

The Translation of the KJV

James I became King of England in 1603. In 1604 he called together a conference known as the Hampton Court Conference. At this Conference, a resolution was passed calling for a new translation of the whole Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into the English language.

The cultural background that prompted this translation was a desire for there to be a reconciliation of all the religious parties that existed within the kingdom at that time. This translation was to be the sole Bible for use in public worship services in the Church of England. It is said that King James endorsed the project.

The king's personal part in the translation was (1) stating that, in his opinion, none of the present translations were translated well and a new translation was needed, (2) the best of scholars should be sought out from Oxford and Cambridge Universities to do the work (3) when the translation was completed it was to be reviewed by bishops of the Church and approved by the Privy Council and the king (4) once approved it was to be the only translation used in the Church of England.

A translation team of forty-seven scholars were recruited for the task. The project took two years to complete. Because of his hand in the origin of the project, it became known as the King James Version (KJV).