

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

PART 2

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

1 Peter 1:23-25

“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

In our continuation of our study of the Holy Scriptures we are brought to the subjects of Bible Preservation and Bible Translation. Our understanding on both subjects is vitally important. Let us consider a few questions that need to be answered:

- Has God preserved His words?
- Do we have the words of God today?
- What English Bible should we use?

If we are not certain about the Word of God then we cannot possibly be certain about any other doctrine in the Word of God. To be uncertain about the Word of God is to be uncertain about your salvation. Many scholars will discount the preservation of God’s Word and in doing so they are contradicting Jesus Christ. Those attack the Word of God are attacking the character of God.

Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4**, “... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

How can a man or woman live by every word of God that proceeds out of His mouth unless God has preserved His words? What Christ was telling Satan was that the Old Testament has been preserved. He quoted from the book of Deuteronomy. The Old Testament had been preserved

right down until His day and man should live by those words. It would have been approximately 1,500 years from Moses until Christ's day. He kept, guarded, and preserved "every word."

The Greek verb for "*it is written*," is expressed in the **perfect tense**. It is something that has been written down in the **past**. The words are preserved to the **present** and will be preserved on into the **future**.

The goal of this lesson is to strengthen your confidence in the Word of God!

I. THE PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE

The word "*preservation*" describes the act of keeping or saving from injury or destruction; to defend from evil; to save from decay; to keep in a sound state; to keep and defend from corruption.

Our Lord's words shall _____ pass away.

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

Mark 13:31, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*"

Luke 21:33, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*"

The Greek word for "*not*" in each of these phrases "*shall not pass away*" is '*oo may*.' This word is the strongest negative in the Greek language. It means, "*never, never, never.*"

Furthermore in **Matthew 5:17-18** Christ said, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 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.*"

The "jot" is the smallest Hebrew letter. It is like our "comma." The "tittle," is the smallest vowel in Hebrew. It is only a dot. The "jot" and the "tittle" shall not pass away "till all be fulfilled."

A. The Source of Preservation

The words of the Lord are _____ words.

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

The word “them” in verse 7 refers back to “the words of the Lord.” God has promised to preserve His pure words. This promise extends from “this generation for ever.”

Who promised to preserve? _____.

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

What would be preserved? _____.

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

How long will the words be preserved? _____.

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

There is no point in talking about inspiration without preservation. Bible inspiration without Bible preservation is a worthless doctrine. Without the preservation of God’s Word not one person can say that they have the inspired Word of God.

B. The Support of Preservation

There is not one hint in the Bible that the writers were uncertain about the validity of the Scriptural Revelation.

There is an unwavering confidence upon “Thus saith the Lord,” in the Bible. If we do not have the words of God today then we might as well go home, because we cannot be certain about what the Bible teaches.

1. The Psalmist Affirmed Preservation

God’s Word is _____ in heaven.

Psalm 119:89, “*For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.*”

God’s testimonies have been f _____ for ever.

Psalm 119:152, “*Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.*”

Everyone of God’s righteous judgments _____ for ever.

Psalm 119:160, *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*

The Word of God was settled in the eternal plan of God. When God gave the Scriptures, He intended to guard and preserve them; they are “founded forever.”

God’s people have always had a confidence in the divine preservation of Scripture, “I have known of old.” This was true historically until the rise of the modern biblical criticism.

2. The Prophets Affirmed Preservation

The word of our God shall stand _____.

Isaiah 40:8, *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

Flowers are intricate and beautiful, but they soon fade away. Not so with the Word of God. While it is more intricate and beautiful than any flower, it does not wither or fade; it stands forever.

3. The Lord Jesus Christ Affirmed Preservation

When Jesus Christ comes on the scene in history He did not have the original written record of God’s words. He did have the perfect copies of the original writings.

Matthew 5:17, 18, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 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.”*

Jesus Christ based His ministry upon the Old Testament. If God did not perfectly preserve His Word, how could Christ expound on something that imperfect?

