

MANIFOLD GREATNESS

The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible

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ing James was king of England from 1603 to 1625. He did not write or translate any part of the King James Bible. It has that name because the king agreed to a new English translation of the Bible and it is dedicated to him.

f you bought a copy of the King James Bible in 1611, you would probably buy only the pages, which would be stitched together without a cover. You would then take the pages to a bookbinder to be placed in a binding, or cover.

n 1968, the astronauts of Apollo 8, the first mission to go around the moon. read aloud from the King James Bible in a TV broadcast during their mission.

FAST FACTS

ABOUT THE
KING JAMES
BIBLE

hen the King James Bible was being made, translation was sometimes called "Englishing."

or hundreds of years, most copies of the Bible were in Latin. In 1539, King Henry VIII made a law requiring that every church in England have a copy of the Bible in English; this and other English translations influenced the language of the King James Bible.

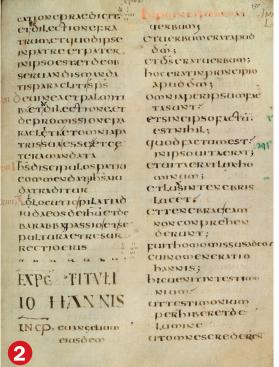
any United States presidents have taken their oath of office using a King James Bible, including Abraham Lincoln, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Barack Obama used the same Bible that Abraham Lincoln did!

BEFORE THE KING JAMES BIBLE

any of the books of the Bible were originally written in Hebrew and Greek. From these early texts, Latin manuscripts, or handwritten copies, were made throughout the middle ages. Gradually, the Bible was also translated into languages people spoke in everyday life; these are called vernacular languages. The first English translations of the entire Bible were made in the late 1300s.

EXPLOYE Learn more about early Bibles at www.manifoldgreatness.org/earlybibles





Try it!

Which description matches which Bible?

____A.This plain Latin manuscript of the book of John was produced in Italy in the 500s or 600s, which means it is almost 1,500 years old!

____B. This Hebrew
Bible was printed in
Paris in 1539. It shows
the prophet Isaiah.





____C. A beautiful pattern and a very fancy letter B decorate this Greek copy of the New Testament.

_____D. The Gutenberg
Bible was printed in
Germany, the first
place in Europe to
have a printing press.
The decorations on
this page were added
by hand after the book
was printed.

MAKING THE KING JAMES BIBLE

Let us create a new English translation of the Bible.

I agree! This new English Bible will be read throughout the kingdom.



JOHN RAINOLDS

...and so it was decided here at Hampton Court in 1604.



KING JAMES

ing James I, who had recently become king of England, met with church leaders at the royal palace of Hampton Court in 1604. John Rainolds, one of the men at the meeting, asked the king to consider creating a new Bible in English. The king agreed. For the next seven years, a special group of translators worked on the king's project. The result was the King James Bible.

Try H!

The translators dedicated their work to King James, but the letters in these words are mixed up. Can you unscramble them?

Ot het somt ighh dna ighmty pinrec Jmaes yb het racge fo Gdo ikng fo reaGt Birtian Farnce dna lerandl

Answer: To the most high and mighty prince, James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland

WHO WAS KING JAMES?



King James I

Ruled Scotland 1567–1625 Ruled England, Ireland, and Scotland 1603–1625

James was crowned king of
Scotland when he was just thirteen
months old. He also became king
of England and Ireland in 1603,
after his cousin Queen
Elizabeth I died without any
children.

King James did not write or translate any part of the Bible that bears his name. However, he did write other religious books and poetry, including poems in Latin for his wife, Queen Anne, and his older son, Prince Henry! James also enjoyed the arts. Many new plays were performed during his reign—including William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Did you know?

Prince Henry owned a copy of the King James Bible. It was bound in a special binding that has two tiny squirrels as part of the design!

Can you find the squirrels?



TRANSLATING THE KING JAMES BIBLE

ranslation is taking words from one language and finding ways to say them in a different language. People who work with written words are called *translators*. People who hear words in one language and speak them in another so that others can understand them are called *interpreters*.

Six committees of translators worked for almost seven years to produce the King James Bible. Each committee was called a company and they worked in Westminster, Oxford, and Cambridge.

Many of the translators could read and write several languages. The translators used Greek, Hebrew, and Latin texts, as well as previous English translations of the Bible, in their work.







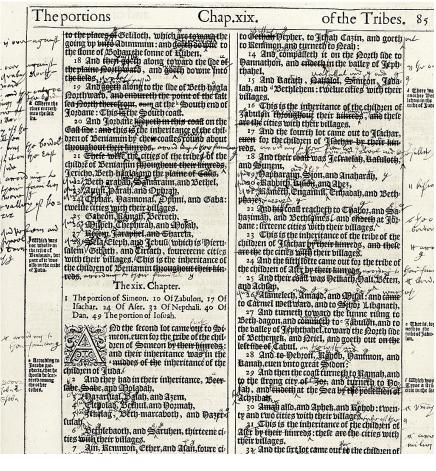
SAMUEL WARD



LAURENCE CHADERTON



JOHN RAINOLDS

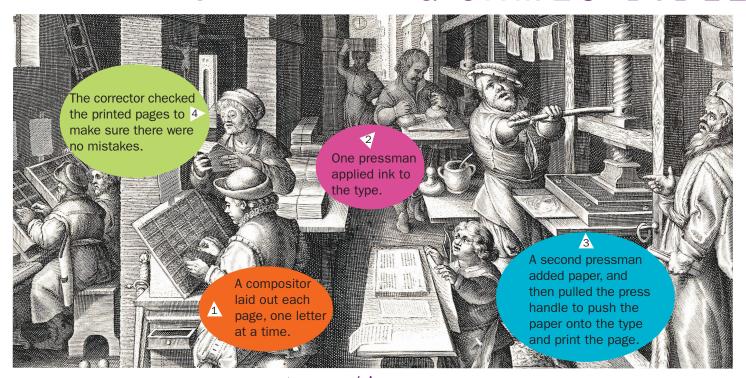


Meet the translators!

