



**Using Biblical Principles to Judge
The Modern Bible Versions Movement**

Dr. Steve Combs

So Shall My Word Be

**Using Biblical Principles to Judge
the Modern Bible Versions Movement**

**By
Dr. Steve Combs**

**Published by
The Old Paths Publications
www.theoldpathspublications.com**

Copyright © 2024 by Steve Combs

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from the copyright owner in writing.

The Author may be contacted by writing:

bpsg.scombs@gmail.com

ISBN: 979-8-9903273-4-4

The Bible Translation used in this book is the
King James Bible

Other versions are used for illustrative purposes

Book title is from Is. 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Cover Picture: English Bible Translations.jpg. Pete Unseth.

Wikipedia, Modern English Bible Translations. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:English_Bible_translations.jpg. Unchanged.

Published in the USA by
The Old Paths Publications
June 2024

Contents

List of Bible Versions	7
Introduction.....	11
PRINCIPLE 1: Basic Doctrines About the Bible	13
Inspiration	14
The Divine Preservation of the Scriptures	18
The Fact of Providential Preservation	18
The Definition of Providential Preservation	21
The Authority of the Scriptures.....	22
Conclusion	28
PRINCIPLE 2: Satan’s Master Plan	30
Satan’s Plan.....	33
The Angel of Light.....	35
Modern Versions Differ from the King James Bible	40
Modern Versions Differ from One Another.....	45
PRINCIPLE 3 Part 1: How We Got Here	
The God of History.....	47
The Textus Receptus	48
The Complutensian Polyglot.....	49
The God of History	49
The King James Bible.....	50
An Explosion of Bible Translations.....	53
An Explosion of Evangelism	55
An Explosion of Foreign Missions	57
An Explosion of Mass Evangelism	61
Principle 3 Part 2: How We Got Here	
Satan’s Counter Attack.....	66
The Catholic Counter Reformation.....	66
The Development of Philosophy	67
The Age of Rationalism.....	68
The Age of Enlightenment-Skepticism.....	70
The Development of Theological Liberalism	72
Liberalism and Biblical Criticism in England.....	75
The Westcott and Hort Greek New Testament	78
Liberalism Vs. Fundamentalism in America.....	80
Cultural Decline.....	92
Step One: Loss of Perspective Toward God.....	93
Step Two: Given up to Sexual Corruption.....	94

List of Bible Versions

Step Three: Given Up to Vile Affections 95

Step Four: Given Up to a Reprobate Mind..... 97

PRINCIPLE 4: God is not the Author of Confusion 102

Modern Version Examples of Confusion105

Confusion Caused by Contradiction.....112

The Breeding of Doubt119

PRINCIPLE 5: Thy Word is Truth

Will A Modern Bible Version Lie? 120

More Blatant Lies.....121

Half Truth = Whole Lie.....129

An Admonition.....133

PRINCIPLE 6: If the Blind Lead the Blind 134

The Development of the Critical Text135

The United Bible Societies137

A Look at the Editors of the Critical Greek Text140

An Ever Changing New Testament143

If the Blind Lead the Blind ... An Evaluation143

PRINCIPLE 7: Sweet Water and Bitter Fountains?..... 145

Who are Westcott and Hort?146

They Denied Biblical Infallibility.....148

They Denied that Genesis is Historical Truth149

They were in Error on the Doctrines of Salvation.....150

They Believed in Baptismal Regeneration.....152

Rejection of Miracles152

Did They Believe in the Resurrection of Christ?152

Prayers for the Dead153

Westcott and Hort were Involved in the Occult153

But ... They Wrote Conservative Commentaries158

The Fountain and the Roots159

A Concluding Summary 160

About the Author 167

Notes: 168

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this book to my loving wife, Suzanne, who has helped me in so many ways in life and in enabling me to share thoughts with her and putting them in the written word.

