

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of July 2, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service	-----	31
Sunday Evening Service	-----	31
Wednesday Eve., 07/05/23 Service	-----	15

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of July 2, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 6,639.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/02/23:		\$ 6,639.00

- Week of June 25, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,040.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/25/23:		\$ 1,040.00

- Week of June 18, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 947.00
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer	-----	\$ 100.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/18/23:		\$ 1,047.00

- Week of June 11, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,419.00
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer	-----	\$ 1,055.03
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/11/23:		\$ 2,474.03

- Week of June 4, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,457.50
Front Porch Restoration Fund	-----	\$ 50.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/04/23:		\$ 2,507.50

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



FRONT PORCH RESTORATION FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 07/02/23:	\$	0.00
TOTAL RECEIVED, THUSFAR:	\$	410.00

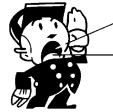
LISTEN TO -



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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part of the pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. By mail - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Drop it off - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. Online - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!
YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

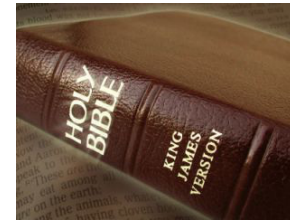
Todd W. White	-----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	-----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	-----	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	-----	Outreach
LeAnna White	-----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	-----	Flowers
Seth White	-----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnelly	-----	Trustees

**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER**

Volume XXIX

July 9, 2023

Number 27



**THE KING JAMES ONLY BAPTIST CIVIL
WAR OVER INSPIRATION**

by Dr. Phil Stringer, Vice President
Dayspring Bible College & Seminary



Actually, I don't like the term "King James Only." It is a name given to us by our critics. I want everyone, in every language, to have the pure Word of God in their own tongue. But in this case, I use the term so that it is clear who I am talking about.

A civil war rages among independent Baptists about the "inspiration" of translations. I am not talking about the debate over which text of Scripture to use. Prominent preachers who preach the King James Bible and who defend it against its critics, are vigorously debating one another over the use of the term "inspiration" in describing the King James Bible. Sometimes the conflict is much hotter than a "vigorous debate." Good men, with deep loyalties to the King James Bible, are at odds with one another. Key terms are defined many different ways, motives are called into question and the doctrinal soundness of men is questioned.

Over the last few weeks I have been in many verbal conversations and email discussions over this issue.

I have been asked how these discussions are going. I have answered that I feel like a man trying to stand on an ice flow, in an ocean full of sharks while juggling baby elephants. A debate over the nature of the Bible generates deep emotions.

Good men are trying to defend the King James Bible the best way that they know how. They are tired of the evangelical and fundamentalist critics of the King James Bible. They are tired of self-absorbed, pseudo-scholars. They are tired of people with slander language skills mocking the scholars who were used of God to translate the King James Bible. ***I completely agree!***

Let me be crystal clear! I believe that the King James Bible is God's Word kept intact in English.

There is not one word in the King James Bible that I would change.

I would not change an italicized word.

I believe that the American republic was created by the influence of the King James Bible. I believe that the modern missions movement was created by the preaching of the King James Bible. I believe that both the fundamentalist movement and the independent Baptist movement were the product of the King James Bible.

I am not one of those preachers who believes that it is Christian liberty to attack the King James Bible but divisive to answer those attacks.

I believe that the evangelical and fundamentalist critics of the King James Bible should be answered. When I heard Elmer Fernandez say that the translators of the King James Bible were evil and wicked men, I knew that he had to be opposed. When I read Calvin George's desperate attempts to belittle the King James Bible (in order to defend the Critical Text readings of the Reina Valera 1960), I understand that he has to be answered.

When I realize that the method of Bible teaching practiced by the professors of Bob Jones University and Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is to go verse by verse and say "a better translation would be. . .," I understand that they are pseudo-scholars. The ***least*** of the Kings James translators was a greater scholar than any of them.

When I read that the translations sponsored by Charles Keen won't be King James equivalent (his term), I understand what he is up to and that he must be answered by those loyal to the Received Text.

