

Introductory announcements:

If this subject is new to anybody today, you may not be familiar with words such as “text”, “inspiration”, “preservation” etc., but I trust they will be made clear as we proceed. Please feel free to ask questions at the end if anything has not been made clear.

Regarding question time, I warn you in advance that I am no expert in these things, I don't have any knowledge of the Bible languages (Hebrew & Greek), but I hope to show you that all believers can be confident of these doctrines without any knowledge of original languages. You may have questions I can't answer, but I am happy to do some research if necessary, or to point you to appropriate publications which may help. I would like to underline, before I begin, that I have found over the years, the majority of errors in doctrine taught, stem not from a lack of understanding of the Greek and Hebrew, but from sheer ignorance of plain English, and where men have gone into the original languages to prove a point, they have been wrong more often than not. **The truth is, you can understand all sound doctrine without any understanding of the original languages!**

When I quote Scriptures I will not be taking the time to turn to my Bible, so **I encourage you to take notes** of the Scripture references used, as I'll be trying to keep moving.

I want to make it clear at the outset that I am not representing the Trinitarian Bible Society. (Some years ago I did work for TBS, for about two years, in the administration section). But I will be promoting material produced by TBS and its basic doctrinal stance and mission. TBS is not the only advocate of the KJV, but I believe it is unique in the world, in the history of Bible societies, and for nearly two centuries it has been at the forefront of the battle for the Word of God. I will also be promoting, and quoting from, some non-TBS authors.

Some of you may not know me personally, so I believe I owe you some sort of background information before I commence. I speak to you, not as an expert, but simply as the pastor of a local Church, (Nanango Christian Faith Centre), which my wife and I have been members of since 1983. I began to help with regular preaching there in 1983, and have been the pastor since 1992, of what was then an Assemblies of God Church. In mid 2000, we withdrew from the AOG fellowship and became an independent reformed Baptist Church. The founding pastor, Eric Watson, was a zealous Bible teacher, was unashamedly Protestant, and used the King James Bible, although I don't believe he was ever exposed to the precious Reformed doctrine we are privileged to study here today, because he used the NJKV when it came out. I have been soundly Protestant and a KJV user since that time, although I was of Arminian persuasion for some of my early years. But in the sovereign grace and providence of God, I was introduced to Reformed doctrine (or the doctrines of grace, particularly what is called the five points of Calvinism) shortly before entering the ministry, and I am convinced that, in God's providence, that clarification of the “doctrines of grace” was my final preparation for the ministry. My official studies for the ministry in the AOG were very basic, and not altogether sound, so I stand before you having no formal qualifications, but a call to the ministry of God's Word, which I believe I can say has been duly confirmed in the local Church and the wider community. Our Church has grown smaller over the years, as the Word of God has become more unpopular (even in the churches), so I don't come to you teaching “Church

Growth” or any formula for 'success', but only the Word of God, which to me is everything, as I trust it is to you also.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

(Outlining the Origin and Witness of the Trinitarian Bible Society)

Most conscientious Christians would say that Scripture is their rule. And if this is the case, then as we approach the ‘doctrine of Scripture’, we should consider the question, **“What do the Scriptures teach about themselves?”** This is a widely neglected question! Yet is it of utmost and fundamental importance to the very existence of the Church, and to its ongoing mission.

Many who use modern Bible versions today would quite naively make the assumption that what they hold in their hand is “the Word of God”, but, have they considered what their ‘Bible’ consists of? Have they studied it carefully and examined in detail what it teaches? Have they considered the question of where this ‘Bible’ came from? Have they stopped to think that it is an entirely different ‘Bible’ from the one which was in common use until 30 or 40 years ago? Some operate on the principle of blind faith, but that is not Christianity! Christianity is faith in Christ and faith in God’s Word!

To answer the question of where our Bible (AV or KJV) came from, it will be helpful to know something of God’s providence in the history of the Church.

SOME RELEVANT HISTORY – A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE ORIGIN OF THE TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

With the motto, “The word of God among all nations”, the Trinitarian Bible Society has been committed to the great commission (*Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20*) and the distribution of the Word of God throughout the world. To “teach all nations” as Christ commanded, it is essential that all nations have access to the Scriptures in a language they can understand.

Two different schools of thought on the doctrine of Scripture have given rise to **two entirely different texts from which Bibles are being translated** in the world today. It is the application of the doctrine of the providential **preservation** of the Scriptures, which resulted in the formation of the Trinitarian Bible Society in 1831, as its founding members separated from the British and Foreign Bible Society (now called the United Bible Societies or UBS), and for 180 years TBS has stood firmly on these principles, producing and promoting what the Society calls **“Protestant or uncorrupted”** versions of the Scriptures. **(It is interesting that Papists accuse Protestants of having their own version of the Scriptures** which suits their Protestant doctrine better, and so we do! The KJV (the true and historic Bible) *is* overwhelmingly Trinitarian and Protestant! Out of their own mouths the Papists condemn themselves as those who have a different version of the Scriptures, one which reflects Roman Catholic doctrine! (I speak as if the RC Bible is one Bible, but actually I am speaking of a whole family of Bibles, all of which are produced with the approval of the RC Church, and all of them differ greatly from the KJV.) But it just so happens that the Protestant version of the Scriptures can be proven to

be God’s Word, whereas those Bibles which are produced by the Papists can be demonstrated to be in error. We had a local case some time ago in the local newspaper where a Papist writer made that very accusation against a brother who publicly promoted the King James Bible! It is truly incredible that anybody falls for this propaganda – it has the mentality of two children in a race, and the child who won second prize complains that his prize is not the same as that of the winner – the mere fact that the second child complains proves that his prize is different from the first prize. First prize and second prize are not the same. They are supposed to be different. And so, the Protestant Bible is supposed to be different because it is correct, whereas the Papist Bibles are full of errors and manipulations!)