Christ expounded unto them in _____ the scriptures.

Luke 24:27, *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

Christ opened to them the _____.

Luke 24:32, *“...Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”*

What was fulfilled? That which was written _____ in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.

Luke 24:44-45, *“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”*

Jesus had absolute confidence in the preservation of God’s inspired words. Jesus made constant reference to the Scriptures, *“As it is written...”*

4. The Apostles Affirmed Preservation

From a child Timothy had known the _____ scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:15, *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

The copies of God’s Word were called *“holy.”* The word *“holy”* means *“without blemish, pure, without error.”* Paul understood the doctrine of preservation.

The word of God _____ and _____ for ever.

The word of God _____ for ever.

1 Peter 1:23, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever...”*

The word *“incorruptible”* means *“undecaying, immortal, cannot be corrupted.”* God’s Word cannot be corrupted, or decayed like our bodies. When we die and are put into the earth, our bodies see corruption. They are decayed and vanish into dust, but the Word of God is incorruptible.

II. THE TRANSLATION OF SCRIPTURE

There is a great number of theologians, philosophers, teachers, and even preachers who have spent a considerable amount of time attacking and criticizing those Bible believers who have chosen to use the King James Bible.

Example of attacks:

Dr. Robert Joyner called King James Bible loyalists, "*heretics.*"

Dr. James White warned about King James Bible proponents as "*undercutting the very foundations of the faith itself.*"

W. Edward Glenny made this claim in an article that appeared in the Bible Version Debate: The Perspective of Central Baptist Theological Seminary (1997). The article was titled, "*The Preservation of Scripture.*"

The doctrine of the preservation of Scripture was first included in a church creed in 1647. As we have argued above it is not a doctrine that is explicitly taught in Scripture...not only does no verse in Scripture explain how God will preserve His Word, but there is no statement in Scripture from which one can establish the doctrine of the preservation of the text of Scripture...It is also obvious from the evidence of history that God has not miraculously and perfectly preserved His word in any one manuscript or group of manuscripts, or in all the manuscripts." (The Bible Version Debate, pp. 93, 95)

