

Should Christians Use The King James Version?

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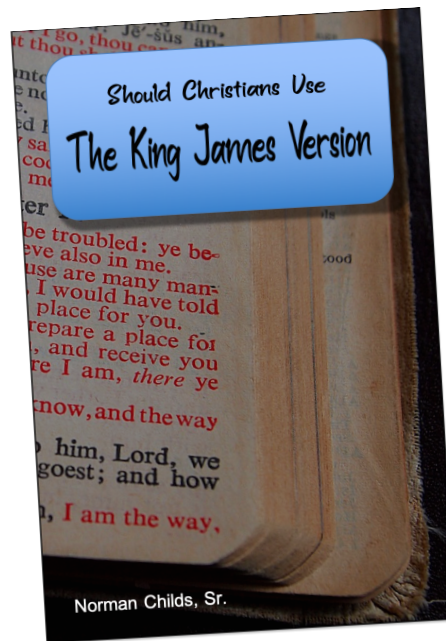
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Should Christians use the King James Version of the Bible as a regular study Bible?

Christians should **not** use the KJV as a regular study Bible for 7 important reasons:

1. The KJV was not authorized by God, but by an evil king.

I've heard it said, "No other translation can be correct, if it differs from the King James Authorized Version!" I get the feeling that some people think that God authorized the KJV and, therefore, it is to be used as the standard. All other versions must be measured to it.

Q: What does "The Authorized Version" mean and who authorized it?

A: The 1611 Bible is known as the King James Version in the United States. However, in the United Kingdom, it is more commonly called The Authorized Version.

The Authorized Version was not authorized by God, but by King James I of England; perhaps the last person on earth to do such a thing. When Queen Elizabeth was dying, he secretly plotted to take over her government which he did immediately following her death. He was so arrogant that he pronounced himself God's special representative and head of the church. He was an avid homosexual and, perhaps, worst of all, persecuted, and forced from his country, the Pilgrims and Puritans who desperately wanted to worship God in the purity of His teaching. James did authorize this translation, but it is plain to see that he did it for political rather than spiritual reasons. He wanted to become king of Scotland, Ireland and England, but realized that to get this power he would have to get all the religious people bound together, and a better translation would help accomplish this goal.

2. Many recent discoveries of ancient copies of the Bible have been found since the KJV was written.

It has been suggested that the King James Bible had a better manuscript foundation than other translations and, therefore, it is more reliable. Perhaps, a quick study of these manuscripts would be of benefit here.

The KJV was based on the Textus Receptus, the 900 Massoretic and 390 Sinaiticus manuscripts, 1528 Pagninus Latin Bible, 1537 Matthew's Bible, 1539 Great Bible, 1557 Beza's Greek and Latin Testament and, primarily, the 1568 Bishops' Bible.

Since the KJV was printed over 400 years ago, many discoveries of additional ancient manuscripts of the Bible have since been found.

When work on the New International Version was occurring, all of the authorities used by the KJV translators were available PLUS all those found after the KJV

was translated. All these texts were considered and compared for the slightest inconsistency and, when any was found, the translators carefully footnoted the exception. The NIV was primarily based on the best of these texts. No other piece of ancient literature has such an abundance of manuscript witnesses as does this book.

The American Standard is noteworthy, because of its accurate word by word translation, but it is not as easy to read or to understand as some others. The Living Bible is noteworthy, because of its readability, but it is not always an accurate translation. The New International Version is a happy blend of the two mentioned above. It is a very accurate translation and is easy to read.

3. When the KJV was translated, the translators were forced to do their work under restrictions which hampered them from accurately translating some important words.

King James first commissioned 47 scholars to produce a new and “better translation” of the Bible. He gave these translators strict orders that various words such as “church” and “baptism” be used instead of using the literal translation of these words (“The called out” and “immersion”).

Another point of interest is that the name “James” is an English word, not a Greek word. Its Greek counterpart is the Jewish name “Jacob.” Always before the translating of the KJV, this word was translated not “James” but “Jacob.” In other words, we have strong evidence that this arrogant, pompous man forced his name into the Bible; just as he did the word “Easter” which should have been translated “Pentecost.”

He also demanded that footnotes from other versions be left out, because he found that some of these footnotes were offensive to his supreme kingship.

4. The KJV translators were all from the same denomination and, therefore, they incorporated their own bias.

King James gave orders for which translations were to be used as the basis of their study. All of the KJV translators were from the same church and, therefore, were inclined to incorporate their particular bias.

On the other hand, over 100 conservative scholars, who were not under the thumb of a dictator, but had only the desire to make a more readable, accurate translation for the good of mankind, translated the New International Version. Scholars from the Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Brethren, Christian Reformed, Church of Christ, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Wesleyan and other churches helped to safeguard the translation from sectarian bias. Participants from the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand worked together. As stated earlier, the NIV translators had, at their disposal, all the works the KJV translators considered plus many, many more ancient works that had not been discovered by the year 1611.