Other Books Written or Edited by Dr. Steve Combs

Available through www.theoldpathspublications.com

Books Written:

The Power of the Gospel-The Book of Romans
The Fellowship of the Mystery-The Book of Ephesians
A Practical Theology of Bible Translating
A Practical Guide to Bible Translation Projects
Election and Predestination
The Translator's Greek Grammar of the Textus Receptus
The LSB and Other Unusual Bible Questions

Books Edited:

The New Testament: Greek Textus Receptus 1881 Edition paperback
The New Testament: Greek Textus Receptus 1881 Edition Hardback
Parallel Greek Received Text and KJB New Testament paperback
Parallel Greek Received Text and KJB New Testament Hardback

SAMPLE PAGES

List of Bible Versions

These English Bible versions are used in Biblegateway.com. Although not all these versions were used in this book, the list provides a reference for the abbreviations the reader will see. This is the database used to show how modern versions differ from the King James Version and do not uphold the truth.

KJ21 21st Century King James Version Copyright © 1994 by Deuel Enterprises, Inc.;

ASV American Standard Version Public Domain;

AMP Amplified Bible Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631;

AMPC Amplified Bible, Classic Edition Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation;

BRG Bible Blue Red and Gold Letter Edition™ Copyright © 2012 BRG Bible Ministries.

CSB The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

CEB Common English Bible Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible;

CJB Complete Jewish Bible Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. All rights reserved;

CEV Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society;

DARBY Darby Translation. Public Domain;

DLNT Disciples' Literal New Testament. Disciples' Literal New Testament: Copyright © 2011 Michael J. Magill. Published by Reyma Publishing;

DRA Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition Public Domain;

ERV Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) Copyright © 2006 by Bible League International;

EASY EasyEnglish Bible. Copyright © MissionAssist 2019 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1162807;

EHV The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc.;

ESV The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles;

List of Bible Versions

ESVUK English Standard Version Anglicised Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.;

EXB The Expanded Bible, Copyright © 2011 Thomas Nelson Inc. All rights reserved;

GNV Geneva Bible, 1599 Edition. Published by Tolle Lege Press. All rights reserved;

GW GOD'S WORD Translation Copyright © 1995, 2003, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 by God's Word to the Nations Mission Society;

GNT Good News Translation Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition) © 1992 American Bible Society.

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville Tennessee;

ICB International Children's Bible Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.;

ISV International Standard Version Copyright © 1995-2014 by ISV Foundation;

PHILLIPS The New Testament in Modern English by J.B Phillips copyright © 1960, 1972 J. B. Phillips. Administered by The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England;

JUB Jubilee Bible 2000. Copyright © 2013, 2020 by Ransom Press International;

KJB or KJB King James Bible - Public Domain;

AKJB, KJB, AV Authorized (King James) Version. Cambridge University Press, the Crown's patentee in the UK.;

LSB Legacy Standard Bible Copyright ©2021 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved. Managed in partnership with Three Sixteen Publishing Inc;

LEB Lexham English Bible 2012 by Logos Bible Software. Lexham is a registered trademark of Logos Bible Software;

TLB The Living Bible copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation;

MSG The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson;

So Shall My Word Be

MEV The Holy Bible, Modern English Version. Copyright © 2014 by Military Bible Association. Published and distributed by Charisma House;

MOUNCE The Mounce Reverse Interlinear™ New Testament Copyright © 2011 by William D. Mounce;

NOG Names of God Bible © 2011 by Baker Publishing Group;

NABRE New American Bible (Revised Edition) © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC;

NASB New American Standard Bible, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation;

NASB1995 New American Standard Bible 1995 Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation;

NCB New Catholic Bible. Copyright © 2019 by Catholic Book Publishing Corp.;

NCV New Century Version. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.;

NET New English Translation. copyright ©1996-2017 by Biblical Studies Press,

NIRV New International Reader's Version. Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.®;

NIV New International Version. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®;

NIVUK New International Version. Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®;

NKJB New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson;

NLV New Life Version. Copyright © 1969, 2003 by Barbour Publishing, Inc.;

NLT New Living Translation. Copyright 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Carol Stream, Illinois 60188;

NMB New Matthew Bible. Copyright © 2016 by Ruth Magnusson (Davis);

NRSVA New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised. Copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.;

NRSVACE New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition. Copyright © 1989, 1993, 1995 the Division of Christian

