



# Comparing Various Bibles

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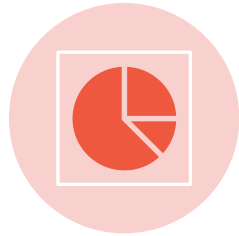
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FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

# Bibles We will Consider

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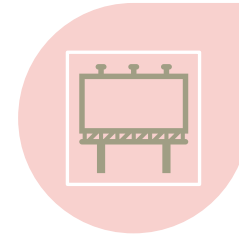
NEW KING JAMES  
VERSION



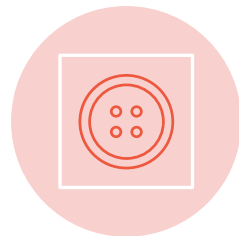
NEW INTERNATIONAL  
VERSION



KING JAMES  
VERSION



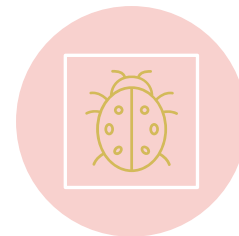
ENGLISH STANDARD  
VERSION



NEW AMERICAN  
STANDARD VERSION  
1995, 2020



LEGACY STANDARD  
BIBLE



NEW REVISED  
STANDARD VERSION

# Problem in NRSV at Isaiah 7:14

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NRSV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child and shall  
bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

NRSV

Matthew 1:23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and they shall name him  
Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

ESV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel.

ESV

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and they shall call his name  
Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

# NIV More Literal at 2 Timothy 3:16

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NIV

All Scripture is **God-breathed** (θεόπνευστος) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

NKJV

All Scripture *is given by inspiration of God* (θεόπνευστος), and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...

# NIV Occasionally Omits Key Conjunctions

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NIV

2 Tim. 2:21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

NASB 1995

2 Tim. 2:21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Conjunctions carry a lot of “meaning weight” by connecting ideas.

# KJV Language Tough to Understand

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KJV

Philippians 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

1 Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array..

NKJV

Philippians 1:22 But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

1 Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing..

# Other Examples of Archaic Words

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KJV

anon

assay

attendance

bewray

divers

ensample

MODERN ENGLISH

immediately (Mark 1:30)

attempt, try (Acts 16:7)

attention (1 Timothy 4:13)

betray, expose (Mat. 26:73)

diverse, various (Hebrews 1:1)

Example (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

# There are Many More Archaic KJV Words

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KJV

to us-ward

ensue

ere

flux (not the kind used in soldering)

halt

haply

MODERN ENGLISH

toward us (2 Peter 3:9)

pursue (1 Peter 3:11)

before (John 4:49)

dysentery (Acts 28:8)

lame (Mark 9:45)

perhaps (2 Cor. 9:4)



# KJV Incorrect Translation

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KJV

Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

ESV

Matthew 23:24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

The verb means to “filter” or “strain out” not strain *at*.

# NIV “Smooths” the Translation, Matt. 19:13

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NIV

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

Note that the word *people* is not in the original Greek, and the verb is expressed in the passive voice there. Here the subject is made explicit and the verb changed to active voice.

NKJV

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put *His* hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.

Who brought the children? Likely their parents, not just *people* in general.

# Comparing John 3:16

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ESV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

NIV

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

LSB LEGACY STANDARD BIBLE

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

# The Name of God in Exodus 6:3

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LSB

And I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Yahweh, I was not known to them.

NKJV

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.

KJV

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

ESV

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.

# The Word *Jehovah*

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- ❑ Despite the big deal made by the Jehovah's Witnesses about this being God's personal name, it is only used in the KJV four times: Exodus 6:3, Psalm 83:18, Isaiah 12:2, and Isaiah 26:4.
- ❑ It is used three other times as part of a compound name for God:
  - ❑ Jehovah-Jireh (Gen. 22:14), the Lord will provide.
  - ❑ Jehovah-Nissi (Exodus 17:15), the Lord my banner.
  - ❑ Jehovah-Shalom (Judges 6:24), the Lord is peace.
- ❑ Incidentally, the second part of each compound name is not understandable in English, and I believe it should be translated so the English reader can understand it, not transliterated.
- ❑ Yahweh is a better translation, despite the superstition surrounding the name.
- ❑ We should remain sensitive to those who are hesitant to use that pronunciation.

# KJV Uses a Sub-Optimal Greek Text

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KJV, SIMILAR TO NKJV

Rev. 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

βίβλου τῆς ζωῆς – Textus Receptus

ESV

Rev. 22:19 And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς – Majority and critical texts

# NIV More Clear at Acts 20:28

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NIV

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

KJV

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

# KJV Adds Words, Ephesians 2:1

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KJV, SIMILAR TO NKJV

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

These words are in italics, indicating they were supplied by translators for clarity. "Quickened" is also archaic.

ESV

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...

The verb "to be made alive" does not appear until verse 5.



# KJV Translation Too Restrictive in Meaning

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KJV

2 Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Also archaic: **shew** and **dividing**.

NKJV better with “Be diligent;” same with “rightly dividing.”

NKJV

2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

NIV is too weak with “do your best.”

Sometimes you simply have to do better than your best—and you *can*, with God’s help.

# KJV Incorrect

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KJV

Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

There were not two separate acts.

NKJV

Mark 6:20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Acts 5:30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Hanging is not a main verb; it is an instrumental participle of means.

# KJV Imprecise and Inconsistent

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KJV

Exod. 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Kill is too broad.

Matt. 19:18 Thou shalt do no murder...

Inconsistent, but better.

Rom. 13:9 Thou shalt not kill...

Inconsistent.

NKJV

Exod. 20:13 You shall not murder.

Murder is correct.

Matthew 19:18 You shall not murder...

Rom 13:9 You shall not murder...

Consistent.

# KJV Does not Handle Names Well

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KJV

Isaiah 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem...

Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying...

The name Isaiah is used in the Old Testament, but Esaias in the New.

NKJV

Isaiah 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem...

Matthew 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying...

The name Isaiah is used consistently in both testaments.

# Conclusions

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1. We can find problems in most translations.
2. I do not prefer to use the KJV because of the many inaccuracies in it with respect to modern English and its sub-optimal Greek text. The fact is that since 1611, we have had 400 years more to find more manuscripts, understand Greek better, and develop tools to make better translations. There is no absolutely excuse for us to force new readers back 250 years in English to get them into the Bible (1769 Blayney revision).
3. I prefer a translation that follows the Greek text more closely and which translate participles in a fitting manner.
4. NASB, ESV, LSB, NKJV, NIV are all good translations. The NRSV is not.

# The NKJV Capitalization is Too Much

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NKJV, NAS SIMILAR

Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

They like capitals in their poetry formatting.

NIV, ESV, KJV SIMILAR

Psalm 1:2-3 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither--whatever they do prospers.