5. There are at least 1,500 words which originally appeared in the KJV that are no longer in use today.

Most Americans could not read the original KJV if we had it. The KJV that we have today is a version of a version.

To illustrate the changes between our present KJV and the original text from the 1611 King James Version, notice how John 3:16 appeared in 1611.

John 3:16 "For God so loued þe world, that he gaue his only begotten Sonne: that whosoeuer beleeueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life."

Good Bible students have, from the beginning, placed footnotes in their Bibles. The early students had a problem when doing this that we don't have today. Their complete Bibles were handwritten, so when they added any notes to the margin, it was difficult to tell if the note was something added and where it began and ended. In the 1500's, the Catholic church commissioned a Catholic priest, named Desiderius Erasmus, to condense from 25 ancient manuscripts one complete manuscript of the Bible that contained all that was in all of the manuscripts. This new manuscript was now larger than any of the original manuscripts Erasmus had started with. This mass was called, "The Received Text." This is the manuscript that formed the basis for the KJV, and the major reason that the KJV is larger than the NIV.

The original (1611) KJV included the Catholic Apocryphal books which were removed in 1629. The original KJV also included a typographical mistake: It said, "Thou shalt commit adultery." There are at least 1,500 words which appear in the original KJV that either are not used by us in 21st century America or have totally changed their meanings. The KJV's word "let" actually means "hinder" (a complete opposite meaning today), "prevent" means "precede," "Easter" should have been translated "Passover" and, in Acts 2:27, "Hell" should have been "Hades."

6. Our present KJV differs from the original KJV in at least 75,000 places.

The 1611 volume was revised in 1769, therefore, our present KJV is actually the 1769 edition. This KJV, that we use today, differs from the original in approximately 75,000 places. And since 1769, the English language has continued to change, so much, in fact, it has been said, "There are 500 reasons why we should not use this King James Version as our primary Bible." The 500 reasons are: This 1769 KJV uses 500 words that we no longer use in America.

Allow me to illustrate. We all know the definition for the words "gay" and "conversation." The former word means the lifestyle of the homosexual and the latter word means a method of transferring ideas. Now, let us consider a couple of passages.

James 2:3 (KJV) "And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place." Obviously, the passage is speaking of giving respect to the homosexual or cross dresser. Or is it? NO! The words

“gay clothing” have nothing to do with homosexuality, they mean “expensive clothing.” But how would anyone know to look up these words, because they seem to be clear just as they are. Here is another example:

2 Peter 2:7 (KJV) “Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked.” Lot got pretty disgusted because the people around him had potty mouths. Isn’t that what is being conveyed? NO! The words “filthy conversation” mean the evil ways they were living. Here the word “conversation” has nothing to do with communication. But again, why would I not take these words at face value?

7. God’s desire is that we use words that are easily understood.

Words are vitally important to the work of soul saving and we need to know them well and use them wisely. The King James Version adds an unnecessary hurdle in the communication process.

I Corinthians 14:8-9 (NIV) “If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying?” Archaic words muddy the water and make it more difficult to understand God’s pure message.

Conclusion

One reason so many cling to the King James Version is because they have always used it. If this is the one our grandparents used, and the one our parents used, and the one we have used all of our life, why change? (It is interesting that we don’t use this type of logic when selecting an automobile, telephone or a doctor.) The major reason we should not use the KJV is, unlike the Koine Greek which the New Testament was originally written in, and is now a dead language, the English is very much alive and changing every day. Even in the short lifespan of your author, many words have been invented, meanings of words have changed and many words have become extinct. If you are going to cling to the KJV, please allow me to encourage you to get and use a good Greek/Hebrew dictionary and check every word you don’t understand.

Summary:

We should not use

1. The KJV was not authorized by God, but by an evil king.
2. Many recent discoveries of ancient copies of the Bible have been found since the KJV was written.
3. When the KJV was translated, the translators were forced to do their work under restrictions which hampered them from accurately translating some important words.
4. The KJV translators were all from the same denomination and, therefore, they incorporated their own bias.
5. There are at least 1,500 words which originally appeared in the KJV that are no longer in use today.

6. Our "Old KJV" differs from the original KJV in at least 75,000 places.
7. God's desire is that we use words that are easily understood (1 Cor 14:8-9).

Supplement:

The remainder of this booklet is a list of King James words. Please cover part of the page, read the KJV words, try to define them, read the portion of the verse it is in, and then look at the definition. This procedure should prove to be entertaining, informative and a sober illustration of why we need to use a translation other than the King James Version as our main study Bible.

