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The Unlearned Men

The True Genealogy and Genesis of King-James-Version-Onlyism



Doug Kutilek

B.A., MA, Baptist Bible College,
Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew
Old Testament, Hebrew Union College

Robert Dick Wilson, the great Princeton Seminary Old Testament scholar who died in 1930, was well-practiced in exposing and refuting error in matters of Biblical studies. In one of his writings, he insisted on the importance of tracing every error back to its original source. His research had convinced him that almost invariably any commonly-held but false view could be traced back to a single writer, and that this error had become widespread, not because other writers had independently investigated the same evidence and arrived at the same conclusions, but merely because other writers were lazy and simply parroted the conclusions of the first writer. In short, the false conclusions were naively adopted and the evidence ignored.

Benjamin Wilkinson

In the investigation of King-James-Version-Onlyism, (KJVO) just such a genealogy of error can be easily traced. All writers who embrace the KJV-only position have derived their views ultimately from Seventh-day Adventist missionary, theology professor and college president, Benjamin G. Wilkinson (d.1968), and then through one of two or three of his spiritual descendants. In 1930, he wrote *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, a book of several hundred pages which attracted almost no attention in its day (no doubt because it was awash in a vast ocean of unmitigated error).

In that book, Wilkinson attacked the Westcott Hort Greek text, in large measure by attacking Westcott and Hort personally (the common but fallacious *ad Hominem* method; I exposed and refuted his line of argument in "Erasmus and His Theology," *The Biblical Evangelist*, vol. 19, # 20, Oct. 15, 1985, pp. 3,4).

He also expresses a strong opposition to the *English Revised Version New Testament* (1881), in particular objecting to it because it

robbed Adventism of two favorite proof-texts, one allegedly teaching Gentile Sabbath keeping (Acts 13:42), the other misused by the Adventists to teach soul sleep (Hebrews 9:27). I documented some of Wilkinson's grosser errors in "Wilkinson's Incredible Errors," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 1, no.3, Fall, 1990.

Wilkinson was the first to misapply Psalm 12:6,7 specifically to the KJV as though the passage were a promise to preserve the words of verse six (when in fact the promise is the preservation of the persecuted saints of verse five, as I demonstrated in my essay, "A Careful Investigation of Psalm 12:6, 7," *The Biblical Evangelist*, vol. 17, no. 21, 10-14-83, later issued in booklet form as "Why Psalm 12:6,7 is not a Promise of the Divine Preservation of Scripture").

Wilkinson also manufactured the erroneous idea that the medieval Waldensian Bible was based on the Old Latin version and not the Vulgate, and that the Old Latin version was Byzantine in its text-type (all of which is demonstrably false, as I showed in "The Truth about Waldensian Bible and the Old Latin Version," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 2, no. 2, Summer, 1991). Thus Wilkinson, is the first generation of KJV Onlyism.

J.J.Ray

Wilkinson's book lay unused and unknown (and how good it would have been had its errors died with him!), until 1955 when J.J. Ray, who is self-described as a "business manager, missionary, and Bible teacher" published a little volume, *God Wrote Only One Bible* (Ray is apparently still living, but we can find out nothing about him, and he refuses to reply to certified letters; if anyone can supply specific information about this man, we would greatly appreciate it). In his book, Ray heavily plagiarized, without note or acknowledgement, Wilkinson's book, repeating and propagating wholesale Wilkinson's errors and misstatements (the fact of Ray's plagiarism and dependence is documented in Gary Hudson's article, "The Real 'Eye Opener,'" *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 2, no. 1, Spring, 1991).

Ray's book has gone through numerous printings, with total copies numbering perhaps in the tens of thousands. I first saw a copy myself in 1971 as a first year student at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, where I was also introduced—by students from Ohio—to Rockman's *Bible Babel* and Fuller's *Which Bible?* It is of interest that Ray acknowledges that there ar

are some erroneous translations in the KJV which do demand revision (pp. 30, 31, 102). A position today's KJVO mainstream would consider rank heresy.

David Otis Fuller

The other chief disseminator of Wilkinson's misinformation was David Otis Fuller, a Regular Baptist pastor. Fuller would be counted as part of the third generation, since, according to Fuller's own words in the dedication of *Counterfeit of Genuine* (1975), Ray's book *God Wrote Only One Bible* "moved me to begin this fascinating study." Ray and his book were also repeatedly noted on pp. 2-4 of *Which Bible?* I imagine the scenario went something like this: Fuller reads Ray; Fuller writes Ray for more information; Ray directs Fuller to Wilkinson; Fuller reads Wilkinson, is lead astray, then reprints Wilkinson in *Which Bible?*

In 1970, Fuller issued *Which Bible?*, which was in its 5th edition by 1975 and contained 350 pages. Of those pages, almost half were taken from Wilkinson's *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, with some editing, first to conceal from view Wilkinson's cult affiliation, and second, to correct some of the worst of his errors.

