

**THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOK IN HISTORY:
THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE**
CHAD BRAND

I. The Gift of the Bible

- A. Inspiration

- B. Collection

- C. Distribution and Transmission

II. The History of the Bible

- A. Copying

- B. Translation

- C. The Latin Vulgate

- D. Early Vernacular Translations during the Reformation

III. The Early English Bible

- A. King Alfred (Psalms and other portions, d. 899)

- B. John Wycliffe (d. 1384) and his followers, the Lollards

- C. William Tyndale (d. 1536, NT in 1525)

- D. Later English Bibles
 - 1. The Great Bible (work of Tyndale and Coverdale, 1537)
 - 2. The Bishop's Bible (revision of Great Bible, 1568)
 - 3. The Geneva Bible (new translation made by English exiles in Geneva, 1560)

4. The Douay-Rheims Bible (Roman Catholic, 1610)

IV. The King James Bible

A. King James: The Man

B. The Hampton Court Conference (1604)

1. Puritan influence

2. "Problems" with The Geneva Bible

C. The Translation (1611)

1. Task undertaken in 1604

2. The translators (47 scholars, both Puritan and High Church men)

3. The text (before standardized spelling, so hard to read today)

4. Acceptance was slow in the churches

D. Successive editions

1. The "Wicked Bible" (1631)

2. KJV second edition (1760)

3. KJV third edition, the one we use today (1769)

E. Translation Philosophy

1. Not strictly literal but also not dynamic equivalence

2. Used language that was already archaic ("verily," "it came to pass")

V. The Legacy of the KJV

A. The most influential book in the history of the world in any language

B. Along with Shakespeare it standardized English spelling

C. It gave us many phrases and idioms which had become standard usage—257 of them (according to English expert David Crystal), more even than Shakespeare (i.e., “judge not lest ye be judged,” “feet of clay,” “fought the good fight,” “two by two,” “coat of many colours,” “thou shalt not,” “pride goes before a fall,” “fly in the ointment,” “the skin of one’s teeth,” “how are the mighty fallen,” “land of milk and honey,” “fire and brimstone,” “my brother’s keeper,” “be fruitful and multiply,” “let there be light,” etc.).

D. The KJV is the foundation for many later translations

1. The Revised Version (1881, 1885)
2. American Standard Version (1901)
3. Revised Standard Version (1946, 1952)
4. New American Standard Bible (1963, 1971)
5. New King James Version (1979, 1980, 1982)
6. New Revised Standard Version (1989)
7. New American Standard Bible, Updated Edition (1995)
8. English Standard Version (2001)

VI. Something totally different: Holman Christian Standard Bible, 1999-2003)

Epilogue

It all started with Tyndale (Roland Taylor connection).

Read the Bible! Whatever translation, read the Bible! The best reading translations are the NIV, the NASB, the HCSB, and for me, even the KJV.

Motto for life: “Read the Bible every day to find out God’s will for your life and do it every time you find it!”