ABJECT

Found only in Psalm 35:15 "...abjects gather themselves against me."
Strong 5222-a smiter, stricken

AGONE

Found only in 1 Samuel 30:13 "...three days agon I fell sick."
Strong 9999-(This word is not listed in my Hebrew or English dictionaries.)

AGUE

Found only in Leviticus 26:16 "The burning ague that shall consume the eye."
Strong 153-fever

AMERCE

Found only in Deuteronomy 20:22 "They shall amerce him 100 sheckles."
Strong 6064-fine, punish

AMIALE

Found only in Psalms 84:1 "How amiable are thy tabernacles."
Strong 3039-beloved

ANON

Found twice in New Testament Matthew 13:20 "...heareth the word anon with joy receives it."
Strong 2117 & 2112-straightway, immediately

ASSWAGE:

Only found in Job 16:5 "My lips should asswage your grief."
Strong 2820-withhold, restrain, hold back.

BEEVES:

Found 7 times only in Old Testament. Numbers 31:44 "Thirty six thousand beeves"

Strong 1241- beef, cattle

BEGUILE:

Found 2 times only in New Testament. Colossians 2:4 "...lest any man should beguile you."

Strong 3884 – delude, deceive

BELIED:

Found only in Jeremiah 5:12 "They have belied the Lord."

Strong 3584 – to lie

BESOM:

Found only in Isaiah 14:23 "Sweep with besom of destruction."

Strong 4292 – broom

BESTIR:

Found only in II Samuel 5:24 "Then thou shalt bestir thyself."

Strong 2782 - to be alert, to decide

BETIMES:

Found 5 times, only in Old Testament. Genesis 26:31 "...rose up betimes in the morning."

Strong 7925 – start early

BOUGH:

Found 7 times, only in Old Testament. Genesis 49:22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough."

Strong 1121 – A son in the widest sense.

BRIGANDINE:

Found only in Jeremiah 51:3 "...lifted himself up in his brigandine"

Strong 5630 – coat of armor

BETHINK:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. 1 Kings 8:47 "They shall bethink themselves."

Strong 7725 – to turn back, retreat

CAB:

Found only in II Kings 6:25 "...cab of dove's dung."
Strong 6894-Hollow vessel used as a measure

CALAMUS:

Found 3 times, only in Old Testament Exodus 20:23 "...of sweet calamus."
Strong 7070 – a rod or stem

CALKERS:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. Ezekiel 27:9 "Wise men were in thee thy calkers."
Strong 2388 – ones making repairs

CAULS:

Found only in Isaiah 3:18 "The Lord will take away their bravery of their cauls"
Strong 7636 – hair nets

CHAPMEN:

Found only in II Chronicles 9:14 "Beside that which chapmen brought."
Strong 376 – men

CHODE:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. Genesis 31:36 "Jacob... chode with Laban."
Strong 7378 – wrangled

CHOLER:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. Daniel 8:7 "He was moved with choler against him."
Strong 4843 – bitterness

CHURL:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. Isaiah 3:18 "...churl said to the beautiful..."
Strong 3596 – scoundrel

CONCUPISCENCE:

Found 3 times, only in New Testament. Romans 7:8 "Wrought in me all manner

of concupiscence.”
Strong 1939 – longings, lust

CLAMOROUS:

Found only in Proverbs 9:13 “Foolish woman is clamorous.”
Strong 1993 – To make a loud sound

CLAVE:

Found 13 times in Old Testament; one time in New Testament. Genesis 22:3
“...clave the wood for offering.”
Strong 1234 – break

CLOUTS:

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament. Jeremiah 38:11 “...took old cast clouts...”
Strong 5499 – rags

COGITATION:

Found only in Daniel 7:28 “My cogitation much troubled me.”
Strong 7476 – correspondence

CONVERSATION:

Found 2 times in Old Testament; 18 times in New Testament; 2 Peter 2:7 “Lot
vexed with the filthy conversation...”
Strong 1870 – course of life

COULTER:

Found only in 1 Samuel 13:20 “To sharpen...his coulter...”
Strong 855 – hoe

CRACKNELS:

Found only in I Kings 14:3 “Take with thee... cracknels.”
Strong 5350 - biscuits

CRISPING:

Found only in Isaiah 3:22 “Suits of apparel and the crisping pins...”
Strong 2754 – pockets

DAM

Found 5 times in Old Testament Exodus 22:30 "...sheep: seven days it shall be with his dam."
Strong 517 - mother

DESCRY

Found only in Judges 1:23 "Sent to descry Bethel..."
Strong 8446 - cry out against

DISCOMFITED

Found 9 times in Old Testament Exodus 17:13 "Joshua discomfited Amalek..."
Strong 2522 - overthrew