As the name of TBS suggests, it is strictly **Trinitarian**. It also maintains a distinctly **Protestant** witness. These important distinctions of the work and witness of TBS therefore stand in contrast to that of many other Bible societies (which are weakened by liberalism and ecumenism). Hence the Bible translations distributed by TBS in various languages around the world reflect these important standards – i.e. **they guard against the weakening and breaking down of the Protestant and Trinitarian witness of the Church.**

The following excerpts are from “The Word of God Among all Nations” by Andrew J Brown – available from the Society, and written in 1981, to mark the Society’s 150th anniversary.

“The TBS was founded at a time when the chief controversy affecting the work of existing Bible societies was the question of co-operating with **Unitarians**: the question of whether **those who denied the doctrine of the deity of Christ** should be allowed to participate in circulating the Christian Bible. The TBS was founded in the belief that a Bible society should not compromise its work by uniting with those who deny central doctrines of the Christian faith. This went hand in hand with the belief that a Bible society should not promote translations in which the **text** of the Scriptures is materially altered. It was felt that significant alterations were being caused by the use of an inadequate translating base such as the **Latin Vulgate**, and by the inclusion of the **Apocrypha** (regarded as not divinely inspired). These were the principles which gave the TBS its distinctive character in the early 19th century. The **‘liberal’ trend of theology** in the later 19th century, and continuing up to the present day, made the Society’s doctrinal emphasis even more relevant. The **deity of Christ** was increasingly rejected by leading **theologians** and also by some **translators** of the Bible. Moreover, the **underlying text of the Bible was revised** in accordance with manuscripts in which this doctrine was weakened. The Society’s Trinitarian emphasis led it to remain vigilant against such tendencies.” (AJB p1)

“Part of the liberalizing trend was the widespread rejection of another doctrine equally fundamental to Bible society work: the **divine inspiration and inerrancy** of the Scriptures themselves. ... many supporters of the world’s Bible societies no longer believed in the **integrity of the Book** which they distributed. Recently the **British and Foreign Bible Society**, along with the **United Bible Societies**, resumed the circulation of the Apocrypha and has actively co-operated with the Roman Catholic authorities in the production of ‘Common Bibles’ for general use

Introduction to the Doctrine of Scripture & Outline of the Origin & Witness of TBS – Trevor W Sullivan
among Protestants and Roman Catholics alike.” (AJB p2) – **NB:** UBS deliberately produces “Bibles” acceptable to the Roman Catholic Church!

(See also p11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, regarding some of the struggles experienced during the early formation of the Society).

Hence we see that TBS came into being, and remains after 180 years, to stand for the pure Word of God, and against every evil which threatens to destroy it and change it, particularly Roman Catholicism, Liberal Theology, and Unitarianism, and in recent years, New Age or Pagan influences.

In summary, the relevance of this little snapshot of history is that, since the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century, the Roman Catholic Church has put in place what is called the ‘Counter-Reformation’, chiefly the work of the Jesuit Order, which has gradually gained sway over all the Protestant Churches, and the greatest milestone for the Counter-Reformation was 1881, when the Revised Version Committee produced a new Greek Text, which favoured Roman Catholic thought, and became the basis of translation for all the modern Bible versions.

Therefore, I put it to all who profess to be followers of Christ, that we are all responsible for the ongoing witness to the Word of God, and that what TBS has done for almost two centuries, we must continue to be a part of, if all generations are to have the Word of God in their hands. But before we go any further, if we are **to do justice to this subject of “The Doctrine of Scripture”, we must go to the Scriptures themselves, and by God’s grace, answer from the Scriptures the question,**

“WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ABOUT THEMSELVES?”

1. The Origin of the Scriptures (They are inspired by God, word for word)

- i. Divine Inspiration (1 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”; 2 Peter 1:20-21, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”) The Word came from God, through His chosen vessel the Church, not through unbelieving scholars and archaeologists! (Here also is the doctrine of the Trinity, as we see Paul attributing inspiration to “God” and Peter attributing inspiration to “the Holy Ghost.”)***
- ii. This Divine Inspiration is Verbal (every word) and Plenary (full) (Matthew 4:4, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”, quoting from Deuteronomy 8:2-3)***

So that is the inspiration of the Scriptures. That is where they came from originally. Every Word of Scripture came from God, inspired by God the Holy Ghost, and we are commanded by the Lord to live by every word of Scripture.

2. The Preservation of the Scriptures (They are fully preserved by God’s providence)

- i. Preservation is Verbal and Plenary, as is Inspiration (Deuteronomy 8:2-3, “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these***

forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live”; **Matthew 4:4** as above, **5:18**, “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”; **24:35**, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words (NB: plural “words”) shall not pass away.**”) As the Scriptures are *fully* inspired by God, they are also *fully* preserved by the providence of God.

