

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Although it was published over 400 years ago and has been superseded by modern editions, the original King James Authorized Version of the Bible issued in 1611 remains both a curiosity and a subject of scholarly interest. In 2016, after the publication of the second edition of my book *King James, His Bible, and Its Translators*, I began what I anticipated to be a ten-year project: *The Text of the King James Bible*. The book will tentatively include these things that I wanted to research and write about:

Chapter 1, The 1611 Bible

The typeface and unusual letters in the 1611 Bible

Spelling in the 1611 Bible

Abbreviations in the 1611 Bible

Compound words in the 1611 Bible

A complete vocabulary list of the 1611 Bible with word frequency counts

Chapter 2, From 1611 to Today

A complete list of spelling changes between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles

A complete list and categorization of word changes between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles

Words only occurring in the 1611 Bible

Words only occurring in modern King James Bibles

Differences in compound words between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles

Chapter 3, Editions of the King James Bible

A brief history of the editions of the King James Bible

A complete list of variations between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles with date of change in text to modern reading

A complete collation of the 1769 Oxford Blayney edition and modern King James Bibles

Differences between modern Oxford and Cambridge King James Bibles

A complete vocabulary list of modern King James Bibles with word frequency counts

Chapter 4, The Rheims New Testament and the King James Bible

A brief history of the Rheims New Testament of 1582

An examination of the claims made for the extent of the Authorized Version's dependence on the Rheims New Testament

An analysis of the following two works:

The Part of Rheims in the Making of the English Bible, by James G. Carleton, Oxford, 1902

The Influence of the Rheims Translation on the Language of the King James Version of the Book of Revelation, by Heleni Marques Pedersoli, Auburn University master's thesis, 1982

Chapter 5, The Greek Text of the King James Bible

A brief history of the Textus Receptus

Differences between the Textus Receptus editions

Differences between the Textus Receptus and the Majority, Byzantine, and modern critical Greek texts

The Greek text underlying the 1611 Bible

Because of other commitments and circumstances, work slowed to a crawl after two years of painstaking research and writing that resulted in the completion of the first two chapters. After the passage of year three, and not much progress on chapter 3, I decided to issue the work in fascicles, and for two reasons. One, I wanted to make the results of my research available to those interested parties who didn't want to wait an undetermined number of years for the completed book to be published. And two, I wanted to make the completed parts of my research available in the event that I was never able to finish the book.

If you have not done so already, the four quotes preceding this brief introduction should be read and then read again. I write with no agenda, and neither am I trying to prove anything. I have no thesis and no conclusion. I am merely doing the critical research that has either never been done satisfactorily or never been done at all and reporting the results.

In the completed book, this brief introduction will give way to a detailed introduction. Until the completed book is released, any of the material in the published fascicles, as well as the projected fascicles, is subject to removal, expansion, or revision.

I make no apologies for the many lists of Bible words that will appear in *The Text of the King James Bible*. It should always be remembered:

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times (Psa. 12:6).

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him (Pro. 30:5).

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Mat. 4:4).

A work of this nature and magnitude is inevitably prone to a variety of typos and mistakes. The reader is encouraged to report to the author any he finds, or thinks he finds, no matter how insignificant they seem, so that they can be corrected before the completed book is published.