According to D.A. Waite, long associated with Fuller in KJVO matters, Fuller knew full-well that Wilkinson was an Adventist and deliberately concealed that fact from the reader, and even from the publisher (see note at end of article), because the Baptist brethren "wouldn't understand." Fuller's haphazard "back and fill" operation aimed at editing out some of Wilkinson's grosser errors failed miserably to make a silk purse out of a literary sow's ear, with most errors left untouched (see the expose by myself and Gary Hudson, "The Great 'Which Bible?' Fraud," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 1, no. 2, Summer, 1990).

As reproduced in *Which Bible?*, Wilkinson's material is still plagued by blatant misstatements of the facts, distortions, misrepresentations and half-truths (see my article, "Wilkinson's Incredible Errors," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 1, no. 3, Fall 1990; what else would you expect from a cultic writer?).

It is David Otis Fuller who knowingly misrepresented the views of Spurgeon regard-

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"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)

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P.O. Box 144441

Austin, TX 78714

Phone (512) 218-8022

Director/Editor

Larry Wessels

Director of Research

Steve Morrison

E-mail Address:

cdebater@aol.com

Websites:

www.biblequery.org

www.inerrancy.org

www.muslimhope.com

THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." - I John 5:21



Larry Wessels

Idolatry (worship of, excessive attachment or veneration for, something or someone that does not constitute the true and living God) is rampant throughout the world, a fact that the Lord Jesus attested to in Matthew 7:13-23. Jesus is saying that people who really believe they are Christians are not going to make it to heaven, let alone all of the pagan idolaters and false religious practitioners.

America, which is not a Christian nation in the Biblical sense, is as idolatrous as any nation on earth. The American landscape is filled with idolatry such as the worship of sex (internet pornography, strip clubs, etc.), sports (sports papers and channels are high priests of religious sports fanatics), computer games, money, soap operas, music, etc. Anything that replaces true and complete devotion to Christ (Matt. 10:34-39), even one's own family, is considered idolatry.

Within this ugly framework of idolatry comes yet another form known as bibliolatry, worship of the Bible. This peculiar brand of idolatry comes from what is known as the "King James Only" movement, propagated by such people as Pensacola Bible Institute preacher Peter S. Ruckman (author of The Last Grenade, etc.), Chick Publications of sensationalist comic strip fame (Let's Weigh the Evidence by Barry Burton, 1983), industrial design teacher Gail Riplinger (author of New Age Bible Versions, 1993), self-proclaimed "prophet" Texe Marrs (who promotes Riplinger's book along with "New Age" conspiracy theories of all types) and others. These *KJV Only* promoters argue that all other Bible translations are untrustworthy (in some cases, "Satanic") and only the King James Version is the true Word of God. Those who disagree are attacked as being guilty of blasphemy, heresy and as being "enemies of God's Word."

Ruckman stated that the first absolutely, inerrant version of the Bible came out in March 1851 by the American Bible Society (KJV, Oxford edition). Some *KJV Onlyites* have stated that the English KJV is essential to salvation and that a person cannot be "born again" (John 3:3-8) unless they are using a KJV! In fact, some *KJV Only* authors have declared that accurate Bible translations into other languages such as Japanese, for example, cannot be done unless they are translated from an English KJV! Foreign missions, therefore, cannot be done without a KJV. Placing a Bible translation on par with salvation and the finished work of Christ is another Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

The Bible comes from inspired, original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts (II Tim. 3:15-17). *KJV Onlyites* say the English KJV translation is inspired rather than the original manuscripts and by inference then they are saying that the only people who had the right to translate the manuscripts were the KJV translators! In essence, they claim no pure Word of God before 1611! Nonsense! Faithful translations abound, NASB, NIV, NKJV, etc.— Heb. 4:12. God preserves His Word.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

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-ding the Textus Receptus, KJV, and English Revised Version (I exposed Fuller's deception with extensive quotation and documentation from Spurgeon's own writings in, "Spurgeon and Bible Translation: the Abuse Continues," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 1, no. 1, Spring, 1990, and then in a booklet "An Answer to David Otis Fuller" by Pilgrim Publications).

And it is this same David Otis Fuller who grossly misrepresented the views of Robert Dick Wilson concerning the English Bible. Fuller claimed that the views of Wilson and himself in this regard were exactly the same, that is, that Wilson, too, found no errors in the English translation and none in the underlying text in Hebrew and Greek. Anyone familiar with Wilson's writing at all knows that Wilson believed that only the original text was inspired, that often the translation must be corrected on the basis of the original, and that, though current Hebrew copies of the Old Testament are generally reliable, sometimes the ancient versions (Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate, etc.) preserve the true original reading in places where the Hebrew has been corrupted in the copying process (see Wilson's remarks in *Studies in the Book of Daniel*, vol. 1, pp. 84-85, and *A Specific Investigation of the Old Testament*, p. 61).