When I see the long-ago disproven criticisms of the King James Bible on the various Trinitarian Bible Society websites—I realize that those loyal to the King James Bible must answer the Trinitarian Bible Society's foolish attacks on the King James Bible.

(continued inside)

I believe that the King James Bible is pure, perfect and inerrant!

However, I do **not** believe that the King James Bible is “inspired”. That is not because I believe that there is any weakness or any inferiority in the King James Bible. There is nothing about the King James Bible that needs to be corrected or improved.

The Bible tells us what “inspiration” is! It defines itself. Many of my brethren use the term “inspiration” as a synonym for inerrant. But it means much more than that! Many of my brethren use the secular definition of the term “inspiration”—“to motivate or cause by supernatural influence” (Webster’s Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary). But this definition falls far short of what the Bible says about its own “inspiration”.

Many of our most famous doctrinal books offer a weak definition of “inspiration.”

One prominent advocate of the King James Bible defines “inspiration” this way: “*By inspiration we mean the supernatural control by God over the production of the Old Testament and New Testaments.*” Another King James advocate defines “inspiration” as “*divine influence.*” These men would consider themselves as great advocates of the King James Bible and would describe most other teachers as weak or modernist.

Yet, their doctrine of “inspiration” is very weak. It was invented by modernists and spread by neo-evangelicals. Inspiration is much more than what they say it is.

If “inspiration” is really “divine influence” then many sermons, songs and books are “inspired.” However, “Biblical inspiration” is much more than that.

“Inspiration” took place when God took control of a person and spoke His words through them or caused them to write down His words. “Inspiration” took place when God dictated His words to a person or even through an animal (Balaam’s donkey).

You can’t defend the King James Bible by weakening the doctrine of “inspiration.” In their zeal to advance the King James Bible, some men have adopted a liberal position about “inspiration.”

Many of the brethren are quick to quote ***II Timothy 3:16*** - “***All Scripture is given by “inspiration” of God.***” This is, of course, true. God gave His words to men through the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew languages. This verse means exactly what it says - ***and nothing more.***

However, the verse does **not** say that the words that God gave are preserved, transmitted, or translated by “inspiration”. The verse means everything that it says but we have no right to add anything to it.

No matter how pure and proper our motives are - we do not help the cause of the King James Bible by defining incorrectly a Biblical term or by inventing a new Biblical doctrine. Actually we help the critics of that King James Bible by using an argument that they can easily refute.

Virtually everyone in our movement, including me, has used

the term “inspiration” carelessly at one time or another. It is time to start being careful.

Recently, I was communicating by email with the head of a translation project in a foreign country. He assured me that his translation was “inspired”. I told him that I didn’t think so.

He was just finishing ten years of his translation effort. Men who were “moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21) of God wrote down the Words as God gave them. They didn’t need ten years. Can you imagine John spending ten years figuring out what to write down in the book of Revelation?

The translator had a team of sixteen national helpers - men who are “inspired” don’t need a “team” of helpers. Can you imagine a team of sixteen helpers helping King Saul figure out what to say when the Holy Spirit took him over?

This gentleman is getting ready to release his second edition. Men who are “inspired” of God don’t need a second edition. Can you imagine Balaam’s donkey issuing a second edition of his words to Balaam?

The response of this translator was to call me a modernist!

The Words of God have been settled forever in Heaven. God gave some of them to Moses to record on earth. He gave some to Jeremiah, some to Paul, some to Peter and so on. They recorded the *exact* words that God gave them. God finished delivering His words to men as John finished the Book of Revelation. *That is how “inspiration” works!*

The translators of the King James Bible did not need to be “inspired”. They already had God’s “inspired” Words in front of them. They simply needed to faithfully and accurately translate the Words that had already been given by “inspiration”. Translators today do not need to be “inspired.” They already have God’s “inspired” words available. They simply need to translate them correctly.

