

PREFACE

- i. It used-to-be that when someone said “*I believe the Bible*”, all knew they were talking about the King James 1611 Bible ... but as an intense battle has raged over the Bible Issue (since 1880AD), we now must ask “*Which Bible?*” do they speak of? There is no subject that is more foundational to our Christianity than this subject of the Bible Issue.
- ii. In Matt.22:36, a Pharisaical lawyer asked Jesus this question ~ “**Master, which is the great commandment in the law?**” That Pharisee was well-aware that there were many commandments throughout the O.T. (**613** commandments to be exact). He reasoned ~ for Jesus to reduce all **613** to a single all-important command...would only minimize all the rest of them. That Pharisee couldn’t imagine that **1** single law could outweigh the rest. Jesus wasted no time in answering his question. Jesus DID believe there was one great law from which all the rest flowed ~ (22:37) “**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**”
- iii. Another “*equally important*” question could be asked ~ “*Which is the greatest of all the doctrines of our Christian Faith?*” Our Christian faith holds tenaciously to many doctrines (i.e. the Trinity, the Virgin Birth of Christ, the Blood Atonement, Salvation by Grace, Eternal Security, the 2nd Coming). Could there possibly be one doctrine that rises above all the rest? Without a doubt, the **1** doctrine that rises above all the rest is ~ **the Doctrine of the Scriptures**. Why so? Because every other doctrine that we believe comes from this one ultimate source ~ the Word of God.
 - * we wouldn’t know of the Trinity (without a Bible)
 - * we wouldn’t know of Jesus’ Virgin Birth (without a Bible)
 - * we’d not know of Jesus’ Blood Atonement, Salvation by Grace, Eternal Security, the 2nd Coming (without a Bible).
- iv. Consider ~ if someone could succeed in destroying our Bible...then the entire house of our Christianity would tumble & fall. If we didn’t have the Scriptures, then we’d be like a ship without a rudder. We’d be at the mercy of every wind that blows. If we deny that the Bible (in our hands) is the perfect Word of God...then every man’s opinion becomes their authority.

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I. **INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE ISSUE**

- Text: (2Tim.3:16-17) “**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.**”
- a. This Bible passage (2Tim.3:16-17) is one of the greatest places to begin our investigation into the Bible issue. Why? Because it reminds us that:
1. The Scriptures (also referred to as *the Word of God*, and *the Bible*) were given to us from God
 2. Those Scriptures aren't just something that men had in the past, but they are a present possession (twice we read “is”)
 3. Those Scriptures will profit the Christian in every area of their life (4 specific areas are mentioned in v.16)
 4. With the Scriptures, we can be “**thoroughly**” (totally) furnished to do God's will (as an *apartment thoroughly furnished*)
- Paul told Timothy ~ with God's Word in hand & heart ... you'll have everything you need to live a God-pleasing life. Think with me ~ for all of that to still be possible, we MUST have the Bible in our hands.
- b. Friend, ALL we need is God's Word: - we don't need the Bible PLUS the extra-biblical pronouncements of the Pope.
- we don't need the Bible PLUS the so-called new revelations of the Charismatics
- we don't need the Bible PLUS the writings of the Mormons or J.Ws! Just the Bible!
- c. But what if we no longer have the Scriptures? Satan would like that.
Satan's aim is to remove the Bible from our lives. He well-knows that the Scriptures are the cornerstone of all doctrine.
- that's why Satan's greatest attacks are against the authority and the present-possession of the Word of God
- wasn't Satan's 1st attack (in Gen.3) a questioning of God's Word? “**Yea, hath God said?**” (he was shooting at God's Word)
- doesn't Rev.22 give a stern warning against “**adding unto these things**” or “**taking away from the words of the book**”?
- Satan can't undermine our Christianity until he successfully attacks the Bible, & undermines our confidence in the Bible.
- d. Since Satan has failed to destroy the Bible ... his “*backup plan*” is to flood the market with counterfeit Bible versions.
Do you know that there are over 250 different English Bible translations that have been printed & promoted?
(the Catholics have theirs, the Mormons have theirs, the Jehovah's Witnesses have theirs, the Charismatics have theirs).
Many people (who don't KNOW the Bible issue) have been “*duped*” with whatever NEW Bible is next being promoted.
- e. Now (more-than-ever) it's important for Christians to understand & champion the truth of the Scriptures.
The facts must be presented clearly & forcefully. The heresy of modern versions must be exposed.
Those criticizing the thought of us holding God's perfect Word in our hands must be silenced.
- f. Although there's plenty of churches (across our cities) where a Bible is never opened ...
Although there's many “*places of worship*” where a Bible is nothing more than a piece of religious furniture “*on display*” (not really any more important to them than their candles & their stain glass windows & coffee machine at the back) ...
We who call ourselves “**Baptists**” (& more-importantly “**Bible Believers**”) must know the Bible isn't just a “**book**” we USE.
Instead, this Bible is a Book that we BELIEVE. Everything else that we hold dear hinges on the presence of God's Word.
- g. Baptist churches traditionally explain their distinctives with the acrostic ~ **B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S** ? What does that stand for?
“**B**” ~ Biblical Authority – the Bible is the Basis for all that we believe (2 Tim 3:16-17; 4:1-4)
“**A**” ~ Autonomy of the Local Church – each church is independent (Rev.2:1,6; Acts 14:23)
“**P**” ~ Priesthood of All Believers – each Christian can go directly to God (Rev 1:5-6; Heb.10:19).
“**T**” ~ Two Ordinances in the Local Church – (1) Believer's Baptism, (2) Lord's Supper (1Cor.11:2)
“**I**” ~ Individual Soul Liberty – each person has a right to believe or disbelieve as they will (Rom 14:5)
“**S**” ~ Sanctified Church Membership – you must be saved to be a member of the local church (1Cor 1:1-2)
“**T**” ~ Two Officers - (1) Pastor, (2) Deacons (Titus 1:5,7; Philip.1:1)
“**S**” ~ Separation of Church & State – Government mustn't interfere with the Church (Mt.22:21; Rom.13:1-6)
Did you notice ~ the very 1st detail in a Baptist's distinctives is Biblical Authority? Everything hinges on the Bible!
- h. Neither a local church nor individual Christian can be all that God plans them to be without the Bible being given 1st place!
Friend, if you read your Bible daily ... then you are in a small minority in this world.
Not too many people put a priority on the reading of this blessed Book. WHY is that?
i. Some have convinced themselves that the Bible is outdated ... (“*Why spend time reading a book that's 2,000 yrs old?*”)
ii. Some have come to the conclusion that the Bible is just the writings of men ... (“*Men wrote that Bible*”)
iii. Some believe that the Bible is full of contradictions ... (“*Why waste my time with something so jumbled & confusing?*”)
- i. If you consider yourself a Christian ... then the Bible MUST BE important.
If you identify yourself as a Believer ... then you NEED TO UNDERSTAND “**The Bible Issue**”.

II. KNOWING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE BIBLE ISSUE

[A] The 1st Foundation of the Bible Issue is ... **THERE IS A PERFECT BIBLE SETTLED IN HEAVEN**

(Ps.119:89) "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

- a. Did you know that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in our entire Bible? (it has **176** verses in it).
- the theme of this longest chapter in our Bible is ... the Bible
 - **39x** (in this chapter alone) we find the Bible referred to as "**thy word**" (v.9,11,16,17)... + ... **4x** "**thy words**" (v.57).
 - the Bible is also referred to as ~ the "**law**", the "**testimonies**", the "**statutes**", the "**judgments**", the "**precepts**"
 - and sitting at the very middle of this chapter (that's devoted to the truth of God's Word), look what David writes ~
- (Ps.119:89) "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."
- b. This is another a GREAT VERSE that helps us to understand the Bible Issue. Why so? Because it tells us that long before any books/chapters/verses of our Bible were ever written (on this earth) ... our Bible already existed in Heaven.

"What exactly does that mean?"

- the very 1st book (found in the order of our Bible) is Genesis ... it was written by the patriarch, Moses.
Long before Moses ever penned those 1st words "**In the beginning God ...**" those words already existed in Heaven.
- the very 1st book (found in the order of our N.T.) is Matthew ... it was written by the apostle, Matthew.
Long before Matthew ever penned those 1st words "**The book of the generation of**" they already existed in Heaven.
- the very last book (found in the order of our N.T.) is Revelation ... it was written by the apostle, John.
Long before John ever penned the last words "**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen**" those words already existed in Heaven.

David assures us (v.89) long before anyone penned any of "**thy word**" (down here)...they were already settled up in heaven.

- c. Stop & consider that word "**settled**": - it means no more shifting ... no more adjusting ... no more changing ...
- for something to be "**settled**" means it's found its final stage ... it's complete!

Wait a minute! When this Ps.119:89 was penned by David (c. 1,015 BC) ... none of the N.T. was written down yet.

