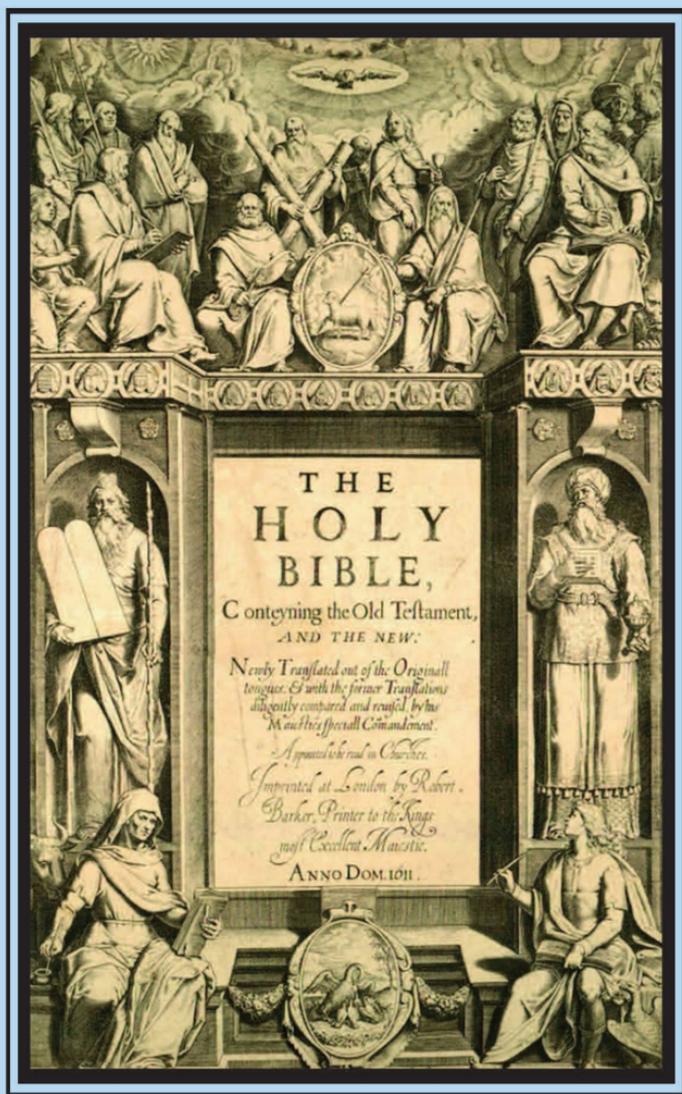


GOD'S WORD TO MAN

A TRANSLATION, NOT A VERSION

WHY THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS THE ACCURATE ENGLISH BIBLE



Stephen R. Gentry



God's Word to Man A Translation, not a Version

WHY THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS THE
ACCURATE ENGLISH BIBLE

By Stephen R. Gentry

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 979-8-9873593-1-0

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PREFACE

Since 1611, over 350 versions of the Bible have been printed in English. In this book, I will endeavor to explain that the King James Bible is not simply another version of the Bible but an actual translation from the original manuscripts into English. The original manuscripts of the Bible were written in Hebrew (the Old Testament) and Greek (the New Testament). The King James translation completely and accurately translates the Word of God into English.

The King James Bible is the Authorized Version of the English Bible. It acquired this name because it was authorized by King James to be the official English Bible, and it was to be used in all the Churches of England. The title page of the original 1611 King James Bible reads as follows:

The Holy Bible

Containing the Old Testament and the New
Newly Translated out of the Original
tongues and with former Translations
diligently compared and reviewed by his
Majesties special Commandment.

Since it is a translation and not a version, God's word is empowered. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect,*

thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The original Scriptures were inspired, and God anoints every correctly translated verse from the original. The King James Bible is just as anointed today as it was when it was translated into English.

It might be well to note that any time God communes with man, not one of his words is wasted. Although we often use filler words to fill up space, with God, every word is sacred and purposeful. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to have a word-for-word translation of the Bible. (In contrast to a translation, a version of the Bible will try to communicate an idea or principle of scripture rather than a direct translation. But when anyone gives their version of scripture, it is limited to their interpretation and can be intentionally or unintentionally misrepresented.) However, the King James Bible gives you an exact word-for-word translation. That allows the reader to interpret the Word of God for themselves.

