

MAJOR KING JAMES BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Class Session 7b

A. Dr. Lancelot Andrews.

1. He was the president and director of the Westminster group that translated twelve books, altogether (Genesis to 2 Kings). The task of Company One.
2. He studied most of the modern languages and devoted himself chiefly to the Oriental languages, being educated at the University of Cambridge.
3. His manual for his private devotions was prepared by himself and written wholly in the Greek language.
4. "In his funeral sermon by Dr. Buckeridge, Bishop of Rochester, it is said that Dr. Andrews was conversant with FIFTEEN LANGUAGES. Certainly, he was a respected and superior translator." I don't know any of these modern translators of the ASV, NASV, NEV, NIV, Living Letters, or paraphrases who are conversant with as many as fifteen (15) languages.

B. Dr. William Bedwell was also in Company One, the Westminster Group translating Genesis through 2 Kings from Hebrew into English.

1. He had the reputation as being "an eminent Oriental scholar."
2. His fame for Arabic learning was so great that scholars sought him out for assistance. Another stated concerning him: "The honor of being the first who considerably promoted and revived the study of the Arabic language and literature in Europe."
3. In Antwerp, Germany, in 1612, he published in quarto an Edition of the Epistles of St. John in Arabic with a Latin version. I don't know anything about Arabic, but to have an edition of 1, 2, 3 John with Latin and Arabic would take a tremendously skilled and capable scholar.
4. He also left many Arabic manuscripts in the University of Cambridge with numerous notes.
5. For many years Dr. Bedwell was engaged in compiling an Arabic lexicon in three volumes (A lexicon is a dictionary.).
6. Dr. Bedwell also began a Persian dictionary, which is among Archbishop Land's manuscripts, still preserved in the BODLEIAN Library at Oxford.
7. Dr. Bedwell, with his knowledge of Arabic, Persian, and other Oriental languages, was greatly superior to our modern so-called translators.

Note:

Our modern translators will come to a word and put in a footnote or index at the bottom of the page, "The meaning of this Hebrew word is "uncertain." This is what you have in the NASB (1960), the NIV (1969), and the NKJV (1979). However, in the 1611, there was no question about words, because they knew their cognate languages well.

C. Dr. Miles Smith was in Company 3, the Oxford Group. This group translated 17 books from Isaiah through Malachi.

1. He was one of the twelve translators selected to revise the work after it was referred to them for final examination.

2. He was employed to write the most learned and eloquent preface to the King James Bible.
 3. There were 100 church fathers that wrote extensively from 100-300 A.D. There were 200 more who wrote from 300-600 A.D. He read through all of them in Greek and Latin and made his own comments on each of them.
 4. He was well acquainted with the rabbinical glosses and comments (Marginal comments in the Hebrew languages.).
 5. He was an expert in the Chaldea (related to the Hebrew), the Syriac and Arabic, so that they were almost as familiar as his native tongue.
- D. Sir Henry Savile was in Company Four, the Oxford group. They translated six books: the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation.
1. Very early in life he became very famous for his Greek and mathematical learning.
 2. He became a tutor in Greek and mathematics to Queen Elizabeth.
 3. He translated the histories of Cornelius Tacitus (a Latin Historian) from Latin into English.
 4. He also published from the manuscripts he had translated from the Greek into the English and Latin, the writings of "Bradwardin against Pelagius," "The Writers of English History Subsequent to Bede," and "Prelections on the Elements of Euclid." (Euclid was concerned with Geometry and wrote in Greek.) Savile must have had tremendous skill in language to do this.
 5. He is chiefly known, however, for being the first to edit the complete work of CHRYSOSTOM, the most famous of the Greek Fathers. John Chrysostom had many pages he had written to the people to whom he ministered, and SAVILE was the first to completely edit his work. His edition of 1,000 copies was made in 1613 and makes 8 immense folios. A folio is the size of large directory or encyclopedia. I don't know of any of the modern translators of the NEW PERVERSIONS who can come near the superiority and skill of this man.
 6. He was one of the most profound, exact, and critical scholars of his time.
- E. John Bois, Company Six of the Cambridge group. They translated all of the Apocrypha which were placed as history between the Old and New Testaments.
1. John Bois was carefully taught by his father. At the age of five he had read the Bible in Hebrew.
 2. When six, he could write Hebrew legibly and in a fair and elegant character.
 3. Later he distinguished himself by being able to speak and write the Greek language. This man was skilled in both the Hebrew and the Greek.
 4. Bois' library contained one of the most complete and costly collections of Greek literature that had ever been made.
 5. He was one of the twelve translators who were sent, two from each company, to make the final revision at Stationer's Hall in London. This lasted 9 months. If there was a problem in Hebrew or Greek, he had the answers.
 6. He took notes on all the proceedings of this committee. He was the secretary. His notes, by the way, are some of the evidence we have today telling us how they went about things.
 7. At his death, 83, he left some 30,000 pages of writing. He was a prolific writer, scholar, reader, and worker.