... in fact, everything from Proverbs & after was still unpenned on earth.

For God's "**word**" (all 66 books) to be already "**IS settled**" (in 1,015 BC) before the last ½ of Bible was penned down here ... it can only mean that God's Word was already fully present somewhere (other than on earth).

Where was it already settled? It was already settled in Heaven.

- d. Friend, by no means is this Bible in our hands a NEW book (from Heaven's perspective).
- although it might be NEWLY made available to people groups (who never before had it in translated into their language)
 - although it might be NEWLY read by individual people (who never had an interest in reading it before)
- ... this is an OLD BOOK. It's been around (up in Glory) LONG before a single word of it was penned here below.
- (Ps.119:160) "**Thy word is true from the beginning** (so, looking backwards there existed God's word): **& every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever** (looking forwards there will always exist God's word)."

- e. "**Why is this detail (the Pre-Existence of God's Word) SO IMPORTANT?**"

Because while men/committees (around the world) are still today trying to figure how to make more changes to our Bible ... & if they can make enough changes, then they can copyright the new product...& sell it...& make lots of \$\$...

God (up in Heavn) already has it settled.

It was **settled** long before any man (on earth) wrote it (1st time)...& it'll still be settled long after this earth has passed away.

- f. "**Preacher, are there any other passages that would also tell that great truth ~ the eternity FUTURE of God's Word?**"

(Matt.24:35) "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**"

(John 12:48) "**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**"

That perfect Bible (that's up in heaven) will be the STANDARD by which you & I are one day judged.

II. Knowing the Foundations of the Bible Issue

[A] The 1st Foundation is ... **There is a Perfect Bible Settled in Heaven**

[B] The 2nd Foundation of the Bible Issue is ... **GOD GAVE HIS WORD TO THIS EARTH**

(Ps.68:11) "**The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.**"

- a. Okay, as wonderful as the truth is: - that God's Perfect Word exists in Heaven (before it was ever penned down here) ...
- and that same Word still sits (perfect, complete) up in Heaven today ...

Since you & I don't YET have access to Heaven (we can't book a tour to go see that complete, perfect Word any time now)

... the 2nd blessing associated with God's Word is ... (Ps.68:11a) "**The Lord gave the word**".

- b. A perfect Bible (up in Heaven) isn't really that big a deal to you & me (YET) ... because we can't get into heaven (YET). But God graciously decided to make it possible for people (on the earth) to have exactly what's sitting up here (in heaven). Why is a Bible on this earth BETTER than a Bible in Heaven? Because we can't get any help from the Bible we can't get to. It's not too great of a thing to rejoice in something that you can't GET TO ... or READ ... or BENEFIT from. Have U ever heard of this worldly statement ~ "*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.*" It's kinda like saying ~ "*Having a turkey in my freezer is better than 20 turkeys in the local Grocery Store freezers*". Praise be to God that He had Moses write it out (word-for-word) ... "**In ... the ... beginning ... God ... created ...**"
- c. If you understand the Bible issue, then you believe God told the writers of the books of the Bible EXACTLY what to write.
- we don't believe those writers were given the general ideas (from God) ... & then those writers were given an open license to write just anything they felt like. No, no...God gave them the exact words to write.
 - that's what Ps.68:11a is talking about when it says ~ "**The Lord gave the WORD**"
 - that process of God putting into the mind/heart of a man God's exact words is called "**Inspiration**"
- Remember ~ **(2Tim.3:16) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"**
- d. To explain exactly HOW that supernatural process of "**inspiration**" happened ... let's look at 2Peter 1 ~ **(2Pet.1:20-21) "20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture (the Bible, God's Word) is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man (man didn't come up with this): but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**
- our Bible is not the product of man's own ideas. It's the product of the Holy Ghost moving on men what to write.
- e. There's plenty of examples (in the Bible) of God telling the Bible authors what to write (see: **Jer.36:1-2,4; Acts 1:15-16**)
- f. Consider the human-impossibility of our Bible being written without any errors/contradictions (ending in 100% agreement).
- just suppose we were given the task of choosing 40 men (from various walks of life) to form a board to write something
 - not only must those 40 men not be related (not all be buddies/friends of each other ~ to avoid them comparing notes) ... but they must be people who have come from 3 different continents, & spanning across 1,700 yrs).
 - What task are they given? To write a volume on the theology/practices of God...a treatise on the faith that we're to hold to.
 - they'd need varying degrees of education, & different occupations (i.e. Gov't officials, clergy, doctors, farmers, fishermen)
 - they'd not be allowed to have communication with each other.
 - their work would be in three languages ... their backgrounds different ... their styles of writing different.
 - when their work was complete ... it'd have to include:
 - historical records, prophetic announcements, poetry, domestic life, and theological discourses.
 - though their writing is primarily one of THEOLOGY (of their FAITH), within its pages would surely include references to:
 - history, science, astrology, biology, geography, archaeology, medicine, marriage, ethics, governments
 - and when it was done ... it would have to be THE definitive textbook for all spiritual truth ever revealed to man.
 - the litmus test of it? It would have to be PERFECT (not one proven discrepancy or contradiction in it) or it'd be useless!
- If we were given that assignment, we'd respond ~ "**That'd be Impossible!**" Yet the Bible was written in just this way!
- g. Friend: - parts of our Bible were written in tents ... in deserts ... in cities ... in palaces ... in ships ... in dungeons
- among its writers were judges, kings, priests, prophets, patriarchs, prime ministers, herdsman, scribes, soldiers, physicians, and fishermen.
 - yet despite those varying circumstances & conditions ... the Bible is in 100% agreement ... all in ONE BOOK!
- h. The only way to explain how the **66** books of our Bible could be penned by about **40** different men ... & yet have NO ERRORS... & NO CONTRADICTIONS... & NO OOPS ~ is somebody (Who was perfect) guided them behind it. A common objection to our Bible is ~ "**Why should I read the Bible ... it's just a book that imperfect MEN wrote**". While it's true that men held the quill that wrote the words... it was God who told them exactly what words to write. Make no mistake ~ it wasn't Moses/David/Isaiah/Paul who were the perfect ones behind Bible. God was the perfect One!
- i. Throughout our Bible ... time-&-time again ... we find God telling somebody to "**write this down**":
- (Exo.17:14a) "**And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book ...**"
 - (Exo.34:27) "**And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words ...**"
 - (Num.5:1,23) "**1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying... 23 the priest shall write these curses in a book...**"
 - (Deut.27:8) "**And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly.**"
 - (Isa.8:1) "**Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Mahershalalhashbaz.**"
 - (Jer.30:2) "**Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.**"
- j. IF the Bible can only be found up in Heaven ... then we (today) aren't much helped by it. Why not? Because we can't go there (yet) & read it! We can't gain access to it (if only available up there). That won't help us HERE. By God's grace, He chose to give His Word (perfectly) to this earth. We can find it (somewhere) & read it & be helped by it.

II. Knowing the Foundations of the Bible Issue

[A] The 1st Foundation is ... **There is a Perfect Bible Settled in Heaven**

[B] The 2nd Foundation is ... **God Gave His Word to this Earth**

[C] The 3rd Foundation of the Bible Issue is ... **GOD PROMISED TO PRESERVE HIS WORD ON THIS EARTH**

(Ps.12:6-7) “**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.”

