

THE KING JAMES VERSION

“What’s The Difference?”

Can All of the Different Bible Versions Really Be the Word of God?

Psa 138:2 *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*

Psalm 138:2

138

The Beginning of the Problem

- † Gen 3:1 -5
 - Satan's first approach to man was with an attack upon the Word of God
 - First, Satan questioned the Word of God (v. 1) - "Hath God said?"
 - Second, Satan denied the Word of God (v. 4)
 - Third, Satan presented the God as the One who had evil intentions against man (v. 5)
- † Satan has continued this line of attack throughout the centuries
 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Cor 11:13-14)
 - Satan often appears in a religious form
 - This study is not an attack on those who use the modern versions, rather it is an objective comparison of the King James Version and the modern versions (where they came from and what differences do exist)
 - The average Christian who uses a modern translation does so innocently and without the benefit of this information
 - Most pastors, at best, ignore this issue and, at worst, attack the King James Version (we are blessed in that we have a Pastor who holds the position that he holds)

Inspiration

"Inspiration may be defined as that operation of the divine Spirit which renders a speaker or writer infallible in the communication of truth whether or not previously known." (Bancroft, *Christians Theology*, Zondervan, 1967, p. 24)

4 Words commonly ascribed to the definition of inspiration

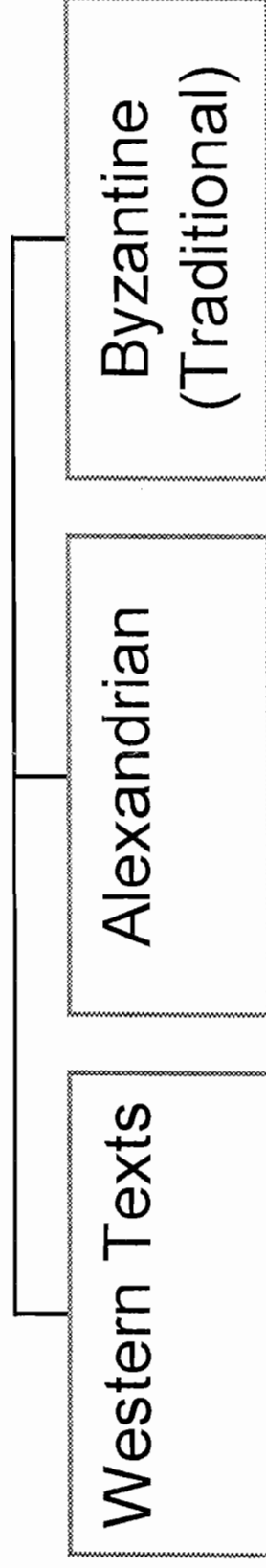
- Verbal - the very words themselves are inspired
 - Plenary - extending to all parts alike (every word is just as much inspired as the other)
 - Inerrant - not liable to prove false or mistaken, that is, correct in every detail (accurately recorded)
 - Infallible - without error in its teaching; it is incapable of teaching error
- Although we don't hear too much teaching on these terms in the pulpits across our country, these words are found often in the older theology books

If God did indeed inspire men to write His Word, is He also not able to preserve His Word throughout the centuries?

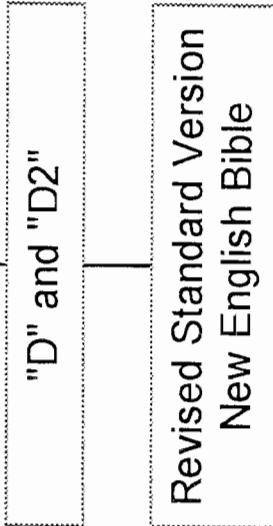
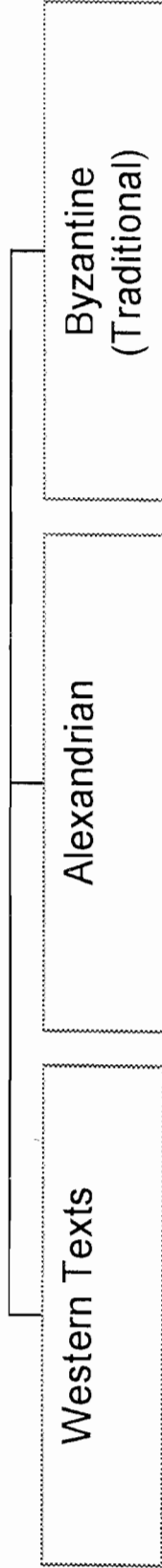
And, if Satan attacked God's Word in the beginning, would He also not seek to attack, corrupt, question and deny the Word of God today?

