

James White and the 'King James Only Controversy' so-called Summary Overview

The following note was sent some years ago to a former pastor of a church this writer attends about James White's book. The note was sent on May 21st 2007. No reply was ever received. Some updates in braces [] have been inserted.

Dear ****,

Since you kindly lent me the book of the above title, I thought I should bring you up to date on my study of it over the past year.

Having read it, I decided for my own edification to carry out my own review of the book, also bringing together the work of various other authors who have answered some the issues that James White raised.

My review is a little over half-finished [it is now complete¹].

You were also kind enough to read my book on the subject, 'O *Biblios*,' wherein my stance on the matter of the Bible is expressed.

My researches into James White's thesis have, if anything, served to strengthen that stance.

It should also be said that James White hasn't changed his stance either, as you can see from his web site². I haven't read his answers to his critics in detail but they appear to be mainly a repetition of the contents of his book. They may merit a closer study in the future but for now, I can only deal with one controversy at a time.

Although my review is not complete, I have nevertheless been able to identify six main postulates that, even if not expressed as such, James White puts forward in his book. I have attached a summary of them, together with my summary answers, for your interest. Let me know if you have any problem opening the attachment. [See **The King James Only Controversy by James White – Overview**. That item follows this note.]

In addition, I have been able to form some conclusions about James White and his work, which I have listed below. Eventual completion of my review of his book will not change them - though it might add to them. I believe that they, together with the attached material, should be kept in mind by anyone who reads White's book and who may be swayed by the opinions of some of his more prominent supporters³. They have been answered⁴.

My conclusions are as follows.

1. James White is a hireling. Although he recommends the purchase of *multiple translations*, p 7 of his book, he has a vested financial interest in persuading bible readers to buy the NASV, New American Standard Version, because he is (or was in the 1990s) a consultant to the NASV committee with a financial relationship with the Lockman Foundation⁵. It is therefore easy to see why James White does not want bible readers to be 'KJV-Only.'
2. James White is not missionary minded. Whatever he may profess to the contrary, James White is not mindful of the mission field. Certainly his book displays little or no such concern for distributing the scriptures world-wide. He betrays his lack of concern in his statement above with respect to the purchase of *multiple translations*. Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger⁶, whom White attacks repeatedly in his book, exposes White's inward-looking attitude.

It is scandalous for rich Americans to have ten versions of the bible, instead of just one. Four million dollars was invested in the New King James Version; subsequent to that; several million dollars was spent on advertising campaigns. Many tribes and peoples around the world have no King James Bible type bibles at all; the Albanian bible was destroyed during the communist regime. Many of the tribes in New Guinea do not have

a bible in their language. But, these countries have no money to pay the publishers. The publishers are not interested in giving these people bibles; they are just interested in making bibles that can produce a profit for their operation.

Dr Mrs Riplinger's [then] latest work⁷, which runs into almost 1,000 pages, demonstrates how particularly well-suited the AV1611 is for transmission into foreign languages and how it has long been esteemed by missionaries for that reason. All modern versions fall short of the AV1611 in this respect.

James White revels somewhat on his web site⁸ in Dr Mrs Riplinger's designation of him as "*rude and crude and...a heretic.*" But she didn't start out that way in her view of him⁹.

So if James White eventually acquired that designation from a gracious Christian lady like Sister Riplinger, you can rest assured, he earned it.

3. James White is his own final authority. Nowhere in his book does James White specify what is the word of God, consisting of the words of God, and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice, between two covers and where the members of the Body of Christ can find it [neither can any other 'originals-onlyist']. It is abundantly clear from his book that he doesn't believe the AV1611 to be such. However, he betrays his own self-made approach to final authority in such statements as these, my underlining.

P 95. *The NIV's rendering of the term "flesh" in Paul's epistles as "sinful nature"...is a bit too interpretive for my tastes.*

Pp 160-161. *Scripture [a selection of modern versions and excluding the AV1611] records Jesus' call to take up the cross in three places, and this is sufficient**.

