**Biblical Authority – Part Three**

**WHICH BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE?**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The basis for believing any doctrine of Christianity, for claiming any promise of God, and for proclaiming any spiritual power is the Bible! As Bible-believing Baptists, our source of authority in all matters of faith, doctrine, and practice is the Bible! Our faith is not built upon fables, philosophy, or feelings, but “thus saith the Lord!” Our Bible is NOT merely an accessory to our Christianity, but is our source of truth, wisdom, assurance, and hope. It is not man’s concept of God, but rather God’s revelation of Himself. Because of the very nature of the Bible as our source or authority, it is crucial that the Scriptures themselves have absolute authenticity. If we are to regard the Bible as the Word of God, then it had better be precisely that! Our selection of a Bible should not be decided upon by how easy it is to read and understand, or by how much scholarship was involved in its development, or by whether or not it is recommended by popular religious leaders. The primary questions must be: “Is this the Word of God?” and “Is there a real and significant difference among the various English versions?” Things that are different are not the same! There is a valid reason as to why particular manuscripts are used. We will study the reasons why we believe the King James Version is God’s Word for English-speaking people.

1. **THE HISTORY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION**
   1. **In the year 1611 A.D, King James I of England was influenced to provide a common Bible for the English-speaking world.** 
      1. Hence, he authorized a translation of the Bible into English that came to be known as the Authorized Version, or as it is more commonly known, the King James Version.
      2. King James selected a committee of Greek and Hebrew scholars.
2. These men worked from the text of the Greek and Hebrew testaments that had been received, or accepted, by virtually all branches of gospel preaching, Bible-believing Christians from the apostolic era to that time.
3. Their product, the King James Version of the Bible, has been, until just recently, the universal standard for Bible- believing Christians of the English-speaking world.
   1. **God protected the translation of His Word into this English version so that we possess the actual Word of God in English.** 
      1. That God protected the translation is evident in four different ways:
         1. Motive of Translation – The motive was to make an accurate and complete copy of the Word of God available to the common man in his own language.
         2. Method of Translation – Scholars in both the original languages and the English language engaged in a highly strict process of precise translation.
         3. Texts of Translation – The Hebrew Masoretic text and the Greek Textus Receptus compared with other translations available to them from those same texts.
         4. The care of the translators to ensure accurate translation.
      2. The King James Bible is the only modern English translation that can accurately claim to be the complete and accurate Word of God.
4. **THE UNIQUENESS OF THE KING JAMES VERSION** 
   1. **The privilege of its publication.**
      1. No price must be paid for the privilege to publish the KJV and no permission must be sought.
      2. The KJV is the only book that has no copyright! You cannot copyright what God said; you can only copyright man’s word.
      3. Definition of a copyright, “The legal protection given to authors and artists to prevent reproduction of their work without their consent. The owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to print, reprint, publish, copy and sell the material covered by the copyright.”
      4. The following versions have copyrights to them making it illegal to reproduce or copy:
         1. Revised Standard Version (RSV) 1952 – Division of Christian Education of the National council of Churches
         2. New World Translation (NWT) 1961 – Watchtower Bible & Tract Society
         3. Living Bible (LB) 1971 – Tyndale House Publishers
         4. Today’s English Version (TEV) 1976 – American Bible Society
         5. New American Standard Version (NASV) 1977 – Lockman Foundation
         6. New International Version (NIV) 1978 – New York International Bible Society
         7. New King James Version (NKJV) 1979 – Thomas Nelson
      5. By taking out a copyright on a so-called “Bible,” the copyright owner admits that this is not God’s Word but their own words! Money has much to do with the new translations.
   2. **The peculiarities of its pattern.**
      1. The translators of the KJV used an italicized word to indicate it was not found in the Hebrew or Greek text, but that it had been supplied by the translators to facilitate the readability of the English.
      2. When you go from one language to another, you must add words to get the correct idiom. By using italics, they were informing the reader of what had been done. Nothing was secret.
5. In *Exodus 8:24*, “flies” is in italics, but in *Psalm 78:45* and *Psalm 105:32* it is not.
6. In *Psalm 16:8*, “he is” is in italics, but in *Acts 2:25* it is not.
7. *Deuteronomy 25:4*, “the corn” is in italics, but in *I Corinthians 9:9* it is not.
8. *Deuteronomy 8:3*, “word” is in italics, but in *Matthew 4:4* it is not.
   * 1. The new translations do not use italics.
   1. **The purity of its presentation.**

*Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God is pure.”* Below, we will look at some verses and see how other versions leave out or change the wording.

* + 1. Birth of Christ

1. *Isaiah 7:14* – RSV, NWT, and TEV – “virgin” is replaced with “a young woman”
2. *Micah 5:2* – NIV – “everlasting” is replaced with “ancient times”
   * 1. Blood redemption - *Colossians 1:14* – RSV, NIV, omit “through his blood”
     2. Bodily resurrection
        1. *Acts 1:3* – KJV “infallible proofs” – incapable of error
        2. RSV – “many proofs”
        3. NIV & ASV – “many convincing proofs”
     3. Beloved Son’s deity - *I Timothy 3:16* – ASV, NIV omit “God”
     4. Burning Hell - *Mark 9:44-46* – ASV, NIV omit the verses.
     5. Baptism after confession of faith – *Acts 8:37* – ASV, NIV omit the verses
     6. Bearing false witness – *Romans 13:9* – ASV, NIV omit the verses.
     7. Bible importance of every word – *Luke 4:4* – ASV, NIV omit “but by every word of God”
3. **WHY DO WE USE THE KING JAMES BIBLE?**
   1. **As a summary, this is why we use the King James Bible exclusively in all our teaching and preaching:**
4. It is based on the right text.
5. It is based on the right approach in translation.
6. It has been preserved.
7. It enables us to be on the same page in public reading and preaching.
   1. **God is not the author of confusion.** *I Corinthians 14:33*
      1. Illustration: If you were to build a building, you would need a measuring tape. It states that 12 inches is one foot. What if another one states that their tape says that a foot is 14 inches. What if everyone working on the building had a measuring tape that was different? There would be no continuity, but confusion.
      2. That is what the new translations do—cause confusion.

**CONCLUSION:**

We believe in biblical authority. It is a distinctive of Baptists. We better have a Bible that is the absolute authority