

THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS RELEVANT

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A while ago, Pastor Craig Savige preached a sermon at Victory Faith Centre: “The King James Bible — relevant for today”. Here are some things from that sermon.

In Jeremiah 23:36 it says, “And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man’s word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.” Notice that there are people who wish to pervert the words of God.

One of the heathens’ own philosophers, George Orwell, prophesied in his book, “1984”, Part 1, Chapter 5, published 1949: “‘The proles [i.e. the common people] are not human beings,’ he said carelessly. ‘By 2050 earlier, probably — all real knowledge of Oldspeak will have disappeared. The whole literature of the past will have been destroyed. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron — they’ll exist only in Newspeak versions, not merely changed into something different, but actually changed into something contradictory of what they used to be.’”

If it were possible, evil forces would want to pervert the English language and pervert the Bible, so that the truth is taken away. But, God has communicated to mankind — and He wants His Word to be kept clear and pure.

The Authorized King James Bible is superior because of the quality of English at the time it was translated from 1604–1611. It is widely accepted that the greatest English works were produced at the same time as the King James Bible and the plays of Shakespeare.

We see now the rise of English as a global language. It is estimated that there are 300 million native speakers and 300 million who use English as a second language and a further 100 million use it as a foreign language. It is the language of science, aviation, computing, diplomacy, and tourism. It is listed as the official or co-official language of over 45 countries and is spoken extensively in other countries where it has no official status. English plays a major part in the cultural, political and economic life of the world.

With English now essentially being a global language, it would be appropriate to teach people Bible English with the view of conforming them to the pure text. God’s way is to turn people to the pure — “For then will I turn to the people a pure language [i.e. the Biblical], that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.” (Zephaniah 3:9). For people to have “one consent” they would need to have access to the one Bible. The timing for this one Bible is given in Zephaniah 3:8 — “the day that I rise up to prey ... to gather the nations”. This represents a reversal of what happened at the tower of Babel where “the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this [evil] they begin to do ... Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” (Genesis 11:6, 7). The time has now come wherein “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14). This demands a single pure Word in conjunction with a global language.

“The King James Bible became part of the everyday world of generations of English-speaking peoples, spread across the world. It can be argued that, until the end of the First World War, the King James Bible was seen as not simply as the most important English translation of the Bible but as one of the finest literary works in the English language. It did not follow trends; it established them.” (McGrath, A., “In The Beginning”, Hodder & Stoughton, 2002, p.3.).

Think about the accuracy of King James Bible in its words, punctuation, grammar, metre, historical details and prophecy. All these things are what God wanted to communicate to His people (“All scripture” — 2 Timothy 3:16). These things are all deficient in other book purporting to be Bibles.

A pure faith and pure doctrinal basis needs a pure Word. Deficiencies come from neglecting this foundation. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3).