Alexander McClure, in the introductory narrative of his book, *The Translators Revived*, made this statement about the King James Bible, "this blessed book is so far complete and exact, that the unlearned reader, being of ordinary intelligence, may enjoy the delightful assurance, that if he studies it in faith and prayer, and give himself up to its teachings, he shall not be confounded or misled as to any matter essential to his salvation and his spiritual good." *1

Since the King James Bible is a word-for-word translation, you do not need to be a Hebrew or Greek

PREFACE

scholar to understand the Scriptures. You can rest assured that the translators were thorough and their motives pure while accomplishing this monumental task of Bible translation. Still, as an aid to studying the Bible, I would suggest a Webster's Dictionary and a Strong Exhaustive Concordance. With these resources, you can read and understand God's word as was intended.

This work is a thorough yet simplistic explanation of the preservation of God's Word. It deals with the journey of God's Word from its conception to its translation into English by order of King James VI of Scotland & I of England. For the teacher, I pray that it is a guide; for the student, I pray that it is informative; for the theologian, I pray it is correct; for the critic, I pray it is convincing.

*1 Alexander Wilson McClure, The Translators Revived, 1853, pg. 64-65

FOREWORD

In my thirty years of ministry, the question of why I prefer the King James Bible has come up many times. With so many versions available, it is understandable how a new student of God's word might be perplexed. What sets this one bible apart from other bibles? *God's Word to Man - A Translation, not a Version*, is a look into the accuracy of the King James Bible.

I have known Pastor Stephen Gentry for many years. First as a friend and now as my pastor. The history and translation of the King James Bible have been a passion of Pastor Gentry for many years. He has developed lessons and sermons on this topic and shared them with multiple groups and congregations. That divinely inspired passion has culminated in *God's Word to Man - A Translation, not a Version*. In these pages, Pastor Gentry carefully takes us along the path from God speaking to our English translation of that Holy Word. With an insightful look into the translators, their commission, and their methods of translating, he lays out why the King James Bible is the accurate English Bible.

Whether you are just curious about the topic or a serious student of God's word, *God's Word to Man - A Translation, not a Version* will be a powerful addition to your collection of books.

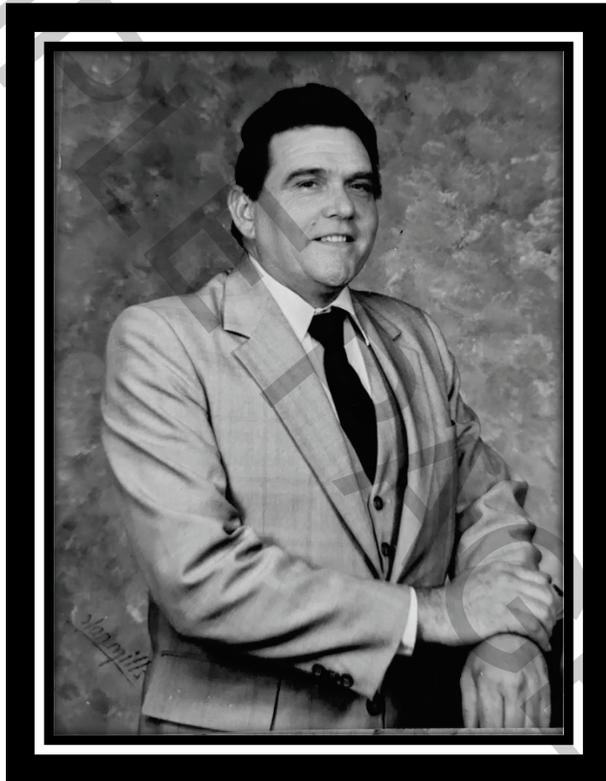
Joey Dean
January 2023

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my father:

He was an old-time Holiness preacher. I never heard him read or preach from any Bible except King James. He passionately believed in the inerrant Word of God.

Stephen R. Gentry
January 2023



Willie Ray Gentry (1935-1995)

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CHAPTER 1

GOD'S WORD TO MAN

Verbal Communication

Genesis 1:26,

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Creation, what a powerful thought. God spoke into existence the heaven, the earth, and all that was therein. There was not one flaw in all that he did. Genesis 1:31 says,

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good.”