John Selden described the method of the King James translators. “*The translation in King James time took an excellent way. That part of the Bible was given to him who was most excellent in such a tongue (as the Apocrypha to Andrew Downes) and then they met together and one read that translation the rest holding in their hands some Bible either of the learned tongues or French, Italian, Spanish, etc. If they found any fault they spoke, if not, they read on.*”

This was not the method of King Saul, Malachi, Isaiah, Matthew or Balaam’s donkey when they were being “inspired” of the Lord. It is an example of men being used of God to *preserve and transmit* His Word.

I know that many men use the word “inspired” to describe the King James Bible because they want to defend it against its many attackers. But the King James Bible doesn’t need that kind of help from us. It stands up to its attackers just fine. They always fade away and the King James Bible goes on. It doesn’t need us to invent a new definition of “inspiration” or to weaken the doctrine of divine “inspiration” the way that the secular writers do.

There seem to be three prominent positions among those who

use the term “inspired” to describe the King James Bible:

1. Some teach that God repeated the miracle of “inspiration” in 1611. They believe that the English language is the only language that currently has an “inspired Bible.” Their concept of missions is to preach and teach from the English Bible to the whole world. This destroys most mission works.

This is an easy doctrine to maintain, if you are only concerned for white, Anglo-Saxon people.

Of course, there is not the slightest hint of any such doctrine anywhere in the King James Bible.

2. The second group teaches the miracle of “inspiration” took place in 1611 in English and continues to take place in other languages today. They teach that you can recognize an “inspired” Bible if it is used by large “soul-winning” churches.

For those brethren, soul-winning is not based upon doctrine, doctrine is based upon soul winning. Since most of the Bibles in use around the world are Critical Text Versions and contradict the King James Bible, they assume that God gave one set of words in English and differing words in other languages. Their doctrine of “inspiration” justifies liberal translations.

They usually teach that only a Bible produced by a modern miracle of “inspiration” can be used to lead someone to Christ. Consequently, they would put their stamp of approval on hundreds of modernist translations.

But you can’t protect the King James Bible by undermining the basis for Scriptural revelation.

Interestingly enough, both groups spend a lot of time attacking fundamental Baptists who explain “inspiration” in any way different than themselves. But you can’t imagine them refuting modernists or liberal Bible societies. Their venom is reserved for the English speaking brethren who use the same Bible that they do.

3. There is a third group that teaches what they call “***derivative inspiration.***” They are often very good brethren, devoted to the Bible. They understand that the miracle of “inspiration” only took place with the original earthly Scriptural penmen.

They teach that the Bible today has all the authority, influence, Holy Spirit power and purity of the original “inspired” Words of God. ***That is exactly what the Bible teaches about itself.***

Faithful copies of the Words given by “inspiration” have all the authority and Holy Spirit power of the originals. Faithful copies of Scripture ***are Scripture.***

Faithful translations of the Words given by “inspiration” have all the authority and Holy Spirit power of the originals. Faithful translations of Scripture are Scripture. However, the Bible calls this ***preservation*** not “derivative inspiration” (try finding that term in the King James Bible).

At least the teachers of “derivative inspiration” describe the original act of inspiration correctly, they describe the current state of the Bible correctly and it is possible for them to translate the Bible into other languages correctly. They are good brethren and I do not want to be separated from them.

However, their terminology is not Scriptural. Their teaching is easily confused with the other more dangerous teachings about “inspiration.”

You do not defend the Kings James Bible by weakening the Bible’s teaching about preservation. One Bible teacher called preserved words “cold, dead museum words.” ***What an insult to a sovereign God!***

Nothing could be a stronger statement about words than to say these words are “***God’s preserved words.***” God’s preservation maintains all the authority and Holy Spirit power that God originally placed on and in His words.

The doctrine of preservation is not a weak doctrine - it is a doctrine filled with Holy Spirit power! It does not need to be upgraded, improved or strengthened. It is the power of God in practice.

I am for everyone that preaches, practices and defends the words of the King James Bible. If my brethren do not use the exact terminology that I think reflects the teaching of Scripture, I will be a little disappointed in them, but I will not reject them. I do not expect perfection from men. I wish to be the friend of all those that honor the words of the King James Bible.

