

Dear John (from Tennessee),

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You mentioned that you read a response letter on our website regarding what we consider to be the best translations available today of the English Bible. You wanted to know what we had to say about the “classic King James Bible.”

As of any Bible translation, there are always pros and cons. However, there are some Christians that believe that the King James Version is not only the best version, but also the only valid English version. They say that newer translations do not accurately convey God’s truth. Many Greek and Bible scholars disagree with this viewpoint by citing the many spurious passages in the King James Version.

The *Sinaitic* manuscript, found in 1859 at the foot of Mt. Sinai by Dr. Tischendorf, the great German scholar, was written in the third century. When Dr. Tischendorf made a careful comparison of the *Sinaitic* manuscript with the King James Version he came up with a long list of additions and alterations that appeared in the KJV, which did not appear in the original *Sinaitic*. Many of these additions are attributed to overly zealous scribes, who had a tendency to add to the more recent manuscripts from which they copied. Below we have listed just some of the interpolations that Dr. Tischendorf discovered. Some individuals have deemed it wise to delete these from their Bibles:

Matthew 5:22—“without a cause” **Matthew 6:13**—“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” **Matthew 6:25**—“or what ye shall drink” **Matthew 16:2**—“When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red.” **Matthew 16:3**—This entire verse. **Matthew 17:21**—“and fasting” **Matthew 18:12**—“into the mountains” **Matthew 20:7**—“and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive” **Matthew 22:13**—“and take him away” **Matthew 23:35**—“son of Barachias” **Matthew 24:10**—“and shall hate one another” **Matthew 24:31**—“sound of a” **Matthew 24:41**—“women shall be” **Matthew 25:6**—“cometh” **Matthew 27:52**—“and the graves were opened” **Matthew 27:53**—“and went” **Matthew 28:19**—“therefore” **Mark 4:37**—“so that it was now full” **Mark 6:51**—“beyond measure, and wondered” **Mark 7:8**—“For ... as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things as ye do” **Mark 7:14**—“unto me every one of you” **Mark 9:24**—“with tears” **Mark 9:29**—“and fasting” **Mark 9:44**—This entire verse **Mark 9:45**—“into the fire that never shall be quenched” **Mark 9:46**—This entire verse. **Mark 9:47**—“fire” **Mark 9:49**—“and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt” **Mark 10:24**—“for them that trust in riches” **Mark 10:30**—“houses and brethren and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions” **Mark 14:30**—“twice” **Mark 14:68**—“and the cock crew” **Mark 14:72**—“the second time” “twice” **Mark 16:9-20**—All these verses **Luke 2:40**—“in spirit” **Luke 8:45**—“and sayest thou, Who touched me?” **Luke 16:16**—“and every man presseth into it” **Luke 17:12** —“which stood afar off” **Luke 17:35**—“women” **Luke 18:11**—“with himself” **Luke 22:43**—This entire verse. **Luke 22:44**—This entire verse. **Luke 22:68**—“me, nor let me go” **Luke 23:5**—“teaching” **Luke 23:34**—“Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do” **Luke 24:42**—“and of an honeycomb”

John 1:25—"asked him, and" **John 3:13**—"which is in heaven" **John 4:9**—"for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" **John 5:3**—"waiting for the moving of the water" **John 5:4**—This entire verse. **John 5:25**—"and now is" **John 8:1-11**—All these verses. **John 8:59**—"going through the midst of them, and so passed by" **John 16:16**—"because I go to the Father" **John 19:23**—"and also his coat" **John 21:25**—This entire verse. **Acts 6:3**—"Holy Ghost and" should read: "spirit of" **Acts 6:8**—"faith" should read: "grace" **Acts 8:37**—This entire verse. **Acts 9:31**—"churches" should read: "church" **Acts 15:32**—"and confirmed them" **Acts 18:5**—"pressed in the spirit" should read: "earnestly occupied with the Word" **Acts 18:21**—"I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but" **Romans 3:22**—"and upon all" **Romans 6:12**—"it in" **Romans 7:6**—"that being dead" should read: "being dead to that" **Romans 8:26**—"for us" **Romans 11:6**—"But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" **Romans 14:6**—"and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it" **I Corinthians 2:1**—"testimony" should read: "mystery" **I Corinthians 6:20**—"and in your spirit, which are God's" **I Corinthians 7:5**—"fasting and" **I Corinthians 10:28**—"for the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" **I Corinthians 15:24**—"cometh" **Galatians 3:1**—"that ye should not obey the truth" **Galatians 3:17**—"in Christ" **Galatians 5:19**—"adultery" **Galatians 5:21**—"murders" **Ephesians 5:9**—"Spirit" should read: "light" **Ephesians 5:30**—"of his flesh, and of his bones" **II Thessalonians 2:9**—"Even him," **I Timothy 3:16**—"God" should read: "who" **I Timothy 4:12**—"in spirit" **I Timothy 6:5**—"from such withdraw thyself" **II Timothy 3:3**—"without natural affection" **Hebrews 12:18**—"mount that might be touched and that burned with fire" should read: "fire that might be touched and burned" **Hebrews 12:20**—"or thrust through with a dart" **I Peter 2:5**—"spiritual" (before the word "sacrifices") **I Peter 3:8**—"courteous" should read: "humble" **II Peter 1:1**—"God and our" should read: "our Lord and" **I John 3:16**—"of God" **I John 5:7**—"in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" **I John 5:8**—"And there are three that bear witness in earth" **I John 5:13**—"and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" **Revelation 1:17**—"unto me, Fear not" **Revelation 2:22**—"their" should read: "her" **Revelation 5:3**—"neither under the earth" **Revelation 6:2**—"to conquer" should read: "he conquered" **Revelation 9:4**—"neither any green thing" **Revelation 9:13**—"the four horns of" **Revelation 10:6**—"and the sea, and the things which are therein" **Revelation 11:17**—"and art to come" **Revelation 12:12**—"inhabiters of" "of" (before "the sea") **Revelation 14:5**—"before the throne of God" **Revelation 14:12**—"here are they" **Revelation 16:5**—"and shalt be" should read: "the holy" **Revelation 16:7**—"another out of" **Revelation 16:11**—"and their sores" "of their deeds" **Revelation 16:17**—"from the throne" **Revelation 18:22**—"of whatsoever craft he be" "and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee" **Revelation 20:5**—"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" **Revelation 21:24**—"of them which are saved" "and honor" **Revelation 21:26**—"and honor" **Revelation 22:3**—"more"

Many modern Bible translations have already made these corrections or have noted the spurious passages. The fact that the KJV has so many interpolations is the main reason we prefer a modern Bible translation where corrections are noted.

In defense of the KJV, we have to say that the English is poetic and musical. Reading the Psalms in a translation other than the KJV is never as moving as when read in the KJV. Many of our common sayings today come directly from the KJV. Also, there is a sense of holiness, reverence and majesty that other translations do not exhibit.

What do we have to say about the classic King James Version of the Bible? Although we believe that there are more accurate translations available, we certainly would not tell anyone to not study from the KJV. It is a beautiful rendition of the word of God with even a more beautiful message. However, we would encourage all those using it as their main study Bible to make the changes and deletions listed above.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio