

The King James (Authorized) Version

This version is usually referred to in America as the King James Version (KJV) and in Britain as the Authorized Version (AV).

It was preceded by a number of earlier English translations:

- John Wycliff in 1380-82).
- William Tyndale in 1524 and 1534 (the KJV is really a revision of Tyndale).
- Miles Coverdale in 1535.
- John Rogers in 1537.

Work on the KJV was begun in 1604 and the version was first printed in 1611:

- the work was done by a company of 54 scholars (reduced in time to 47).
- these men were divided into 6 companies that checked each other's work.
- the final result was reviewed by a committee of 6.

Its complete title is:

"The Holy Bible, containing the Old Testament and the New: Newly translated out of the original tongues; and with the former Translations diligently compared and revised by his Majesties special Commandment. Appointed to be read in the churches."

Since then there have been many editions:

- 2 printings in 1611 - the second characterised by a serious misprint (*Judas* instead of *Jesus* in Matt. 26:36)
- further editions in 1612, 1613, 1616, 1617, 1629, 1638 & many since with various minor changes
- 1762, 1769 (Thomas Paris, Benjamin Blayney) - spelling and punctuation modernized, obsolete words changed and italicizing added

Quotation from the "Dedication" of the AV

"For when Your Highness had once, out of deep judgment, apprehended how convenient it was, that, out of the *Original sacred Tongues*, together with comparing of the labours, both in our own and other foreign languages, of many worthy men who went before us, there should be *one more exact translation of the Holy Scriptures* into the English Tongue"