

PRAYER

QUIZ

1. What is the name of the meeting King James held with Puritan ministers near the beginning of his reign, in one of his palaces near London?
2. That meeting was in response to what document that had been presented to him?
3. What month and year was that meeting held (year in their reckoning and ours)?
4. In those meetings, what aspect of the Church of England did the king say definitely would NOT be changed?
5. What was the name of the Puritan scholar who, at those meetings, proposed a new translation of the Bible into English?

TIMELINE

- 1509 King Henry VIII ascends the throne of England
- 1526 Tyndale's complete New Testament in English is printed
- 1534 The Act of Supremacy officially separates the Church of England from the pope
- 1547 King Edward VI ascends the throne
- 1553 Queen Mary I ascends the throne
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth I ascends the throne
- 1560 Geneva Bible is published
- 1588 Spanish Armada is defeated
- 1603 King James I ascends the throne
- 1604 In the Hampton Court Conference, King James agrees to a new Bible translation
- 1611 The Authorized or King James Version is published

READING ASSIGNMENT

Synge: "The Misrule of the Stuarts - Charles I and the Petition of Right"

BIBLE

2 Chronicles 34:29-33

LECTURE

The KJV was requested at the Hampton Court Conference by Dr. John Rainolds.
King James I ordered it in these words:

"That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England in time of divine service."

54 men chosen by the king, the most learned men in England.

Work was divided among three centers: Oxford, Cambridge, Westminster

15 general rules from the king [read some aloud, see below]

Work began 1604; preliminary translation finished in 4 years; review by 2 scholars from each center.

Final work printed 1611.

Two early corrections 1629, 1638.

Two later editions, 1762, 1769.

1631 printing “Sinners’s Bible” or “Wicked Bible” or “Naughty Bible”

1,000 copies “Thou shalt commit adultery.”

ordered recalled and burned by King Charles I

11 copies known to have survived

Common misconception: KJV is in Old English

The KJV of 1611 was in Early Modern English

The KJV as we have it now, the 1760s editions, is in Modern English

Old English: 450 to 1066 (or 100 years after)

Middle English: about 1066 to 1500

Early Modern English: 1500 to 1600 or 1700

Modern English: 1600 or 1700 to present

Late Modern English 1900 to present

KJV 1611 was made when Modern English was new

KJV 1762 Cambridge edition and 1769 Oxford edition are what we have now

-about 400 total corrections or standardizations

See chart comparing Old, Middle, Early Modern English

Effect on religion among the English-speaking people

Completely legal to publish, own, use, distribute bible in English

Translation was highly literal and accurate

Old ecclesiastical terms kept inhibited both purity and liberty in religion

e.g. “The Church of England” cannot be maintained if word *ecclesia* is translated

“assembly” or “congregation”

e.g. Sprinkling of babies cannot be maintained if word *baptism* is translated “dunking”

15 Rules to Govern the Translation

1. The ordinary Bible read in the Church, commonly called the Bishops Bible, to be followed, and as little altered as the Truth of the original will permit.
2. The names of the Prophets, and the Holy Writers, with the other Names of the Text, to be retained, as nigh as may be, accordingly as they were vulgarly used.
3. The Old Ecclesiastical Words to be kept, viz. the Word Church not to be translated Congregation &c.
4. When a Word hath divers Significations, that to be kept which hath been most commonly used by the most of the Ancient Fathers, being agreeable to the Propriety of the Place, and the Analogy of the Faith.
5. The Division of the Chapters to be altered, either not at all, or as little as may be, if Necessity so require.
6. No Marginal Notes at all to be affixed, but only for the explanation of the Hebrew or Greek Words, which cannot without some circumlocution, so briefly and fitly be expressed in the Text.
7. Such Quotations of Places to be marginally set down as shall serve for the fit Reference of one Scripture to another.
8. Every particular Man of each Company, to take the same Chapter or Chapters, and having translated or amended them severally by himself, where he thinketh good, all to meet together, confer what they have done, and agree for their Parts what shall stand.
9. As any one Company hath dispatched any one Book in this Manner they shall send it to the rest, to be considered of seriously and judiciously, for His Majesty is very careful in this Point.
10. If any Company, upon the Review of the Book so sent, doubt or differ upon any Place, to send them Word thereof; note the Place, and withal send the Reasons, to which if they consent not, the Difference to be compounded at the general Meeting, which is to be of the chief Persons of each Company, at the end of the Work.
11. When any Place of special Obscurity is doubted of, Letters to be directed by Authority, to send to any Learned Man in the Land, for his Judgement of such a Place.
12. Letters to be sent from every Bishop to the rest of his Clergy, admonishing them of this Translation in hand; and to move and charge as many skilful in the Tongues; and having taken pains in that kind, to send his particular Observations to the Company, either at Westminster, Cambridge, or Oxford.
13. The Directors in each Company, to be the Deans of Westminster, and Chester for that Place; and the King's Professors in the Hebrew or Greek in either University.
14. These translations to be used when they agree better with the Text than the Bishops Bible: Tyndale's, Matthew's, Coverdale's, Whitchurch's, Geneva.
15. Besides the said Directors before mentioned, three or four of the most Ancient and Grave Divines, in either of the Universities, not employed in Translating, to be assigned by the vice-Chancellor, upon Conference with the rest of the Heads, to be Overseers of the Translations as well Hebrew as Greek, for the better observation of the 4th Rule above specified.