It is truly awe-inspiring when we realize that God, the creator of the earth and all it contains, took the dust of his creations and formed man. He made man in his image and His likeness because he would become a living soul when he would soon breathe into him. Man would be given the ability and intelligence to have dominion over every creature made by God, and most importantly, he would be able to communicate with God.

The first form of communication that Adam had with God was verbal. There is nothing more powerful

than a face-to-face conversation. Gen. 2:15 states that God put man in the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Through communication, God told Adam that the garden would need pruning, watering, and tilling. These jobs were a pleasure until after sin defiled humanity, at which point, the ground became cursed with thorns and thistles, and by the sweat of the brow, man now eats his bread. God spoke to Adam and Eve in Gen. 1:28-30

28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

These scriptures reveal that God verbally communicated instructions to man. First, start a family, multiply, and replenish the earth. Secondly, to use the resources that the earth provided, subdue the earth. And lastly, to take dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and the beast of the field, to use these for work and food.

Gleaning from Gen. 3:8, The voice of the Lord could be heard walking in the garden in the cool of the day. This was not a strange thing or an unexpected happening but a time of considerable expectations. Sin would soon change communication forever.

One conversation is recorded in Gen. 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

People often think that God would only talk to Adam and Eve about the beauties of heaven and the mysteries of creation; however, these scriptures give us an insight into the seriousness of communicating with God.

First, the good news; *"of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat."* God has good things for those that serve him. Pr. 10:22, *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich and he addeth no sorrow with it."* God purposely planted every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food in Eden. Not only did God plant every tree, but the Bible says a river went out from Eden to water the garden. Matthew Henry said, "Observe, that which God plants. He will take care to keep watered."

Not only was there a blessing promised, but commandments were also given, ***"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it."***

God spoke very directly, leaving no doubts about his intention. DO NOT EAT OF IT! Knowing that the eating of this tree was an offense to God was enough to drive Adam away from it. When his love for God was fervent, there was no problem keeping the commandment of the Lord.

Then there was the penalty, ***“for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”*** God's commandments are not optional. When we disobey, there is a price to be paid. Romans 6:23, ***“For the wages of sin is death.”*** God let Adam know that if he disobeyed the commandment of the Lord, death would follow. This was not just physical death that man would now be subject to, but a dying of innocence, a rejection of all that is holy, a banishment from his presence.

We see the word of God being given to Adam verbally. These words were initially spoken to Adam before the creation of Eve; it now becomes the responsibility of Adam to communicate this message to His wife and children. Any time you repeat words from another conversation, they can be called into question. Even though Adam was undoubtedly faithful in giving Eve the exact words of God, when Satan shows up, notice with whom he starts talking and his tactic of attack. He approaches Eve. Remember, it was not recorded that Eve was present to hear the Lord speak to Adam concerning the Tree of Knowledge. It could have been that everything she believes relies on; what Adam has told her God said. The temptation begins with, has it been communicated correctly? Was

the words simply Adam's version of God's words? Or, in the words of Satan, Hath God said?

Eve had to have faith that the word she received from Adam was indeed the Word of God. We must hold this same faith today. There is historical and archaeological proof that God's Word is inerrant. But if no historical records existed, if no artifacts had ever been discovered, we must have faith that the Word of God is without error.

She seems to have held this faith initially, but Satan would soon meet her on the battlefield. This was the first recorded battle in human history, and it was waged over the words of God. The devil knew it would be in Eve's life if he had any chance of deception.

The tactic that Satan chose was to quote God's words but to leave out or take away from what he said, thus changing the meaning of the words. He quoted, "**Yea, hath God said, Ye, shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**" He, however, left out, "**But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it.**" By doing this, he is putting a question mark in her mind. Does God contradict himself? Does God mean what he says? Critics of God's word often misquote or take scriptures out of context to dispute the validity of God's Word. Since there was no written word then, Eve had to rely on her memory of the communication she had received from Adam.

Just as it was wrong for Satan to take away from God's word, it was also wrong for Eve to add to

God's word. Notice her response to the serpent, Genesis 3:2,3,

“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

God did not say, do not touch it! She created a stipulation that God had not required. Satan immediately latched on to this and encouraged her to look at the tree more closely.