However, I do believe that this discussion has important consequences:

Using a Biblical term in a non-Biblical way opens a new avenue of attack for the enemies of the King James Bible. There is no reason to make it easier for them to make their unholy attacks.

Secondly, this debate is creating unfortunate confusion about the matter of Bible translations. Around the world dozens of projects are taking place. Believers are concerned about getting a faithful translation of the Bible in their national language. There is a revival of understanding the issue of the Received Text.

However, too many men are producing a first edition of a translation, calling it “inspired” and stopping right there. A proper translation requires a rigorous purification process (such as the one that took place with the King James Bible). A weak or secular definition of “inspiration” is hindering the most important work of Bible translation.

Thirdly, this debate causes people to miss the genuinely important debate going on about Scripture today. Some men who are loud advocates of the “inspiration” of the King James Bible are also strong *proponents* of a Critical Text Bible for the Spanish people and for other language groups.

It may be expedient politics to advocate a Received Text Bible for the English speaking world and a Critical Text Bible for the Spanish speaking world, but it is horrible doctrine. Why would a “King James man” want the Hispanic world to use a Bible that conflicts with the King James Bible in hundreds of places and thousands of words?

This is hypocritical and it has a great price attached to it. If you promote the Critical Text in ***any*** language you can no longer consistently oppose Critical Text Bibles in English. Sooner or later, your hypocrisy will catch up to you. There is simply ***no***

doctrinal or textual foundation to prevent such a change. No matter how loudly a man or a ministry proclaims their loyalty to the King James Bible today, if they advocate the Critical Text in other languages they will probably be using a Critical Text Bible in English in a few years.

No one can consistently claim to be a “King James preacher” and support the Reina Valera 1960 or the TBS Spanish Bible. No one can consistently claim to be a “King James preacher” and support the French Louis Segond Version (either the Bible Society version or the TBS version). The same is true for the Chinese Common Union Version (CUV) and a host of other foreign translations.

Some of the people influenced by Dr. Ruckman have called me a modernist and a Bible corrector (even though they can’t identify one word of the King James Bible that I would change). Most recently, some have called me “a King James Bible hater.” Other men influenced by Dr. Ruckman have been much kinder to me.

I have also been called a Ruckmanite by advocates of the Critical Text. However, I have never been influenced by the writings or teachings of Dr. Ruckman (in the interest of full disclosure I met him once when I was fifteen).

Some Hispanic preachers refer to me by their pet nickname, “The Antichrist.” I am sure that they mean that in Christian love. However I am grateful to have many Hispanic preacher friends who love me in spite of my faults and limitations.

I am used to being called names. Somehow, I doubt that this article will end that experience. If you preach, practice and defend the words of the King James Bible, *I am for you!*

I hope that we will all preach, practice and defend those blessed words wisely.

One missionary wrote, “As I understand the Scriptures, ‘inspiration’ is the process by which God directed and controlled the recording of His exact words for mankind. But after those words were recorded, God ceased to ‘inspire’. The process was completed and the message was recorded. God, from that point on, perfectly preserved exactly what He gave so that we would have every word exactly as He gave it. This is called preservation. So if you were to ask me if I believed the Bible is inspired, I would answer by saying, ‘Yes, however, to be more theologically accurate, it was inspired and is now preserved.’” ***Amen and Amen!***

Actually, it seems that much of the “civil war” today is not really about doctrine at all. It seems to be about who is going to “speak for fundamental Baptists.” Again, let me be crystal clear. I am an independent Baptist. I do not recognize a pope, bishop, church councils or a Baptist Sanhedrin. I don’t believe in model churches or that anyone pastors to pastors. I have no headquarters! I have a Bible and that is my sole authority.

Finally, let me appeal for grace for and from all of us. The founders of fundamentalism, for all their wonderful accomplishments, were not clear or consistent on their definition of “inspiration” or their identification of the Biblical text. *We are paying for that confusion now!*

Most of the leaders of the independent Baptist movement can be quoted several different ways on both the definition of “inspiration” and on textual issues.