List of Bible Versions

Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America;

NRSVCE New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition copyright © 1989, 1993 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America;

NRSVUE New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America;

NTFE The New Testament for Everyone. Copyright © Nicholas Thomas Wright 2011, 2018, 2019;

OJB Orthodox Jewish Bible. Copyright © 2002, 2003, 2008, 2010, 2011 by Artists for Israel International;

RGT Revised Geneva Translation. © 2019 by Five Talents Audio;

RSV Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America;

RSVCE The Revised Standard Version of the Bible: Catholic Edition, copyright © 1965, 1966 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America;

TLV Tree of Life Version. Copyright © 2015 by The Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society;

VOICE The Voice Bible Copyright © 2012 Thomas Nelson, Inc. The Voice™ translation © 2012 Ecclesia Bible Society;

WEB World English Bible by Public Domain. The name "World English Bible" is trademarked;

WE Worldwide English (New Testament) © 1969, 1971, 1996, 1998 by SOON Educational Publications;

WYC Wycliffe Bible 2001 by Terence P. Noble;

YTL Young's Literal Translation by Public Domain

Introduction

Years ago, I wrote a commentary on the Book of Ephesians. When I came to chapter five and read about music, I realized my shortcomings. Ephesians 5:19 says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..." You see, I am what may be termed "a musical moron," ignorant in the extreme and grossly untalented. I had listened to a study on what makes good music by a Christian musician, and I learned that a lot of musical judgment is based on rhythm. Does it have a syncopated beat or a waltz beat or something else? That made sense to me. However, when I tried to use this criteria, I found that I could not always tell *what* the beat was. Even if the music sounded pleasant and had a spiritual impact, it still sounded like it *might* have a syncopated beat, which, I was taught, was carnal. So, when I came to Ephesians 5:19 in my commentary, I knew I had to base judgement about good or bad music on *something* else. Surely, I thought, the Bible must have Principles that enable a musical moron to judge music. I found that the Bible does *indeed* give those Principles, and I wrote my commentary accordingly.

I believe the same is true in relation to the many English Bible translations that have flooded the Christian world since the Revised Version of 1881. There are now more than 200 different English Bible Versions, all competing with one another and trying to outdo each other. All of them want to have a copyright, which they cannot get unless they are significantly different than the last several hundred. These versions are based on ancient manuscripts, which led to the creation of competing Greek New Testaments and Hebrew Old Testaments along with confusing theories and philosophies of translating in such a dizzying array that many average Christians have given up or have never tried to understand it. Many throw up their hands in surrender saying, "Well, they are all bibles, they must be the same."

This booklet is written in the belief that the Bible gives us principles that enable the average Christian to judge this issue and come to clarity. Don't misunderstand. It will still require the accumulation of some knowledge. However, what you need to know has already been researched and provided by others. The greatest

Introduction

need is that we all believe and follow what the Bible says about the subject. The necessary principles are all there. They just need to be learned and applied to the version situation as it is today. You don't need to become a Bible scholar or to understand Biblical scholarship. You don't need to become a Greek or Hebrew scholar. You simply have to become a good and wise Bible student. That and a little knowledge of the situation will be enough.

James 1:5 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Therefore, this booklet provides several Biblical principles for you. It also gives you some basic knowledge and suggestions about how to apply the Biblical principles listed below.

Principle 1: Basic Doctrines of the Scriptures

Principle 2: Satan's Master Plan

Principle 3: God is the God of History

Principle 4: God is not the Author of Confusion

Principle 5: God's Word is Truth

Principle 6: If the Blind lead the Blind

Principle 7: Sweet Water and Bitter Fountains?

PRINCIPLE 1: Basic Doctrines About the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Psalms 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **7** Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

First things must come first. There are two doctrines that must be understood and believed if you are to get to the truth about English Bible versions. Those doctrines are 1) The Inspiration of Scripture, and 2) the Providential Preservation of the Scriptures. The very foundation of a successful walk with the Lord and of growth in Christ is a firm Scriptural conviction about the nature of the Bible itself. God has a very high view of Scripture. We must have the same. Everything depends on this. Without it, you may not be able to reach the truth, because you are in danger of depending on something other than Scripture, and only Scripture is certain truth. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

So, the Bible, Scripture, comes to us from God, and He has also declared that He will preserve it word-perfect; therefore, the Bible carries the authority of God. This truth was expressed many years ago in the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith and in the 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith.