- ii. **Preservation is Promised by God – Therefore it is carried out by His Grace and Power** (**Psalm 12:6-7**, “The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 12:7 **Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them** from this generation for ever”; **Isaiah 59:21**, “As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and **for ever.**”) God promises He will ensure that every generation of His people have His Word for ever! How does He do this? Apart from the sometimes miraculous acts of God’s providence along the way, there is an ordinary, every-day method God uses:
- iii. **Preservation is Commanded by God – Therefore it is the Church’s Responsibility, as God’s Chosen Instrument, to keep the Word pure** (**Proverbs 30:5-6**, “Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”; **Deuteronomy 4:1-2**, “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. 4:2 **Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments** of the LORD your God which I command you”; and similarly in **Revelation 22:18-19**, and in this case the prohibition comes with a curse as well, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”)

So God preserves His Word for us, and we, as God’s instruments, by His grace, preserve His Word also. TBS, in the day of its formation because of the apostacy of the then British and Foreign Bible Society, was part of God’s remnant Church separating from the apostacy to keep both the Church and the Scriptures pure. Like the faithful remnant of God’s people in every age before us; like the Protestant Reformers of the Middle Ages, and the Puritans in the 17th

and 18th centuries, the Church of God today also must be faithful and separate from the apostate church and stand firm on the one foundation of the Word of God.

We have now seen from just a few Scriptures, the doctrines of the inspiration and preservation of Scripture plainly taught. This of course will be reinforced with further proof as we go on – considering that “all Scripture” is inspired and “all Scripture” is therefore preserved, then it naturally follows that “all Scripture” will be in harmony and confirm the same doctrine!

**LET US NOW CONSIDER SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF ‘THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE’,
I.E. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION AND PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE**

1. **In view of what we have just read in the Scriptures about the Church’s responsibility for the preservation of Scripture, let us note that any man attempting the work of translation ought to proceed in fear and trembling!** This, I believe, is what the translators of the AV did – from Tyndale through to the 47 ‘learned men’ of the AV committee – **See TBS article A115** (Just such an exposure, of the kind of men such as these 47 God has used in preserving His Word through the KJV translation, would go a long way towards convincing many that this is not a light matter). From the beginning God has used **believing, God-fearing men**, who handle the Scriptures with due reverence, to preserve them for all generations.
2. **If the Lord is to preserve His Word and use the Church to do so, He must have “faithful men” as His instruments.** “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also” (*2 Timothy 2:2* – a New Testament parallel to *Deuteronomy 4:2*, “**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you**”). Therefore every Church must give itself to that same faithfulness in God’s service, to keep the Word of God for the next generation, and this is done simply through **faithful teaching**. This faithfulness in the ministry of the Word of God, from generation to generation, includes the specialised work of the safe keeping of ancient manuscripts and the ongoing work of translation. Dealing with the manuscripts and translation work is a specialised field, but by far the greatest part of this work is the ongoing teaching of the Word in every generation (let us not forget that all the hard groundwork has been done by faithful men centuries ago, so that all we need to do is appreciate it and make diligent use of it!). Simply use the KJV – read from it, teach from it, make it foundational to your daily lives and homes, and you become part of a monumental work of God’s preservation of Scripture till the end of the world!
3. **The doctrine of providential preservation of the Scriptures to all generations helps to determine which manuscripts are genuine and which are corrupt** – (See TBS Articles A101, A104). (“Manuscripts” are copies of the Scriptures in the original languages, usually only portions, which are extant (i.e. still in existence today). They are not the original Scriptures, as these have long since perished. Such manuscripts form the greatest part of the text from which translations have been made. The New Testament manuscripts in Greek number over 5,000, and roughly

99% of them agree or have only very minor differences, but the other 1%, a mere handful of manuscripts which disagree in thousands of instances with the majority, are the ones favoured by modern textual critics – in other words, these few manuscripts rejected by the Church generally until 1881, have now become the very basis of translation for all new ‘Bible versions’!)

Let us consider what the Bible consists of. The 39 Old Testament books were originally written in Hebrew, and the 27 books of the New Testament, in Greek, by various human authors over a period of many centuries. Those original “autographs” have long since perished and all we have for evidence of them today is a multitude of “manuscript” copies (some of these copies are only of small portions of Scripture), then there are early Bible translations, the writings of the early Church ‘fathers’, and lectionaries containing many Scripture quotations. **Modern textual critics, (those scholars who have given us all the modern Bible versions, such as NKJV, NASV, TLB, NIV etc.), rely heavily on a few supposedly “ancient manuscripts” to the exclusion of vital evidence found in early translations and quotes by the ‘fathers’, not to mention a multitude of faithful manuscripts which are faithful copies of earlier ones.** In other words they play heavily on the term “ancient manuscripts” in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the unwary, while at the same time ignoring vital evidence in other forms: early translations, writings of the ‘fathers’ etc. **Hence we can see that the enemy has brought in a few corrupted manuscripts under the cover of a perverted form of ‘scholarship’, with one aim in mind, to change the Word of God.** These few ‘ancient manuscripts’ are shown to be corrupt by comparing them with other evidence. Just imagine if you were a vintage car enthusiast, and somebody said to you that he had the best Model T Ford in the world – but when you looked at this car, you discovered that he was basing his assessment on the age of the car, without any regard for its condition (it was rusted to bits, missing many of its vital parts, and while it might be older than other Model T’s, it was in such bad condition that you couldn’t rightly call it a motor car, let alone the best of its kind!). **Such are the corrupt “Vatican” and “Sinai” manuscripts which modern scholars heavily rely on in their translation works, claiming they are the best and oldest.**