- a. As wonderful as it is that: (1) God’s Perfect Word already existed in Heaven (before it was ever penned down here) ...
(2) God gave that Word to men to pen on this earth (word-for-word perfect) ...
there’s really no chance that we (now 2,000 - 3,500 yrs later) will still have those “*original*” documents they wrote.
Over time, those original writings were going to be read & re-read ... until they ultimately would completely fall apart.
- b. That’s why this Ps.12:6-7 is another GREAT promise about God’s Word.
God promised that He’d supernaturally have those original writings copied & copied & copied .. each copied perfectly.
Although those 1st generation documents (that Moses & David & Isaiah & Paul wrote) would soon be gone God promised there’d be 2nd generation copies of them (copied perfectly) ... & then a 3rd generation of copies (copied perfectly) ... etc.
- c. Let’s look closer at this Ps.12:6-7:
v.6 ~ “**The words of the LORD** (that’s the subject of this verse)...**ARE** (not *were*, but *are* ~ present tense) **pure words**”
Hold on ~ it’s not likely there were any 1st generation copies (of Gen-Job) still around when David wrote that!
Yet, the copy of the copy of the copy (that David held) ... David said that his copies “**ARE pure words**”.
“**Pure**” is without error ... it is without taint ... it is without any blemish. What David held was perfect!
v.7 ~ “**Preacher, how could they still be pure after 500 - 700 yrs of copying & recopying?**”
Because of this promise of Ps.12:7a, “**Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them**”
Is there anyone who’d dare suggest that God couldn’t perfectly preserve His words over 100s or 1,000s of yrs?
Look at the end of Ps.12:7b, “**O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**”
That task ‘d be too great for us, but God isn’t challenged (whatsoever) in safeguarding the copying of His Word.
- d. The word “**preserve**” means:
i. to protect or save from injury, decay, or destruction. ii. to uphold or sustain ii. to keep in a sound state,
iv. to defend from corruption v. to prevent from changing. vi. to make it last
All of those definitions are wrapped up in God’s promise to “**PRESERVE**” His word.
- e. “*Is Psalm 12:6-7 the only place (in the Bible) where it suggests the PRESENT Scriptures could possibly be perfect?*”
Not at all! Paul wrote to Timothy ~ (2Tim.3:15a) “**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures**”
- Wait! When Timothy was just a young lad (growing up), he didn’t have any N.T. Scriptures (as they not written yet)
- all Timothy had access to (when he was growing up) were O.T. Scriptures (not 1st generation, but 50th generation).
- yet notice what Paul called those umpteenth generation Scriptures that Timothy had ~ “**holy**”
“**holy**” is without error ... “**holy**” is without taint ... “**holy**” is without any blemish. Holy is perfect!
- f. It’s strange that many who believe in the INSPIRATION of the 1st generation writings of the Bible (God could do that) ...
they somehow believe that God LOST all His supernatural power, & couldn’t protect the copying of His Word over time.
These insist that 3% - 10% of the accuracy of God’s original words were lost during the copying & translation stage.
That’s not what Ps.12:6-7 is telling us ... and that’s not what Jesus told us.
Listen to what Jesus said (Mt.5:18) ~ “**For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**”
- a **jot** was the smallest Hebrew letter ... the **tittle** was the smallest projection on a letter.
- if we tried to carry that concept over to the English Bible, it would imply that ... God will preserve His words in such a way so that not even a dot on an ‘i’ or a cross on a ‘t’ will He allow to go missing.
- g. When I say that ... somebody is bound to respond ~ “**Pastor, nothing short of a MIRACLE could make THAT happen!**”
That’s why we call it ~ **the Miracle of the Preservation of God’s Word.**
Friend, if YOU believe God’s promise (in Ps.12:6-7) that He will preserve His word (across the generations of time) ...
then you’d have to accept that SOMEWHERE there is a PERFECT Bible (TODAY) that we can lay our hands on.
That can’t be the 1st generation “*originals*” (because they’re all gone). It has to mean a perfect copy of a copy of a copy.

II. Knowing the Foundations of the Bible Issue

[A] The 1st Foundation is ... **There is a Perfect Bible Settled in Heaven**

[B] The 2nd Foundation is ... **God Gave His Word to this Earth**

[C] The 3rd Foundation is ... **God Promised to PRESERVE His Word on this Earth**

[D] The 4th Foundation of the Bible Issue is ... **EVERY BIBLE TODAY IS NOT GOD'S PRESERVED WORD**
(2Cor.2:17) **"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."**

- a. Paul wrote this verse was around 58 AD. This was still in the 1st century (Jesus hadn't even been gone 30 years yet!)
Do U know what Paul (here) sadly reported? Already in his day, there were "**many**" who were changing God's Word.
These changes being made were "**corrupting the word of God**" (soiling them, contaminating them, wrecking them).
Paul was talking of CORRUPTED/CHANGED Bibles in the 1st century AD (that led to "**Bible Versions**" of our day).
- b. Do U know what the "**sales pitch**" is (when we walk into a Christian bookstore) for why we oughta buy a NEWER Bible?
They'll tell us ~ these newest versions have only changed "**hard**" words to "**easy**" words. (**How many have heard that?**)
They'll say ~ Don't buy an OLD King James Bible...instead, buy one of these easier-to-read NEWER Bible versions.
Well, **IF** what they're saying is true (only changed hard to easier)... then it should be pretty easy to investigate their claim.
Anyone should be able to compare an old KJV to a new version & see if they changed "**hard words**" to "**easier words**"?
- c. I'm going to suggest to you ~ so many of the changes made had nothing to do with changing hard words to "**easy**" words.
Then why are changes made?
(1) Some changes were done so they could copy & sell someone else's work. To copywrite demands sufficient changes.
(2) But if you study it out carefully... what you'll find is they've removed truths (in the Bible) that they didn't like.

II. Knowing the Foundations of the Bible Issue

[D] The 4th Foundation is ... **Every Bible Today is Not God's Preserved Word**

- d. Let me show some places where most newer Bible versions will CHANGE verses (1st, look at **KJV**...then see **NWT,NIV**):
 1. **Acts 8:37**...is the strongest verse on water baptism. Baptism means nothing if we are not already a believer (saved).
Any guesses who'd want to eliminate that verse? Possibly a baby baptizer, or religion with baptism but no salvation.
"How do we know the KJB didn't just ADD v.37?" Because the other versions can't count from v.36-39 properly!
 2. **1Jn.5:7-8**...is the strongest verse on the Trinity. The versions took out last ½ of v.7 & 1st ½ of v.8. (God's Trinity gone!)
Any guesses who'd want to eliminate that Trinity? Maybe a liberal/modernist who denies the deity of Jesus.
 3. **Col.1:14**... is one of the strongest verses on the fact that it was the shed blood of Jesus that saves/redeems us.
Any guesses who'd want to eliminate that verse? Likely someone who despises talk about Jesus' shed blood.
 4. **Matt.1:25**... is one of the strongest verses showing that Mary bore other children after Jesus. (Mary not forever a virgin).
Any guesses who'd want to eliminate that verse? Maybe one who wants to teach Mary was a perpetual virgin.
 5. **Lk.2:33**...is one of the strongest verses on the virgin birth of Jesus. Jesus had a human mother, but no human father.
Any guesses who'd want to eliminate that verse? Somebody who want to question Jesus' deity.

Also see: Matt.17:21; 18:11; Mark 9:44,46; Luke 4:4,8; Jn.6:47; Rom.13:9; Jam.5:16; Rev.20:12 (God changed to throne)
- e. There are many more "**test**" verses to "**flush out**" corrupted English Bibles ... & see if it has been tampered with (& changed).
Why would anyone want to change these? It's certainly not because the words in them were difficult to understand.
The reason is either: (a) to satisfy enough changes to copyright & sell it for money, (b) to purposely corrupt God's truth.
- f. Many publishing companies have concluded that although they can make easy \$\$ by printing Bibles (already written) ... they can make much more money if they 1st change what God gave (to suite their own liking) ... and then put a new name on the cover ... then copyright it ... & then sell it (i.e. like the **NEW** modern versions).
- g. It's interesting how the new versions have even changed this "**key**" warning verse about corrupting (in 2Cor.2:17).
What have they changed that to? (NIV; 2Cor.2:17) "**Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit.**"
Do U understand ~ to "**corrupt**" a Bible is very different than to "**peddle**" (sell a Bible). New Versions do BOTH!
- h. Although there are over 250+ changed Bibles on "**sales market**" today ... somewhere there's still a Holy, perfect Bible!
If you haven't been duped by all the sales pitches & their lying (& still hold a perfect KJV in hand)...it's a Miracle!
Warning ~ if you walk into a Bible bookstore and tell them that you are a new convert who wants to buy a Bible ... they'll try (every way under the sun) to sell you any other Bible version (just not an old-fashion King James Bible).
If you know the "**Bible Issue**" ... they you will "**insist**" on a King James 1611.

III. HOW ABOUT ALL OF THESE BIBLE VERSIONS TODAY?

[E] Regarding Today's Bible Versions ... **THERE ARE TWO LINES OF BIBLE MANUSCRIPTS**

