived. web.archive.org ↗
- 6 Busted Halo — Why doesn't the Catholic Church recognize the King James Version? bustedhalo.com ↗

All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version (KJV). Spirit of Prophecy references are cited for study and comment.