

the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PARAGON CHRISTIAN
ALLIANCE INT'L & PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION
JULY 2023 – ISSUE 7



WHAT VERSION OF THE BIBLE DID JESUS USE?



By Dr. Henry Harbuck, PCAI International General Overseer

The PCAI ministerial test, administered as a pre-requisite for ministerial credentials with our Association, has alerted us that many ministers--though learned in theology and ministry possess limited knowledge of Bible translations. For example, in the multiple choice section of the test, ministerial applicants

are asked to select the correct item from a list of four “answers” listed as “a”, “b”, “c” or “d”. The question asked is, “From which version of the Bible did Jesus quote?” Believe it or not, eighty-five percent select the “answer” that Jesus quoted from the King James Version. And while many jokes have been made about this issue among American ministers, our test results prove this error to be a reality -- both among the laity and clergy.

In fact, as a result of this trend, a new course entitled “English Bible Translations” has been added this year to the Bachelor’s Degree curriculum at the Omega Bible Institute & Seminary. Thus, this month’s article will address an issue seldom discussed or understood - *English Bible Versions*. My purpose herein is not to find fault, should you prefer a favorite version, but rather to enlighten you regarding the different *kinds* of translations and *versions* currently available.

For example, while more than fifty Bible versions were produced during the twentieth century, only the more outstanding ones shall be discussed. And although numerous versions have been produced in the past four hundred years, the KJV remains popular in the U.S., while the NIV enjoys more popularity worldwide.

The word for *Bible* (book) in the Greek is *biblos*. However, in theological thought today, *biblos* usually refers to the *Bible*, not to the *Septuagint* (LXX), the version from which Jesus actually quoted. In actuality, the *Septuagint* was the most important early Greek translation of the Old Testament, there being no New Testament at that time. The *Septuagint* was developed at Alexandria, Egypt in 200 B.C. It was the preferred translation of the early Church and was responsible for the acceptance of the Apocrypha (considered “spurious” or “false” books by Protestants), which was later used by the Roman Catholic Church in their church dogma.

Most of the following information comes directly from a textbook used by Omega Seminary entitled, “A Brief History of English Bible Translations” by Laurence M. Vance, copyrighted in 1993, and published by Vance Publications, Pensacola, Florida.

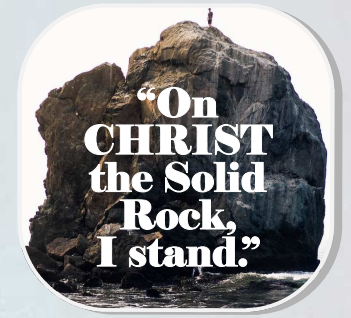
► *Latin Vulgate* – The first English Bibles were translated from this Latin version -- not from the Hebrew and Greek. The word *Vulgate* is from the root word *vulgar*, which refers to the common language of the people. The *Latin Vulgate* was developed by the Catholic Saint, Jerome (A. D. 346-420), and remains the official

Continued on page 3

On Christ The Solid Rock...



By Dr. Elizabeth Foy, PCAI Executive Director



Psalm 62:5-9

“God, the one and only - I'll wait as long as he says. Everything I hope for comes from him, so why not? He's solid rock under my feet, breathing room for my soul, An impregnable castle: I'm set for life. My help and glory are in God. So trust him absolutely, people; lay your lives on the line for him. God is a safe place to be. Man as such is smoke, woman as such, a mirage. Put them together, they're nothing; two times nothing is nothing.”

ground is sinking sand.” As I have sung the hymn in my mind as I worked the question arises; “Is that where you stand?” It is easy for Christians to get caught up in looking for answers and security in places other than Christ because we lean so much into our “natural man”. We look at situations and listen to what is the prevailing wisdom and act without having consulted the ONE who actually knows what to do.

Recently I conversed with people and it is not uncommon to hear their reasoning go something like this...“I was talking to my finance person and they said I need to move on this right now before things become worse.” Or perhaps, “I have been talking to friends and it seems like I need to do thus and so.” As I listened I did not hear, “I prayed and asked God what I should do.” “HE gave me a peace about waiting because HE knows the future better than anyone” or “HE told me not to be moved by opinions.”

The Early Church moved at the will of Holy Spirit and not public opinion. Their livelihood depended upon their ability to hear God and to hear clearly. There are issues coming up in the next few months and years that will require we have the mind of Christ on every decision. The future of our families depends upon our relationship with God. In so many places in the Bible statements read “to this people and to all their generations to come.” The things we set into motion in

the Spirit are the things that will protect, guide, and provide for our following generations.

We have cleared Mother’s Day and Father’s Day and on each of them God has asked, “What legacy are you leaving for them?” Most look immediately at their investment portfolio to find the answer. But God is asking if we are building a legacy that will always show them where to go for answers and provision. Are the things we are leaving eternal or temporal? As I age God is more and more persistent that I evaluate what I am leaving once I have died. Did my family and friends see in me a faithful God? Did I lift HIM

up at every opportunity? Did I make sure that every family gathering ended with prayer, praise, and exhortation? Have I planted in them enough that they will be secure in the FATHER’S care?