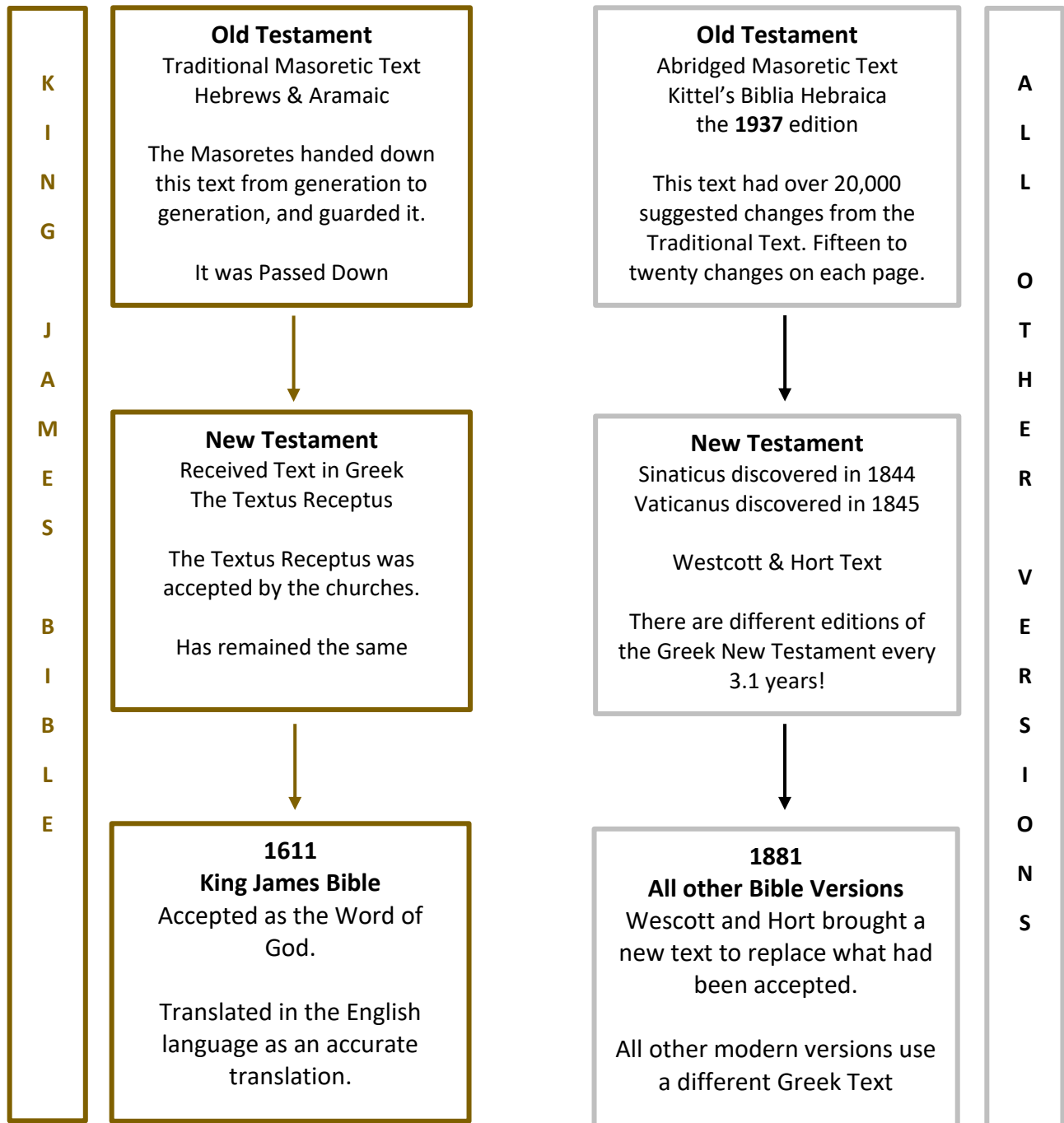
The issue of the Bible is deeper than a simple, "We need a Bible that is easier to understand." There are three things that separate the King James Bible from all other English versions.

A. The Text

Paul warned to church at Thessalonica because they were receiving letters from someone pretending to be Paul. Those other letters that Paul did not send were counterfeits. There are many counterfeit Bible that seem to be the words of God but indeed are not.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, "*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*"