Fuller also dragged Anglican Priest John William Burgon in as a "witness" for his own point of view, even founding a society named in Burgon's honor, though the society propagated views the late Dean Burgon would have rejected. Contrary to David Otis Fuller, not only did Burgon not believe the Textus Receptus was unalterably perfect and the KJV unchangeably correct, he was convinced that the Textus Receptus needed extensive revision (proposing more than 120 changes in Matthew's Gospel alone), and stated in print that in some places the *English Revised New Testament* of 1881 was a decided improvement over KJV obscurities and inaccuracies (see the direct quotations from Burgon's famous book, *The Revision Revised*, in *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 4, 11, 16; and Gary Hudson's article, "Why Dean Burgon Would Not Join the Dean Burgon Society").

Fuller, in summary, was ready and willing to conceal the truth about Wilkinson, and deliberately distort the opinions of Spurgeon and Wilson, men he claimed to admire, and to invoke the name of John William Burgon, to deceive his readers and to bolster his own views, even though his (Fuller's) views were very much at odds with the beliefs of these men. Such blatant dishonesty and disregard for the truth does not fill one with confidence in examining anything Fuller wrote or edited on the Bible translation controversy, and yet Fuller is a "founding father" and "leading light" of the KJVO movement!!

The book Fuller edited, *Which Bible?*, is a hodge-podge of writings, many by authors such as Robert Dick Wilson, Zane Hodges and others, who distinctly reject the Textus Receptus only/KJV-only point of view (and at least one of the writers who gave Fuller permission to include something he had written, complained about the way Fuller had altered his point of view in the editing process), and actually gives some information which refutes some of the extremes of the KJVO movement. In spite of its inherent defects, contradictory points of view, and frequent errors

Which Bible? In numerous printings in at least five editions has had a very extensive influence in shaping much of the current debate and disseminating much of the misinformation that characterizes KJV-onlyism today. Without any doubt at all, the vast majority of this highly destructive controversy is a direct result of Fuller's deceptive and inflammatory book, *Which Bible?*, and that he must bear the odium of stirring up strife among brethren (Proverbs 6:19).

Peter S. Ruckman

Also in the third generation, without question the most arrogant and abusive of the KJVO partisans is Peter S. Ruckman, who passes for a Baptist preacher and whose rantings have been thrust upon the public in a monthly publication *Bible Believers Bulletin*, but especially in a series of uniformly bound and uniformly bad books that are claimed to be commentaries on various Bible books, topical books on Bible related subjects, and books related to the Bible text and translation issue. All of his writings are characterized by the most vehement vilification and denunciation of everyone and anyone, lumping together great defenders of the faith such as B.B. Warfield, A.T. Robertson, and Charles Spurgeon (when he's not falsely claiming Spurgeon's support for his own views), with the like of Wellhausen, Hitler and Harry Fosdick.

Far worse is the torrent of errors that flood each work and virtually each page of Ruckman's every published work. He single-handedly injected more misinformation into the controversy than all the other writers combined. It is also he who first propagated the erroneous idea that the KJV has no copyright (I refuted this error with extensive documentation in "The KJV is a Copyrighted Translation," first published in *The Biblical Evangelist*, vol. 17, no. 11, May 27, 1983, and reissued in a revised and expanded form in *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 4, no. 3, 1993).

It was he who manufactured out of whole cloth the false claim that no Protestant scholar has ever personally examined the Vaticanus manuscript (see for my refutation, "Ruckmanism: A Refuge of Lies," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 4, no. 4, January, 1994).

It was he who created out of thin air the absurd notion that there was no Greek translation of the Old Testament until one was produced by Origen in the third century A.D. (proven false by me in "The Septuagint: Riplinger's Blunders, Believe It or Not," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 5, no. 2, Third Quarter, 1994).

And how was Ruckman drawn into the fray? What book influenced him? Ruckman's first-born book on the subject (unfortunately not still-born), *The Bible Babel* (1964) betrays unmistakable signs of heavy dependence on Ray. Ruckman's chart of "corrupt" texts and versions facing p. 28 is an abbreviation of Ray, pp.56-70; Ruckman's "tree" of "good" versions facing p. 73 is a virtual reproduction, with very minor alterations, of Ray's chart on p. 109; on p. viii of the footnote references, Ruckman specifically mention Ray's book, though giving the title as "*God Only Wrote One Book*," which is typical of Ruckman's level of accuracy. Just as Wilkinson misapplied Psalm 12:6,7 to the KJV, as did Ray, so did Ruckman. Furthermore, in his so-called *The Christian's Handbook of Manuscript Evidence* (1970), Ruckman commends Ray (along with Edward F. Hills) as one of a very few

writers on text and translation issues (p. 1).

Edward F. Hills and Others

Edward F. Hills, who wrote two books that in part address the text and translation controversy, *Believing Bible Study* (1967) and the *King James Version Defended* (1956,1973), and who wrote a chapter on Burgon in Fuller's *Which Bible?* The theme of Hill's work is the defense of, not just the Byzantine text-type in general as the true original form of the text of the New Testament, but the defense of the specific Textus Receptus form of the Byzantine text, including the unique (i.e., unsupported) readings in the Textus Receptus introduced by Erasmus (the Textus Receptus and the majority text as published by Hodges and Farstad differ in 1,338 specifics).

