

BIBLE VERSIONS ISSUE STUDY RESOURCES

In studying the Bible versions issue, the sheer amount of information can be overwhelming. This is a list of resources, from different viewpoints, which can be used to get started.

1) Resources by Quality Supporters of the KJV

- a) Ian Brown – Free Presbyterian pastor who has a 2-part presentation from the PCC Preaching Conference 2006 (sermonaudio.com 52006193951 and 520062182) called “Is Every Bible Translation God’s Word?”
- b) David Silversides, Trevor Kirkland, Malcolm Watts – these pastors have a number of sermons on Bible versions issues which cover the Reformed position.
- c) The Trinitarian Bible Society – on the web at www.trinitarianbiblesociety.org, their mission is to defend the KJV. (Silversides et al are associated with this society.)
- d) Ian Paisley - “My Plea for the Old Sword” – an online book <http://www.ianpaisley.org/plea.asp> defending the KJV.
- e) Ralph Ovadal – pastor in Wisconsin who has spoken out against modern Bible versions. He has a lot of material on sermonaudio.com, two of which are particularly notable.
 - i) “A Blast Against the NIV” sermonaudio.com 82603122659
 - ii) “The Serpent’s Hiss” (about something called the “God’s Word” translation, a particularly egregious example) sermonaudio.com 7306173545

2) Resources by Questionable Supporters of the KJV (typically by American Baptist dispensationalists – much of their standard line of argument is traced back to Dr. Benjamin G. Wilkinson, a Seventh-Day Adventist, wrote a book “Our Authorized Bible Vindicated” in the 1930s (online at

- <http://www.godrules.net/library/wilkinson/301wilkinson1.htm>). This material was brought into Christian sources initially without attribution. (Now that this is common knowledge, these people distance themselves from Wilkinson.)
- a) D.A. Waite – one of the most prolific KJV defenders, he has written countless books and posts his material on sermonaudio.com.
 - i) Bible for Today – www.biblefortoday.org Waite’s ministry, with an Orwellian name considering he is advocating use of a 400 year old Bible translation.
 - ii) The Dean Burgon Society – named after an Anglican who opposed the modernization of the Greek New Testament in the 1880s (note that “Dean” is a title, not a first name), this society disseminates Waite’s, and others’, material. At www.deanburgonsociety.org.
 - b) Gail A. Riplinger – author and speaker. She has no valid credentials related to Bible translations (she is a home economics teacher), and even other KJV-only people distance themselves from her. The material she has produced is extremely low quality and her scholarship is remarkably deficient.
 - i) Her site is <http://www.avpublications.com/>
 - ii) Best critique of Riplinger’s methods is at http://www.kjvonly.org/james/may_reviews_pr.htm

- c) The Southwestern Radio Church – dispensationalist radio ministry (Noah Hutchings, Larry Spargimino) at <http://swrc.com> uses their radio broadcast to disseminate KJV-only material, including that by Riplinger.
 - d) The Underground Christian Network posts on sermonaudio.com – their modus operandi is to advance unsubstantiated (and often bizarre) conspiracy theories, but they never back up anything they say with concrete proof, while ignoring obvious facts that undermine their positions. Their material is low quality.
- 3) **Resources by Supporters of Modern Versions**
- a) Phillip Comfort – *Essential Guide to Bible Versions* (book) – Comfort is in favor of modern versions. His book is a primer on the issue for newcomers.
 - i) Explanation of terms will be helpful for people approaching this issue. Comfort explains basic principles of textual criticism and the blizzard of technical speak which is used by both sides.
 - ii) Table of manuscript names, abbreviations, and dates – this is an almost essential guide because it lists manuscripts in order of their age, which helps the newcomer follow discussions.
 - b) Leland Ryken – *The Word of God in English* (book) – a supporter of modern versions who worked on the ESV translation. Ryken’s book supports literal translation over Nida’s dynamic equivalence method, and he gives cogent and copious examples. Even people who use modern versions should read this, because not all modern versions are the same in quality.
 - c) D.A. Carson – *The King James Version Debate: A Plea for Realism* (book) – one of the first books on this issue, from 1979. Predates the “Bible translations explosion” of the next decade, so is more focused on the issues. With this book, the modern version advocates largely rested their case because there is not much else from their side.
 - d) Wayne Grudem’s material against the TNIV translation on the web in many places. His *Systematic Theology* (Reformed perspective) has an appendix discussing the Greek word translated “begotten” in the KJV.
- 4) **Additional Information**
- a) Bible translations
 - i) *The King James Study Bible* – contains center-column glosses for unusual words and the notes paraphrase difficult phrases. Maybe the best edition.
 - ii) *The New King James Version* – contains running footnotes detailing the difference between the Received Text and modern Critical Text. Useful.
 - b) Critical thinking skills
 - i) Logic and argument – a basic familiarity with logical fallacies in argument would be helpful in studying this issue, which has its share of fallacious reasoning. Begging the question, selective evidence bias, red herring arguments, and guilt by association are some of the most common errors.
 - ii) Statistics – a basic familiarity with statistical principles (such as valid sample sizes and the fact that correlation doesn’t imply causation) would be helpful. This issue often has numbers thrown around which deserve close scrutiny.