

Excerpts from the Preface of the New King James Translation

1. "The King James Translators were committed to producing an English Bible that would be a precise translation, and by no means a paraphrase or a broadly approximate rendering. On the one hand, the scholars were almost as familiar with the original languages of the Bible as with their native English. On the other hand, their reverence for the divine Author and His Word assured a translation of the Scriptures in which only a principle of utmost accuracy could be accepted."
2. "In 1786 Catholic scholar Alexander Geddes said of the King James Bible, If accuracy and strictest attention to the letter of the text be supposed to constitute an excellent version, this is of all versions the most excellent."
3. George Bernard Shaw - became a literary legend in our century because of his severe and often humorous criticisms of our most cherished values. However he pays the following tribute to the scholars commissioned by King James:

"The translation was extraordinarily well done because to the translators what they were translating was not merely a curious collection of ancient books written by different authors in different stages of culture, but the WORD OF GOD divinely revealed through His chosen and expressly inspired scribes. In this conviction they carried out their work with boundless reverence and care and achieved a beautifully artistic result."

4. "For the New King James Version the text used was the 1967/1977 STUTTGART edition of the BIBLICA HEBRAICA, based on the BEN ASHER text, while frequent comparisons were made with the Bomberg edition of 1524-25. The Septuagint (Greek) Version of the Old Testament and the Latin Vulgate also were consulted...also the resources of relevant manuscripts from the DEAD SEA CAVES."
5. "The manuscript preferences cited in many contemporary translations of the New Testament are due to recent reliance on a relatively few manuscripts discovered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dependence on these manuscripts, especially two, the SINAITIC AND VATICAN MANUSCRIPTS, is due to the greater age of these documents. However, in spite of the age of the materials, some scholars have shown reasons to doubt the faithfulness of these manuscripts to the original text, since they often disagree with one another and show other signs of unreliability. The Greek text obtained by using this minority of sources and related papyri is known as the Alexandrian Text."
6. "Recent studies have caused significant changes ... and a growing number of scholars now regard the RECEIVED TEXT as far more reliable than previously thought."
7. "Readers may be assured that textual debate does not affect one in a thousand words of the Greek New Testament. Furthermore, no established doctrine is called in question by any doubts about the correct reading in this or that text. The Christian can approach his New Testament with confidence"

(You grossly underestimate a lot of Christians to expect them to believe that phony baloney, Rev. Younce.)

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