

## INTRODUCTION

The quatercentenary of the King James version of the Bible—the Authorized Version—in 2011 occasioned not a few books and articles on King James, his Bible, and its translators. This collection of essays, written at scattered intervals during the years 1996–2015, is my contribution to these subjects.

Fifteen of these twenty-seven essays appeared in the first edition of this book (1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, & 25). Seven of the fifteen were new, and eight of them had previously appeared in a variety of publications—some in two or more publications. Some of the eight had also appeared online. All eight of them were revised in varying degrees for publication, and some were completely rewritten. Before inclusion in this second edition, six of the original essays (15, 16, 17, 22, 23, & 25) had minor revisions and additions, seven of them (5, 7, 11, 13, 18, 19, & 24) had major revisions and additions, and two (1 & 2) underwent cosmetic changes only.

Seven of the twelve new essays (4, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 26) appear here for the first time. The essay titled “The Story of the John Bois Notes” differs from the rest in that it is fully footnoted because it was originally written as an academic paper for presentation at the 2011 annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco. Five of the twelve (3, 8, 12, 14, & 27) have previously been published, but all of them except the last have been revised for publication here. Much shorter versions of the last essay appeared as different articles in three different publications before being issued as it appears here in booklet form for the quatercentenary of the King James Bible in 2011. Unlike the rest of this book, this essay alone updates the spelling of all quotations from ancient sources.

The form in which each of the previously published essays appears in this work should be taken as the author’s mature thought on the subjects in question.

These essays are all the result of painstaking, original research, with a strict emphasis on primary sources. Although I am indebted to some key secondary sources—both books and articles—these essays are not a rephrasing or a retelling of what can readily be found in a standard work on English Bible history. In fact, some of them are designed to correct the errors and misconceptions that are unfortunately too prevalent in the material written—by friend and foe

alike—about the Authorized Version.

Although each of these essays can be read independently, they have been arranged in somewhat of a logical order. The essays can be divided into six categories. The first four relate to the origin of King James's Bible. Essays five through ten relate to the translators and their work. Essays eleven through fifteen explore the translators' finished product. Essays sixteen through nineteen deal with the nature of the Authorized Version in the context of English Bible history. Essays twenty through twenty-six address certain issues that relate to the Authorized Version. The last essay provides an overview of the King James Bible that was specifically written to commemorate its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The essays in the first and second categories are better read in the order in which they appear, as also the third and fourth essays (22 & 23) in the fifth category.

Although a great many sources were consulted in the preparation of these essays, the bibliography includes only works cited and works consulted that provided valuable assistance or significantly influenced my thought.

Even though the four-hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Authorized Version has come and gone, we will undoubtedly see more books, articles, and essays on King James, his Bible, and its translators in the coming years. Nevertheless, I believe that these twenty-seven essays will stand as a unique contribution to the subjects treated herein.