If my family and friends could make one statement about my life I would want it to be, “She stood on Christ the solid rock at every turn of life.”

May our legacy be eternal! ♥

Remember to Update Your Bylaws

Excerpt from Christian Law Association Publication

As we labor on behalf of Bible-believing churches and Christian ministries, we are noticing an uptick in calls regarding the Pride agenda. Many churches have long held the traditional, Biblical view of morality and yet they are somewhat surprised to see what a hot-button issue it has become in our society.

Some church leaders have even been shocked to learn that people who have attended services for many years are not necessarily in agreement with their church’s view regarding the Pride agenda, and some of these people appear to be threatening legal action.

In light of this, the Christian Law Association strongly recommends that all churches review their bylaws to make sure their beliefs are clearly documented. Churches can find themselves in very difficult legal circumstances if they can only say, “But everyone has always known our beliefs on these issues.” When there is legal action, it is extremely important for the official documents of the church to clearly spell out the church’s positions.

CLA has a number of resources to ensure that churches have the legal protections they need. IF you have any questions or concerns about this important issue, please contact our offices.

As I approached July my thoughts like most people turn to Independence Day. This year more than others there has been sadness when I plan for the day. It seems every day we are given another report that shows our country as we have always known it is in peril. We have leaders who think of their welfare above the welfare of the citizens and violence has become the solution for every woe among so many.

As I have prayed over these things I have heard the lines of the old hymn, “On Christ the solid rock I stand all other

What Version of the Bible... continued from page 1

version of the Roman Catholic Church today.

▶ *The Wycliffe Bible* – Produced by John Wycliffe (1320-1384), it was the first English translation of the entire Bible.

▶ *The Greek New Testament* – Although this version underwent many revisions, Desiderius Erasmus (1469-1536) is credited for this popular translation. The first edition appeared in 1516. The second edition, published in 1519, was the edition used by Martin Luther (1483-1546) for his German translation.

▶ *The Tyndale Bible* – This Bible was translated by William Tyndale (1494-1536) of England. He was the first person to translate the New Testament from Greek into English.

▶ *The Coverdale Bible* – Myles Coverdale (1488-1569) is credited with translating from the original languages the first complete English Bible (1535). Like Tyndale, he was forced to flee England to preserve his life.

▶ *The Great Bible* – The “Great Bible” was the first “authorized” Bible. The work was done by Myles Coverdale and released in 1538, at the direction of Thomas Cromwell. Because of Cromwell’s influence concerning this Bible, it has often been called *the Cromwell Bible*.

▶ *The Geneva Bible* – Published at Geneva, this version was produced by several great scholars using the editions of Stephanus and Beza. Stephanus was the first translator to show the present verse divisions in both Testaments. The *Geneva Bible* became very popular, and greatly influenced the

Authorized Version of 1611 (King James Version). It was the official Bible of the Reformers and also was popular with the early settlers who came from Europe to America.

▶ *The Bishops Bible* – Released in 1568, it was the first Bible to be produced by a committee. Later, the “Authorized Version” or King James Version of the Bible appeared in 1611. The *King James Bible* was a revision of the *Bishops Bible*, and not a new translation, as some believe.

▶ *The King James Bible* – Meeting together at Hampton Court, fifty-four men were nominated to produce this Bible, although only forty-seven were actually known to have taken part in the translation. Even up to the current time, no other Bible version in history has paralleled the popularity and celebrated eminent position of the KJV (King James Version).

▶ *The Revised Version* – A revision of the New Testament of the *Authorized Version* (KJV), this work began in 1870. It was completed in 1881 under the direction of C. J. Ellicott and Henry Alford, Bishop Lightfoot and Bishop Trench.

▶ *American Revised Version* – Produced in 1898 by an American Committee, it has often been referred to as the *American Revised Bible*.

▶ *The American Standard Version* – A translation of the entire Holy Bible translated out of the original tongues in 1901. This Bible was developed in England by some of the same translators who had produced the *Revised Version*.

▶ *The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text* – This is a Jewish Version of the Old Testament produced in 1917 by the Jewish Publication Society.

▶ *The Holy Bible: A New Translation* – The Bible is the work of James Moffatt; it was published in 1913. Moffatt endeavored to present the Bible in effective, understandable English.

▶ *The Revised Standard Version* – The New Testament portion was produced in 1946, although the entire version was not completed until 1952. James Moffatt, Edgar Goodspeed, and J.M. Powis Smith were the producers. The second edition appeared in 1971.

▶ *The Holy Bible from Ancient Eastern Manuscripts* – The New Testament from the Aramaic of the Peshitta first appeared in 1936. A translation by George Lamsa, an Assyrian, the entire Bible was published in 1957. This version sheds light on some obscure passages and helps the reader to understand with clarity the accurate intent of Scripture.