Vigorous debate is appropriate and even beneficial. A “civil war” is not. Let us all find some grace in our hearts for those who love the Bible and strive to reach the souls of men!

Verbal, plenary “inspiration,” verbal, plenary preservation, verbal, plenary translation: any other doctrine of Scripture is just not enough. ■



“King James Only”

by David Cloud

There is a lot of debate and confusion surrounding the man-made term “King James Only.” It has been popularized in recent years by men who claim they are concerned about a dangerous and cultic view of the King James Bible. Rarely, if ever, do they carefully define the term, though, and as a result a wide variety of Bible-believing men are given a nebulously-defined label.

The term “King James Only” was invented by those who oppose the defense of the King James Bible and its underlying original language texts. It was intended to be a term of approbation, and it is usually defined in terms of extremism.

I have been labeled “King James Only” because of my writings on the subject of Bible texts and versions. To set the record straight, let me explain what I believe. I know that this is also what a large number of other King James Bible defenders believe.

I WILL ACCEPT THE LABEL OF “KING JAMES ONLY” IF IT MEANS THE FOLLOWING:

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that God has given infallible Scripture in the original Greek and Hebrew writings and that He has *preserved* that in the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Text and that we have an accurate and beautiful translation of it in the English language in the Authorized Version, call me “King James Only.”

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes modern textual criticism is heresy, call me “King James Only.” Prior to the Internet era, I spent hundreds of dollars to obtain the writings of the men who have been at the forefront of developing the theories underlying modern textual criticism, and I have read them. They are not dependable. They refuse to approach the Bible text from a position of faith in divine preservation. Most of them are out-and-out heretics, and I refuse to lean upon their scholarship. I am convinced they do not have the spiritual discernment necessary to know where the inspired, preserved Word of God is located today.

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that God has preserved the Scripture in its common use among New Testament churches through the fulfillment of the Great Commission and that He guided the Reformation editors and translators in their

choice of the Received Text and that we don’t have to start all over today in an attempt to find the preserved text of Scripture, call me “King James Only.” The theories of modern textual criticism all revolve around the idea that the pure text of Scripture was not preserved in the Reformation text but that the Reformation editors, because of their alleged ignorance and or lack of resources, rejected the best text and chose, instead, an inferior one. In fact, modern textual criticism is predicated upon the theory that the best text of the New Testament (the Egyptian or Alexandrian) was rejected in the earliest centuries and was replaced with a corrupt recension that was created through the conflation of various manuscript readings (the Byzantine or Traditional text) and that the corrupt text became the dominant text throughout most of church history (for 1,500 years) until the best text was rediscovered in the 19th century. You are free to accept such views if it suits you. I, for one, believe it is absolute nonsense.

□ Similarly, if “King James Only” defines one who rejects the theory that the “preserved” Word of God was hidden away in the Pope’s library and in a weird Greek Orthodox monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai (a monastery which has a room full of the skulls of dead monks) in manuscripts of dubious provenance and exceedingly poor character, call me “King James Only.”

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that it is necessary to have **one** biblical standard in a language as important as English and who believes that the multiplicity of competing versions has created confusion and has weakened the authority of the Word of God, call me “King James Only.”

ON THE OTHER HAND, I WILL NOT ACCEPT THE LABEL OF “KING JAMES ONLY” IF IT MEANS THE FOLLOWING:

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that the KJV was given by inspiration, I am not “King James Only.” The authority of the King James Bible is the product of preservation, not inspiration. The term “inspiration” refers to the original giving of the Scripture through holy men of old (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21). At the same time, I agree with the *Pulpit Commentary* when it says, “We must guard against such narrow, mechanical views of inspiration as would confine it to the Hebrew and Greek words in which it was written, so that one who reads a good translation would not have ‘the words of the Lord.’” ***To say that the King James Bible is the inspired Word of God in the English language because it is an accurate translation of the preserved Hebrew and Greek is not the same as saying that it was given by inspiration.***

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes the English KJV is **superior** to the Hebrew and Greek texts upon which it was based, I am not “King James Only.” In fact, I believe such an idea is pure nonsense, as it would mean the pure and preserved Word of God did not exist before 1611.

