

The History of the King James Bible – Part 5 – Headquarters of the NT Church

2 Timothy 3:16 “**All scripture IS given by inspiration of God**” It is to our joy that God preserved His word, so it IS profitable and not was!

1 Timothy 3:16 says “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...” – A marvellous truth about our God.

The RSV says “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: **He** was manifested in the flesh...” – Who was? Everyone was born of the flesh! That is not a great mystery. – Why read a book that does not contain this truth?

There have been 3 groups responsible for attempting to rid the earth of the bible:

1. The Communist movement
2. Muslim religion
3. Roman Catholicism

The 1st attempt was made by Diocletian as Roman Emperor in 302AD. He ordered an edict which decreed the burning of all bibles. – If there were no complete bibles before 400AD then why was this decree made? The truth of God’s word was shaking his kingdom!

In the dark ages (the Devil’s millennium) from 500AD-1500AD when the RCC had power over the known world the RCC forbade the use of bibles. – Pope Nicholas in 816AD passed a decree forbidding anymore to read the bible. - In 1198AD Pope Innocent 3rd issued a decree that all that read the bible should be put to death.

In England 1553-1558 when the RCC queen Mary (Bloody Mary) was in power Christians were burned at the stake and bibles were used as kindlin.

French infidel Voltaire who died in 1778 boasted that Christianity would be a dead religion 100 years from his day. Within 15 years of his death what would have been his printing works were being used by the Geneva Bible Society to print God’s word! Not so wise was he?!

Manuscripts that support out bible as of 1968:

- 88 papyrus manuscripts
- 267 uncial manuscripts
- 2764 minuscule manuscripts
- 2143 Lectionary manuscripts
- More than 10,000 portions of scripture in Latin predating the Vaticanus manuscripts.
- Over 9000 other version manuscripts (Coptic, Syriac etc...)

All of this prior to the date the critics say there was nothing but oral tradition. The most ancient surviving Greek book is Homer’s “The Iliad” with 643 manuscript copies of that book compared to over 2400 for our KJV!

The preservation of the NT scriptures has followed 2 streams:

1. Syria and Antioch on one side
2. Alexandrian and Egypt on the other side and NEVER the twain shall meet!

One has given salvation, missionary endeavour throughout the world the other has given none of that but the modern versions.

1 Peter 2:1-2 “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies. And all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby;” – All NT saints are told to desire God’s word in sincerity (the real thing and definite article).

1 Timothy 3:15 says the church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." – God's church is going to desire God's truth.

Dark Ages Preservation

Even in the dark ages there has always been people that had the right bible and as a result of having the right bible they had the right doctrine. – The old Latin versions were used the longest by the Western Christians who would not bow to the authority of Rome.

Examples are the Donatus, Irish and British people, The Albigenses, and the Waldensians .

The Waldensians were among the first of the peoples of Europe to attain a translation of the holy scriptures. 100s of years before the reformation they possessed the bible in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution.

For 1000 years witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith in a most wonderful manner and preserved it uncorrupted in the years of darkness. It is therefore evident that the translators of 1611 had before them 4 bibles that come under Waldensian influence. These were:

- 1. The Diodati in Italian**
- 2. The Olivetan in French**
- 3. The Lutheran in German**
- 4. The Genevan in English**

The KJV 1611 translators also likely had 6 copies of the bible in the Waldensian vernacular. The Waldensians realised that the Latin Vulgate of the RCC was a corrupted text and so they rejected.

The Codex Teplensis discovered recently in a Bohemian monastery has been proven to be a copy of an older Waldensian version and represents the text of the earliest German bible. The Germanic version is essentially the same as the text used in the Lutheran translation and the authorised KJV. It also contains all the disputed passages in John's epistles and John's gospel.

The student of the bible should know that the Donatus, the Albigenses and the Waldensians were the forebearers of the Anabaptists and the Baptist movement who have never embraced a clergy/laity, infant baptism, salvation by works etc... system and these are the people connected with preservation of the pure bible text which came from Antioch, Syria, Eastern Europe and eventually through Germany and England.

The Greek NT was preserved in the Greek speaking branch of Christianity even during the times of apostasy and darkness. The Roman Emperor Constantine 312-337AD moved the seat of the government to the city of Byzantium and renamed in Constantinople and the Roman empire consequently divided into 2 legs (Daniel 2). This was the East and West resulting in 2 great branches of Christendom:

1. The Western/Latin church centred in Rome.
2. The Eastern/Byzantine church centred in Constantinople.

Simply put, you had Rome, which grew out of Alexandria, which grew out of Egypt – Salvation by works, by water baptism and priests ruling over what they call the laity. – All resulting in the pagan mystery religions. – This is the Western branch of the "church" under the pope.

Then you had Constantinople, Syria, Antioch – These people always believed in salvation by grace, baptism for believers only and the priesthood of all believers. – This is the Eastern branch of the church.