Hills, who did not advocate the inerrancy of the KJV nor the Origenian origin of the Septuagint, is neither a founding father nor a star of the first magnitude of the KJVO movement, but may be viewed as a secondary tributary, whose works are commonly cited wherever his words can be made to support a writer's point. On the whole, Hills' writings are much better informed and more accurate than nearly all of the KJVO literature, though he writes as one blinded to evidence by his presuppositions. An analysis of Hills and his point of view was made by Dr. James A. Prince, "King James Only View of Edward F. Hill," *Baptist Biblical Heritage*, vol. 1, no. 4, Winter, 1990-1991.

From Ruckman have sprung, like the serpent heads from Hydra, a teeming uncongealed mass of incredibly misinformed writers, editors, preachers and evangelists, imagining that they are defending the true faith when in fact their ignorance of the truth is almost immeasurable. As John Broadus was wont to say, it is amazing how much ignorance some men have been able to accumulate. In truth, there are natural limits to everything, except human stupidity (magnified by stubbornness).

Among those heavily influenced by Fuller can be named D.A. Waite, who now does a great deal of his own misleading, and E.L. Bynum. Jack Chick, whose comic books espoused KJV-onlyism, has acknowledged in letters that he is entirely dependant for his information on Fuller and Ruckman. I am reminded immediately of an ancient Jewish proverb: "If you wish to strangle, be hanged on a good tree," that is, if you must rely on an authority, you do well to make sure it is a reliable one.

Now the women are getting in on the KJV-onlyism act, promoting and profiting from the gullible multitude seduced by the sleight-of-hand tactics generally employed. The latest piece of perverse propaganda is a huge pile of waste paper called *New Age Bible Versions* written by Mrs. G.A. Riplinger. The lady says that God was the "author" and she is His "secretary" hence "G" (God) "A" (and) Riplinger. She alleges a Satanic inspired conspiracy on the part of Bible versions which is sponsored by the "New Age Movement."

This was just "too much" for even some KJV-onlyites to swallow, and Riplinger's book has been dubbed as "an undependable book" by David W. Cloud in *O Timothy* magazine (vol. 2, no. 8, 1994). Cloud remarks that the claim by Riplinger that God was the "author" is something that "even the most radical charismatic prophets hesitate to use such intemperate language." Nevertheless the book has received the unqualified endorsement of KJV-

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onlyites such as Ruckman, Chick, Texe Marrs, J.R. Chambers and others who are peddling it. There are a lot of KJV-onlyites on the mailing list of these men, hence a lot of money to be made by selling this book to the gullible.

Summary

From Wilkinson in the first generation, through Ray in the second, and Fuller and Ruckman in the third, the entire KJVO movement has arisen, and every present-day KJV-onlyite is a direct descendant of these ill-informed men. As the movement has progressed from one generation to the next, with each new generation arising from intellectually-incestuous in-breeding, it has become more radicalized and extreme.

First, the KJV was viewed as "better" than other English versions, though not above some revision and correction (thus Ray); then, the view was taken that the KJV was "error-free" (but not without the insoluble problems; thus Fuller); then, the KJV came to be accepted as "perfect," and infallible, unalterably exact, "superior" even to the Greek and Hebrew texts from which it was made, and in fact contained "new revelations" not found in the Greek and Hebrew (thus Ruckman); and now is alleged by some that a person "cannot be saved" unless through the English KJV (thus Hyles and others), and all foreign Bibles should be revised to conform to the KJV a point of view so absurd that only an American could believe it.

Every KJVO advocate is a lineal descendant of Wilkinson, Ray, Fuller and Ruckman, and all are the victims (unwitting, I hope) of the multitude of gross distortions, errors, corruptions, misunderstandings, misrepresentations, and, in some cases, outright lies of these men. These men are collectively a bruised reed of a staff, upon which if a man leans, it will pierce his hand. They are unreliable in the extreme and are deserving of no confidence as to the truthfulness of anything they affirm. But I have no doubt that some will blissfully continue in their ignorance, willfully ignorant of the truth, not seeing because they do not want to see.

"So then Wilkinson, when he had conceived, brought forth Ray, and Ray, who he was fullgrown, brought forth Fuller, Ruckman, Waite, Chick, Riplinger, Hyles, Bynum,"

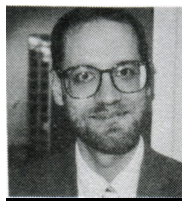
Note: "Robert Kregel of Kregel Publications personally told me that Fuller begged him to publish his book but did not inform Kregel that it contained the writings of an Adventist." -Bob L. Ross, Director, Pilgrim Publications. Contact Pilgrim Publications, (713) 477-4261 or e-mail: pilgrimpublications@aol.com, for back issues of the *Baptist Biblical Heritage* magazine.

The King James Only Controversy

This excellent reference book answers those who claim the King James Version is the only true Word of God. In a readable and responsible style, author James White traces the development of Bible translations old and new and investigates the differences between new versions and the 1611 Authorized Version of the KJV.

