

The History of the King James Bible – Part 20 – The “New King James”

The NKJV makes approximately 100,000 changes from the KJV.

The claimed reason for the NKJV was to use the KJV without the “archaic” Elizabethan wording. – Hard to think this is true with 100,000 changes made!

NKJV vs KJV Omissions

1. Hell is removed 22 times.
2. Repent removed 44 times.
3. Heaven removed 48 times.
4. God removed 51 times.
5. Lord 66 times.

Now why would you want a book like that?

A company called “Flesh Kincaid” has a system to determine the reading level of literature and the formula is $0.39x$ the average number of words per sentence.

$11.8x$ the average number of syllables per word. – 15.59 for a grade level.

A number of bibles were submitted to Flesh Kincaid research company, and they were asked to rate these bibles on the reading level.

NKJV grade = 6.9 – NASV grade = 6.1 – NIV grade = 8.1 – KJV grade = 5.8 – Of all the versions submitted the KJV came out at the lowest reading level comparably (11-12 years old).

KJV is therefore the easiest to read according to those who do nothing but analyse date on literature!

Changes in Matthew in the NKJV

Matthew 1:1

“Generation” changed to “genealogy”. – This destroys your cross-references to the generation of Adam. – Destroys the doctrine of being regenerated by the power of the Holy Ghost. – E.g. Titus 3:5 says our salvation is by “...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

The NKJV also says “regeneration” in Titus 3 so thank the Lord we can see in the KJV that not only have we received a new spiritual birth but that we have been placed/born into the very family of Jesus Christ when we cross-reference with Matthew 1:1.

Matthew 2:5-6

In the KJV it says Christ came to rule His people, but the NKJV says in v6 “Who will shepherd my people Israel.” – The issue between the Jewish leaders was that they understood that He came to rule and not just shepherd a people! – So, we see the NKJV waters down the purpose of Christ’s coming.

Matthew 3:7

In the KJV Jesus calls the Pharisees and Sadducees a “generation of vipers!” and so we see a consistent use of the word generation.

The NKJV omits the 1st part of their description and calls them “Brood of Vipers!” – This is done so you can’t see what offspring the people are from and tie them together.

Matthew 4:24

In the bible it says that Christ delivered those possessed with devils.

The NKJV says “...those who were demon-possessed.” – The problem here is that the word demon is a transliteration of a Greek word and signifies nothing but a spirit presence or a spirit influence. – It does not designate whether the spirit is good or evil as pagans believed in this term.

Demon definition in Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary:

"A spirit, or immaterial being, holding a middle place between men and the celestial deities of the Pagans. The ancients believed that there were good and evil demons, which had influence over the minds of men, and that these beings carried on an intercourse between men and gods, conveying the addresses of men to the gods, and divine benefits to men."

Philosophers such as Plato believed that when you performed a great feat, wrote a pretty poem, played a nice piece on an instrument that that was something beyond human power but from a demon and very seldom were they seen as a bad thing.

But we know the destruction of the Devil and his devils to always be evil, so the KJV is spot on again to denote the nature of the beings cited.

Matthew 5:16

In the bible it says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

We see the complete sentence and what comes between are known as parenthetical commas. – That is, we have between the commas an additional thought that supplements the sentence but is not necessary to form or complete a complete sentence. – So, with the commas we have something that makes sense in the real world.

The "...and glorify your father which is in heaven" part is not others doing so as you are shining the light of Christ. – Us letting others see our good works glorifies our Father in heaven.

The NKJV removes the 2nd comma and gives it a different meaning and one that is wrong. – How often do we see lost men glorifying God in heaven in response to your righteous works set before them?! – This can lead to discouragement. – No, God gets the glory whether they respond positively towards Him or not!

Matthew 5:32

KJV says only "fornication" is grounds for divorce, but the NKJV says "sexual immorality" which is a broader and less clear criteria as even a "second look" is immoral and so the NKJV would lead you to believe it would be right to divorce at something like that.

Who defines immorality? Many forms exist!

Matthew 6:13

Our bible says "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." – The NKJV says "...But deliver us from the evil one."

Evil is present with us without Satan's involvement, so this limits the intended scope of the prayer.

Matthew 6:22-23

The KJV says (v 22) "The light of the body is the eye..." and "...if therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" – The NKJV says "The lamp of the body is the eye" in v22 but in v23 "If therefore the light that is in you..."

Why not "lamp that is in you"? – If it is lamp in v22 then it should be lamp in v23. – This is not translation but just taking the KJV and changing words and therefore the clarity and consistency God intends to give you.

Matthew 9:15

The bible says "And Jesus said unto them, can the children of the bride chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?..."

The NKJV says “Can the friends of the bridegroom...” – There is a big difference between being someone’s child and someone’s friend!

The NKJV seems to have an issue with being born into the family of God. – A friend does not have a claim on the inheritance, but a child certainly does! – A friend does not have the same blood, but a child does.

Matthew 12:40 and Jonah 1:17

The fish was prepared for the job of getting the rebellious prophet into it’s belly. – Jesus calls the fish a whale in Matthew 12:40 and the translators of the NKJV have the cheek to “correct” Christ and call it “a great fish” in Matthew 12:40.

Matt 17:15, 18

In the KJV the son possessed with the devil (v18) was described as “lunatic” whereas the NKJV calls him “epileptic”.

This is evil as it supports the notion a born-again believer with epilepsy has a devil which could not be further from the truth.

Matthew 21:25-27

After Jesus asks these elders where the baptism of John came from the reply in v27 “...we cannot tell.” – They know but are not willing to say.

In the NKJV they respond “we do not know” – There is a big difference as there is no condemnation for not knowing.

Matthew 23:14

The bible says the hypocrite Pharisees will “receive the greater condemnation.” – The NKJV put a footnote saying “NU omits v14” – The NKJV seems to bail out the Pharisees when you go through Jesus’ rebukes toward them.

Matthew 26:31

The bible says “...All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it...” – Many a person has been offended because of the Lord and His call to righteousness but the NKJV says “All of you will be made to stumble because of me this night...” – Jesus never causes anyone to stumble as that is of the flesh and not of God!

Matthew 27:3-4

The bible in v4 Judas calls Jesus’ blood “...the innocent blood.” – The NKJV says “....innocent blood.” – There was only one person on the face of the earth that ever had innocent blood and that was Christ and so “the” as a definite article is correct. – The NKJV indicates there was more than one.