Genesis 3:4-6,

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Now, notice this act of looking toward the tree. It encompasses every aspect of temptation. I John 2:16 says,

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the

pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

She saw it was pleasant to the eye, the lust of the eye. She saw it was good for food, the lust of the flesh. And she saw it would make one wise, the pride of life.

The temptation to sin does not begin with a passing glance but with an examination. The *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* defines the word saw in this text as: consider, discern, or advise self. Eve steps closer and stares intently. The words of Satan rang in her ear, "**Hath God said.**"

Next, she took it. She touched it, and nothing happened. This is why it is detrimental to our souls to add to the words of God. Once she touched it, God's other commandments were called into question. Let us look at what Jesus said about changing God's word: Rev. 22:18,19,

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

While we readily agree that taking away from God's words is wrong, be careful never to add to them.

People have created commandments of themselves that they were not able to follow, and their faith has been made shipwreck.

She ate it. She has now disobeyed God's commandment. The Bible says in I Timothy 2:14,

“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

The devil deceived Eve. The first sin ever committed is rooted in misquoting and revising God's Word. Therefore, it is critical to have a bible that is a translation of God's Word and not just a revision of God's Word.

She gave it to Adam. Misery loves company. Adam was not deceived. He knowingly disobeyed God's commandment. When Adam took this fruit and began to eat it, there was never a time that he thought it was pleasing to God. He knew the commandments; he heard them for himself. Adam partook with full knowledge that it was a transgression against God's commandments. Through this blatant act, sin entered into the world, Rom. 5:12,

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

The spoken word is still powerful and holds an intricate part in God's communication with his people today. Eph. 4:11 says,

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, pastors and teachers;”

These are all positions that are ordained by God for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Paul said in I Corinthians 2:4,

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”

Through the Spirit's gifts, God speaks directly to his people. A gift of a word of knowledge, a gift of a word of wisdom, divers kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecies, all of these are ways that God continues to speak verbally to his people.

We know that just as surely as God spoke in times past through the Holy men of Old, he continues to speak to his people today through the Holy Ghost.

Let me, however, leave you with a sobering thought. Paul revealed the seriousness of proclaiming the gospel and the repercussions of changing God's spoken Word. He said in Gal. 1:8-9,

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

If anyone hears from God, their words will not contradict God's written Word. If their preaching or teaching does not agree with the Bible, they should not be received.

Written Communication

Why is writing so powerful? Writing takes ideas and makes them more concrete for us. We can meditate on them, understand them, and allow them to affect our lives. We can read instructions repeatedly to ensure we do a task correctly. We can repeatedly read notes of love and inspiration to lift our spirits. We can examine a contract to ensure the terms are followed. The written word cannot be misunderstood or disputed as quickly as a verbal conversation. And when passed from one generation to another, it will remain the same.

God knew man needed a written word. One that would be inerrant, a book that God inspired. Inspiration is a term found in the Bible which expresses the truth that the Bible is God's Word. 2 Tim. 3:16,

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for re-proof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

The word inspiration can be interpreted as God-breathed. This God-breathed book would be a perfect guide. While God dictated portions of scriptures, the Holy Ghost moved on the writers so that the words they wrote were not by their will but inspired by God.

2 Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

God planned that his word would be kept intact. The word intact comes from the Latin *intactus*, meaning not touched. His Word is preserved for every generation. Pastor (Dr.) D A Waite wrote,

“In a special sense, the Bible is a time-less book. That is, it will never have an end. It will never cease to exist. There will never be a year or a century, either now or in the future, when it can be accurately said; The Bible is no more. It has disappeared. It has evaporated.” *1

The first five books of the Bible are referred to as the Pentateuch. The following passages in the Pentateuch mention that Moses wrote things down often at God's direction.

Ex. 17:14,

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

Ex. 24:3-4,

“And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the

judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel."

Num. 33:2,

*"And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the **Lord**: and these are their journeys according to their goings out."*

Deut. 31:24,

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished."

Jewish tradition attributes the authorship of the majority of the Pentateuch to Moses. There are also references in the Bible mentioning the book of the law of Moses or the book of Moses. Joshua 1:7-8, 2 Chr. 25:4, Neh. 13:1. Jesus attributed the authorship to Moses. Mark 7:10,

"For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:"

Moses wrote down the words of the law God gave him, as God instructed. This ensured that