*One wonders if White has informed the Godhead of his conclusion in this respect and advised Them of the necessary amendments to the word that "*is settled in heaven*" Psalm 119:89.

Hopefully not, because, as it happens, White is wrong. Only Mark 10:21 as it stands unequivocally* in the AV1611 has the expression "*take up the cross.*" The other three verses, Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23 all refer to "his cross" not "the cross." As you will appreciate, there is a distinct difference.

*Although on this occasion, the NKJV appears to have overlooked the usual footnote that would eliminate the expression, in accordance with the Nestle Aland-United Bible Societies text underlying the NASV, NIV etc.

4. James White is economical with the truth. James White repeatedly accuses 'KJV-Onlyists' of being *inconsistent* pp 60, 71, 72, 88, 209, 230, 231, 233, 248, 249 and of adopting *double standards* pp 107, 162, 170, 173, 232, 236, 244. At the very least, this is a case of 'pots and kettles.'

For example, James White insists, p 38, that the AV1611 has added to the word of God by means of the phrase *and the Lord Jesus Christ* at the end of Colossians 1:2, even though the phrase has overwhelming attestation from a vast and varied body of sources, including Codex Aleph or Sinaiticus. See Moorman¹⁰. The phrase is in fact, one of the 'least disputable' of all the so-called 'disputed passages.'

Yet White also describes Codex Aleph as *a great treasure*, p 33 - in spite of supposedly adding to the word of God in Colossians 1:2. What he neglects to tell the reader is the manner in which Aleph definitely does add to the word of God, by means of the New Testament apocryphal books, *The Shepherd of Hermas* and *The Epistle of Barnabas*.

Gail Riplinger reveals¹¹ that these two books urge the reader to *take the name of the beast, give up to the beast and form a one-world government* along with other Satanic exhortations.

James White neglected to mention any of this in his book but such is his *great treasure*. He is clearly being *inconsistent* and applying a *double standard*.

(And it is therefore easy to see why White and his allies despise Gail Riplinger and her work in equal measure.)

5. James White leans heavily towards Rome and Watchtower. In spite of what James White would undoubtedly profess to the contrary, the departures from the AV1611 that White favours and which occur mostly in the NASV, NIV, also occur to a considerable extent in Catholic and Jehovah's Witnesses' bibles.

White levels criticisms at 237 passages of scripture as they stand in the AV1611, 250 verses in total, of which 24 verses are from the Old Testament. Of that selection, the NIV stands with the AV1611 in only 9 of the 237 passages, or in 4% of the total. However, it lines up *against* the AV1611 *with* the JR, DR, JB and NWT¹² in 28% of the passages, with the JB and NWT in 69% of the passages and with one or more of the JR, DR, JB, NWT in 89% of the passages that White mentions.

James White won't see himself as a Vatican-Watchtower slave but he is. Note also that in these last days of "*perilous times*" 2 Timothy 3:1, the modern so-called 'evangelical' versions are drifting further from the 1611 Authorised Holy Bible than even the known apostate versions. The time of faith being "*made shipwreck*" cannot be long delayed, 1 Timothy 1:20 - though I admit that is a personal view.

In sum, I do not regard either James White or his work as trustworthy, a summary view that I believe will be reinforced as the review progresses [It was]. For now, for what it's worth, I am quite happy for you to display this note and the accompanying attachment on the church notice board and/or circulate them however you may choose to and I will be quite happy to respond to any questions that may arise therefrom. [That never happened.]

I apologise for the length of this note but I hope that some useful clarification has been provided with respect to the issues that James White's book raises. Thank you again for the loan of it.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Chronicles 14:11, [***“And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.”***]

Alan

The King James Only Controversy by James White - Overview

The 'Whitewash' Conspiracy – re: The King James Only Controversy by James White

Summary

This book by James White, of Alpha and Omega Ministries, Phoenix, Arizona, attempts to show that believing the Authorised 1611 King James Bible to be the pure words of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice, is wrong, because:

- There is no 'conspiracy' behind the modern versions against the AV1611
- The Greek texts underlying the modern translations have not been corrupted
- Modern scholarship that compiled these texts is entirely trustworthy
- The AV1611 is the result of human effort and contains errors
- The modern translations often yield superior readings to the AV1611
- The modern translations do not attack the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This review will show that White is wrong in all six of the above respects and that his book is an exercise in dissimulation from start to finish. Summary answers to White's essential postulates are as follows:

No Conspiracy?