So, what happens when a church that calls itself a Baptist church begins to embrace Western, Roman, Egyptian versions of the bible? They begin to make baptism a condition for church membership. They begin to do away with the priesthood of all believers and get "a man of God" fetish. They still teach salvation by grace but that your salvation by grace is valid or invalid dependant on your works! – All this the result of Roman bibles.

The Byzantine period was from the fall of Constantinople to the Muslims in 1443AD. For most of its' history the Eastern branch of the church dwelt in the darkness of apostasy and yet within its; monasteries the monks continue to produce 1000s of manuscripts in the pure Greek NT!

How could this be since these were the scriptures the fringe groups, like the Waldensians, used to resist their tyranny? Because God used these men to preserve His word! – It also shows how true these men were to copy the scriptures accurately seeing it opposed their false teaching.

What came out of this Eastern church was an apostolic heritage. Greece and Asia Minor were the first strong centres of Christianity and most of the originals would have been located there. The missionary and creedal heritage came out of this Eastern branch of Christianity. It was the branch of Christianity that refused heresy, as it arose, by appealing to the bible text. – Rome, however, embrace all heresy and paganism.

The following form the backbone of our KJV:

- Syrian text (as far back as we can go)
- Antiochian text
- Byzantine text
- Traditional text
- Received text

On the other side was the Alexandrian text which is the origin of all modern bibles. The first time Egypt is mentioned in scripture is Genesis 12 and Abram feared these men would kill him for his wife.

The first time Antioch is mentioned in the bible is Acts 6:5-7 a man is serving God and appointed as leader in his church and as a result the word of God increased in that area.

This law of first mention would cause you to trust a textual source of Antioch over that of Egypt.

The 2nd time we read of Egypt in the bible is Exodus 1 and we read of God's people in bondage and slave labour. The 2nd time we read of Antioch is Acts 11:19-21 and we see people hear Jesus Christ preached, them believing the message and turning to the Lord!

3rd mention of Egypt in Exodus 1 we see the king ordering babies to be murdered. 3rd mention of Antioch in Acts 11:22-24 we see good men and the move of the Holy Ghost and people being added unto the Lord. – Good things happen in Antioch and bad things happen in Egypt.

Egypt is described in Exodus 20:2 as "...the house of bondage". There is nothing good said about the place!

Acts 11:25-26 we see Barnabus seeking Saul to come unto Antioch. What was going on in Antioch that was so special that Barnabus sought for Saul and brought him there? Mighty was God's working in this place. – V26 "...And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

You have a house of bondage and a place where Paul and Barnabus want to move into. What would you choose as the source of your bible? – Deuteronomy 4:20 is where God calls Egypt an "iron furnace". – Acts 11:27 we see the prophets moving from Jerusalem to Antioch where the scriptures are going to be preserved and sent out to the whole world. – God was moving His headquarters!

Deuteronomy 17:14-16 God says do not let any man take you back to Egypt.

Acts 11:29-30 – In the early days in Acts relief is being sent from Jerusalem to the brethren. Now it is being sent from Antioch to the brethren and including the brethren in Judea.

Revelation 11:8 God takes Sodom and Egypt as a dirty name for an adulterous nation. – Who would want a bible from Egypt?

Acts 13:1-4 – The first official missionary journey where a church sent men to a specific place to proclaim the gospel was started in Antioch.

Acts 14:24-27 – We see when they had finished their missionary journey they go back to report in Antioch what God had done as this was the NT church headquarters.

Syria today is the Devil's stronghold (one of them) where the gospel is resisted to the point of death. – He came against that place as God had His heart there. – Just like Jerusalem.

So, men from Antioch in Acts 15 were against saved Jews adding the law of Moses to salvation and so sent men to Jerusalem to settle the matter and those at Jerusalem agreed saying the men (Saved Jews) went out from us but were not of them. – The Antioch church had it right, but it needed it to be settled in Jerusalem as there was no false doctrine in Antioch as they studied the word!

So, what we have in Africa, Alexandria is philosophy and religion interpreting the translating of the word of God. – Whereas in Syria you have Christians holding fast the word of God and the result of that is missionary work and the gospel going forth.

So, when we say we hold to the received text of Byzantine lineage based on the Syrian or Antiochian text, we are saying that we are going to hold to what the book of Acts confirms and leave the Egyptian stuff alone as we know what God says about Egypt. – Nothing good.

The bad source text goes from Africa to Rome, from Rome to Europe and from Europe to the NIV.

Wherever the Syrian text goes you have missions. – The Waldensians are here, the Moravians are here, the Scots are here, the work of the Philadelphian church period is here and the revivals in the USA all comes from this line and lead to the KJV.

As soon as the Alexandrian texts came to the seminaries the revivals and great missionary work stopped. This KJV brought the revivals, and this intellectualism/philosophy was a death nail to the work of God to the extent God intends it.