THERE TWO DIFFERENCE SOURCES, OR UNDERLYING TEXTS



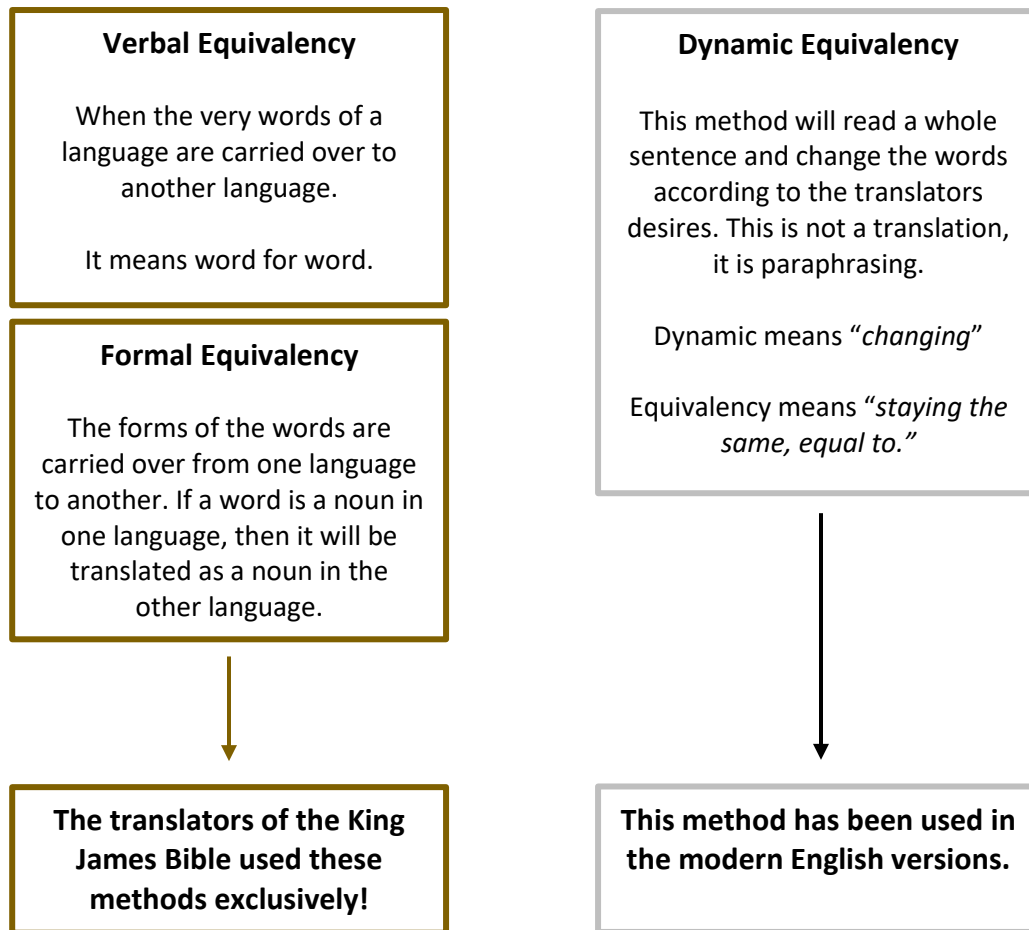
Constantine Von Tischendorf discovered two different New Testament manuscripts. The Sinaiticus was discovered in a wastebasket in St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai in 1844. Another manuscript (the Vaticanus) was discovered in the Vatican library in 1845. Those two texts are used as underlying texts for the modern versions.

B. The Translation Method

Proverbs 30:5, 6, *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”*

The word *“translation”* simply means *“To carry over.”*

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO TRANSLATE



The King James Bible was translated in a remarkable way! There were a total of 6 companies. All six companies were meeting in the three different cities of Cambridge, Westminster, and Oxford. They began the translation in 1604 and finished in 1611, making it a total of seven years. There were 57 men altogether that worked on these 6 companies. Some of the men even died before the translation was complete. They would translate a book individually seven times, and then they reviewed each other’s translations. Each company dealt with each section, and when a company had completed their work they would send their translation to another company. So from Genesis to Revelation the Bible was translated, analyzed, and corrected 14 times! No other Bible translation has used this model to translate the Bible.

C. The Theology

There is yet a third major difference that we examine. To say that all Bible say the same thing, just in a different way is not accurate. We are talking about the inspired Word of God. Many choose their bibles upon the basis that it is easier to read, which is a gross ignorance of the issue.

The following are example of verses that differ from the King James Bible:

Salvation

KJB

John 3:36, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

ASV

John 3:36, *"He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Trinity

KJB

1 John 5:7, *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*

ASV

1 John 5:7, *"And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth."*

Baptism

KJB

Acts 8:37, *"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

NIV

Acts 8:37, *"..."*

This verse is not found in the NIV

Christ

KJB

1 Timothy 3:16, *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."*

ASV

1 Timothy 3:16, *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; He who was manifest in the flesh...”*

The Blood Atonement

KJB

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”*

ESV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

ASV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

RSV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

NASV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

NIV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

CSV

Colossians 1:14, *“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

We see some clear differences between the modern versions and the King James Bible. We must ask ourselves this question, *“Can they all be right?”* No they cannot! Since God has supernaturally inspired His Word and faithfully preserved His Word, there can only be one correct verse.