Learn more about the men who made the King James Bible at www.manifoldgreatness.org/translators

Imagine! Which of these items would a King James Bible translator would need to do his job? Hint: the translators made many notes, so they needed things to write with.				
Quill pen	Inkwell	Paper	Computer	Pen knife
Bishops' Bible	Hebrew boo	k Paper o	elips Stapler	Greek book
Answer: Quill pen, inkwell, paper, pen knife, Bishops' Bible, Hebrew and Greek books.				

PRINTING THE KING JAMES BIBLE



The King James Bible was first printed in 1611 in London.

rinting a book took many steps. It was a slow and messy process. We are not sure how many copies of the King James Bible were first printed, but the number is probably close to 1,000. It took about a year to print them!

Make it!

Print your own page at www.manifoldgreatness.org/printer

Did you know?

Printers kept lowercase letters in one case and capital letters in another. Sometimes the cases were stored on two different shelves, an "upper" one and a "lower" one. This is how we got the terms uppercase and lowercase letters!



Compositors put letters in backwards (and upside down) so they would print right-side up on the page. Can you match the phrase from the compositor's stick with the way it printed in the King James Bible?

From the printed pages of the King James Bible:

Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light
 Honor thy father and thy mother
 Give us this day our daily bread
 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth
 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
 Arise, shine, for thy light is come

From the compositor's stick:

- Y Give us this day our daily bread
- B. Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light
- C. Honor thy father and thy mother
- D. Arise, shine, for thy light is come
- E. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
- E In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth

CREATING A BOOK COVER

Draw your own design!

In the early 1600s, most books were sold without covers! Imagine that you have just bought a new book and are taking the pages to a bookbinder to be placed in a cover. Use this space to draw what you would like on the cover. In the early 1600s, book covers often included decorative lines and patterns. Sometimes very thin sheets of gold called gold leaf were placed on top to make these patterns shiny and beautiful.



Explore!

Learn more about how bindings were made and design your own at www.manifoldgreatness.org/binding

THE KING JAMES BIBLE TODAY



he King James Bible is still read today, and its words are found in songs, stories, movies, TV shows, and even a broadcast from the Apollo 8 mission!

Because of its historical importance and the ways that it is used in music, entertainment, and other types of culture, the King James Bible is one of the world's most famous books.



Many phrases from the King James Bible are still part of our everyday conversations. Can you guess which ones?





A. salt of the earth B. in a pickle

C. the blind lead the blind

D. apple of his eye

E. not a mouse stirring

F. at their wit's end

G. the skin of my teeth

H. budge an inch

1. turn the other cheek

J. many are called, but few are chosen

K. a tower of strength

L. for goodness sake

M. your own flesh and blood

N. one fell swoop

0. foul play

P. without rhyme or reason

Q. a laughingstock







Answers: A, C, D, F, G, I, J; the rest are from Shakespeare.



Learn more about the King James Bible at www.manifoldgreatness.org/kjbtoday





Discover!

Explore the story of the King James Bible and find cool things to make and do at www.manifoldgreatness.org/kids

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About Manifold Greatness

The Manifold Greatness project marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible of 1611. A joint project of the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, and the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, with the assistance of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, it includes major exhibitions at the Folger and Bodleian libraries and the Harry Ransom Center; a touring panel exhibit in the US in association with the American Library Association; a website; a book; scholarly conferences; and events and programs for the public.

The title Manifold Greatness is taken from the 1611 Bible's dedication to King James, which begins, "Great and manifold were the blessings" when God made James the king of England.











The Manifold Greatness project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Because democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the Manifold Greatness exhibition or related publications do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Fast Facts: Bible. English. Authorized. London, 1611. Folger Shakespeare Library.

Before the King James Bible: 1) Greek New Testament. Constantinople, twelfth century, beginning. Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. 2) Latin Gospels. Italy, sixth to seventh century. Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. 3) The Gutenberg Bible, 1454–55. Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. 4) Hebrew Bible, 1539. Paris: Robert Estienne, 1539-1544: Charles Estienne, 1555-1556. Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

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Printing the King James Bible: Jan van der Straet. Nova reperta. Engraving, ca. 1600. Folger Shakespeare Library.

Creating a Cover: 1) Bible. O.T. English. Selections. Embroidered binding. London, 1638; 2) Costanzo Felice. The conspiracie of Catiline. London, 1557; 3) The Holie Bible. London, 1568; Folger Shakespeare Library.

The King James Bible Today: 1) Bob Marley. Courtesy Julie Ainsworth. 2) Little House on the Prairie. NBC/Photofest. 3) Handel's Messiah. Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir. Photo by Gary Beechey. 4) A Charlie Brown Christmas. CBS/Photofest. 5) Emily Dickinson by Barry Moser 6) The Simpsons. Fox/Photofest. 7) Apollo 8 crew. From left: Commander Frank Borman, Lunar Module Pilot William Anders, Command Module Pilot James Lovell.

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