

The History of the King James Bible – Part 12 – Understanding the Language of the Authorised Version

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 “**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.**”

There are 2 things to understand from God’s word in those verses:

1. If this is indeed a book given to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God told you it was never His intent that unsaved men understand His bible! He makes His bible understandable to those who have the Holy Spirit. Without the mind of Christ, you cannot understand the word of God.
2. God said in Isaiah 55 that His ways and thoughts are way above the thoughts and ways of man. If we as puny men have the word of God and claim to understand all of it, I would know that it wasn’t the word of God!

When talking about the basic reading of the text there are very few difficulties to those who actually know how to read. – The KJV is the easiest to master of all the bible versions and the very things that are used by bible critics to dismiss the KJV as “too hard to understand” are the things that make it easier to understand.

For example, those pronouns make it more accurate/ - “You” can be single person, a small group or many. – No distinction in modern English between the singular and plural forms of pronouns.

If “you” is read in the KJV we understand those in the room are being addressed. – “I am to see thee today” would give you the understanding that one person is being addressed.

If a pronoun begins with a letter “t” the object is singular.

If the pronoun begins with the letter “y” the object is plural. – No other bible version in English has that distinctive.

Words with “eth” or “est” at the end. – Why? It is a blessing and in 1 Corinthians 12:11 we see the Holy Spirit is at work but not just that He works but here we see the “eth” designating perpetual present tense. – The work He is doing today He will continue to do day after day, after day! – **“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”**

The “eth” designates something that had a beginning but has no end. You do not have that tense in modern English, and you do not have the same clarity.

That life is ongoing, and that death is ongoing as we continue on in living for others and dying to oneself!

Another argument against the KJV is “the words are hard to pronounce”. – There is the need to learn the meaning of unfamiliar words just as we applied as we learnt to read and write. – Effort and study are required.

Until the middle of the 18th century spelling did not have uniformity.

You notice the KJV has words spelt slightly different like “musick”, “garlick”, “milch”. – To swap the KJV for a perverted “bible” because the grammar does not match our modern English is foolish.

Where did language come from?

Modern professors refuse to believe that God made man with perfect communication skills. – This gives rise to atheistic theories of language development.

The Echoic theory or “Bow-Wow theory” – Men heard sounds and created words to match the sounds.

This view is apparently derived from making analogy with the presumed tendency of children to call dogs “bow-wows”, ducks “quack, quacks”, guns “bang-bangs” and so on. – It would be a tiny language if this were the case!

It should be noted that primitive languages do not contain more words of apparently onomatopoeic origin than do more highly developed languages.

The “Ding-Dong” theory – In brief, assumes that mankind simply responded to a natural stimulus and gave it a name. He saw a trunk with limbs and leaves and said “tree”. He saw something wet and called it “water”. He saw it move and called it “river”.

This is dangerously close to what actually transpired in the garden (but only with animals). – The theory assumes a mystic relationship between things and words. – It cannot account for differing language explained by the tower of Babel.

The “Pooh-Pooh” theory – It got its’ name from the assumption that our earliest ancestors created a language out of their instinctive reactions to unpleasant experiences. – Language like this would not even meet the conversational needs of a 2-year-old!

When the time came to unite men of all nations in the person of His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, He gave supernatural power to a small company of believing men which enabled them to speak languages known to the hearers but previously unknown (and probably still) to the speaker.

Acts 2:4, 7&8 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance....And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”

This gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost at Jerusalem is ample proof the God could have given the full faculty of human speech and language to Adam in the garden. It is sufficient evidence that one language at Babel could have been turned to 100 more in a moment of time.

One of the great blessings of the coming millennial day is the promise of a “pure language”. – Zephaniah 3:9 “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to save him with one consent.”

God chose to use the English language to spread the entirety of His word to the world and it is no coincidence that English is THE language to use for worldwide business and the language to bridge other languages in communication.

Colonisation of English/American enterprise was used of God in that those ventures taught the native peoples the English language so you could send them missionaries and God’s word in English, and they could be understood!