



King James Bible (KJV)

—a brief history

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Mary Queen of Scots, mother of James VI of Scotland, was deposed by Elizabeth I of England in 1567 and then executed in 1587 after 19 years in prison. James' father, Lord Darnley, was murdered in 1567. James was just 13 months old when he became King of Scotland in 1567. He became King James I of England at the age of 37. Ann, of Denmark (>Danmark), was his queen. They had nine children.

Few historical figures have been as brilliant and as highly educated. Like the also-highly-educated apostle Paul, James was multilingual —fluent in Greek, Latin, French, English and his native Scots. He was somewhat fluent in Spanish and Italian, too. William Shakespeare was one of his subjects. Learning and writing thrived under his reign.

James' rise to the English throne was partly due to his having formed the foundation for what was to become known as the British Empire. To accomplish that, he united the warring tribes of Scotland and then joined the crowns of Scotland and England in 1603. He was the first to call England "Great Britain." Reformation leader John Knox read James' coronation sermon. The KJV was first published in 1611.

James was born during the time of the Reformation. Fully aware of the popery's atrocities he held the Roman church in contempt. Roman clerics tried to kill him more than once. In 1536, the popery burned William Tyndale to death for distributing his Bible. Those guys were extremely angry with James, too, for his authorization of a Bible in the English language.

Roman church ambassador, Nicolo Molin, said this about James: "...He is a Protestant...The king tries to extend his Protestant religion to the whole island...is a bitter enemy of our religion...frequently speaks of it in terms of contempt. He is all the harsher because of this last conspiracy (*The Gunpowder Plot*¹) against his life...He understood that the Jesuits had a hand in it."

¹ You may want to do an Internet search for "The Gunpowder Plot."

James wrote this in *Basilicon Doron*: "I am no papist as I said before ...Now faith...is the free gift of God (as Paul sayeth). It must be nourished by

prayer, which is no thing else but a friendly talking to God. Use oft to pray when ye are quiet, especially in your bed...”



✓ “Wherefore glorify ye the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the **ISLES** of the sea.” —Isaiah 24:5

✓ “He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the **ISLES** shall wait for his law.” —Isaiah 42:4

✓ “Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the **ISLES**, and the inhabitants thereof.” —Isaiah 42:10

✓ “My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the **ISLES** shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.” —Isaiah 51:5

Roman Bibles were in Latin. Except for those who were skilled with Latin, even fully literate laymen couldn’t read them. James was captive to and driven by a strong desire to make the Bible available to people in their native languages. He reasoned that if the common people could read God’s word for themselves they’d no longer have to be systematically oppressed by an observably gluttonous, disgustingly corrupt, control-hungry, money-hungry, murderous clergy. So he set out to change things.

Imagine the logistics of such an undertaking! Who to hire? Translators had to be fluent in English and in Hebrew (for Old Testament scriptures) and/or 1st-Century Greek (for New Testament manuscripts). If you had to round up 1,500 people with those qualifications where would you find them? It’s good that James was a really smart guy, because that’s precisely the scenario he was faced with.

Given the enormous complexity of the task he undertook, James had to know there’d be at least a few inevitable errors in translation. That’s why any

serious student of God's word must become familiar with and get comfortable using some other resources for full comprehension of what was originally written in the most important book ever in the history of mankind.

A good first resource would be the gold standard for the meanings of Hebrew and Greek words and phrases, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. A good Interlinear Bible is another must-have, must-use tool. Those feature **LITERAL** English translations from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. There are easily-accessible online sites for both of those resources. Just ask: www.Link1.info/contact-us. A must-read for those who really want to know is New Age Bible Versions: ISBN 0-9635845; Library of Congress Card Number 93-92561.

Someone asks, "But don't we pay our preachers and theologians to do all that for us?" Wisdom might respond, "King James reasoned that if the common people could read God's word for themselves, neither they, nor the original messages of God's written word would necessarily be held captive by ANY organization or its beholden representatives. Power corrupts..."

Important: In the KJV, whenever a word or phrase appears either in **italics** or **[square brackets]**, that is to indicate that neither it nor any word or phrase that is the equivalent of it appears in any of the original manuscripts. The KJV translators added it. Malicious? Likely not; just trying to be helpful.



The emblem of the house of Judah (the scepter line) was a lion [Micah 5:8].

Per Deuteronomy 33:16-17, the emblem of the house of Ephraim/Israel (the birthright line) was a unicorn, wild ox or bull. The heraldry of The British Empire bears both of those symbols, as does some of its coinage. Many Bible scholars find it interesting that neither of them is associated with modern "Israel." But the LION of Judah and the UNICORN of Joseph-Ephraim are clearly associated with Great Britain. Interesting, too, is that the ARROWS and the OLIVE BRANCH of Joseph-Manasseh are featured on the Great Seal of the United States. Is there any wonder, then, that many Bible and History scholars think Biblical Israel is comprised, primarily, of the citizenry of the English-speaking so-called Christian nations?

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