This brings us to a further, very important implication of the doctrine of Scripture:

4. **Some men are not faithful in teaching the Scriptures and in keeping them for future generations.** Modern textual critics all fall short on this point, for the reasons just stated – **they have thrown out the faithful KJV and its underlying text, altering it on the basis of a few corrupt manuscripts.** And it seems that the Lord has shown His displeasure with some of the perpetrators: Quoting Keith Piper, in *“Serious Omissions in the NIV Bible”, chapter 6*, “Why did 6 Modern Version Editors Lose Their Voices?”. To cite just one example: he quotes Time Magazine, July 1972 regarding Kenneth Taylor, author of *The Living Bible*, *“Mysteriously half way through the paraphrase Taylor lost his voice and still speaks in a hoarse whisper. A psychiatrist who examined him suggested that the voice failure was Taylor’s psychological self-punishment for tampering with what he believed to be the Word of God.”* (I highly recommend this book as one of the best individual books

I've seen on the doctrine of Scripture, although I don't agree with every point the author makes.)

The Revised Version Committee of 1881, (dominated by two men, Wescott and Hort), was to revise the English translation of the KJV, not the underlying Greek Text, but they were completely unfaithful to their stated purpose, and proceeded to alter the Greek Text as well, by favouring the woefully corrupt “Vatican” and “Sinai” manuscripts! Two faithful men sat on that committee – Burgon and Scrivener, and their work has been a marvellous legacy for the Church ever since. Burgon, particularly, has written extensively (esp. “*The Revision Revised*”), exposing the errors of Westcott and Hort, and supplying abundant proofs of the sound doctrines which we are discussing here, and of the soundness of the Received Text, on which the New Testament of the KJV and other faithful translations are based.

Here is encouragement for the saints to continue to fight the good fight in Christ's service. Burgon and Scrivener were outnumbered and even overruled in that 1881 revision committee, but that did not stop them, and the more time marches on, and the more corrupt Bible versions are produced based on that ungodly committee's work, the more the truth of the work of Burgon and Scrivener shines, as the Scripture says, (***Proverbs 4:18***), “But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” When Christ returns to reward every man for his work, the work of the Received Text and the King James Bible and those who defend it, will still be shining, and all the brighter for the testing of fire. You might think that your witness to Jesus and your contribution to the glory of God in your life is weak and insignificant, but if you are only faithful in maintaining the diligent and reverent use of a faithful translation of God's Word (e.g. the KJV), you might be surprised at just how important a work you share in.

5. **Satan's work is to take away the word of God – *Mark 4:15*,** (in the parable of the sower), “Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.” Likewise ***John 10:10***, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.” But the Lord is able to prepare some good soil for the seed of His Word to grow in – ***Mark 4:20***, “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Let us be careful not to be engaged in Satan's work. Many pastors and teachers are actively promoting Satan's work as they use modern Bible versions, which pervert Scripture, adding to it and subtracting from it. Worse still, many of them will argue vehemently against the KJV, showing that in their hearts they hate it, and they simply will not use it! **But *if* the KJV is not the Word of God faithfully preserved, then the English speaking Church did not have the pure Word of God until 1881 (when the RV Committee supposedly discovered the ‘best manuscripts’), and therefore the Protestant Reformation was a great mistake, and we should all repent and join the Church of Rome!** And that is exactly what many are doing! And many Reformed pastors are not far behind them! For some Reformed pastors actually ridicule the KJV, and many more of them refuse to use it – yet it is the self-same Bible used by the men they continually quote and promote, men like the

Puritans of the 17th century, Matthew Henry, George Whitefield, and Jonathan Edwards in the 18th century, and CH Spurgeon in the 19th century! So the question is, **“Has the Church of Rome rediscovered the pure Word of God for us, which was lost for centuries (as is claimed), or has she played Satan’s role of robbing us of the Word by altering what we have always had?”** And then, by implication, **“Are those who use modern Bible versions promoting the cause of God and Christ, or the cause of Satan and Antichrist?”** Unless you understand the insidious nature of Satan and Antichrist, you will not be able to answer this question correctly – the enemy is cunning and relentless, and he works day and night just to advance his cause one inch along the road to the destruction of the Church! Don’t think these subtle operations of the ecumenical movement are of no importance! Look at the fruit of it! Look at the kind of churches which have joined the ecumenical movement – they have all denied their own founding doctrines, and they ride roughshod over Scripture in their race towards Rome! It has all but swallowed up Protestantism on a world-wide scale! And couple this thought with the fact that it is no secret that the Counter-Reformation and the work of the Jesuits has been in place for over 400 years, with the express purpose of destroying Protestantism – I make no apology for saying that it is only fools who disregard these things, and pass them off as unimportant detail, or who charge us with fanaticism because we stand for the KJV and its underlying historic text (the “Received Text” or “Textus Receptus”)!