DISQUIET

Found only in Jeremiah 50:34 "The Lord will... disquiet the inhabitants."
Strong 7264 - o agitate

DOLEFUL

Found only 2 times in Old Testament "Isa 13:21 "...their houses full of doleful creatures."
Strong 255 - lonesome, wild

DOTE

Found only in Jeremiah 50:36 "A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote..."
Strong 2973 - be slow/foolish

DOWNSITTING

Found only in Psalm 139:2 "Thou knowest my downsitting..."
Strong 3427 - where one dwells

DRAVE

Found 10 times in Old Testament two times in New Testament Exodus 14:25
"Chariots...they drave them heavily."
Strong 5090 - lead or drive

DROMEDARY

Found only in Jeremiah 2:23 "Thou art a swift dromedary."
Strong 1072 - young, she camel

ENGINES

Found 2 times, only in Old Testament II Chronicles 26:15 "He made engines, invented by cunning men."

Strong 2810 - devices, warlike machines

ENSUE

Found only in 1 Peter 3:11 "Let him eschew evil...and ensue (peace)."

Strong 1377 - pursue

ENTREATETH

Found once in Old Testament Job 24:21 "He evil entreateth the barren..."

Strong 1762 - feeds

ESCHEW

Found only in 1 Peter 3:11 "...eschew evil..."

Strong 1578 - shun

ESPIED

Found 2 times, only in OT. Genesis 42:27 "he espied his money..."

Strong 7200 - saw

FAIN

Found only once in Old Testament and once in New Testament Job 27:22 "Who would fain flee..."

Strong 1272 - suddenly or eagerly

FEIGN

Found twice in Old Testament once in New Testament 2 Samuel 14:2 "Feign thy self to be a mourner..."

Strong 56 - play or pretend

FELLOES

Found only in I Kings 7:33 "their fellows were molten"

Strong 2839 spokes in a wheel

FETTERS

Found 8 times in Old Testament; 3 times in New Testament Judges 16:21 "...bound him with fetters."

Strong 5178 - chains

FINER

Found only in Proverbs 25:4. "A vessel for the finer..."
Strong 6884 - smelter or tester

GENDER

Found once in Old Testament and once in New Testament Leviticus 19:19 "Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender."
Strong 7250 copulate

HALE

Found only in Luke 12:58 "...lest he hale thee to the judge."
Strong 2694 - drag

HELVE

Found only in Deuteronomy 19:5 "The head shappen from the helve"
Strong 6086 wood

HOAR

Found 4 times in Old Testament Exodus 16:14 "...the hoar frost."
Strong 3713 - white

HOUGH

Found only in Joshua 11:6 "Thou shalt hough their horses."
Strong 6131 - exterminate

HUNGERBITTEN

Found only in Job 18:12 "...strength shall be hungerbitten."
Strong 7457 - hungry

IMPLEAD

Found only in Acts 19:38 "...deputies: let them implead one another."
Strong 1458 - back

INTERMEDDLE

Found only in Proverbs 14:10 "...stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy."
Strong 6148 - exchange pledges

We have considered some of the many, many words in the KJV that have changed their meanings in the past 400 years since they were first written. I'm sure my readers are weary of this tedious exercise, so I have decided to finish this work by just listing more of the same. I believe it would be worth your time to look up these words and learn their definitions.

kine, hosen, knops, lade, lamentation, languish, lapwing, laud, laver, leasing, lees, litters, lordly, lucre, malefactor, mammon, maneh, mart, matrix, maul, maw, mess, messes, mantles, mincing, minish, ministration, mire, mirth, miry, mitre, mixt, mortify, munitify, munition, muse, musick, musing, naves, nay, nethermost, nitre, obeisance, onycha, overplus, pestilent, plaiting, plat, pommels, potsherd, prating, privy, progenitors, pygarg, quicken, quiested, rentest, requite, satiate, satyr, seer, sheepcote, shew, clivers, shorn, siever, sith, sop, sope, sottish, sped, spokes, stauched, stirs, stomacher, straits, superfluity, supplanter, suppler, swaddle, tabering, tires, treats, tender-eyed, troblous, undersetters, usury, vauht, vermilion, villany, visage, wit, wilt, yonder, yesternight, wrought, whence, wheips, whilm, waxeth, wast, wroth, wotteth, wot, wist, win, whiles, whorish, wheaten, wen, warp, wimples.

Just one more to finish the study.

TIRES

Isaiah 3:18 "...their round tires like the moon..."
Strong 7720 - neck pendant.

I hope you have found this study informative. My research has certainly opened my eyes with regards to the King James Version of the Bible. I would like to leave you with this final thought: 1 Corinthians 14:8-9 (NIV) "If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying?"

Sources used:

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