We are engaged in a spiritual battle in which God's Word is the only basis for truth known to man. It therefore would be the primary focus of the enemies' attack.

3 Families of New Testament Texts

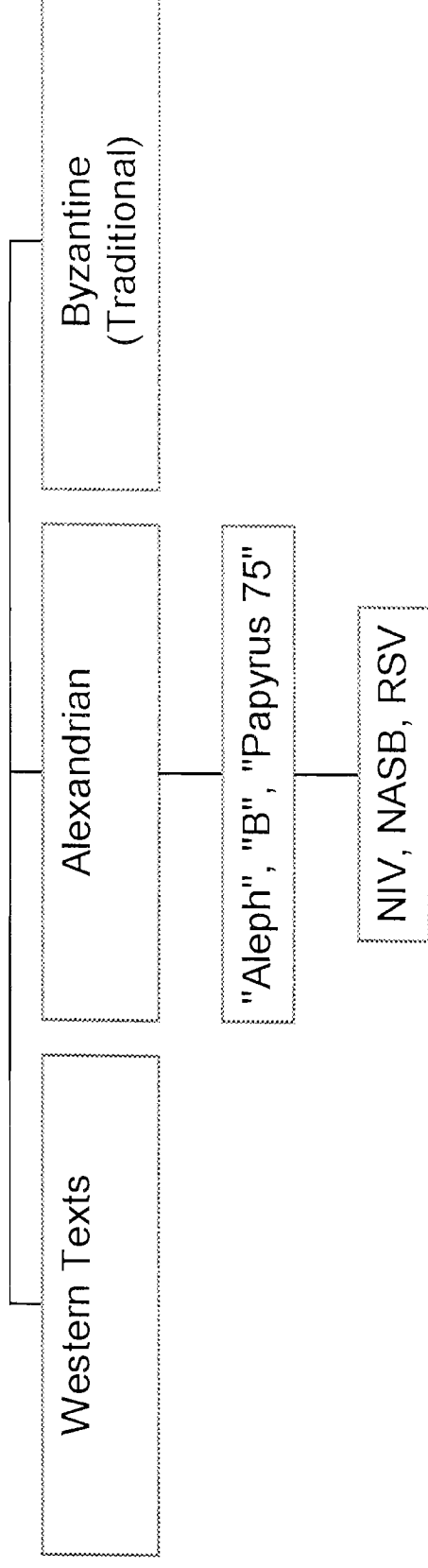


The Western Texts



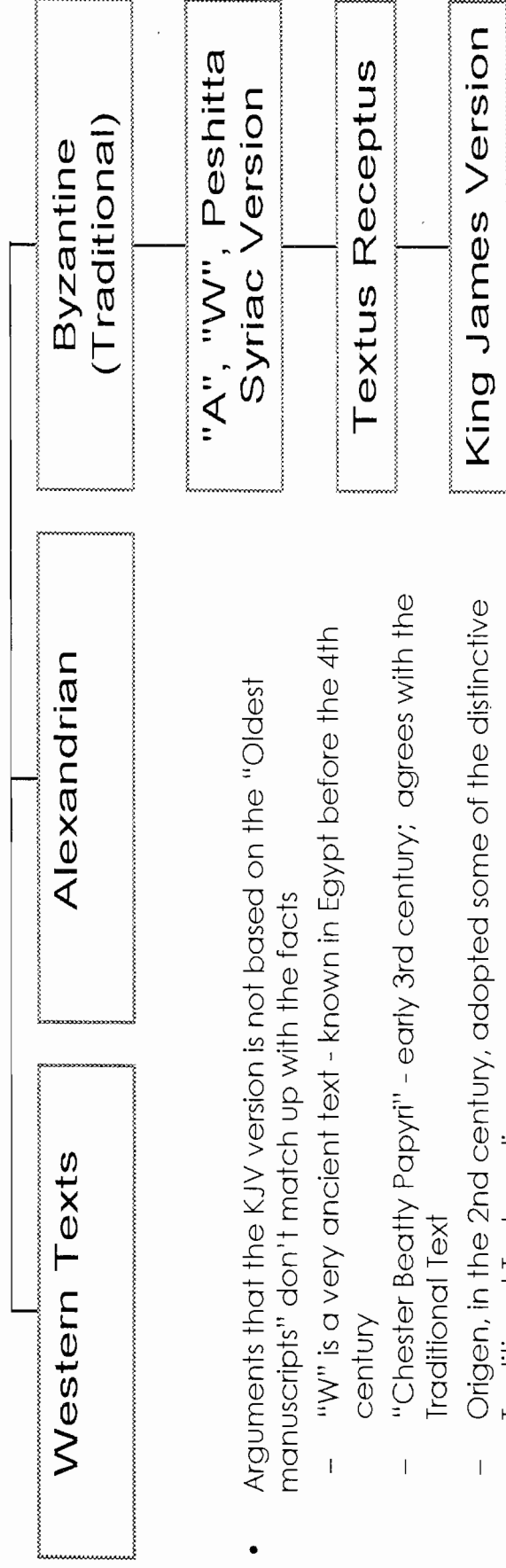
- Found in the writing of Irenaeus and Tertullian
- Contain many readings that are not found in the Alexandrian or Traditional Texts
 - "and a great light shone around" (Mat 3:15)
 - "On the same day, seeing a certain man working on the Sabbath, He said to him, Man, if thou knowest what thou doest, thou art blessed, but if thou knowest not, thou art cursed and art a transgressor of the law" (Luke 6:4)
- Eight omissions which are also omitted in the RSV and NEB
 - "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body (which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.)" (Luke 22:19-20)
 - "And they entered in, and found not the body (of the Lord Jesus)." (Luke 24:3)
 - "He is not here, (but is risen;) remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee," (Luke 24:6)
 - "Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass." (Luke 24:12)
 - "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, (and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.)" (Luke 24:36)
 - ("And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet.") (Luke 24:40)
 - And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, (and carried up into heaven.)" (Luke 24:51) - Included in the RSV, omitted in the NEB