▶ *The New Testament in Modern English* – Produced in 1958 by J.B. Phillips, an Anglican Priest. Though the work is a paraphrase, it is, nonetheless, a masterful work that has been hailed as one of the best paraphrases ever produced.

▶ *The Berkeley Version in Modern English* – Translated by Gerrit Verkuyl, it was released in 1959 as the *Berkeley Version of the New Testament* and was so named because the translator lived in Berkeley, California.

▶ *The Amplified Bible* – The New Testament portion was released in 1958, although

the entire Bible was not released until 1965. *The Amplified Bible* is the work of twelve editors for the Lockman Foundation. The translation is based on the Westcott and Hort Greek text.

▶ *New English Bible* – The New Testament portion was released in 1961, and the entire Bible in 1970.

▶ *The Living Bible* – Translated solely by one man, Kenneth Taylor. Began as a project to help Dr. Taylor produce a Bible that his children could understand; this paraphrase is based on the *American Standard Version* of 1901.

▶ *The New American Standard Bible* – First published as a New Testament in 1971, it is another translation by the Lockman Foundation of California. Fifty-eight anonymous translators produced this work as an ecumenical committee from different denominations.

▶ *Good News Bible* – Released in 1976, this popular version was originally produced in 1966 as *Good News for Modern Man*.

▶ *New International Version* – First released as a New Testament in 1973, the original name for this version was *A Contemporary Translation*. Over 100 international scholars from different denominations worked directly with the best available Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts to produce this version which is currently the #1 best selling translation worldwide.

▶ *New King James Version* – First produced in 1979 with only the New Testament, the entire Bible was completed in

Continued on page 4

What Version of the Bible...continued from page 3

1982. It is a revision of the *Authorized Version* of the Holy Scripture, and claims to be the fifth major revision of the *King James Version*, the last one being the 1769 Oxford revision of Benjamin Blayney. A special feature of this Bible is its thought conforms to the 1611 King James Version. This NKJV changes the Elizabethan English words into modern-day English words.

► *New Century Version* – This edition appeared in 1987 as a complete Bible, while the New Testament portion first appeared in 1984. Some of the same translators who had worked on the *New King James Version* also worked on this one.

► *New Revised Standard Version* – This translation was published in 1989. It is an effort to “continue in the tradition of the *King James Bible*,” although some changes were made.

► *Contemporary English Version* – Produced by the American Bible Society in 1991, this is a translation of the New Testament only.

► *21st Century King James Version* – According to the editor, this version is “not a translation” but rather an attempt to eliminate obsolete words and phrases found in the *King James Version*. It appeared in 1991.

► *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* – Developed and written by Pastor Eugene Peterson and published in segments from 1993 to 2002. Published in its entirety in 2002 with both Old and New Testaments, it is a popular paraphrase taken from the original languages, but crafted in a way that expresses events and ideas in everyday language.

In closing, I trust my article has helped you to better understand the various types of Bible versions and why they were developed at different periods in history. Be assured there is much to be gained from studying the Holy Writ in different versions and styles. Even paraphrases shed light on some passages that are difficult. And for those who believe it’s a sin to use a paraphrase, even when the cover says, “Paraphrased Version,” perhaps it should be remembered that Paul the Apostle used a paraphrased quote of the Lord’s words in Acts 20:35, when he said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Did the Lord Jesus *really* say this, or did He say *something like* this? This proves that rabbis and teachers would often paraphrase certain quotes while at other times a literal rendering was required. Even when one paraphrases Scripture, the meaning is essentially the same as the literal. However, I believe it’s a good idea if you plan to *paraphrase Scripture* vocally or in writing, that you inform your audience so no one will assume what you say or write is *literal Scripture*.

Hopefully, you have learned from my article (if you didn’t already know), that *Jesus did not quote Scripture from the King James Version, but from the Septuagint.* ♥

“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Annual Credential
Renewal**



DUE OCTOBER 1ST

TWO WAYS TO RENEW:

- (1) Complete the credential renewal form that will be mailed to you soon.
- (2) **ONLINE**—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website: <https://paragonchristianalliance.org/renewals/>

NOTE:

- *If received after OCTOBER 1st, must pay \$100 late fee.*
- *Renewal Fees: \$50.00 for Licensed and \$75.00 for Ordained Minister*
- *Monthly giving commitment must be up-to-date.*

PCAI IS HERE TO SERVE YOU!

- Ministerial Credentials
- 501c3 for Your Ministry under our “Group Status”
- Prayer Support & More!

“The INFORMER Newsletter” is a free monthly publication of P.C.A.I. - Paragon Christian Alliance International & PCAI Clergy Association

2149 Highway 139,
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
1-866-268-5600 - FAX (318) 345-0350
Email:
info@paragonchristianalliance.org
www.paragonchristianalliance.org
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Copyright © 1976—2023