John Burgon¹³, Dean of Chichester and exhaustive researcher into the Text of the New Testament, pin-pointed the satanic conspiracy against the holy scriptures as follows:

Vanquished by THE WORD Incarnate, Satan next directed his subtle malice against the WORD written. Hence...the extraordinary fate which befell certain early transcripts of the Gospel...Corrupting influences...were actively at work throughout the first hundred and fifty years after the death of St John the Divine.

Uncorrupted Greek Texts?

Of the early Greek manuscripts that underlie the departures of the modern versions from the Authorised Version, Burgon¹⁴, who collated them, said this:

The five Old Uncials' (Aleph A B C D) falsify the Lord's Prayer as given by St. Luke in no less than forty-five words. But so little do they agree among themselves, that they throw themselves into six different combinations in their departures from the Traditional Text...and their grand point of union is no less than an omission of an article. Such is their eccentric tendency, that in respect of thirty-two out of the whole forty-five words they bear in turn solitary evidence.

Modern Scholarship Trustworthy?

The departures of the modern versions from the Authorised Version were orchestrated mainly by Cambridge academics Westcott and Hort. Of their 'scholarship,' Burgon¹⁵ stated:

My contention is, - NOT that the Theory of Drs Westcott and Hort rests on an INSECURE foundation, but, that it rests on NO FOUNDATION AT ALL.

A Modern Scholar Speaks

Of White's remaining postulates, this is the verdict of Dr Frank Logsdon¹⁶, principal scholar behind the NASV, New American Standard Version, match mate to the NIV:

I must under God renounce every attachment to the New American Standard...you can say the Authorized Version is absolutely correct. How correct? 100% correct!

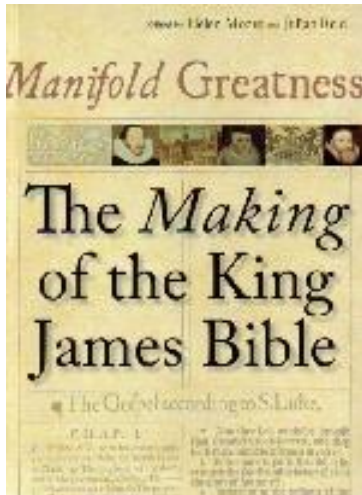
Amen!

Citation in Contrast to the Highmindedness of James White and all other 'Originals-Onlyists':

"Lowliness of mind" Philippians 2:4 versus 2 Timothy 3:4 "Traitors, heady, highminded"

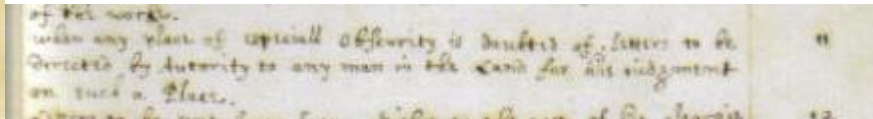
The King James translators' ***"lowliness of mind"*** Philippians 2:4 contrasts sharply with ***"Traitors, heady, highminded"*** 2 Timothy 3:4 amongst whom is James White ***"who loveth to have the preeminence among them"*** 3 John 9 as his book *The King James Only Controversy* readily shows.

Gail Riplinger has revealed the humility of the King James translators versus the arrogance of James White and his fellow travellers in the following extract¹⁷:



The handwritten rules for the translation of the KJB (1604-1611) were published in a book entitled, *Manifold Greatness: The Making of the King James Bible*. It is published by the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford in Great Britain (Helen Moore and Julian Reid, Eds., Oxford: Bodleian Library, p. 89).