BK-22, \$9.00 + S & H, 286 pages

New Age Bible Versions Refuted



Dr. James White

*Director of Alpha and Omega Ministries,
author of The King James Only Controversy,
his website is www.aomin.org.*

As an apologist working on the front lines in dealing with the claims of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses), the Mormons and in debating Roman Catholic apologists all across the United States, I have only once or twice encountered a work that contained more misrepresentation of historical facts, of cited sources of documentation, and of the writings of those who are being reviewed. *New Age Bible Versions*, written by Gail Riplinger, shows not the slightest concern for accurate representation. Context is a term that is utterly lost in the maze of disconnected, disjointed citations thrown at the reader on almost every page. Utterly illogical argumentation carries the day in Riplinger's attempt to find a New Age conspiracy behind every bush. Even the deity of Christ is undermined so as to maintain the supposed inerrancy of a translation, that being the King James Version. And worst of all, Riplinger attacks the memories and characters of good men of God, such as Edwin Palmer, without once differentiating between the beliefs and actions of such men and the likes of New Age wackos and Satanists. She misrepresents their writings and words over and over again.

Those are some pretty harsh words, but the documentation of these statements is easily found. All one has to do is take Gail Riplinger's book, *New Age Bible Versions*, and then take the time to find such books as Barker's *The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation*, Palmer's *The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit*, and John Khlenberger's *Words About the Word*, and examine the references provided at the end of the book. The number of complete mis-citations and altered quotations will quickly prove the correctness of my statements.

First, one simply cannot believe the "facts" that are presented in this book, for quite often, they are not facts at all. There are dozens and dozens of charts throughout the book, allegedly comparing the KJV with the supposed "New Versions," which she calls "mutant versions" (p. 29). Yet, again these charts are simply wrong. On page 22 we are told that the "New Versions" delete the call to take up the cross, when they do not. We are told that while the KJV tells us to bless our enemies, the new versions tell us to call our enemies bastards, which, of course, they do not.

At times the facts are 180 degrees opposite of what is claimed by Riplinger. For example, on page 99 we read, "All new versions, based on a tiny percentage of corrupt Greek manuscripts, make the fatefully frightening addition of three words in Revelation 14:1." She then quotes the passage from the NIV, which reads, "...the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 Who had his name and his Father's name written

on their foreheads." The phrase "his name and" is not found in the KJV. She continues on page 100, "Will the unwary, reading Revelation 14:1 in a recent version, be persuaded that the Bible sanctions and encourages the taking of 'his name' on their foreheads before they receive his Father's name?" Such sounds truly ominous, until one discovers that in point of fact it is the *Textus Receptus*, the Greek Text of the New Testament utilized by the KJV translators, that alone does not contain the phrase, "his name." The *Majority Text* contains it, as do all the Greek texts. We have merely a mistake on the part, most probably, of Desiderius Erasmus, the Roman Catholic priest who collated what became the *Textus Receptus*. He had major problems in producing the text of Revelation and merely skipped over the phrase referring to the Lamb's name. Sadly, reading the *New Age Bible Versions* could lead to an attack on the NIV on the basis of a basic mistake.

The arguments put forward in this book at times border on the ludicrous. The chart found on page 26 of her book should fascinate anyone seeking logical thinking. On page 232 we are warned against the letter "s." Riplinger writes, "Watch out for the letter 's'-sin, Satan, Sodom, Saul(had to be changed to Paul). The added 's' here is the hiss of the serpent." Such argumentation would lead us to abandon such terms as salvation, Savior, and sanctification as well! Indeed, on page 174 our author recommends the KJV's use of the term "sober" over other translations, possibly missing the "hiss" of that "s" on "sober." I, as a Reformed theologian, was certainly amazed to discover that, according to Riplinger, the "Five Points" of Calvinism form a Satanic pentagram(p.231)! And everyone should surely take heed to Mrs. Riplinger's use of "acrostic algebra" on page 147. Here, in a passage reminiscent of the identification of Henry Kissinger as the anti-Christ two decades ago, Mrs. Riplinger demonstrates how the abbreviations for the *New American Standard* and the *New International Version* add up to the word "sin" when the *Authorized Version* is taken away. Not only is such argumentation utterly without merit, but it is interesting to note that throughout the rest of the book Riplinger abbreviates the *New American Standard Version Bible* as NASB, but solely for the purpose of this trip into "acrostic algebra," she changes to the NASV, an abbreviation used nowhere else in the book. Indeed, over and over and over again the arguments that are put forward could easily be turned around and used against the KJV and Riplinger's position. The use of such argumentation should warn the reader that all is not well in *New Age Bible Versions*.

Double standards are rampant throughout the book. After attacking all modern versions for daring to use the term "one" in their translations, she fails to attack the KJV for using it in her own citation *Απερὸς δεκά* page 93. When the modern versions do not follow the KJV in rendering the Greek term as Diana, she accused them of being ignorant of mythology on page 127; but when they recognize similar gods in Old Testament passages, she accused them of rejecting the one true God in favor of false gods.