If the same verse in two different Bibles says something different, we conclude that they are not saying the same thing!

Consider a brief history of the King James Bible. Quote from The Westcott & Hort Only Controversy written by Dr. Phil Stringer (pages 3-6):

God was doing a great work in England in the early 1600's. The preaching of the gospel of Christ out of Matthew's Bible and the Geneva Bible was leading to multitudes of conversions...Puritans were becoming a stronger and stronger force in the Church of England and in English culture. Yet many were concerned that the final translation work into the English language had not been done. King James was persuaded to authorize a new translation. The King James Bible was printed in 1611. At first there were questions and concerns about this new Bible translation. This was as it should be. No one should accept a Bible translation lightly. By 1640 however, the King James Bible was clearly the Bible of the English people. The Geneva and Matthew's Bible, once greatly used of God, went out of print. There was simply no demand for them anymore.

The Church of England, with its official evangelical doctrinal statement, used the King James Bible exclusively. It was the Bible of the Puritans, both inside and outside the Church of England.

In fact the Puritans began to use the distinctive Biblical English of the King James Bible in their day to day speech. The KJB was the Bible of the Protestants, the Congregationalists, and the Quakers. It was clearly the Bible of the Baptists. By 1640 it was the Bible of the Pilgrims. The KJB was the Bible of evangelicals in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It became the Bible of the English colonies across the Atlantic Ocean. The only religious group of any size or importance in England that didn't use the King James Bible was the Roman Catholic Church. All non-Catholics could have been referred to as "King James only people." When the Methodist Revival stirred England in the 1700's, it did so with the preaching of the King James Bible. John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodists, made his own translation of the New Testament. However, it found little acceptance, even among Methodists. Only the KJB was in common use.

When English colonies flourished in Australia and New Zealand, the King James Bible was the common Bible of the settlers. When President George Washington took the first presidential oath of office in the new United States of America, he did so with his hand on a King James Bible. Every American president since, with the exception of Franklin Peirce, has done the same.

Over one hundred fifty English translations were produced between 1611 and 1880. However, they found no audience except in a few cults. Most went out of print quickly. The English speaking, Christian world was truly "King James Only." As hard as it may be for the liberals and secularists to admit, the American public schools were built around the King James Bible. The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States, (not exactly a religious right publication), describes the early public schools this way, "Public schools had a distinctly Protestant flavor, with teachers leading prayers and scripture reading from the King James Bible in their lessons."

The Roman Catholic minorities objected to the King James Bible and so they developed their own school system. With the exception of the Catholics, the United States was clearly King James Only. According to Winston Churchill, ninety million copies of the King James Bible had been printed by the mid-twentieth century. The King James Bible was the Bible of the great modern mission movement of the 1700's and 1800's. The missionaries from England and the United States were saved, called to the mission field, and trained under the preaching of the King James Bible. Many of these missionaries knew little or no Greek and Hebrew. They translated the Bible into 760 languages from the King James Bible. Truly the modern mission movement was a King James only movement.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

What does the word "preservation" mean?

Christ said, that we are to live by _____ word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Is it reasonable to assume that we have every word of God today?

Did Jesus Christ believe that the Word of God had been preserved up to His time on earth?

Did Christ have confidence in the Scriptures? If yes, how was that demonstrated?

Do modern English Bible versions use the same underlying text as the King James Bible?

What is the New Testament underlying Greek text for the King James Bible?

What is the Old Testament underlying Hebrew and Aramaic text for the King James Bible?

What translation methods were used to translate the Bible into the English language?

Are there theological differences seen in the different English versions? _____

Give the three major differences between the King James Bible and all other English versions:

Different Underlying T_____

Different T_____ Method

Different T_____.