The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them. ¹

Basic Doctrines About the Bible

The Scriptures came into the world by inspiration, from that point they were preserved by God's singular care and providence, and they are the final appeal in all matters of faith and practice. When the Scriptures speak, the matter is settled.

Inspiration

The word *inspiration* in 2 Timothy 3:16 in Greek is *theopneustos*, and basically means *God breathed*. However, this means little in English and needs some explanation. One thing it certainly means is that God is the origin of all Scripture. God is the only author. He used men as His instruments to write the words down, but the words were all from His heart and mind. It has been stated this way: "The perfect author of the perfect Bible is God." ²

A statement of the process and product of inspiration is found in Matthew 4:4, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" The words of Scripture proceeded out of God's mouth; they were God-breathed. They may have been spoken by men, they may have been written down by men, but they came out of the mouth of God. Since God is a Spirit (John 4:24), this is a metaphor to help us understand that every word of Scripture comes from God. He is the origin and author of the words, all the words. Each word chosen by Him is from His heart and mind.

We often speak of *verbal plenary* inspiration. *Verbal* inspiration means that God inspired every single individual word. Every separate word is a word that God chose. It is God's vocabulary. *Plenary* inspiration means that *all* of Scripture as a *whole* is inspired. Nothing in Scripture escapes the label *inspired*. *Every word* of Scripture and the *whole* is inspired.

How did God give Scripture and how did He use men to do it? God used various methods. The Scriptures themselves give us some additional information and examples of what God did. Foremost among them is 2 Peter 1:16-21.

2 Peter 1:16-21 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

So Shall My Word Be

17 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

18 *And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

19 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

20 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

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 started with holy men. The Spirit of God “moved” these men to speak words that He chose. These words were written down by an assistant who was listening. An example of this is found in Jeremiah 36.

Jeremiah 36:1-4 *And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,*

2 *Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.*

3 *It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.*

4 ***Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.***

Even Paul used the speaking method. Romans 16:22 says, “**I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.**” The letter was

Basic Doctrines About the Bible

sent to Rome from Paul, not Tertius. Paul spoke the words of the letter and Tertius was his assistant who wrote it down.

However, Paul seems to have written some of his work himself. 1 Corinthians 16:1 tells us, "The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand." Paul wrote the greeting himself, otherwise it appears the same procedure was used. "Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand" (Gal. 6:11). It has been suggested that Paul wrote the end of the epistle to the Galatians and used large letters because he had eye trouble (Gal. 4:15). Regardless, at times Paul wrote himself, and at times he dictated to an assistant.

A similar method has to do with the law in Deuteronomy. Moses spoke all the law to Israel and Moses Himself wrote the words (Deut. 31:9).

When dealing with this subject, commentators usually reject out of hand the so-called dictation theory; that God dictated the Scriptures. Yet, that is exactly what God did for part of the Scriptures. For example, God dictated the ten commandments and wrote them Himself on tables of stone (Ex. 34:1; Deuteronomy 9:10). God also dictated the law and commanded it to be written down (Ex. 17:14; 24:4; 34:27; Num. 5:23). Much of the Prophecies are written from indirect dictation; dictated by God to the prophets, spoken aloud by the prophets, and written by a secretary.

At other times, especially with narratives of events, God seems to have put into the hearts of the writers the words they should write. "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" (Num. 33:2).

In whatever way God gave the word, it was given by the miracle of inspiration. The Words were given by God. In whatever way the prophets and Apostles were "*moved*" (2 Peter 2:21), it was the Holy Spirit who moved them. They were led by the Spirit. "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2). Because of this, we must conclude that it is not just the meaning of the words that matter, it is the words themselves. When one is translating the Bible, he must be concerned about the meaning of the text *and* about the words. *God cares about each of His words, the words HE chose.*

Psalms 12:6 *The words of the Lord are pure words*