 - "(And they worshipped him,) and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." (Luke 24:52)
- Not many scholars defend these texts

The Alexandrian Texts



- Altered in many places (i.e., Luke 10:41-42; Luke 12:31; Luke 15:21; Luke 23:35; Luke 23:45; John 1:15; John 8:39; John 10:29)
 - “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” (John 10:29) - NIV and RSV footnote, “What my Father has given me is greater than all”
- Deny Christ’s agony and sweat like blood - Luke 22:43-44 are completely omitted in the RSV
- These texts came from Alexandria, the source of the early heresy of “Gnosticism”
 - Gnosticism taught that Jesus did not have a material body and that there was a secret knowledge above the Scriptures
 - Denied that God created this world but rather was the result of many emanations from God
 - I John and Colossians addressed this heresy
 - The Gnostics deleted the scriptures that refuted their teachings

The Traditional Texts



- Arguments that the KJV version is not based on the "Oldest manuscripts" don't match up with the facts
 - "W" is a very ancient text - known in Egypt before the 4th century
 - "Chester Beatty Papyri" - early 3rd century; agrees with the Traditional Text
 - Origen, in the 2nd century, adopted some of the distinctive Traditional Text readings
 - The Peshitta, the historic Bible of Syria, originated in the 2nd century
 - The Gothic Version, translated from Greek, around 350 AD was based on the Traditional Text

King James vs. NIV

Redemption

Luke 9:56 **For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.** And they went to another village.