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that the King James Bible is **advanced revelation** over the Hebrew and Greek texts that God gave through inspiration to holy men of old, I am not “King James Only.”

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that we do not need to study Greek and Hebrew today or that it is not important to use lexicons and dictionaries, I am not “King James Only.” God’s people should learn Greek and Hebrew, if possible, and use (with caution and wisdom) study tools. When the Bible says that “*holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*,” we know that the words they spake were Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words. But, foundational to the study of the biblical languages is a thorough understanding of the textual issue. We must study the right Greek and Hebrew, and we must also be careful of original language study tools, because many of them were produced from a rationalistic perspective and with great bias against the God-blessed Received Text.

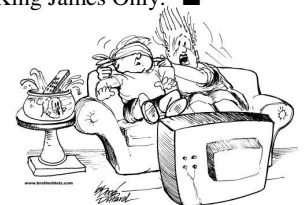
□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes the preserved Word of God is available **only** in English, I am not “King James Only.” The Masoretic Hebrew Old Testament and Greek Received New Testament translated correctly into any language is the preserved Word of God in that language, whether it is German, Spanish, French, Korean, or Nepali.

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that translations in other languages should be based on English rather than (when possible) Greek and Hebrew, I am not “King James Only.”

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that a person can only be saved through the King James Bible, I am not “King James Only.” It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and even a Bible that is textually corrupt contains the gospel.

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that the King James Bible’s antiquated language is holy or who believes the KJV could never again be updated, I am not “King James Only.” I doubt the KJV will ever be replaced in this apostate age, but to say that it is wrong to update the language again after the fashion of the several updates it has undergone since 1611 is not reasonable. Having dealt extensively with people who speak English as a second or third language, I am very sympathetic to the very real antiquation problem in the King James Bible. At the same time, I am not going to trade an excellent Bible with a few problems due to old language for a Bible filled with error due to a corrupt text and/or a corrupt translation methodology (e.g., dynamic equivalency).

□ If “King James Only” defines one who believes that he has the authority to call those who disagree with him silly asses, morons, and jacklegs, and to treat them as if they were fools because they refuse to follow his (or her) peculiar views, or if it defines one who threatens to sue those who challenge him (or her), I am not “King James Only.” ■



NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **SUPREME COURT ISSUES MAJOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RULING** - The following is excerpted from “*Supreme Court Rules in Favor*,” Fox News, June 30, 2023:

“The U.S. Supreme Court held that a Colorado graphic designer who wants to make wedding websites does not have to create them for same-sex marriages, in a landmark decision that pit the interests of LGBTQ non-discrimination against First Amendment freedom. In a 6-3 decision issued Friday, the high court ruled in favor of artist Lorie Smith, who sued the state over its anti-discrimination law that prohibited businesses providing sales or other accommodations to the public from denying service based on a customer's sexual orientation. Justice Neil Gorsuch authored the majority opinion, which said that, ‘In this case, Colorado seeks to force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance.’ ‘But, as this Court has long held, the opportunity to think for ourselves and to express those thoughts freely is among our most cherished liberties and part of what keeps our Republic strong,’ Gorsuch continued. ‘But tolerance, not coercion, is our Nation’s answer. The First Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands. Because Colorado seeks to deny that promise, the judgment is reversed,’ he concluded. .

.. Smith told Fox News Digital in a March 2022 interview, ‘I think it’s important for people to understand that I love and welcome the opportunity to work with all people. My case has never been about choosing which client to work with, but about choosing the message that I’m being asked to promote.’ ... ‘I’ve had my home address put on social media, I have received many threats--death threats, threats of bodily harm,’ she said in December. ‘The security system on my home, my child’s school has been on alert. I’ve lost business, my clients have been harassed and my website ... people attempt to hack into it, almost regularly by the hour.’ Despite this, Smith said she did not regret going to court. ‘The right to speak freely is guaranteed to all of us, and that’s been hard at times,’ she said. ‘While it has come at a cost, it’s a right worth protecting.’”