(2Cor.2:17) "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

- a. All of the Bibles (being read today) are NOT the same. They are different in thousands of places. How is that possible? It's because they all do not come from the SAME line of manuscripts ... but instead from 2 different lines of manuscripts. Those 2 lines of Manuscripts trace their sources back to either **Antioch** (in Syria) or **Alexandria** (in Egypt).
- b. While we hold in our hands a Bible (made up of 66 books neatly assembled between 2 covers) ... that has not always been so. The individual 66 books were "*originally*" penned by men who wrote under the inspiration of God (2Tm.3:16; 2Pt.1:20-21). God promised (in the centuries to follow) He'd preserve those words by "*pure*" copies of the "*original*" writings (Ps.12:6-7).
- c. Alongside that unbroken line of perfectly-preserved copies was another line of "*corrupted*" copies ...
by men who changed what God wrote (2Cor.2:17).
Today, there's about 5,300 Greek N.T. manuscripts in existence (not 5,300 whole N.T...but copies of various portions).
By comparing those 5,300 manuscripts, we learn they trace back to 2 different sources ~ **Antioch** (Syria) & **Alexandria**.
- d. Approximately 95-97% of those 5,300 manuscripts highly agree with each other. These trace back to **Antioch** (in Syria).
Common names for to this "*agreeing*" Family of manuscripts are "**The Majority Text**" or "**The Antiochan Text**"
(these are also known as: the Byzantine text, Traditional text, Apostolic text, Eastern text & the Textus Receptus).
It's from these "**Majority/Antiochan**" manuscripts that KJV translators based their writing of our King James Bible.
- e. The remaining 3%-5% of 5,300 manuscripts highly disagree with each other. This 3% - 5% trace back to **Alexandria** (Egypt).
Common names for this "*disagreeing*" remainder of manuscripts are "**The Minority Text**" or "**The Alexandrian Text**".
It is important to know ~ these manuscripts in the "**Alexandrian**" family show a high level of disagreement to each other.
i.e. though Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are considered the 2 principal Alexandrian manuscripts...they disagree with each other
- the differences between Sinaiticus and Vaticanus in the Four Gospels amounts to 3,036+ differences.
Matthew (656+ differences), Mark (567+ differences), Luke (791+ differences), John (1,022+ differences)
- f. How can we know which "**line**" (source) of manuscripts to trust? Those from **Antioch** (in Syria) or **Alexandria** (in Egypt)?
 1. What do we know about **Antioch** (in Syria):
 - the 1st mention of Antioch is Acts 6:5. One of the original 7 (deacons) came from Antioch
 - as the book of Acts progresses, it was in Antioch that a solid, Bible-believing church was established
 - in Acts 13:1, we learn that Saul (who later was called Paul) took an active part in this church at Antioch.
 - God sent Paul & Barnabas out of Antioch to preach through Asia & Europe (but never are they sent to preach in Egypt).
 - notice their Antioch mission ~ (Acts 13:49) "**And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.**"
 2. What do we know about **Alexandria** (in Egypt):
 - the 1st mention of Alexandria is in Acts 6:9 . People from this city opposed Stephen (one of the original 7 deacons).
 - other mentions of Alexandria carry a negative connotation to Bible understanding (they're enemies of Bible preaching)
- g. It is more than just a coincidence that both Antioch & Alexandria are 1st mentioned in the same chapter (Acts 6).
God wants us to COMPARE those 2 places.
 - Antioch (in Syria) is always associated with God's Word being believed, practiced & preached [its 1st mention is positive]
 - Alexandria (in Egypt) is always associated with the correcting & corrupting of God's Word [its 1st mention is negative]
- h. **Alexandria** is located in EGYPT. Isn't it true that **Egypt** (throughout the Bible) has always pictured the **WORLD**?
Antioch is located in SYRIA. Isn't it also true that Antioch (through the Bible) always pictures a promoter of the **WORD**?
- i. What else does the Bible have to say about **Antioch**?
 1. The 1st Great Awakening of the Gentiles occurred in Antioch.
It's to here that the scattered Christians went preaching...& a great number believed & turned to the Lord (Acts 11:19-21).
 2. Antioch is the place where much people were added unto the Lord. These were exhorted to purpose in their heart to cleave unto the Lord (Acts 11:22-24).
 3. Antioch became the next place (after Jerusalem) where God established the headquarters of His New Testament church.
Barnabas set out to find Saul & bring him back to Antioch ~ not to Jerusalem & not to Alexandria. (Acts 11:25-26).
 4. Antioch was the place where believers were first called "**Christians**" (Acts 11:26).
 5. Antioch is the place to which God moved his prophets, signifying his blessing on Antioch, while the world was plagued with dearth (Acts 11:27,28).
 6. Antioch is the place from which God sent out Missionaries.
The Jerusalem apostles were told to go into all the world & preach the gospel, but they didn't (they remained at Jerusalem).
Because they failed, God instead sent out men from Antioch (on 3 successive journeys) to evangelize world (Acts 13,15,18)

- j. Knowing there are 2 sources of manuscripts from which all of our Bible come ... how does that help us with the Bible Issue?
1. The Word of God was published in all of the region around Antioch ... and was accepted as Scripture by early believers when they received it as such (hence, the "**Received Text**").
 Many fragments of these writings constitute the "**Majority Text**" which Erasmus and the King James translators used to compile God's Word.
Erasmus (1,466-1,536 A.D) was a brilliant scholar and reformer
 - he examined a collection of Majority Text Greek manuscripts.
 - Although he had access to many of the Alexandrian manuscripts, he rejected them as being corrupted texts.
 - he compiled the reliable manuscripts into a Greek N.T. (based on the readings that the true church has accepted).
 - later, his compilation came to be known as the "**Textus Receptus**".
 - the King James Bible translation is based on the same Greek text found in the "**Textus Receptus**".
 2. In opposition to God preserving His Word...influence from Origen, the Catholic church, and Westcott & Hort continued to propagate many conflicting accounts of what God's Word says. Their works make up the "**Minority Text**".
Origen Adamantius (184-254 A.D.) is usually referred to as Origen.
 - he is considered the "**father**" of corrupt Bibles.
 - Origen became president of the Alexandrian Catechetical School.
 - Origen's beliefs were:
 - * he denied the Genesis account of Adam and Eve.
 - * he believed that souls existed from eternity past.
 - * he believed in universal salvation ~ that the wicked would eventually be saved after punishment
 - * he denied a physical resurrection.
 - * he believed that devils would be saved.
 - he compiled a 6-column collection of the O.T. That 5th column was the basis for manuscript Codices Vaticanus (B), Sinaiticus (K), Alexandrinus (A), & Ephraemi Rescriptus (C) ... which underly the modern perversions of today.
- Westcott & Hort Foss Westcott (1825–1901 A.D.) & Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828–1892 A.D.)
- these were 19th-century theologians and Bible scholars who produced "*The New Testament in the Original Greek*" (this was one of the earlier examples of modern textual criticism).
 - they replaced the "**Majority Text**" of the Authorized Version with their new production (because it much-pleased those of Alexandria, Egypt and the Roman Catholic Church).
 - their NEW Greek New Testament is still the "**source text**" for many of today's modern Bible translations.
 - the beliefs of Westcott & Hort (as taken from their own diaries) were:
 - * both men resented the pre-eminence given to the Authorized Version and its underlying Greek Text.
 - They believed that R.Catholic manuscripts (Vaticanus & Aleph) were better because they were "**older**" ******
 [****** see note "k" on next page ******]
 - * neither man believed the Bible should be treated any differently than writings of lost historians/philosophers.
 How can God use men who do not believe that His Book is any different than Shakespeare/Plato/Dickens?
 - * they both were famous for denying Scriptural truth!
- Hort: - denied the reality of the Garden of Eden.
- was unimpressed with the evangelicals of his day... but he had great admiration for Charles Darwin!
 - questioned the existence of a personal devil
 - shrunk from the belief in a literal, eternal "**hell**".
 - did believe in the Roman Catholic doctrine of "**purgatory**".
 - rejected the teaching that Christ bore our sins when He suffered and died on Calvary's cross
 - believed R.C's teaching of "**baptismal regeneration**" was more correct than "**evangelical**" teaching
- Westcott: - did not believe that Gen.1-3 should be literally taken
- he thought Moses & David were poetic characters (believing that Jesus Christ referred to them by name only because the common people accepted them as authentic).
 - he doubted the biblical account of miracles
 - he believed that the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ was not a physical coming but a spiritual coming
 - he believed Heaven to be a state and not a literal place.
 - his constant exposure to pro-Roman influences set a pattern for his thinking (including his likes for Catholic statues, embracing "prayers for the dead", his belief of purgatory, & his prayers to Mary).
- Westcott & Hort edited the corrupt Vatican & Sinaitic manuscripts & produced their own Greek text. This they secretly introduced as a trustworthy source into the committee that was meeting to produce a Revised Version (in the 1880's). Their secret plot was so successful at guiding the decisions of the Revision Committee that many Committee members did not even suspect that they were helping to destroy the authority of the Authorized Version and give the world yet another Roman Catholic Bible.