Let me illustrate the reality of this ongoing battle, and this work of Satan against the Scriptures: Our friend Martin Lear wrote in the South Burnett Times not long ago, about an extremely important moral issue, and he promoted the King James Bible as the answer to the evil. A certain Mr Bastable replied, condemning the King James Bible, saying that the KJV “was commissioned by King James to ensure that his view of English Protestantism was expressed in print, in a way that the previous translations from Greek or Hebrew failed to endorse his own extreme views”. Whether this is ignorance or outright lies I don’t attempt to judge, but we know this, that Mr Bastable’s tirade is part of Satan’s lies and propaganda continuing the work of the Counter-Reformation against Christ and His Church, for this man’s errors are so obvious it would be laughable if it was not so serious – to imply that the KJV is the work of King James when 47 scholars did the work!

Satan was a liar from the beginning and sowed seeds of doubt about God’s Word – *Genesis 3:1*, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Compare this with subtle doubts cast on the Scriptures today as it is often pointed out that certain words were ‘translated wrongly’. **Most pastors today have been trained by Jesuit scholars, and so they lack the power of plain common sense and reason, as Jesuit training destroys the mind and soul** – and so the greatest error of these proud, self-proclaimed experts in Greek is that they cannot even read plain English and get it right! (Many of these unhelpful comments are based on the **misleading footnotes in Modern Bible Versions** – footnotes which refer the reader to the altered and corrupt ‘Critical Text’. The NKJV is probably the worst in this respect, and therefore the most deceptive.) Let us be careful not to accept and perpetuate the lies that Satan has planted in the Church.

The TBS has done great works in defending the authentic Scripture text against the Counter-Reformation work of altering the text and translations e.g. Article A105 on “The Holy Trinity” is a defence of this fundamental doctrine. Article A102 proves the authenticity of a disputed passage of Scripture which clearly teaches the doctrine of the Trinity – *1 John 5:7-8*, another article “God was manifest in the flesh” deals with *1 Timothy 3:16*, and A100, “A Textual Key to the New Testament”, shows many important alterations found in the ‘Critical Text’ underlying modern Bible versions, which undermine the doctrine of Christ’s deity.

One means of taking away from God’s Word is a spurious translation method known as “dynamic equivalence”. Some modern scholars claim to translate the thoughts, rather than the words of the inspired writer. But how can you pretend to understand the “thoughts” of the prophets except by the very words they recorded in Scripture? (The fact is that many of the prophets did not fully understand themselves the words that God gave them, especially in cases where their words spoke prophetically of the coming Messiah many centuries down the track, and of a New Covenant which they had no hope of understanding at the time.) Therefore the **individual words** had to be recorded and they must be accurately translated before we can begin to understand the thoughts. **This doctrine**, whereby as nearly as possible, the translation is a word-for-word equivalent of the underlying text, is called **verbal equivalence**. The KJV, by contrast to modern versions, is very much a word-for-word kind of translation. By maintaining the important principle of verbal equivalence, the **translators are translating, not interpreting** (See A75, A108) – The Living Bible and the NIV have many examples of what amounts to interpretation rather than translation: (*Ephesians 4:24, Philippians 1:11, Psalm 34:20 (TLB); 1 Corinthians 7:1b, Philippians 2:7 (NIV)*). Critics of the KJV will often throw up their ‘red herring’ arguments, that the KJV also uses dynamic equivalence in translating certain passages of Scripture, but these are rare exceptions, mere ‘drops’ compared to the ‘ocean’ of such cases in modern versions. **Also, as a matter of honesty and transparency in translation, the KJV uses italics** to indicate which words are added in order to make sense of the flow of the words in English, whereas modern versions add and subtract as many words as they please without using italics to indicate what has been done. Some of these things are so obvious that it really makes you wonder about the honesty and integrity of those who use the ‘red herring’ approach, to the debate on such an important matter as the integrity of the Scriptures. But the devil uses proud men to further his causes, men who are proud of their scholarship, who beneath the surface have a stubborn unteachable heart.

Another way Satan robs us of the Word of God is by altering the ‘text’ from which the Bibles are translated (‘textual criticism’). TBS approves only translations of the Scriptures which are from the **Hebrew Masoretic Text** of the Old Testament and the **Greek Received Text** of the New Testament. These Texts, and the translations made from them, show abundant proof that they are faithful copies of the original autographs, however, time does not permit on this occasion to cover all those proofs sufficiently. For those interested in further study, materials are available from TBS, (in the form of small booklets called ‘Articles’ – they are also on the TBS website). **Modern textual criticism is a flawed science.** Like evolution, which is

not science at all but a mere theory repeated ad nauseam, it does not rest on any form of sound doctrine – in theory it ignores the doctrine of Scripture, and in practice it denies that God has preserved His Word to every jot and tittle according to His promise.