And in what would probably be one of the most amusing examples of double standards, if it were not so sad, Riplinger attacks all who are Reformed, or "Calvinists," in many places. (continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

But she seems to be unaware of the simple fact that amongst the KJV translators you have the like of a Doctor John Fainolds, a Puritan! And surely Mrs. Riplinger must be aware of the theological beliefs of the Puritans! They were reformed men, Calvinists, who strongly believed in God's sovereignty and the deadness of man in sin. If Edwin Palmer's Calvinistic beliefs make the NIV one of Satan's tricks, what about the KJV?

It seems that as long as someone had anything at all to do with the production of the NIV, it is fair game to not only impugn their character, but to misrepresent their words. For example, on page 89 of *New Age Bible Versions*, we read the following, "Even NIV translator Larry Walker applauds the rejection of the Hebrew Old Testament for the Ugaritic wherein the gods of pantheism preside." The reference given is to Walker's article *The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation*, specifically pages 101-102. Yet, one will search in vain throughout the article for the slightest reference to a rejection of the Hebrew Old Testament in favor of anything else at all. The citation simply has nothing to do with the allegation that is made.

On page 165 we have another personal attack upon an NIV translator, Herbert Wolf, for his defense of the very logical, scholarly translation of the Hebrew "zedekah" in poetic contexts by the term "prosperity." Ignoring the very solid, reasonable defense given by Wolf, Riplinger chooses instead to play games with the man's name, writing, "Perhaps the armour and breastplate of righteousness does not fit Mr. Wolf and his pack because they are puffed up and paunchy, because they have devoured souls (Ezekial 22:25)." She goes on to say, "Paul said that those like Wolf, who teach that gain is godliness are 'destitute of the truth.' Equating financial prosperity with spirituality is a common characteristic of the New Christianity and the New Age." Of course, anyone can see that Wolf said nothing at all about equating prosperity and spirituality; this is mere fantasy on Riplinger's part. Yet the book is filled from cover to cover with such misrepresentation and wild imagination.

Riplinger moves on to attack another NIV translator, Richard Longenecker. On page 345, after saying that the NIV "joins the cults," she massacres a quote from Longenecker, again from the book, *The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation*. She introduces Longenecker's quotation as follows: "To Longnecker, sic), Jesus was 'chosen' to receive the title 'Son of God' because he earned it through 'obedience.' He says, that Jesus, [then quoting] ...exemplified in his life an unparalleled obedience...[H]e has the greatest right to the title...God's son par excellence." A quick glance at page 125 of the original source reveals yet once again that Riplinger has misrepresented yet another Christian scholar. Longenecker says nothing of the kind, and in fact gives a very solid, orthodox, Biblically based discussion of the Sonship of Jesus Christ. In light of this it is amazing to read again on page 345 that Riplinger says, "Both Longnecker (sic) and Carlson (sic) are expressing a view similar to that held by early adoptionists, Dynamic Monarchists or Eboinities." Not only is this utterly untrue of the other person she mentioned, D. A. Carson.

tions are due to horrifically poor research on Riplinger's part. For example, she misspells the names of both Longenecker and Carson on page 345, even though ostensibly quoting from their books while accusing them of being cultists. She misspells the term "Mormon" as well; indeed, every time it appears in the book it is spelled incorrectly. Possibly she simply read other people's books and then got all her bad information from those secondary sources. Who knows? All I know is that the book is one long misrepresentation from the preface to the index.

It is Palmer himself, the editor of the *NIV Study Bible* until his death in 1980, who comes in for the most obvious personal attack on the part of Riplinger. I can see no other conclusions, having examined Riplinger's attacks upon Palmer, than either she is grossly dishonest in her methods or is completely ignorant of the writings of Edwin Palmer and what he actually believed. For example, on page 344 she attempts to parallel Palmer's quotation, "The Holy Spirit did not beget the Son" with a quotation from Brigham Young (Mormon "prophet") from the *Journal of Discourses*. Of course, Palmer, in the context in which he was speaking, was exactly right, since he was speaking of the internal operations of the Trinity. Young, on the other hand, was denying the Christian doctrine of the Virgin Birth. Possibly, Riplinger has never read either Palmer's statements, or those of Brigham Young, and hence did not know that she was mixing contexts so badly.

The same is to be said of her citation of Palmer's words with regards to the deity of Christ. On page 2 she quotes Palmer in the following form: "If few clear and decisive texts say that Jesus is God." This is taken as sure evidence of Palmer's supposed heresy. Yet, is this accurate? No, yet once again context has been thrown out the window. Palmer is actually talking about the rendering of John 1:18 in the NIV. His words are, "John 1:18, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, is one of those few and clear and decisive texts that declare that Jesus is God. But, without fault of its own, the KJV, following inferior manuscripts, altered what the Holy Spirit said through John, calling Jesus 'Son.'" My what a difference context makes! And Palmer is exactly right. There are less than ten places in all the New Testament that could possibly apply the term (God) to Jesus Christ; if that is not "few" then what is?

