

# WHEN BIBLE VERSIONS CONFLICT

## OPPOSING TEXTS ARE NOT THE SAME

*"But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel."*

*~ Philippians 1:16*

### 1. Text Changes in New Versions

- a. New versions change the text of the Bible. (← Open secret.)
- b. The answer given for changes usually "latest scholarship", "easier for the reader"
  - i. (Both reasons are inadequate and subject to change with the weather.)
- c. The response is misdirection, "no Bible is perfect" "KJ has errors" "You are KJ-only!"
- d. This lesson not about diff words, readability, translation errors, but intentional conflicts.
- e. We study the Bible, love God's word, it is foundational, but are careless with the text.
- f. Our culture cares more about new NFL rules, Trump and China, Drake's new albums
- g. As the pillar and ground of the truth, stewards of God's word, this is our duty - 2Ti 1:13

### 2. Bible Structure

- a. Books change between Bible traditions 66 (Historic) 73 (RC), 76 (EO), 81 (Ethiopia?)
- b. Chapters change with 'extra' scripture (Psalm 151), Daniel (13-14)
- c. Verses since 1551 (Stephanus), but now we skip numbers (Acts 8:37, Matt 18:11)
- d. Messing with verse content - 1 Th 2:6b NLT moved, Rom 16:25-27 WEB moved to 14, Phi 1:16-17 ESV reversed, 2 Cor 13:14 combined in CSB, ESV splits 3 John 14 into 15?

### 3. Printing Mistakes Matter

- a. 1612 – Ps 119:161 – "Printers have persecuted me without a cause"
- b. 1613 – KJ Judas Bible has Judas praying in the garden instead of Jesus (covered over)
- c. 1631 – "Wicked Bible" Exo 20:14 left out the word "not". Barker lost his printing license.
- d. 1641 – Rev 21:1 says "there was more sea" instead of "no more sea" <- do over
- e. 1653 – Cambridge edition 1 Cor 6:9 says the "unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom"
- f. 1763 – Fool's Bible – Psa 14:1 – "The fool hath said in his heart, there is a God"
- g. Printer mistakes were corrected, destroyed, burned, fined. What for purposeful change?

### 4. Negations

- a. These are not word choice, missing words, translation, but opposite meaning.
- b. Gen 3:16 - "desire shall be contrary to your husband" ESV (now updated by outcry)
- c. Ecc 8:10 - "wicked...were forgotten" changed to "were praised" (ESV, NIV, NLT)
- d. Isa 9:3 - "not increased the joy" changed to "increased its joy" (ESV, NIV, NKJV)
- e. Hos 10:1 - "Israel is an empty vine" is now "luxurious vine loaded with fruit" (NLT)
- f. Hos 11:12 - NIV says "Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One"
- g. Hos 13:14 - Changed to a question, and "I will have no compassion" NIV, NLT, NKJV
- h. Rom 4:19 - NASV says "he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead"
- i. Col 2:18 - NIV - "great detail about what they have seen" NASB "visions he has seen"
- j. Heb 3:16 - ESV - "Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?" ← mistake
- k. 2 Pet 3:18 - "shall be burned" changed to "will be exposed" (ESV) "found out" (LSB)
- l. Eze 24:7 - "poured it upon the ground", corrected to "poured it not" (KJV)

## **5. What to Do When Bible Versions Conflict**

- a. Why do they oppose? Different texts. Cavalier translators. Desire to change tradition.
- b. We do not take the fool's retreat – there is no God, no Bible, no church, etc.
- c. Neither do we take the naïve position – all the same, no difference, any Bible will do.
- d. People don't know because they 1) don't look, 2) don't care. We must do both.
- e. Bible believers are not always in charge of translations and texts. It is our job.
- f. When they conflict – both cannot be true, preserved, right.
- g. The one creating the conflict (new versions) forces a failure to preserve God's words.
- h. They are opposed – if God be true, one text must be discarded, rejected, opposed.
- i. These changes/mistakes/oppositions will occur, our job is to catch, correct, or cry out.
- j. Let God be true, and every word pure, and perfect - Rom 3:4, Prov 30:5, 2 Tim 3:16