In view of this reliance on only **faithful texts** and **faithful methods of translation**, in the English language, the Authorised or King James Version only is approved and distributed by TBS. “While perfection is not claimed for the Authorized Version or for any other version, it is an accurate and excellent translation which follows the Traditional or Received Text of the New Testament and was not affected by the current rage of paraphrasing.” (“A Textual Key to the New Testament”, by GW & DE Anderson). “Paraphrasing” is translating thought-for-thought (dynamic equivalence) as opposed to word-for-word (verbal equivalence). **Some Christians, particularly American fundamentalists, would argue that the KJV itself is the providentially preserved, word for word, perfect Word of God** – i.e. they maintain that God preserved the Old Testament in Hebrew, the new Testament in Greek, and when English became the predominant language of the world, the KJV also. TBS claims only that the OT Hebrew and the NT Greek are providentially preserved, and the KJV is a faithful translation but cannot be claimed to be perfect. **If those on both sides of this debate could be calm enough to refrain from fanaticism about the finest of fine points, I’m sure a great gulf could be bridged between two distinctly opposing groups of Christians, who both insist on using the KJV, and both reject the spurious modern perversions of the Scriptures! And if those Reformed people, who insist on using the NIV & NKJV and other ecumenical abominations, would humble themselves, and be willing to discuss the real issues, and to drop their use of ‘red herrings’, and lame excuses, they might also return to the KJV, and we could all have sweet fellowship together in the Word of God.** As for me, my conscience is uncomfortable with the continual questioning of the accuracy of Scripture – if it is God’s Word, why should every man think he can improve it? (And this was a matter of conscience for me long before I was made aware of the underlying reasons. You will find also that God gives you the gift of “discerning of spirits” so that we can tell sometimes what is of God and what is not – Paul said that “the things of the Spirit of God” are “spiritually discerned” and the “natural man” cannot receive them (*1 Corinthians 2:14*), but he goes on to say to the Church, “we have the mind of Christ”.) If Scripture is our rock and the foundation of our faith, how can we stand on the shifting sands of the work of modern scholars? Or how can we rely on the ever-changing foundation of the smug comments of every pastor who thinks he knows better than all the faithful prophets and scholars the Lord has used for thousands of years to preserve His Word, as He promised, in accurate copies and translations? What arrogance and what foolishness it is that causes men to think they can improve the Word of God! As I say, it is a matter of conscience, and my conscience is governed by Scripture, not scholarship. And let us rejoice that Scripture is more than a match for all the wiles of the enemy. As Luther said, *Though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God hath willed His Truth to triumph through us, The Prince of darkness grim – we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure, one little word shall fell him. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and*

the gifts are ours thro' Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

6. **It is perhaps not widely known that practically all Modern Bible Versions are based on the “Critical Text”, compiled in the late 19th Century**, rather than the “Received Text” of the New Testament, which is the basis of the Authorised Version and similar translations which emerged at the time of the Protestant Reformation and the invention of printing. The **Received Text** takes its name from the fact that it has been **the text received by the Church as authentic, since the first century**. Nor is it widely known, that this fundamental difference between the AV and modern translations, is instrumental in causing literally thousands of differences – omissions, additions, and alterations of the AV readings.

The “**Critical Text**”, on which all Modern Bible Versions are founded, relies heavily on two manuscripts known as “Vaticanus” and “Sinaiticus”, which are often referred to (by modern textual critics) as “the best manuscripts”. By this is meant that they are in the best physical condition and the oldest extant (still in existence) manuscripts. Hence the term “best manuscripts” is misleading, and it’s fair to say, deliberately misleading, for surely no honest person could make such statements and maintain his integrity! Vaticanus and Sinaiticus omit some inspired books of the New Testament and include apocryphal books. **Dean J Burgon, (“Revision Revised” p12)**, noted, “In Aleph (Sinaiticus) & B (Vaticanus) **it is easier to find two consecutive verses in which these two manuscripts differ from each other, than two consecutive verses in which they entirely agree.**” Aleph makes 8972 changes from TR in the gospels alone – B makes 7578.

You don’t need to be an agronomist to tell an onion from a potato, or a good potato from a rotten one – just taste it. Likewise, a simple comparison between a genuine, faithful translation of the Scriptures, and a defective or corrupt one is sufficient, even for the average person, to see which is the genuine article. The proof of the Scripture pudding is also in the eating. TBS Article A100, “A textual Key to the New Testament” is helpful for this purpose. In other words, just compare the readings of certain verses of Scripture between say the NIV and the AV, and it is obvious to every born again believer which one is the Word of God!

Don’t be baffled by the science! While there is a mountain of information to sort out, the fundamental issues are relatively simple and straight forward. While some scholars have made a life time study of the thousands of manuscripts, all their studies have only proven what can be confidently known by ordinary believers by comparing Scripture with Scripture, and by comparing accurate translations with corrupted translations. The average person does not need to study the original languages or to become an expert in any field. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance will help you to answer most legitimate questions. **The ground work has been done already** for us by faithful men of the past (men like Erasmus, Tyndale, and others, through to the 47 men of the KJV committee), so that we do not need to reinvent the wheel of Scripture, but merely treasure it and keep it from being corrupted!