In passing, I wish to note that Riplinger even misleads her readers regarding the deity of Christ in an effort to maintain the accuracy of the KJV. I am referring to two important passages, Titus 2:13 and 2 Peter 1:1. The NIV translates Titus 2:13, "While we wait for the blessed hope the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ," and 2 Peter 1:1 says, "To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours." In both cases the KJV interrupts the proper translation, splitting up the terms "God" and "Savior," resulting in the phraseology, "our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ," as if two persons, God the Father, and Jesus Christ the Savior, are being referred to when this is not the case. Now, on page 370, with reference to Titus 2:13, Riplinger says, "All Greek texts have the wording of the KJV, 'God and our Savior Jesus Christ.' None render it as the new versions do." In reality, the reason that the NIV and NASB

NASB (and I might add the NKJV) and others accurately translate these passages as "our God and Savior Jesus Christ" is due to what is known as Granville Sharp's Rule. Without going into detail, the KJV translators were not aware of this grammatical feature of koine Greek, and hence did not translate these passages accurately. The Jehovah's Witnesses mistranslate these passages purposefully, of course, for obvious reasons. Now, if I were looking for conspiracies, I'd have to identify Riplinger as a secret Jehovah's Witness trying to infiltrate the Church. Of course, I know that is not the case and would never make such an argument, yet this is the kind of argument presented throughout her misleading book.

On at least three different occasions Riplinger attacks Palmer's belief in the sovereignty of God in saving mankind. Twice she mis-cites his words, first on page 2, then again in the exact same form on page 231. Here is her quote from the very beginning of her book on page 2: "The NIV's chief editor vaunts his version's heresy saying: 'This [his NIV] shows the great error that is so prevalent today in some orthodox Protestant circle, namely the error that regeneration depends upon faith...and that in order to be born again man must first accept Jesus as Savior.'" I agree wholeheartedly with Dr. Palmer. Men must be made new creatures by the Holy Spirit before they can have true, saving faith. Romans 8:5-9 teaches this with glaring clarity in any translation. And it was, in fact, this belief in salvation by grace—free, unmerited grace—that spawned the Reformation itself. It is Riplinger who here denies the Protestant heritage. But even in doing this she misrepresents Palmer yet once again! Riplinger says that Palmer is talking about the NIV. He is not! The NIV is nowhere mentioned on page 83 of the book being cited. Hence, her whole point is based upon the insertion of the little phrase "his NIV" where it does not belong! Anyone who would read Palmer's work would shake their head in disbelief at the complete misuse of his words by Riplinger.

This topic was so important for Riplinger that she addressed it again on page 231. Here she says that 1 Thessalonians 1:4 translated by the NIV is so "scandalous and sacrilegious" that it will "stun and shock the reader." One has to wonder what Riplinger would say about the following quotation from Martin Luther:

"If any man ascribe ought of his salvation, even the least part, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace, and has not learned Jesus Christ."

* This is excerpted from the booklet mentioned below.

New Age Bible Versions Refuted

This informative booklet by James White conclusively demonstrates the travesty of Gail Riplinger's so-called "research."

BK-23, \$6 + S&H, 52 pages

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James White, author of The King James Only Controversy and director of Alpha and Omega Ministries debates Gail Riplinger, author of New Age Bible Versions in this lively radio exchange. Best seller!

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Gary Hudson

REVISION IS NO “MYTH”!

A strange and new doctrine concerning the King James Bible is held by some today. It is said that the KJV is an absolutely “*infallible*” translation that “*perfectly preserves the Word of God in English*” from 1611 to the present. In this insistence on absolute perfection for “every word” of the translation, it is common to hear some argue that the KJV hasn’t undergone any significant “revision or change” since 1611.

Dr. F.H.A. Scrivener, perhaps the greatest authority on the history of the *Authorized Version*, aptly said concerning these changes that “*much of the greater part of them are deliberate changes, introduced silently and without authority by men whose very names are often unknown*” (*The Authorized Edition of the English*

Bible, 1611. Its Subsequent Reprints and Modern Representatives, Cambridge, 1884, pg. 3). Dr. Scrivener did a masterful collation of such changes in the KJV occurring in the revisions of 1613, 1629, 1638, 1744, 1762, and 1769. Also, Dr. Benjamin Blayney, whose 1769 edition best represents the current KJV, said concerning his revision that “*many errors that were found in former editions have been corrected, and the text reformed to such a standard of purity, as, it is presumed, is not to be met with in any other edition hitherto extant*” (Scrivener, pg. 238). Revision is no “myth” at all!

Our purpose here is to reproduce enough evidence to explode the real “myth”- the erroneous “infallible” translation theory that parrots the notion that there were only “changes in spelling and typesetting” in the KJV revisions. It is hoped that this will help re-establish the scriptural and historic doctrine of the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible in the original languages. We must hasten to say that in spite of the following partial list of changes, the KJV is a trustworthy and accurate translation into English.