☐ **SUPREME COURT ISSUES VERDICT SUPPORTING POSTAL WORKER’S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY** - The following is excerpted from “*Landmark Win*,” Christian Headlines, June 29, 2023:

“The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a major win to a former USPS postal carrier who says he was forced out of his job because his religious request to not participate in Sunday deliveries was denied. The justices, in a 9-0 decision, vacated a lower court ruling against the worker and clarified what is allowed under the Constitution in the often-contentious area of religious requests and employer-employee relations. The case will now go back to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals with new instructions from the high court that are more favorable to religious employees. Gerald Groff, an evangelical Christian ... was

told he must work Sundays. He resigned and sued USPS. Groff’s attorneys claimed USPS was in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious discrimination by employers. The law says religion includes ‘all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that he is unable to reasonably accommodate an employee’s or prospective employee’s religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer’s business.’ The case partially hinged on the definition of ‘undue hardship,’ the Supreme Court said in its opinion. Undue hardship is ‘shown when a burden is substantial in the overall context of an employer’s business,’ Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the court.

... First Liberty said, ‘The Court held that federal law requires workplaces to accommodate their religious employees unless doing so would cause significant difficulty or expense on the business. Previously, employers could avoid granting religious accommodations to employees of faith simply by pointing to trifling, minimal, or de minimis effects. This decision means that more employers will be legally required to respect their religious employees by granting them accommodations. Employees of faith often seek religious accommodations to honor their holy days, to take prayer breaks during the day, to dress according to their religious beliefs, or to otherwise not be forced to violate their religious beliefs on the job.’”

☐ **TRANSGENDERISM AND SUICIDE** - The following is excerpted from “*Mental Health You Say?*” PowerLine Blog, June 27, 2023:

“The Biden Administration and the rest of the cheerleaders for transgenderism like to claim that, especially for teens, transgender ‘medicine’ is ‘affirming health care,’ especially mental health. If we don’t allow teens access to puberty blockers and other aggressive interventions, we risk a wave of suicides among young people suffering gender dysphoria in larger and larger numbers.

Well, this story in . . . THE NEW YORK TIMES!!! is going to cause heads to explode: ‘Landmark Study Shows Higher Suicide Risk for Transgender People. Transgender people in Denmark have a significantly higher risk of suicide than other groups, according to an exhaustive analysis of health and legal records from nearly seven million people over the last four decades. The study is the first in the world to analyze national suicide data for this group. Transgender people in the country had 7.7 times the rate of suicide attempts and 3.5 times the rate of suicide deaths compared with the rest of the population, according to the records analyzed in the study, though suicide rates in all groups decreased over time. And transgender people in Denmark died--by suicide or other causes--at younger ages than others.’ ... The study this Times article is based on was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association today. It will be hard for the transgenderists to waive off this mainstream publication.”

☐ **WAVES OF ISLAMIC ANTISEMITISM VIOLENCE IN FRANCE** - The following is excerpted from “*Netanyahu Condemns Waves of Antisemitism*,” Israel Today, July 2, 2023:

“Rioters in areas with large Muslim populations have torched cars and looted shops, clashing with police and causing hundreds

of injuries. Vandals spray-painted ‘Police scum’ on a monument in Nanterre commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish members of the French resistance to the Nazis. Antisemitic chants have been heard during riots and Jewish businesses were ransacked in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, dubbed ‘little Jerusalem’ due to its large Jewish population. There are fears of a repeat of antisemitic violence in the region in 2014, when antisemitism targeted Jewish-owned shops and synagogues during the seven-week war between Israel and Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. Jews have been targeted repeatedly in France, including the January 2015 killings by Islamic terrorists at the Hyper Cacher supermarket in Paris. In 2012, Islamic terrorist Mohamed Merah perpetrated a massacre at the Ozar Torah Jewish school (now called Ohr Torah) in Toulouse. Six years earlier, 23-year-old Ilan Halimi was captured, tortured and held for ransom by a French gang named The Barbarians, led by a self-professed Islamic radical. Outwardly identifiable Jews have routinely been attacked in cities across the country.”