- F. Dr. John Overall received his doctor's degree at Cambridge University.
1. He was on the Old Testament Westminster group.
 2. He was long familiar with many languages. English and Latin were spoken fluently.
- G. Dr. Hadrian Savaria received his doctor's degree in 1590.
1. He was educated in several languages, especially Hebrew.
 2. He also published several Latin treatises.
 3. He was also on the Old Testament Westminster group translating the twelve books from Genesis through 2 Kings.
- H. Dr. Robert Tighe was characterized as "an excellent textuary and profound linguist."
1. He was assigned to the Old Testament Westminster group of translators.
- I. Geoffrey King was the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge University.
1. He was in the Old Testament Westminster group.
- J. Edward Lively was Chairman of the Old Testament Cambridge group that translated the ten books of 1 Chronicles through Ecclesiastes.
1. He was one of the best linguists in the world.
 2. He was the King's professor of Hebrew at Cambridge University.
 3. He was the author of a Latin exposition of five of the Minor Prophets, as well as a work on chronology.
 4. He had surpassing skill in the Oriental tongues.
- K. Dr. John Richardson was on the Old Testament group under Edward Lively.
1. He was a most excellent linguist.
 2. He often debated various scholars in the Latin language at the University of Cambridge.
 3. He later became Vice Chancellor at the University.
- L. Lawrence Chaderton - a member of the Old Testament Cambridge group.
1. He was thoroughly skilled with the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages and a scholar to say the least.
- M. Thomas Harrison a member of the Old Testament Cambridge group
1. Because of his linguistic skill in the Hebrew and Greek idioms, he was one of the chief examiners in the University (Cambridge) of those who sought to be public professors of these languages.
- N. Dr. Robert Spaulding - a part of the Old Testament Cambridge group.
1. Dr. Spaulding succeeded Edward Lively as the Regius Professor in the Hebrew at Cambridge University.

- O. Dr. John Harding
1. He was one of the Old Testament Oxford group that translated the 17 books of Isaiah through Malachi.
 2. He had been the Royal professor of Hebrew in Oxford University for 13 years.
- P. Dr. Thomas Holland. He was with the Old Testament Oxford group
1. He had a wonderful knowledge of all the learned languages.
 2. He was mighty in the scriptures and so familiarly acquainted with the Church Fathers, as if he himself had been one of them.
- Q. Dr. Richard Riley - He was part of the Old Testament Oxford group.
1. He was considered so accurate in Hebrew studies that he was appointed the King's professor in that branch of Literature (at Oxford University).
 2. Dr. Riley was a great man of learning and wisdom and became Professor of Hebrew at Oxford University.
 3. As he was equally proficient in Greek, King James appointed him as one of the translators.
- R. Dr. Richard Brett, of the Old Testament Oxford group.
1. He was skilled and versed in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldee, Arabic, and Ethiopic tongues.
 2. He published a number of works, all in Latin.
- S. John Peryn - A member of the New Testament Oxford group that translated 6 books: the Gospels, Acts, Revelation.
1. He was the King's Professor of Greek in the Oxford University. A man of great skill and learning.
- T. Andrew Downes, a member of the translation committee.
1. He was Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge University for 40 years.
 2. What a privilege to have such a learned man to assist in this great work.
- U. Dr. William Dakins. A member of the New Testament Westminster group.
1. He became Bachelor of Divinity in 1601.
 2. The next year he was appointed Greek Lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge University.
 3. He was considered peculiarly fit to be employed in this work, because of his skill in the original languages.
- V. On July 22, 1604, King James announced the appointment of 54 men as translators. The list included Anglican churchmen, Puritan churchmen, linguists and theologians, laymen and divines. All these had the privilege of calling on any scholar outside of the list if they so desired. A list of 47 revisers has been preserved, the other 7 may have died or resigned before the work began.
- W. The revisers were organized into 6 groups. 1. Two groups met at Westminster. One group had Genesis to 2 Kings and the other had Romans to Jude. 2. Two groups at Cambridge, one group had 1 Chronicles to

Ecclesiastes and the other had the Apocrypha. 3. Of the two groups at Oxford, one had Isaiah to Malachi and the other had Matthew to Acts and Revelation. These men were the great Hebrew and Greek scholars of the day.

- D. Each reviser first made his own translation, and then passed it on to be reviewed by each member of the group. When each group had completed a book it was sent to the other groups for their independent criticism. Therefore, each book went through the hands of the entire body of revisers.
- E. This great work was planned in 1604, and probably the first three years were spent in preliminary work and private study. The work of the translation really began in 1607; it was finished and the Bible published in 1611. It is also known as the "Authorized Version" (A.V.).
- F. The King James Translation far surpassed its rivals in superiority because it was not the work of one single person or of one single school. It was the deliberate work of a large body of trained scholars and divines of all classes and opinions. It was a national undertaking, in which no one had any interest at heart, only that of producing the best possible translation of the Scriptures from the Hebrew and Greek texts.

Heritage Baptist Bible Church
P.O. Box 573
Walnut Grove, MN 56180
Dr. Max D. Younce, Pastor

Phone: 507-859-2519

Web: <https://heritagebbc.com>