Mat 18:11 **For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.**

Mat 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners **to repentance.**

Acts 8:37 **And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption **through his blood**, even the forgiveness of sins:

Gal 6:15 **For in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God **through Christ.**

Gal 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God **in Christ,**

1 Cor 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel **of Christ** without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel **of Christ:**

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth **on me** hath everlasting life.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life, **and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in **you** all.

Rev 21:24 And the nations of **them which are saved** shall walk in the light of it:

Luke 9:56 and they went to another village.

Mat 18:11 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Mat 9:13 But go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Acts 8:37 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins:

Gal 6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, what counts is a new creation.

Gal 4:7 you are no more a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you an heir.

Gal 3:17 the covenant previously established by God

1 Cor 9:18 What then is my reward? Just this, that in preaching the gospel I may make it free of charge and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel :

John 6:47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by it's light.



King James vs. NIV

Christ's Deity

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, **from everlasting**.

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God** was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Phil 2:5-6 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, **thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the **Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.**

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the **Lord God** in your hearts:

Acts 15:18 Known **unto God** are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things **by Jesus Christ:**

Mat 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and **worshipped** him,

Mat 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and **worshipped** him,

Micah 5:2 **ancient times**

1 Tim 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: **He** appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Phil 2:5-6 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, **did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.**

1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that testify, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three are in agreement.

1 Pet 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord: (this is the entire verse)

Acts 15:18 that have been known for ages. (this is the entire verse)

Eph 3:9 and to make plain to everyone my administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things

Mat 9:18 While he was saying this, a ruler of the synagogue came and **knelt before** him

Mat 8:2 A man with leprosy came and **knelt before** him,

King James vs. NIV

Jesus, the Son of God

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father **of our Lord Jesus Christ**,

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of **God**? (Contextually ties with v.33 - Jesus is God)

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his **Son** Jesus;

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his **Son** Jesus, Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but **my** Father only.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that **thou art that Christ, the Son** of the living God.

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: **blessed art thou among women**.

Luke 2:33 And **Joseph** and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

Luke 2:43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and **Joseph** and his mother knew not of it.

Eph 3:14 For this cause I kneel before the Father,

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him he said unto him, Do you believe in the Son of **Man**?

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his **servant** Jesus;

Acts 3:26 When God raised up his **servant**,

Mat 24:36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only **the** Father.

John 6:69 We believe know that **you are the Holy One of God**. (In the KJV, this term is used of Jesus only by demons)

Luke 1:28 The angel went to her, and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! the Lord is with you.

Luke 2:33 The **child's father** and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

Luke 2:43 After the feast was over, while **his parents** were returning home,

King James vs. NIV

Jesus - His Teachings

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, **love them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**
Mark 11:26 **But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**
Mat 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: **for many be called, but few chosen.**
Mark 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. **Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.**
Mat 23:14 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."**
Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God.**
Rom 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, **Thou shalt not bear false witness,**
1 Tim 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**
Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, **that ye should not obey the truth,** before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?
Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, **spoken of by Daniel the prophet,**

Mat 5:44 But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for them which persecute you:
Mark 11:26 *(The whole verse is omitted)*
Mat 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last.
Mark 6:11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.
Mat 23:14 *(The whole verse is omitted)*
Luke 4:4 Jesus answered, It is written, Man does not live by bread alone.
Rom 13:9 The commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not covet,
1 Tim 6:5 and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.
Gal 3:1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified?
Mark 13:14 When ye see the abomination that causes desolation,

NIV vs. New World Translation (JW Bible)

Redemption

Luke 9:56 and they went to another village.

Mat 18:11 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Mat 9:13 But go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Acts 8:37 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins:

Gal 6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, what counts is a new creation.

Gal 4:7 you are no more a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you an heir.