- k. [**** Question:** Is it a reasonable claim that the “**oldest**” manuscripts must therefore be the “**best**” to depend upon? ******]
- * Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are considered (by modern Bible scholars) to be the oldest New Testament manuscripts available
 - * these date back to the middle of the 4th century.
 - * as they are considered to be the “**oldest**” manuscripts (still in existence), many scholars automatically consider them to be the “**best and most reliable**” manuscripts.
 - * when footnotes in many Bible versions read ~ “**The two most reliable early manuscripts do not have _____**” ... those two “**most reliable early manuscripts**” are this Sinaiticus & Vaticanus.
[The Old Scofield note on Mk.16:9 ~ “**The passage from v.9 to the end is not found in the two most ancient manuscripts, the Sinaitic and Vatican**”]
 - * WAIT ... are they the most-reliable?
Sinaiticus & Vaticanus disagree with about 90-95% of all known manuscripts. They even disagree among themselves. Both have a long history of corruption and obscurity.
- Vaticanus:** - is so named because it was discovered on a shelf in the Vatican library.
- although the claim it was written back in 350AD, ... how is it that it was only discovered in 1,481AD?
- obviously, the Vatican itself had paid no mind to this document ... it was forgotten for centuries!
- to this day, it is closely guarded by the Catholic church, and only certain individuals are even allowed to see it.
- Sinaiticus:** - is so named because it was found in St. Catherine’s Monastery (located at the base of Mt. Sinai).
- the claim is this dates to 350AD, but it was only found in a trash can in 1844AD (waiting to be burned)!
- Monks knew it was worthless. It’d been written over & corrected many times after it had been initially written.
- * Sinaiticus and Vaticanus disagree with each other 3000+ times (in the Gospels alone).
 - * It is estimated that these 2 manuscripts disagree with each other at least 7,000 times. These are major disagreements (not just spelling/punctuation). Such disagreements certainly don’t validate these as being the “**best**” manuscripts.
 - * Vaticanus
 - a. Everything from Genesis 1:1 to 46:28.
 - omits: b. Psalms 106-139
 - c. All of 1Timothy ... all of 2Timothy ... and all of Titus
 - d. All of Revelation
 - e. The last 4 ½ chapters of Hebrews (from chapter 9:14 – 13:25)
 - f. Our Lord’s agony and blood-like sweat in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke 22:43-44
 - g. Our Lord’s prayer for His adversaries (Lk.23:34) “**Father forgive them; for they know not what they do**”
 - h. Mark 16:9-20; there’s a significant blank space in the manuscript where this passage would’ve been.
 - i. The story of the woman taken in adultery John 7:53 - 8:11
 - * Sinaiticus
 - a. John 5:4, 8:1-11
 - omits: b. Matthew 16:2-3
 - c. Romans 16:24
 - d. Mark 16:9-20 Again, there is a significant blank space here where these verses likely once were.
 - e. Acts 8:37
 - f. 1 John 5:7
 - * the Sinaiticus was corrected at least 15,000 times by multiple correctors.
Most of the corrections were made in the 7th century, but some of the corrections were made as late as the 12th century.
Wouldn’t that negate any claim that this manuscript is the “**oldest**” reading?
The writing quality is very poor ~ many times words or whole phrases are repeated in succession.
The original writing is completely written over in parts, and the original writer even corrected some of his mistakes.
 - * Vaticanus also shows very sloppy penmanship.
 - * If the scholars really believed that the “**oldest**” were really the best, they would be forced to admit that **the** oldest NT manuscript fragment ever found agrees with the Majority Text. As reported in The Times of London (Dec. 24,1994), this fragment was dated at 66AD (centuries before Vaticanus and Sinaiticus were ever written). But these “**Minority Text**” scholars refuse to admit this; thus they contradict their own theory.
 - * Clearly, the Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are neither the oldest nor the best NT manuscripts.
More-than-likely, these 2 manuscripts only survived because they were set aside as “**unreliable**” & “**untrustworthy**”.
1. **Conclusion:** * Almost all modern English New Testaments are based on the Alexandrian Text & Westcott-Hort Greek texts.
Almost all modern English Old Testaments are based on Kittel’s revised Masoretic Text.
- * The King James Version N.T. is based on the Received Text, and the KJV O.T. is based on the Masoretic Text.
Did the KJV1611 translators do this only because the newer texts weren’t available when the KJV1611 was written?
No ... in fact, the Vaticanus WAS available in the time of Erasmus, but was not used (he rejected it as corrupted).

III. How about All of these Bible Versions Today?

[E] Regarding Today’s Bible Versions ... **There are Two Lines of Bible Manuscripts**

[F] Regarding Today's Bible Versions ... **WHAT ABOUT THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION?**

(Matt.7:13-14) "13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

- a. While there are some who reject certain modern versions of the Bible (i.e. NIV), they think that other versions (i.e. NKJV) are acceptable. In other words, they reject the more liberal versions but accept what they consider to be conservative versions. Did you know ~ the NKJV is a dangerous Bible? It's a transition Bible that'll likely lead people to more liberal translations. The NKJV Bible claims to be just an updated version of the KJB. The preface to the NKJV claims their new version will unlock "for today's readers the spiritual treasures found especially in the Authorized Version of the Holy Scriptures."
- b. The reality is: - in the New Testament alone, the NKJV removes nearly 2,300 words from the KJB.
- the New King James Version (NKJV) makes an estimated 100,000 changes to the KJB.
- c. Consider the following changes that the NKJV made (note: these are just some of the many problems with the NKJV).

1. The NKJV deletes important words from the Bible.

It has deleted "Lord" 66x, "God" 51x, "JEHOVAH" entirely, "blood" 23x, "soul" 137x, "damnation" entirely, "hell" 22x, "heaven" 50x, "repent" 44x, "New Testament" entirely, etc...

2. The NKJV demotes Jesus Christ in a number of passages:

<u>References</u>	<u>King James Bible</u>	<u>New King James Bible</u>
Gen.22:8	"God will provide himself a lamb"	"God will provide for himself the lamb"
Matt. 18:26	"and worshipped him, saying, Lord"	"before him saying, Master"
Matt.20:20	"worshipping him"	"kneeling down"
John 8:35	"the Son"	"a son"
Acts 3:13,26	"his Son Jesus"	"His Servant Jesus"

3. The NKJV makes false claims that it is easier to understand than the KJB ... but consider these confusing changes:

- * "oak" (KJV; Gen. 35:4) ... is changed to "terebinth trees" (NKJV)
- * "sun was up" (KJV; Judg. 8:13) ... is changed to "Ascent of Heres" (NKJV)
- * "tree" (KJV; 1 Sam. 22:6) ... is changed to "tamarish tree" (NKJV)
- * "fatherless" (KJV; Lam. 5:3) ... is changed to "waifs" (NKJV)
- * "princes" (KJV; Dan. 6:2) ... is changed to "satraps" (NKJV)
- * "a penny" (KJV; Matt. 20:2) ... is changed to "a denarius" (NKJV)
- * "deputy" (KJV; Acts 18:12) ... is changed to "proconsul" (NKJV)
- * "thousands" (KJV; Acts 21:20) ... is changed to "myriads" (NKJV)
- * "riot" (Titus 1:6) ... is changed to "dissipation" (NKJV)
- * "unruly" (Titus 1:6) ... is changed to "insubordination" (NKJV)

4. One of the NKJV's biggest objections to the KJB is it uses out-dated words like "thee/thou/thine" and the "ye".

All modern Bible versions try to convince you that it'd just be easier to change "thee/thou/thine/ye" to "you/your".

Actually, those words are helpful in Bible study. You see, in the KJB there is a difference between those words:

"thee/thou/thine" is always speaking to one person (singular)...while "you/ye" is always to more-than-one (plural).

If we (as the newer versions) decide to melt all those KJV words down to "you" ... we lose a fuller understanding of many passages.

Notice the much-broader understanding of the following (as found in these KJV verses) because of the "thee/thou/thine":

- * (Gen.43:29) "he lifted up his eyes, & saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, & said, Is this your (10 brothers) younger brother, of whom ye (10 brothers) spake unto me? & he said, God be gracious unto thee, (Ben) my son"
- * (Lev.10:9) "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou (Aaron), nor thy (Aaron) sons with thee, (Aaron) when ye (Aaron & sons) go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye (Aaron & sons) die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your (Aaron & sons) generations"
- * (John 3:7) "Marvel not that I said unto thee (Nicodemus), Ye (all people) must be born again."
- * (Act 5:9) "Then Peter said unto her (Sapphira), How is it that ye (both Ananias & Sapphira) have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy (Sapphira) husband are at the door, & shall carry thee (Sapphira) out"

The English of the KJB (because of its "thee/thou/thy/thine" & "ye") is far-superior to modern English versions.

5. There are **doctrinal problems** with the NKJV. Consider the following examples:

1. Matt.7:14 (KJV) ~ **“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life ...”**
Matt.7:14 (NKJV) ~ **“Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life”**
2. Titus 3:10 (KJV) ~ **“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;”**
Titus 3:10 (NKJV) ~ **“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition”**
Wait, Christ was a divisive man in His earthly ministry, but He certainly wasn't a heretic. Notice the following:
(Lk.12:51) **“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division”**
(Jn.7:43) **“So there was a division among the people because of him.”**
(Jn.9:16) **“Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.”**
(Jn.10:19) **“There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.”**
3. John 4:24 (KJV) ~ **“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”**
John 4:24 (NKJV) ~ **“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**
4. 1Cor.11:1 (KJV) ~ **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”**
1Cor.11:1 (NKJV) ~ **“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”**
& Eph.5:1 (KJV) ~ **“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”**
Eph.5:1 (NKJV) ~ **“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”**
Hollywood is a whole industry of imitators. Satan is an imitator of God. The coming Antichrist will imitate Christ!
Do you remember ~ Jesus invited Peter/Andrew/James/John/Matthew to **“follow”** Him ... not just to **“imitate”** Him?

