

## INTRODUCTION

The quatercentenary of the King James version of the Bible—the Authorized Version—in 2011 has already 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 1996-2006, is my contribution to these subjects.

Seven of these fifteen essays appear here for the first time. Eight of them have appeared over the years in a variety of publications, and most of these in two or more publications. Some of these have also appeared online. They have all been revised in varying degrees for publication in this collection of essays. Some have been completely rewritten. The form in which each of the previously-published essays appear 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 an 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 four categories. The first four relate to the origin and translators of King James's Bible. The next three explore the translators' finished product. Essays eight and

nine deal with the nature of the Authorized Version in the context of English Bible history. The last six essays address certain issues that relate to the Authorized Version. The essays in the first category should be read in the order in which they appear, as should the first two essays in the last category (essays 10 & 11).

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.

For help in obtaining copies of seventeenth-century manuscripts related to the Authorized Version, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of David Norton, of the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, the British Library, the National Archives of the United Kingdom, the Lambeth Palace Library, the Cambridge University Library, and Oxford's Bodleian Library. For information about some of the King James translators and editors, I am indebted to the archivists and librarians of Merton College, Oxford; Jesus College, Oxford; New College, Oxford; Emmanuel College, Cambridge; and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Locally, I am beholden to the Interlibrary Loan department of Pensacola Junior College.

I would be remiss if I did not express my great indebtedness to my mentor and friend, Ward Allen—Hargis Professor of English Emeritus at Auburn University and author of three books on the work of the King James translators—for not only his helpful comments on my two essays on the King James translators, but also his gracious hospitality on my many visits to his quaint home in Auburn, Alabama. My sentiments about King James, his Bible, and its translators that are expressed in this collection of essays are not necessarily those of Dr. Allen.

As the four-hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Authorized Version draws closer, we will certainly see more books, articles, and essays on King James, his Bible, and its translators. Nevertheless, I believe that these fifteen essays will stand as a unique contribution to the subjects treated herein.