7. **The internal evidence of the Bible is its own best proof of authenticity**, hence the proof is available to all who have an AV (KJV) Bible. TBS does not claim the AV is

a word-perfect translation, but that it is the best translation available in the English language – and **the main reason it is the best and most accurate translation is that it is the only English Bible readily available today which is translated from the Received Text (i.e. the Greek New Testament Text, received by the Church, from the time of the apostles until now).**

The alternative viewpoint, at the back of all modern Bible versions, is that the so-called ‘Critical Text’ is improving (you might say, “evolving”) and being refined by scholars as more and more archaeological evidence comes to light (hence, for example, the many different editions of the NIV). This view fails to recognize the doctrine of providential preservation of the Scriptures to all generations, as the Critical Text is a new alternative to the Received Text of old, having been only brought into the Protestant Churches with the Revised Version of 1881. If this newly compiled ‘Text’ is authentic, then God has failed to keep His promise to preserve His Word for about 90% of the Christian era so far! **But the Critical Text readings and manuscripts were rejected by the early Church, by the Reformers and Puritans, and by the Church in general, until the 19th century.**

Modern textual critics have traded faith for scholarship. Rejecting the promises of God to **preserve** the Scriptures, they embrace their own doctrine of the **evolution** of the Scriptures, a figment of their own imagination, and a lie of the devil. In rejecting the promises of God in favour of pride in their own scholarship, such men have **also blinded themselves to God’s providence** – i.e. they cannot see the hand of God in the 500 years of Protestant Reformation and Puritan reforms, marking the greatest advancement and spiritual enlightenment in world history, between the times of Wycliffe and Westcott and Hort, including the production of the Greek Received Text by Erasmus, the invention of printing, and the translation and printing of Protestant Bibles by many of the nations of Europe. **2 Thessalonians 2**, “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 2:11 **And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: 2:12 That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Modernist NIV & NKJV pastors may scoff at this concept, but they will be responsible for sending millions down the broad, ecumenical road to Rome, and to destruction, and I suspect that many of them are actually planted by Rome into the Protestant Churches – this is not a new concept. **Modernist churches have backed off from calling the Pope Antichrist. They are not true Protestants. Soon after they accepted Rome’s Bibles, they began to accept her false doctrines.** This is not coincidence! It has been engineered by the Jesuits, so that those pastors who are not Jesuits themselves, somewhere along the line, have been taught by

Jesuits. It is a well-known fact that Jesuits have been lecturing in Protestant seminaries for many years.

Did the Lord preserve the Scriptures for us as He promised? If so then where is it to be found – in the ever changing and doctrinally weakened and insipid Bible versions based on the ever-changing and evolving Critical Text, or in the Authorised Version based on the historical and faithful Received Text? **Tyndale** died at the hands of Rome for giving us the first forerunner of the AV in print. **Foxe’s Book of Martyrs** follows the trail of the blood of those whose faith was based on this text. By stark contrast, Rome has not persecuted the textual critics who have given us modern versions; they are friends; she has joined hand-in-hand with them, as they have produced versions which Rome approves of and has a hand in the production of. Nor has the ever-increasing number of modern versions given rise to the unshakable faith in Christ which marked the Protestant Reformation and subsequent revivals based on the AV and its forerunners such as Tyndale’s translation and the Geneva Bible, (the true Word of God)! So we see that there is sound **historical evidence** that the Lord has preserved His Word, according to His promises. There is also **manuscript evidence**, and the most powerful evidence to the individual believer is **the Bible itself – The AV reveals itself to be the Word of God. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. You only have to genuinely read the KJV to know it condemns all its rivals as being humanistic and full of errors. This is also a Scriptural thing because the Scriptures testify of Jesus (John 5:39), and “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). In other words, Scripture exalts the Lord Jesus and reveals itself to be the Word of God – whereas corrupt copies and translations reveal that they fall short on this very point.** And it is interesting that those who are most prejudiced against the KJV actually avoid using it! This is like a person who is offered medicine to cure his sickness but refuses to try the medicine and claims it won’t work – how can he possibly know if the medicine will work unless he tries it? So, with the KJV, the proof of the pudding is in the eating – read it and you will see its matchless value!

So God has given His Word to His people by inspiration, and He has continued to give His Word to every generation of His people (according to His promises) through providential preservation. In inspiration, He has used His chosen people the prophets; in preservation, He has used His chosen people in every age, the Church, not apostate and unbelieving Jews, not apostate and unbelieving Roman Catholics, and not apostate and unbelieving Protestants (Ecumenists), but true believers.

I challenged a Reformed pastor some years ago by questioning why he would use a Bible version based largely on a Roman Catholic manuscript (i.e. Vaticanus). He replied that God used Jews to preserve His Word, and he had no problem believing that God could use the Roman Catholic Church to preserve His Word also. This answer is truly astounding! Firstly, it denies and distorts the historical facts – the Jews who kept God’s Word in the Old Testament through extreme reverence for every jot and tittle, can hardly be compared to the corrupt Roman Catholic Church, the Jesuit scholars, and the modern Liberals, who are altogether without principle when it comes to handling the Word of God! Secondly, his answer cuts right

across Scripture! It contradicts the fact that **God gave His Word to His own people**, and promised to keep it for all generations of His own people, not to unbelievers! So here is the ‘red herring’: It is not a matter of what God *could* do, but of what God *did* do and what He *promised* He would do! This is just a sample of the foolishness and treachery we continually hear from those who will denigrate the KJV and defend modern Bible versions at all costs. **It is a great blight on today’s Church, that the majority of those who say they are “Reformed” in doctrine, have abandoned the Reformed doctrine of Scripture – i.e. they have abandoned the doctrine of Scripture held by the Reformers and Puritans whom they so love to quote!** (Practically speaking, this includes most Presbyterians and most Reformed Baptists!)