6. There are **more problems** with the NKJV. Consider the following examples:

5. Gen.1:1 (KJV) ~ **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”**
Gen.1:1 (NKJV) ~ **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**
The plural word **“heavens”** isn't recorded in the KJV until Gen.2:1.
6. Gen.2:18 (KJV) ~ **“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”**
Gen.2:18 (NKJV) ~ **“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”**
We can be sure the Woman's Liberationists like the NKJV. It removes a distinction in the roles God designed for husband/wife.
7. Acts 17:22 (KJV) ~ **“Then Paul ... said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.”**
Acts 17:22 (NKJV) ~ **“Then Paul ... said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious”**
In the context Paul was rebuking the men of Athens for being so given over to idolatry that they made an altar with an inscription, **“TO THE UNKNOWN GOD”** (just in case they missed one). Here, the NKJV waters down Paul's rebuke to the point they could actually have taken Paul's words as a compliment!
8. 1Cor.1:18 (KJV) ~ **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”**
1Cor.1:18 (NKJV) ~ **“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”**
Altho unbelievers may think that preaching is foolishness...the NKJV has them calling the message foolishness.
But a much worse problem here is ~ in a KJV we (believers) are presently **“saved”** ... but in the NKJV we are **“being saved”**
9. 2Cor.2:17 (KJV) ~ **“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God”**
2Cor.2:17 (NKJV) ~ **“For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God”**
“Peddling” is selling, but **“corrupting”** the word of God is much worse than peddling it. Modern versions are guilty of both crimes.
10. 1Thess.5:22 (KJV) ~ **“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”**
1Thess.5:22 (NKJV) ~ **“Abstain from every form of evil.”**
The KJV holds a higher standard ... for in it we're warned NOT to do evil ... but also NOT to do anything that APPEARS evil.
(i.e. not going into a pub/bar for a chocolate milk... & not going into a casino to change a \$10 bill).
11. 1Jn.3:16 (KJV) ~ **“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us”**
1Jn.3:16 (NKJV) ~ **“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. ”**
God's love was shown when God laid down His life for us ~ proving that Jesus is God. The NKJV is not as clear.

There's many other problems with the NKJV.

Can you see that the NKJV has changed truth (as all of the other modern Bible versions have)?

III. How about All of these Bible Versions Today?

[E] Regarding Today's Bible Versions ... **There are Two Lines of Bible Manuscripts**

[F] Regarding Today's Bible Versions ... **What about the New King James Bible?**

[G] Regarding Today's Bible Versions ... WHAT ABOUT THE DIFFERENT "REVISIONS" OF THE KJV?

(Exod.20:14) "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

- a. One of the arguments that NEWER VERSION distributors use to justify the need for an "updated" Bible is ~
"Since what we have in our hands isn't really a King James 1611 ... it's been revised ... we are only revising it further."
They'll be quick to tell you ~ the KJ1611 isn't identical to the KJV today. How many have ever heard that argument before?
Let me explain what is behind that argument ... and why (after examination) their reasoning is faulty.
- b. In 1603 AD, James 1 of Scotland became the King of England ~ his reign spanned from 1603-1625 AD.
- one of his 1st royal decisions was to commission the assembling/publishing of a complete Bible in the English language.
- the task began in 1604 AD. **54** recognized scholars of that day were chosen, & they were divided into 6 companies/groups.
(2 at Westminster, 2 at Oxford, 2 at Cambridge).
- each member of a company made his own translation first. Then the members of each company would meet together to compare one another's work, reading passages out loud while comparing written notes.
- when each group completed a Book, it was sent to the other 5 groups for their independent assessment
- when the complete Bible was translated, it came before a select committee of 12 men (2 from each company)
- in 1609 AD, this group met daily for 9 months at the Stationer's Hall in London. They acted as a "referral committee" in areas of difficulty or disputed passages.
- by this method, each passage in the translation was independently scrutinized a minimum of 14 times (minimum 8 per team, plus checked by 5 other teams, plus one overseeing team).
What a contrast! * the Revised Standard Version (1952) did changes to any verse with a 2/3 vote of their committee
* the King James 1611 determined no changes could be made to ANY verse without a 100% agreement
- that task was completed in 1611.
- this 1st "edition" of the King James Version was printed in **1611** by Robert Barker in London.
- 2 issues were published in that 1611 yr. The printing of it began in two different shops to meet the expected large demand.
- due to the volume/haste in its printing (& the arduous process of printing)... printing errors were found in early editions.
i.e. "not" was left out of the 7th commandment ... so it said, "Thou shalt commit adultery" (a.k.a "Wicked Bible")
Incidentally, the printer (Robert Barker) was fined 300 pounds for that printing error.
- almost no two "original 1611" King James Bibles (that are still in existence today) are exactly the same.
- a demand for a 2nd "edition" of the KJ1611 was obvious (to carefully correct the printing errors). This was printed in **1629**.
- then a 3rd "edition" in **1638** was made to reinstate words & clauses overlooked by the previous edition.
- two more "editions" came out in the 1,700's ~ in **1762** a 4th "edition" was printed to standardize the spelling of words
- finally, in **1769**, a 5th "edition" was printed ~ this completed the standardizing of spelling (started in the 1762 edition)
Incidentally, this **1769** "edition" of the King James Bible became the standard King James Bible in use up to today.
- c. What exactly was involved in the changes made in these "editions"?
- 1st ~ **Printing errors** ~ printers who set up the letters on the printing presses **spelled wrong, out-of-order, & not capitals**.
Although the printing press had been invented in 1450 by Johann Gutenberg in Germany (161 yrs before the 1611 printing), the equipment used by the printer had changed very little.
Printing was still very slow and difficult. All type was set by hand, one piece at a time (that's one piece at a time through the whole Bible), and errors were an expected part of any completed book.
Because of this difficulty and also because the 1611 printers had no earlier editions to compare ... the very first edition of the King James version had a number of printing errors.
- 2nd ~ **Inconsistency errors** ~ sometimes "while" ... other time "whilst"
[other examples were "among"/"amongst", "amid"/"amidst", "burned"/"burnt", "spelled"/"spelt"]
- 3rd ~ **Standardize spelling & terms** ~ the word "towards" was no longer used, it was changed to "toward" (14x)
[other words - "lift" was changed to "lifted" (51x) ... "you" was changed to "ye" (82x)]
In 2Sam.12:20-31, "apparell"/"apparel", "owne"/"own", "diddest"/"didst", "weepe"/"weep"
- 4th ~ **Font style changed** ~ the 1611 used **Gothic** type font. Our King James today uses **Roman** type font.
* the 1611 "s" (when at beginning or middle of a word), it looked like an "ſ". (also was *alfo*, set was *fet*)
* the 1611 "v" looked like a "u" ... and the 1611 "u" looked like a "v".
* the 1611 "j" looked like a "i" (so "Jesus" looked like a "Iefus").
* the 1611 "love" looked like "loue" ... the 1611 "ever" looked like "euer".
Remember, these aren't even spelling changes ... they are simply type style changes.
- 5th ~ **Minor phrase changes** ~
* in **Gen.22:7** "and wood" was changed to "and the wood"
* in **Lev.11:3** "cheweth cud" was changed to "cheweth the cud"
* in **Rom.6:12** "reign therefore" was changed to "therefore reign"
- 6th ~ The biggest change was the **removal of the Apocrypha** (these were 14-16 Roman Catholic books) ~
* these (along with maps & genealogies) were inserted "between" Malachi & Matthew for historical value.
* their presence armed Protestants to fight Catholics regarding their Roman Catholic doctrine
* Martin Luther said they're "*not regarded as equal to the holy Scriptures*". Later these were removed.

- d. All of the above kind of changes constitute an “**Edition**” (which is an update with corrections to the previous one).
But the NEW Bible versions are “**Revisions**” (which is a newly-edited version with changes & modifications to content).
Wrong to say, “*Because the King James Bible has gone through different ‘Revisions’...then surely, one more won’t hurt*”.
The updates of the K.J.1611 were’t “*revisions*” but were “*editions*” (correcting printer errors & standardizing grammar).

