INTRODUCTION

The King James Bible is without question the most important and the most studied Bible and book that has ever been published. These five chapters examine, describe, and establish, in painstaking detail, its text.

Chapter 1, "The 1611 King James Bible," is devoted exclusively to the canonical text of the first printing of the first edition of the Authorized Version in 1611. Proceeding the chapter's comprehensive vocabulary list with frequency count of all of the words in the 1611 Bible is an explanation of the peculiarities regarding the typeface, certain letters, abbreviations, hyphenation, and apostrophes that must be understood before one can read the King James Bible in its original form. The vocabulary list is immediately followed by a chart (p. 86) listing the number of chapters, verses, and words in each biblical book of the 1611 Bible. The chapter concludes with notes on the vocabulary, spelling, and compound words in the 1611 Bible. The spelling of words in the English language was not fixed at the time the Authorized Version appeared. Like today, but even more so in 1611, some words that appear the same are actually two separate words that have the same spelling. Some words in the 1611 Bible are spelled four (anointing, carcasses, cords, council, countries, darkness, entreat, handmaid, liar, mayest, overlaid, said, saidest, sorrow, thickness, through), five (carcass, certainty), or six (laid) different ways. The phrase *shall be* appears variously as "shall be," "shall bee," "shal be," "shal bee," "shalbe," and "shalbee." Some words are spelled differently in the same verse.

Chapter 2, "From 1611 to Today," focuses on the word differences between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles. The great majority of these differences concern the spelling of words. The bulk of the chapter, therefore, consists of a complete list of every word in the 1611 Bible (if it has an updated spelling) with its updated spelling as found in modern King James Bibles. These are termed updated words. The other differences are categorized as equivalent, similar, compound, transposed, disappearing, modern, repeated, omitted, added, related, or different words. Equivalent words are words in the 1611 Bible that are replaced with exact equivalents in modern King James Bibles. Similar words are words in the 1611 Bible that are replaced by similar words in modern King James Bibles that are not exact equivalents. Some compound words in the 1611 Bible often, but not always, appear as two separate words in modern King James Bibles, and vice versa. Transposed words are words and phrases in the 1611 Bible that are transposed in modern King James Bibles. Disappearing words are words found in the 1611 Bible that do not appear in modern King James Bibles. Modern words are words that are found only in modern King James Bibles. Repeated words are words and phrases that were accidentally repeated in the 1611 Bible. Omitted words are words occurring in the 1611 Bible that are omitted in modern King James Bibles. Added words are words that don't occur in the 1611 Bible that are added in modern King James Bibles. Related words are words in the 1611 Bible that are replaced with related words (change in number or tense) in modern King James Bibles. Different words are words in the 1611 Bible that are replaced with different words in modern King James Bibles.

Chapter 3, "Editions of the Authorized Version," focuses on the word and spelling differences between the editions of the King James Bible. After a survey of the main editions of the King James Bible published by Cambridge in 1629, 1638, and 1762 and Oxford in 1769, there are presented three things. First is a complete list of the variations between the 1611 Bible and modern King James Bibles that were classified in chapter 2 as equivalent, similar, transposed, repeated, omitted, added, related, or different words with the edition year where

the change in the text to the modern reading occurs. Second is an exhaustive collation of the 1769 Oxford edited by Benjamin Blayney and modern King James Bibles. Third is an analysis of the differences between modern Oxford and Cambridge King James Bibles and American King James Bibles that follow them. These are followed by a comprehensive vocabulary list with frequency count of all of the words in the Authorized Version. The list is immediately followed by a chart (p. 295) listing the number of chapters, verses, and words in each biblical book of modern King James Bibles. The chapter concludes with notes on the vocabulary and a list of the 4,081 words that occur in the Bible just one time.

Chapter 4, "The Rheims New Testament and the Authorized Version," explores the relationship between the Catholic Rheims New Testament of 1582 and the King James Bible. It begins with a brief history of the Rheims New Testament, as well as its companion Old Testament published at Douay in two volumes in 1609 and 1610. The King James translators, in the preface to their work, mention both the Rheims New Testament, the Douay Old Testament, and the Latin Vulgate from which they were translated. This history is followed by the opinions of the English Bible historians concerning the degree of the reliance of the King James translators on the Rheims New Testament. All English Bibles incorporated words and phrases from earlier English Bibles, and the Rheims New Testament is no exception. It shows evidence of the influence of Geneva Bible of 1560, even as its 1749 revision by Challoner shows the influence of the King James Bible. The main part of the chapter is a critical analysis of the definitive work on the relation between the Rheims New Testament and the Authorized Version: James G. Carleton's *The Part of Rheims in the Making of the English Bible* (Oxford, 1902). The chapter concludes with lists of verses where the Rheims New Testament actually reads closer to the King James Bible than modern English versions when it comes to omissions and differences in wording.

Chapter 5, "The Greek Text of the King James Bible," examines the correlation between the King James Bible and the Greek text that underlies its New Testament. It begins with a brief account of the intellectual development of Erasmus and a detailed assessment of his New Testament project that revised the Vulgate and gave the world the first Greek New Testament. This is followed by the history of the Complutensian Polyglot—the six-volume edition of the Bible in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin that was released between the third and fourth editions of Erasmus—and the Greek New Testaments of Stephanus, Beza, and the Elzevir partners. Building on this is the origin of the Textus Receptus, the variations between its editions, and its relationship to the Majority Text and the Byzantine Textform. The exhaustive collation of the Textus Receptus editions by Herman Hoskier is reproduced in its entirety. The most important part of the chapter is the examination of the relationship between the Authorized Version and the Textus Receptus that builds upon, expands, and analyzes the research of Frederick H. A. Scrivener found in *The Authorized Edition of the English Bible (1611): Its Subsequent Reprints and Modern Representatives* (Cambridge, 1884). The chapter concludes with a survey of those places in the New Testament of the Authorized Version where it departs from the Bishops' Bible upon which it was based because of a difference in the Greek.

Because chapter 2 builds upon chapter 1 and chapter 3 builds upon chapter 2, the first three chapters should be read in order; however, chapters four and five can each be read independently. The terms *Authorized Version* and *King James Bible* are used interchangeably. Reference to the 1611 Bible will always be indicated as such.