But the Scriptures are the best testimony to themselves, and although even the worst of Bible versions contain much of the Word of God, **the KJV stands alone for its accuracy and excellence in every way.** Faithful to the original texts given to the prophets of old, the KJV is the most faithful witness to the Lord Jesus.

Let us finish this part of our study with the central purpose of the Scriptures – i.e. to testify of Jesus Christ:

8. **The Pre-eminence of The Lord Jesus Christ in the Scriptures.** The doctrine of the pre-eminence of Christ in all things is the most important lesson of all, and **the most important implication of the doctrine of Scripture.** Of course, alongside this is the doctrine of **The Trinity**, which teaches us Jesus is the second Person of the Godhead. Let us draw to a close with this most important doctrine, and see as we do, how the KJV is absolutely pre-eminent in upholding this doctrine of Christ’s pre-eminence.

- ***He must have the preeminence ... “in all things” (Colossians 1:18)***
- ***He is First (John 1:1-18)*** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.... 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”
- ***He is Last, and has the last say (Hebrews 1:1-3)*** – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”
- ***He is the Great Subject of the Scriptures (John 5:39-40)*** – “Search the scriptures ... they are they which testify of me”
- ***He is the Eternal God Manifest in the Flesh (1 Timothy 3:16)*** – “....God was manifest in the flesh....”

Revelation 1:11-18, “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last

Fear not; I am the first and the last: I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Here is a classic example of the corruption of Scripture by the Romanised text and

translations – the context of this statement makes it clear it is Jesus who is speaking, yet the testimony to Jesus is weakened greatly by omitting from the modern text the first few words, “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last”. Use the KJV and give Christ the pre-eminence!

A quick comparison of readings will soon determine which Text gives more honour to Christ: The NIV omits “**Lord**” 39 times, “**Jesus**” 87 times, and “**Christ**” 52 times. The NASV omits “Jesus” 31 times more than the NIV. (Keith Piper – “Serious Omissions in the NIV Bible”).

A few examples of compared readings will show how Modern Versions based on the Critical Text have weakened the doctrine of Christ and Christianity in general, in hundreds of places favouring Pagan, New Age, and Roman Catholic belief systems (this of course reflects the doctrinal standing of some of those involved in the translation work). And I would highly recommend to any sceptics or those who have never heard of such things before, that they just simply make the comparisons. The “proof of the pudding is in the eating”, and you really have to be wilfully blind not to see the difference between the AV on one side of the great divide and all the modern versions on the other side. TBS puts out an article showing some important comparisons of readings. There is also a little tract called “The Eye-opener Tract” which is similar. Here are some examples of the kind of comparisons revealed by such publications:

2 Corinthians 1:14, 5:12, 7:4, Galatians 6:4, James 1:9 – “**pride**” introduced but less often in NKJV

The NIV removes “meekness” 27 times compared to the AV, and “honesty” 13 times, replacing it with vague words. (Keith Piper)

John 1:42 – “Cephas .. by interpretation, a stone” (NIV – “Peter”) c.f. **Matt 16:18** – Jesus called Peter a “stone”, not the “rock” upon which the Church is built.

Acts 15:19 – “are turned to God” (NKJV & NIV “**are turning**”) c.f. **1 Corinthians 1:18, 2 Corinthians 2:15, 1 John 2:8** – a gradual salvation by works not grace!

1 Corinthians 1:18 – “but unto us which are saved” NJKV, NIV, NASV ‘**are being saved**’

2 Corinthians 2:15 – “in them that are saved” NKJV, NIV & NASV ‘**are being saved**’

Hebrews 10:14 – “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” (NKJV – ‘**are being sanctified**’)

1 Corinthians 9:27 – “I keep under my body” (NIV – “beat”, NASV – “buffet”). See **Colossians 2:23**

Hebrews 1:3 – “when he had by himself purged our sins” (NKJV – footnote) NB: Without a human priesthood and ongoing sacrifice (the Mass).

Romans 11:32, Hebrews 3:18, 4:6,11 – “**obedience**” replaces believing in NKJV, NIV etc.

Isaiah 14:12 – “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning” NIV – “O Morning Star” – only reference to the devil’s personal name removed and

17 Introduction to the Doctrine of Scripture & Outline of the Origin & Witness of TBS – Trevor W Sullivan
confused with the Lord Jesus Christ (*Revelation 2:28, 22:16*). (NKJV – footnote ‘literally day star’) “Morning stars” in *Job 38:7* is a different word (Strong’s Concordance).

1 John 4:3 – “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God, and this is that spirit of antichrist.” (NKJV – footnote) Christ is the unique divine/human Person, the only begotten Son of God – not the New Age spark or ‘christ within.’

Revelation 1:11 – “I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last” (NKJV – footnote)

NB: The British and Foreign Bible Society (now UBS) deliberately went ecumenical. Why would any Christian today be surprised that the Bible translations they produce are ecumenical Bibles, deliberately made more acceptable to the Roman Catholic Church? Since then Protestant churches and even most Reformed churches have abandoned the doctrine of Scripture held by the Reformers, and now use Rome’s ‘Bibles’, rejecting the AV. The AV is a Protestant Bible! It does exalt Christ alone! The work of Reformation must continue by God’s grace.