III. How about All of these Bible Versions Today?

[E] Regarding Today’s Bible Versions ... **There are Two Lines of Bible Manuscripts**

[F] Regarding Today’s Bible Versions ... **What about the New King James Bible?**

[G] Regarding Today’s Bible Versions ... **What about the Different “Revisions” of the KJV?**

IV. DO WE NEED TO RUN TO THE GREEK & HEBREW, OR DO WE REST UPON THE KJV?

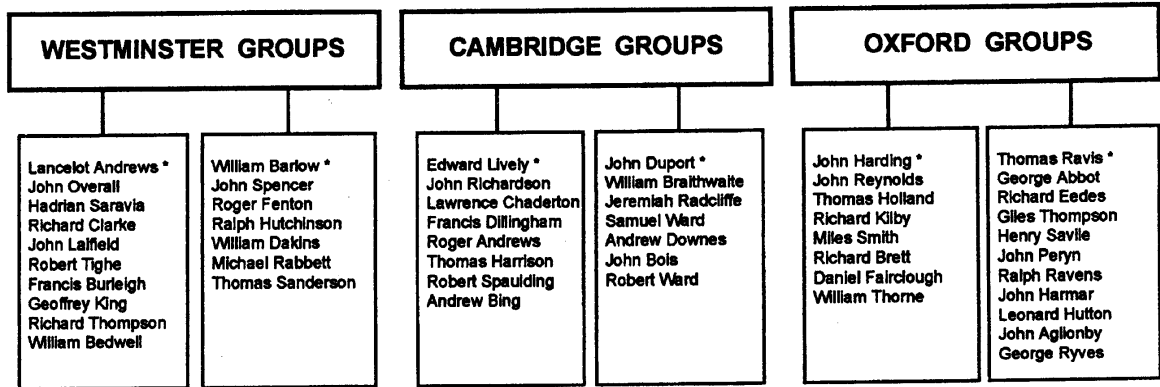
[H] As far as what we do now ... WHY GO BACKWARDS?

(Ps.12:6-7) “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.”

- a. David (under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost) wrote in v.6a ~ “The words of the LORD are pure words”
- that word “**pure**” means ~ *perfect, faultless, free from defects*
- b. In v.6b, David compares the “**pure**” words of God (that God promised to all mankind) to silver being purified in a furnace.
 1. What do those **6** words mean ~ “as silver tried in a furnace”?
 - in ancient times, silver was purified by a process called “**cupellation**”.
 - the metal alloy (that contained the silver) was placed in an earthen vessel such as clay and heated in a very hot furnace until it melted.
 - in that process, the impurities (called dross) floated to the top & were skimmed off the surface of the liquid.
 - this process was repeated multiple times, until the silver was completely purified.Incidentally, the refiner knew the silver was pure when it shined and he was able to see his reflection in it.
 2. What do those **8** words mean ~ “as silver tried in a furnace of earth”?
 - in this illustration of the purifying of silver ... the process was done ON EARTH
 3. Now, what do those **3** words mean ~ “purified seven times”?
 - this process of purifying silver was not just done ONCE...but it was done many times (here it was done 7 times)
 - if that’s true...then after the 1st purifying stage of silver...the result is something that’s purer AFTER than BEFORE.
It was even purer after its 2nd purification ... & even purer after its 3rd purification ... etc.
- c. If that illustration was God’s way of explaining to us what has happened to “**the words of the LORD**” (on this earth) ... then somehow/somewhere (through history) from original writing (of 1st generation documents) until what’s in our hand NOW:
 - “**the words of the LORD**” have not only been COPIED perfectly (through these 3,500 yrs) ...
but also “**the words of the LORD**” are even more PURE (through these 3,500 yrs) than when they started.
 - if our King James Bible is the FINAL RESULT of God’s “**Inspiration**” & “**Preservation**” ...
then somehow (from the time that the originals were penned) ... God has purified it & purified it & purified it (7x).
- d. As soon as I suggest that what we hold in our hands is PURER ... some people conclude I’m saying it previously had errors.
No, I’m not saying that what this world had for God’s Word (before the King James Bible) had ERRORS.
What I am saying is that this King James Bible is PURER.
“**But HOW can something be PURER without saying whatever was previous to it had errors that needed fixing?**”
- e. Illustrate: Imagine an Insurance salesman calls up your church (10 minutes after a service) & your Pastor answers the phone.
The salesman says that he has a vehicle insurance that is 50% cheaper than earlier...and church folks get the 1st crack at it.
So the Salesman asks the Pastor ~ “**Tell me what is parked out in your church’s parking lot (right now)?**”
 - 1st answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles in our parking lot.**” *Wait, give me a moment, let me give U an even-better answer.*
 - 2nd answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles (all less than 10 yrs old) in our parking lot.**”
 - 3rd answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles (all less than 10 yrs old, & all with 4 tires) in our parking lot.**”
 - 4th answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles (all less than 10 yrs old, all with 4 tires, all are cars) in our parking lot.**”
 - 5th answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles (all less than 10 yrs old, all w/ 4 tires, all are cars, all are Ford) in our parking lot.**”
 - 6th answer ~ “**We have 35 vehicles (all <10 yrs old, all w/ 4 tires, all are cars, all are Ford, all black) in our parkg lot.**”
 - 7th answer ~ “**We’ve 35 vehicles (all <10 yrs old, all w/ 4 tires, all cars, all Ford, all black, all <100,000km) in park lot**”

Question: Which of those 7 descriptions was wrong? None of them were wrong.
Which of those 7 descriptions had errors in it? None of them had errors in it! All were correct! All were true!
Which answer was BETTER than the others ~ the 1st answer, or the 7th answer? The 7th answer was better!
- f. Now, let me take that truth over to the Bible Issue ... and then I’ll give you a Bible example of what I’ve just shown you!
I’ve said that I believe this King James Bible is the FINAL RESULT of God’s “**Inspiration**” & “**Preservation**” (it’s #7).
Somewhere (before #7) is the Hebrew Old Testament & the Greek New Testament. Who knows if they were #1,2,3,4,5,6?
When KJB Translators began to pen the KJB (1604-1611 AD), obviously they came across 1,000s of Hebrew/Greek words.
Many of those Hebrew words & Greek words had more than one possible English translation. Which **1** would they pick?
As God promised to “**purify**” in the “**preservation**” part (Ps.12:6-7) ... the Holy Spirit told translators exactly what word.
- g. Example ~ Rom.16:1 “**I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchræa:**”
 - this woman Phebe was a woman in the Cenchræa church. Paul commends unto the Romans this particular woman.
 - would you notice what descriptive phrase that was used to describe her ~ “**servant of the church**”
 - the King James (English) word was “**servant**” ... the Greek word (from which it came) was “**diakonos**”.
 - according to a Greek Lexicon, that Greek word “**diakonos**” could have been translated: “**deacon, minister, servant**”
 - without God’s promised “**preservation**” & “**purification**”, there were 3 “**possible**” English translations.
 - but the Holy Spirit (guiding KJV translators) ruled out both “**deacon**” & “**minister**”. They were led to write “**servant**”!

- h. If translation work is only done “*academically*”, any of those 3 were acceptable...but in KJV, God showed the only right one.
 * the N.W.T. decided ~ “*It’s unfortunate the KJB translated “diakonos” as ‘servant’ ... it should’ve been ‘minister.’*”
 * the N.A.S.V. decided ~ “*This time we agree with the KJB translation of “diakonos” as ‘servant’, it should be ‘servant.’*”
 * the Darby Translation & New Living Translation ~
 “*It’s unfortunate the KJB translated “diakonos” as ‘servant’ ... it should’ve been ‘deacon.’*” Which one is right?
- i. Never (in Bible translation history) was there assembled a more learned & humble group of scholars than with our KJB1611.



Of those 6 groups, let me highlight a couple names:

1. Westminster Group 1:

- Lancelot Andrews** - he is the best-known of all the translators
 - learned a new language each year during his one-month Easter vacation with his parents
 - fully conversant in 15 European languages ... & spent 5 hours per day in prayer and devotions
- William Bedwell** - he authored a 7-language lexicon

2. Cambridge Group 1:

- Edward Lively** - he was considered the greatest living scholar of Eastern languages of that time

3. Cambridge Group 2

- John Bois**
 - read the Old Testament in Hebrew at age 5 ... writing in the Hebrew language at age 6!
 - admitted to Cambridge at age 14, where he corresponded with his tutors in Greek
 - he studied Greek from 4 am to 8 pm ... he lectured in Greek.
 - given much to fasting, prayer, and charity
 - his library contained the most extensive collection of Greek literature ever compiled.

4. Oxford Group 1

- John Reynolds** - he was the leading spokesman for Puritans, and the one who suggested to King James the need of an English Bible translation
 - entered Oxford University at age 13
 - he possessed an almost miraculous memory ~ he was called the “*Living Library*”
 - he frequently and successfully debated with the Papists
- Richard Kilby** - a Hebrew & Greek scholar at Oxford.
 - on one occasion, having heard a preacher give 3 reasons why a word was translated incorrectly in the KJ Bible ... Kilby later gave that preacher 13 other reasons why the translation was indeed correct ~ all 16 of which were considered by translators

- j. If the King James Bible (we hold) is the 7th purifying...WHY would anyone think they had to go BACK (to Greek/Hebrew)?
 - could they possibly think that they know so much more than the 54 translators (in 1604-1611) who wrote what they did?
 - could they possibly be assured that the Holy Spirit would be guiding them as the Holy Spirit guided the KJB 1611 men?
 - as God has already carried it FORWARD to this 7th step ... **Don’t GO BACK** (hoping you can do it so much better).
 Why not decide to believe that what’s in our hands is the PERFECT & PRESERVED WORD of God?

