

WHY WE BELIEVE ALL MODERN VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE ARE INFERIOR TO THE KING JAMES VERSION

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Psalms 12:6-7; 100:5; Isaiah 40:8

INTRODUCTION

- A. God's Word was already complete in heaven before He gave it to man (Psalm 119:89).
- B. God gave His Word to man through specifically chosen persons. He used them to write down His message word for word (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:16).
- C. God promised to preserve His Word to all generations (Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 12:6-7; 100:5). The doctrine of preservation means that God's inspired Word would not be changed, corrupted or lost.
- D. The original writings by those who were chosen to record God's Word are called "original manuscripts" or "autographs."
 - (1) There are no original manuscripts still existing today.
 - (2) There are, however, many copies and translations still in existence. Many are between 1,000 and 1,500 years old.
 - (3) The "original manuscripts" of the New Testament were written in the Greek language. Today none of the original manuscripts remain. But, there are over 5,200 ancient copies and translations still in existence, some are translations in other ancient languages such as Syrian or Latin.
- E. Of those 5,200 manuscripts of the New Testament, the majority of them agree with each other and are essentially the same. A small minority of the 5,200 manuscripts (copies & translations) do not agree with the majority of the manuscripts and often do not even agree with each other.

The majority of the manuscripts are the basis of the King James English Version. For this reason we say the KJV is a translation from the Majority Text. This Majority Text is sometimes called the Traditional Text or the Received Text (Textus Receptus).

The translators of the KJV did not accept the small group of manuscripts which are different from the Majority Text. That small group of manuscripts (about 10% of the total of 5,200) is called the Minority Text. There have been more ancient manuscripts discovered since the KJV was first published in 1611 A.D. However, these newly discovered manuscripts generally support the Minority Text and not the Majority Text.

All modern English versions of the Bible are translated from the Minority Text. This include the New International Version, New American Standard Version, Revised Standard Version, Good News for Modern Man, Today's English Version, etc.

When the KJV was translated it was from the Majority or Traditional Text.

For the following reasons we accept the KJV above all modern versions or translations:

1. **THE MODERN VERSIONS ARE TRANSLATED FROM AND BASED UPON THE MINORITY TEXT RATHER THAN THE MAJORITY OR TRADITIONAL TEXT.**
2. **THE MODERN VERSIONS ARE TRANSLATED FROM THE MANUSCRIPTS WHICH BASICALLY CAME FROM AN AREA OF MANY DOCTRINAL HERESIES.**
 - A. In the early centuries after Christ there was much error taught in and around Alexandria, Egypt.
 - B. The manuscripts in the Minority Text come generally from that area of the world. Therefore, sometimes the Minority Text is called the Alexandrian Text.

3. THE MODERN VERSIONS ARE BASED UPON MANUSCRIPTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED IN SOME PARTS.
 - A. Of the 5,200 New Testament ancient manuscripts existing today about 10% (Minority Text) of them do not agree in many passages and verses with the other 90% (Majority Text).
 - B. The two most important manuscripts of the Minority Text are called Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus. These two manuscripts disagree with each other over 3,000 times in just the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

4. THE MODERN VERSIONS ARE BEING PROMOTED BY THOSE WHO ARE LIBERAL OR NEO-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICALLY.
 - A. More and more fundamentalists are beginning to use the Modern Versions.
 - B. As a whole though, those who are not fundamentalists criticize the King James Version and promote those versions based upon the Minority or Alexandrian Text.

5. THE MODERN VERSIONS ARE BASED ON SOME OF THE MINORITY MANUSCRIPTS WHICH HAVE ONLY BEEN RECOVERED IN THE LAST 200 YEARS.
 - A. If the newly discovered manuscripts are the real and accurate copies of our New Testament then that means for many centuries believers did not have an accurate copy of God's Word.
 - B. That means from the time those manuscripts were lost until they were discovered in recent years many generations did not have the preserved Word of God.
 - C. But we must remember that God promised to preserve His Word to every generation.
 - D. I accept the King James Version because it was translated from the Majority Text which has always been available in every generation.
 - E. We believe in the inspiration and also the preservation of the Bible.