☐ **KNIFE VIOLENCE IN GERMANY AND FRANCE** - The following is excerpted from “*German Officials Estimate 60 Knife Attacks Per Day in 2022*,” The European Conservative, June 21, 2023:

“If one takes into account figures recorded and published by the state criminal police offices in Germany’s 16 federal states, the total number of knife attacks across the entire country exceeded 21,000 in 2022, which amounts to a staggering 60 attacks every single day, the German online magazine Tichy’s Einblick reports. ... The news comes months after Ibrahim A., a 34-year-old Palestinian, carried out a deadly knife rampage on a regional train to Hamburg that resulted in the untimely deaths of two young people and saw five others injured. In 2022, knife attacks on trains and at train stations in Germany more than doubled. In France, which in terms of its multicultural trajectory is slightly ahead of Germany, knife attacks are even more widespread, with a 2020 study by the National Observatory of Delinquency and Criminal Responses (ONDRP) revealing that more than 120 people are victims of knife crimes each day.”

☐ **CHARISMATIC PASTOR SAYS HE COMMANDED A TREE TO BE HEALED, AND IT WAS SO** - A popular heresy among charismatic false teachers is little-god theology, or the belief that we as humans carry within us the potential to become God, or divine like God. This is not only a heresy found among charismatics, however, it is the underlying teaching of Mormonism – that our future as believers are to partake in the divinity of God and become gods ourselves.

Adherents of this false teaching also believe that they have the power to speak what they will into existence, just like God. They believe they have the power to command storms to halt in place, they have the power to cure widespread diseases, and they have the power to stop temporal sufferings and poverty, just by the power of their “positive confession.” And, of course, this includes healing the sick.

Not only do these “Word of Faith” proponents focus on physical healing of people and raising them from the dead, there

is a growing trend to perform these so-called “faith-healings” on animals and even plants.

A recent example of this is pastor Jonathan Morgan of Cornerstone Church in North Carolina, who told his audience recently that he spoke to a tree in his front yard, commanded it to be healed, and it obeyed. He then said that the reason it worked is because God gave him the power to speak such things into existence.

☐ **BIDEN’S CRUEL ERASURE OF NAVY JOAN ROBERTS HIGHLIGHTS PRO-ABORTION MENTALITY** - the following is excerpted from an article published by The Daily Signal, and authored by Katrina Trinko, July 06, 2023 -

In the enlightened era of 2023, when words like “bastard” and “illegitimate” child seem as old-fashioned as horse-drawn carriages, the Biden White House appears committed to pretending that one inconvenient little Biden doesn’t exist. When Biden announced he had won the presidential election in 2020, he invited all his other grandchildren up on stage. In both 2021 and 2022, the White House hung Christmas stockings for six grandchildren, completely ignoring Navy Joan, who was born in 2018, and was confirmed as Hunter Biden’s daughter after a court-ordered paternity test in 2019.

Last week, Hunter Biden and Lunden Roberts settled their latest court case, which dealt with whether the little girl could use the Biden last name (she can’t) and how much child support Roberts would receive to raise and care for their daughter.

But, don’t look for the 4-year-old to start getting any public recognition from her grandfather now that the court case is settled. Furthermore, a recent New York Times report revealed that “in strategy meetings in recent years, aides have been told that the Bidens have six, not seven, grandchildren.”

When asked at a recent press conference, “Does the president acknowledge this little girl as his granddaughter?”, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre refused to do answer.

“I don’t have anything to share from here,” she said, echoing her answer in early May when posed a similar question by a reporter. That time, Jean-Pierre, sighing, said: “I’m not going to speak to that from here.”

“Remarkable that Joe Biden hangs a Christmas stocking for his dog, but won’t acknowledge his granddaughter,” tweeted Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, where Navy Joan lives with her mother, Lunden Roberts.

“The girl is aware that her father is Hunter Biden and that her paternal grandfather is the president of the United States,” reported The New York Times’ Katie Rogers on Saturday. “She speaks about both of them often, but she has not met them.” ■

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