Readers were in for a surprise. I had said in *In Awe of Thy Word* that Rule 11 called for the input of any man. I had read that in one of the VERY old documents I have. That rule recognizes the priesthood of all believers and in effect denounces any separate 'superior' class of 'scholars' or 'linguists'...



However, as the years rolled on, the liberal 'scholars' of England had changed Rule 11, when they wrote their books on the history of the KJB. They pretended that the translators invited only "any learned man." They added the word "learned" to rule 11!!!!

Lo and behold, when the ORIGINAL handwritten notes were resurrected for this 400th anniversary, and a photocopy printed in *Manifold Greatness*, they said, "any man", just as I had said in *In Awe of Thy Word*. The scholars did not like the idea that just ANY believer could give his insights to the committee, so they changed it.

The priesthood of believers, following the Spirit of God, not the puffed up views of scholars, is the means by which God preserves his word. King James and the KJB translators knew this.

Don't believe everything you read that was written by scholars. They uniformly copy each other, never bothering to look at the 'original.' Don't believe everything you read criticizing KJB believers and their facts either.

References

Note that the page reference to *Early Manuscripts, Church Fathers and the Authorized Version with Manuscript Digests and Summaries* by Dr J. A. Moorman actually refers to the earlier edition of his work entitled *Early Manuscripts, Church Fathers and the Authorized Version A Closer Look! with Manuscript Digests and Summaries*. This writer apologises for any mismatch caused thereby though it is hoped that the accompanying scripture references will obviate any difficulty.

- ¹ www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php *KJO Review Full Text – White’s fraudulent claims against the 1611 Holy Bible refuted in detail!*
- ² www.aomin.org/aoblog/store/how-we-got-the-bible/ *The King James Only Controversy, The 2nd Upd Exp edition* by James White
- ³ homepage.ntlworld.com/malcolmbowden/KJVonly.htm Malcolm Bowden of the *Creation Science Movement*. Site unavailable
moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/ruckmanism/is-your-modern-translation-corrupt-2 Jacob Prasch of *Moriel Ministries*. Site unavailable
- ⁴ www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php
The 1611 Holy Bible versus Malcolm Bowden
The 1611 Holy Bible versus Lying Jacob Prasch
The 1611 Holy Bible versus Bible Critic Jacob Prasch
Preservation of Holy Scripture - Appendix in response to Jacob Prasch
The 1611 Holy Bible versus lying Satanic Jacob Prasch - Prequel
- ⁵ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_White_%28theologian%29
- ⁶ www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *Which Bible is God’s Word?* by Gail Riplinger, pp 92-93 2nd Edition 2007 p 116
- ⁷ www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *In Awe of Thy Word* by Gail Riplinger
- ⁸ www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=664
- ⁹ www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *The James White Controversy Part 5*
- ¹⁰ www.amazon.co.uk/Manuscripts-Fathers-Authorized-Manuscript-Summaries/dp/1568480482 *Early Manuscripts, Church Fathers and the Authorized Version with Manuscript Digests and Summaries* by J. A. Moorman, p 131
- ¹¹ www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Riplinger, pp 557ff 2019 Edition pp 615ff
- ¹² www.hailandfire.com/1582RheimsTestament/index.shtml JR 1582 NT
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- ¹³ www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36722?msg=welcome_stranger#toc9 *The Revision Revised* by Dean John William Burgon, Centennial Edition, 1883-1983, A. G. Hobbs Publications, P.O. Box 14218, Fort Worth TX76117, 1983, pp 334-335 printed edition
- ¹⁴ www.gutenberg.org/files/38960/38960-pdf.pdf *The Traditional Text of the Holy Gospels* by Dean John William Burgon, edited by Edward Miller, 1896, p 084
- ¹⁵ *The Revision Revised* p 397 printed edition
- ¹⁶ www.av1611.org/kjv/logsdon.html
- ¹⁷ www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *The Riplinger Report Issue #11*