Gal 3:17 the covenant previously established by God

1 Cor 9:18 What then is my reward? Just this, that in preaching the gospel I may make it free of charge and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel:

John 6:47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by it's light,

Luke 9:56 so they went to another village.

Mat 18:11 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Mat 9:13 Go then and learn what this means, I want mercy, and not sacrifice: for I came not to call righteous people, but sinners.

Acts 8:37 *(the whole verse is omitted)*

Col 1:14 by means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins:

Gal 6:15 For neither circumcision anything nor is uncircumcision anything, but a new creation.

Gal 4:7 So, then, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if you a son, also an heir through God.

Gal 3:17 the covenant previously validated by God

1 Cor 9:18 What then is my reward? That while declaring the good news I may furnish the good news without cost to the end that I may not abuse my authority.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the good news :

John 6:47 Most truly I say to you, he that believes has everlasting life.

1 John 5:13 I write you these things that you may know that you have life everlasting, you who put your faith in the name of the Son of God.

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, over all, and through all, and in all.

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by means of it's light,

NIV vs. New World Translation (JW Bible)

Christ's Deity

Micah 5:2 **ancient times**

1 Tim 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: **He** appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Phil 2:5-6 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, **did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.**

1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that testify, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three are in agreement.

1 Pet 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord:

Acts 15:18 that have been known for ages. (this is the entire verse)

Eph 3:9 and to make plain to everyone my administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things

Mat 9:18 While he was saying this, a ruler of the synagogue came and **knelt before** him

Mat 8:2 A man with leprosy came and **knelt before** him,

Micah 5:2 **from the days of time indefinite**

1 Tim 3:16 Indeed the sacred secret of this godly devotion is admittedly great: **He** was made manifest in the flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in the world, was received up in glory.

Phil 2:5-6 Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no seizure, namely that he should be equal to God.

1 John 5:7-8 For there are three witness bearers, the spirit and the water, and the blood: and the three are in agreement.

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts:

Acts 15:18 known from old, (this is the entire verse)

Eph 3:9 and should make men see how the sacred secret is administered which has from the indefinite past been hidden in God, who created all things.

Mat 9:18 While he was telling them these things, look! a certain ruler began to **do obeisance** to him, saying:

Mat 8:2 And, look! a leprosy man came up and began **doing obeisance** to him

NIV vs. New World Translation (JW Bible)

Jesus, the Son of God

Eph 3:14 For this cause I kneel before **the** Father,

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him he said unto him, Do you believe in the Son of **Man**?

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his **servant** Jesus;

Acts 3:26 When God raised up his **servant**,

Mat 24:36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only **the** Father.

John 6:69 We believe know that **you are the Holy One of God.**

(In the KJV, this term is used of Jesus only by demons)

Luke 1:28 The angel went to her, and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! the Lord is with you.

Luke 2:33 The **child's father** and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

Luke 2:43 After the feast was over, while **his parents** were returning home,

Eph 3:14 On account of this, I bend my knee to **the** Father,

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and, on finding him, he said, Are you putting faith in the Son of **Man**?

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our forefathers, has glorified his **Servant** Jesus;

Acts 3:26 To you first God, after raising up his **servant**,

Mat 24:36 Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only **the** Father.

John 6:69 and we have believed and come to know that **you are the Holy One of God.**

(In the KJV, this term is used of Jesus only by demons)

Luke 1:28 And when he went in before her he said: Good day, highly favoured one, Jehovah is with you.

Luke 2:33 And his father and mother continued wondering at the things spoken about it.

Luke 2:43 But when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and **his** parents did not notice it.