- k. Sadly, many preachers (behind pulpits) & many professors (in Bible Schools) have made their mission to point out (what they believe are) “**errors**” in the KJ Bible. You will be able to identify these Bible correctors by the statements that they make.

Have you ever heard a preacher say ~ “*a better rendering would be*”, or “*this is an unfortunate translation of this passage*”, or “*the Greek conveys the meaning of the word better*”?

- every one of those statements is a slam on our KJB (by a person who doesn’t believe the Bible in our hands is Perfect)

Have you ever read this statement ~ “*We believe that God’s inspired words are found only in the original autographs.*”

- whoever speaks like that believes that God POWER & PERFECTION ended before the 1,600’s.

Conclusion. If you believe this King James Bible (in our hands) is perfect ... “**WHY would you ever GO BACKWARDS?**”

IV. Do we Need to Run to the Greek & Hebrew, or do we Rest upon the KJV?

[H] As far as what we do now ... Why Go Backwards?

[I] As far as what we do now ... WE NO LONGER NEED GREEK OR HEBREW EXPERTISE

(Judg.21:25) "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

a. Let's remind ourselves of some basic information about the Bible:

i. Our Bible is made up of how many books? **66**

ii. Those 66 books are divided into how many sections? **2 sections ~ Old Testament & New Testament**

iii. What language was the O.T. written in? **Hebrew** (Why was it written in Hebrew?)

Hebrew was the language of God's influencing people (the Jews) at that time the O.T. was written.

iv. What language was the N.T. written in? **Greek** (Why wasn't it written in Hebrew?)

**Hebrew was no longer the language of God's influencing people (Jews) at that time. Now Greek was!
God wanted his Word to be penned in the language that would most-effectively reach the masses of people.**

v. So how did we get a Bible in our English language?

God put it on the heart of a King in England (around 1604 AD) to decide ~

"The Hebrew language isn't common any more. The Greek language isn't common any more. What is common now is the English language. English is the influencing language of this world. I'm commanding that the Old & New Testaments be translated into the world's influencing language ~ English."

vi. The task began in 1604AD. In 1611, out came a translation of the Old & New Testament in what language? **English**

vii. What was that translated English Bible called? **The King James 1611 Bible (or the Authorized Version).**

b. There's no doubt that Satan's "**opposition**" to the writing of the Bible in Hebrew, then Greek, then English has been fierce. He does his evil work with lies (Jn.8:44)

LIE #1 ~ **The Greek O.T. & Hebrew N.T. were just men's words, & were full of errors.** (Not so! 2Pet.1:20-21)

LIE #2 ~ **The English translation of the Bible is full of errors, and only the original Hebrew O.T. text and the original Greek N.T. text can be trusted** (not according to "are" of Ps.12:6-7)

c. Consider the 2-step digression often used in Pulpits & Bible Colleges today (to undermine people's faith in God's Word):

Step #1: The teacher stands up and says, "**The Greek word (or Hebrew word) for this K.J. word here is _____**"

At 1st, the hearers now think the Greek & Hebrew languages can give us so much more "**light**" on that verse.

In reality, the listener now believes he knows little until he knows the original languages of Hebrew & Greek!

Wait! Question #1; WHY did God have the N.T. of the Bible written in GREEK instead of Hebrew?

That it might be read & understood by the common, ordinary people.

Question #2; WHY did God have King James translate the O.T. & N.T. into English instead of leave them?

That it might be read & understood by the common, ordinary people.

Step #2: The teacher stands up and says, "**It's unfortunate that the K.J. translators wrote this word here, for the Greek word (or Hebrew word) for this K.J. word is actually _____**"

Now, the listener is being led to believe that his King James Bible cannot be trusted!

Hey, STEP #2 never happens until STEP #1 has taken place!

Step #2 is, in effect, saying that although God was in the **inspiration** process, God was not in the **preservation** process!

In reality, Step #2 aims to drive us BACK to pre-1611 times. God wanted the KJV to carry us FORWARD a step.

d. Armed with this new knowledge of the Greek & Hebrew ... EVERYBODY has become an expert in correcting their Bible.

I propose to you ~ there's nothing that you can learn by going BACKWARDS that the King James hasn't already given us.

Instead of correcting words from an "**inspired, preserved**" King James Bible by an "**uninspired**" man-made reference book

... why not cross-reference the words (in a King James Bible) to the same words (found elsewhere in a King James Bible)?

e. Instead of conducting **vertical Bible studies** (comparing Bible to reference books) ~ which any unsaved man can do ...

it'd be so much more rewarding to conduct **horizontal Bible studies** (Bible cross-referencing; Isa.28:9-10; 1Cor.2:12-13).

Decide to spend your time immersing yourself in the PERFECT Word of God that He has placed in your hands.

Let God give you some genuine GOLD in the English K.J. Bible...instead of FOOLS GOLD out of Greek & Hebrew.

After all, in 2Tim.3:15-17 we were promised that God's Word would "**thoroughly furnish**" us.

The evidence of it will be more than a "**heady**" knowledge, but a "**hands-on**" service.

(2Tim.3:17) "**thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**"

IV. Do we Need to Run to the Greek & Hebrew, or do we Rest upon the KJV?

[H] As far as what we do now ... Why Go Backwards?

[I] As far as what we do now ... We No Longer Need Greek or Hebrew Expertise

[J] As far as what we do now ... **THE AGAPE OR PHILEO TEST**

- a. An oft-repeated example of correcting our KJV with Greek is in Jesus' sea-side questioning of Peter (turn to **Jn.21:15-17**).
- "**love**" or "**lovest**" are found 6x in those 3 verses. Greek "**experts**" tell us they actually come from 2 different Greek words
- the "**experts**" explain those **2** Greek words as: **AGAPE** – means *a deep, intimate, selfless love* (the highest form of love)
PHILEO – means *a casual "friendly" type of love*
- now a professor will WOW you: 1st, Jesus asked (vs.15) if Peter had **agape** for Christ, & Peter responded with **Phileo**
2nd, Jesus asked (vs.16) if Peter had **agape** for Christ, & Peter responded with **Phileo**.
After Peter down-graded it twice, 3rd, Jesus asked (vs.17) if Peter had **phileo** for Christ, & Peter responded with **Phileo**.
- b. After hearing that, we are all made to believe that there is SO MUCH MORE to learn IF we just WENT BACK to the Greek. Well, let's see (since we're armed with this Greek knowledge) if it holds true for other passages with the English word "**love**".

WILL YOU MAKE A GOOD GREEK PROFESSOR?

Tell us which is **Agape** or **Phileo** **AGAPE** – means *a deep, intimate, selfless love* (the highest form of love)
PHILEO – means *little more than a casual "friendly" type of love*

1. (Rev 3:19) "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**"
Which kind of "**love**" does God have for us to correct us? Agape or Phileo? This is a **Phileo** love.
2. (Matt.23:6) "**And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Phileo**
3. (Luke 11:43) "**Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets**"
This sounds identical to #2, so it must be **Phileo**! No, this time it is **Agape**
4. (John 5:20) "**For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.**"
Which kind of "**love**" does the Father have for the Son? Agape or Phileo? This is a **Phileo** love.
5. (John 11:5) "**Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.**"
What kind of "**love**" did Jesus have for Martha, Mary, Lazarus? This time it is **Agape**
6. (John 20:2) "**Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him**"
If Jesus had an Agape love for M/M/L (Jn.11:5)...He must've had same love for beloved John! No, **Phileo**!
7. (Rom 5:8) "**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**"
What kind of "**love**" does God have for sinners to send his son? Agape or Phileo? This time it's **Agape**
8. (Titus 3:4) "**But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared**"
This sure sounds like the "**love**" of #7. But is it Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Phileo**
9. (Rom 12:10) "**Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Phileo**
10. (1Thes 3:12) "**And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Agape**
11. (Titus 2:4) "**That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Phileo**
12. (Eph 5:28) "**So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse? Knowing a wife's love for her husband is Phileo (#11), then I guess that's the kind of love a husband should have for his wife. Wrong! This time it is **Agape**
13. (1Pet 2:17) "**Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? We'd guess Phileo. Nope, this time it is **Agape**
14. (Heb 13:1) "**Let brotherly love continue.**"
Which one is "**love**" in this verse ... Agape or Phileo? This time it is **Phileo**

- c. Altho the notion of turning back to the "**Greek**" promises we'll "**find nuggets of gold**"...it's nothing more than "**fool's gold**". This explanation of "**love**" (by going back to Greek sources and getting "**agape**" or "**phileo**") doesn't work ~ it's baloney. You won't know any more out of John 21:15-17 (by going back to the Greek) than you did from the King James Bible! By telling us to "**search the Hebrew & Greek**", everybody's become their own expert...& lost their confidence in the KJV.

Conclusion: Stick to the King James Bible! Read it! Believe it! Obey it! (Don't trade it away for another English Version).

~ END ~