REFERENCE

Genesis 19:21
 Genesis 39:16
 Exodus 15:25
 Exodus 21:32
 Leviticus 10:14
 Leviticus 19:34
 Joshua 3:11
 II Samuel 16:8
 II Kings 11:10
 II Kings 23:21
 I Chronicles 7:5
 Proverbs 7:21
 Ecclesiastes 2:16
 Isaiah 34:11
 Isaiah 49:13
 Ezekiel 24:7
 Daniel 3:15
 Matthew 12:23
 I Corinthians 15:6
 I Timothy 1:4
 I John 5:12

1611 KJV

concerning this thing
 her lord
 he made a statute
 thirty shekels
 sacrifice
 shall be as one born
 covenant, even the Lord
 to thy mischief
 in the temple
 this book of the Covenant
 were men of might
 With much fair speech
 shall be forgotten
 The cormorant and the bittern
 heaven
 poured it upon the ground
 the midst of a fiery furnace
 Is this son of David?
 And
 rather than edifying
 he that hath not the Son, hath not the life

CURRENT KJV

concerning this thing also
 his lord
 he made for them a statute
 thirty shekels of silver
 sacrifices
 shall be unto you as one born
 covenant of the Lord
 in thy mischief
 in the temple of the Lord
 the book of the covenant
 were valiant men of might
 With her much fair speech
 shall all be forgotten
 But the cormorant and the bittern
 heavens
 poured it not upon the ground
 the midst of a burning fiery furnace
 Is not this the son of David?
 After
 rather than godly edifying
 he that hath not the Son of God hath not life

* Gary Hudson is an evangelist, writer, and a former “Ruckmanite.” Check out his website: www.kingjamesonly.org.

The “King James Only” Controversy Video Series

Is the King James Bible the only truly inspired translation available? What is Ruckmanism? Are other Bible translations Satanic? This highly informative video series will answer all these questions and more. Evangelist Gary Hudson, a former follower of Peter S. Ruckman, is joined by Pastor Jackson Boyett and Bob L. Ross of Pilgrim Publications. Program titles are :

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- The "King James Only" Cult #2 (Gary Hudson)
- Seventh-Day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
- Seventh-Day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
- The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
- United Pentecostals (Steve Morrison)
- Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Michael Horton)
- Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Michael Horton)
- Mormonism (John McKay)
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LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Dear Christian Answers,

I caught only part of your excellent television program, and would like an initial information sheet or material, and when you broadcast.

I'm concerned that some "religions" are still at work seducing many away from Christianity, the religion which has done more for humanity in the history of the world.

Thanks,
R.R.
Austin, TX

Dear friends,

Thank you for sending the paper of "*The March of Islam, Are You Ready?*" You are doing a fine work..

Sincerely in Christ,
Dr. J.M.
Pickford, Michigan

My Dear Brothers in our Lord Jesus:

I hope this letter finds you all well and joyful in our dear Lord Jesus. May His awesome grace and power be always with you all.

Hi, I am incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institute in Ray Brook, New York.

I was told you have a pamphlet "*Allah: the god of Islam.*" Could you please send us one so we could share it? We have a lot of Muslims here teaching that Allah is the God of our Holy Bible. I'm not buying it. Their teachings call our Bible a lie.

We greatly appreciate any kind of assistance.
Yours Truly in our Lord Jesus,
C. F. K.

Dear Brother in Christ,

I have spent the afternoon going through your "Bible Query" web-site and appreciate so much the materials that I have come across. We are doing a series of Prayer Meeting nights on Mormonism at the present time and I have found your materials most helpful. We will be looking at the Watch Tower group next and I am so thankful for the wealth of information that you have available. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent materials on Islam you make available.

May the Lord bless you as you seek to spread the truth of the Son of God.

In Christ,
Pastor E.L.
Appomattox, VA

Dear Sirs,

We wish to order the book offered in volume 2 number 1 of the *Christian Debater Guide: The Restoration Movement*— an extensive history and refutation of Campbellism. With Thanks, in Christ,

Pastor B.M.
Rishon LeTsion, Israel.

Dear Mr. Wessels:

I want to thank you so much for sending me all the information on "The Way International", the Trinity, etc. I hope and pray that God will give me discernment in how I use this information in discussion with my daughter.

I covet your prayers for her, myself & family.

re-baptized (immersed) at the age of 20. He, however, seemed to lose faith and quit going to church. I didn't quite know how to act so I stopped attending as well.

But God didn't allow me to stay lost from Him and I have found a sound doctrine preaching, non-denominational church, in Volente; my 24 year -old son attends with me.

My prayers are for my husband to be convicted and return to Christ and that Jaymie (my daughter) will be unblinded and free from the clutches of the cultic group "The Way International."

Many thanks! I have watched your show on cable television and was impressed with your knowledge.

God bless your ministry,
C.G.
Leander, TX

Greetings in Jesus Name,

I am Daniel from India. I have been working among Muslims for 20 years. I happened to see your website. I praise God for you and for your ministry. I am very glad to see all of your resources. May God bless you abundantly and use you mightily.

We are conducting awareness seminars for pastors, believers and Bible college students. Your resources are very useful for me to teach and equip many laborers to reach this people. People are hungry to know the truth. Blessings.

Daniel
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"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus1:9)