NIV vs. New World Translation (JW Bible)

Jesus - His Teachings

Mat 5:44 But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for them which persecute you;	Mat 5:44 However I say to you, Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you;
Mark 11:26 <i>(The whole verse is omitted)</i>	Mark 11:26 <i>(The whole verse is omitted)</i>
Mat 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last.	Mat 20:16 In this way the last ones will be first, and the first ones last.
Mark 6:11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.	Mark 6:11 And wherever a place will not receive you nor hear you, on going out from there shake off the dirt that is beneath your feet for a witness to them.
Mat 23:14 <i>(The whole verse is omitted)</i>	Mat 23:14 <i>(The whole verse is omitted)</i>
Luke 4:4 Jesus answered, It is written, Man does not live by bread alone.	Luke 4:4 But Jesus replied to him: It is written, Man must not live by bread alone.
Rom 13:9 The commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not covet,	Rom 13:9 The law code, You must not commit adultery, you must not murder, you must not steal, You must not covet,
1 Tim 6:5 and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.	1 Tim 6:5 violent disputes about trifles on the part of men corrupted in their mind and despoiled of the truth, thinking that godly devotion is a means of gain.
Gal 3:1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified?	Gal 3:1 O senseless Galatians, who is it that brought you under evil influence, you before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly portrayed impaled?
Mark 13:14 When ye see the abomination that causes desolation,	Mark 13:14 However, when you catch sight of the disgusting thing that causes desolation

Conclusion

- This is an issue that is hotly debated within some circles of Christianity today. On one extreme, people don't really care. On the other extreme, those who don't use the King James are much maligned by those who do and the supporters of the modern translations often have a prideful attitude toward those who use the old King James.. Obviously, the answer must lie somewhere in the middle.
- The proliferation of the modern translation has led many to ask the question, "What did God really say?" Is this not the question of Genesis 3, "Hath God said?"
- As we compare the various versions, we must ask ourselves, which one really honors Jesus Christ?
- In closing I would like to quote from Edward E. Hills' excellent book, "The King James Version Defended"

"In regard to Bible versions many contemporary Christians are behaving like spoiled and rebellious children. They want a Bible version that pleases them no matter whether it pleases God or not. 'We want a Bible version in our own idiom', they clamor. 'We want a Bible version that talks to us in the same way in which we talk to our friends over the telephone. We want an informal God, no better educated than ourselves, with a limited vocabulary and a taste for modern slang' ... But God is bigger than you are, dear friend, and the Bible version which you must use is not a matter for you to decide according to your whims and prejudices. It has already been decided for you by the workings of God's special providence. If you ignore this providence and choose to adopt one of the modern versions, you will be taking the first step in the logic of unbelief. For the arguments which you must use to justify your choice are the same arguments which unbelievers use to justify theirs, the same method. If you adopt one of these modern versions, you must adopt the naturalistic textual criticism upon which it rests. This naturalistic textual criticism requires us to study the New Testament in the same way in which we study the texts of secular books which have not been preserved by God's special providence. In other words, naturalistic textual criticism regards the special, providential preservation of the Scriptures as of no importance for the study of the New Testament text. But if we concede this, then it follows that the infallible inspiration of the Scriptures is likewise unimportant. For why is it important that God should infallibly inspire the Scriptures, if it is not important that He should preserve them by His special providence?

Where, oh where, dear brother or sister, did you ever get the idea that it is up to you to decide which Bible version you will receive as God's holy Word. As long as you harbor this false notion, you are little better than an unbeliever. As long as you cherish this erroneous opinion, you are entirely on your own. For you the Bible has no

real authority, only that which your rebellious reason deigns to give it. For you there is no comfort, no assurance of faith. Cast off, therefore, this carnal mind. Put on the spiritual mind that leads to life and peace. Receive by faith the True Text of God's holy Word, which has been preserved down through the ages by His special providence and now is found in the Masoretic Hebrew text, the Greek Textus Receptus, and the King James Version and other faithful translations!"

Bibliography

The King James Version
New International Version

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 1984

"Foundations of the Word, Parts 1 and 2", Chuck Smith, The Word For Today

"The King James Version Defended", Edward E. Hills, The Christian Research Press, 1984

"If The Foundations Be Destroyed", Chick Salliby, Word and Prayer Ministries, 1994

"The King James Only Controversy", James R. White, Bethany House, 1995