

## THE NIV VS. THE KJB

**TEXT.: I Cor.14:7,9** *And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? {sounds: or, tunes} & For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? (KJB)*

**INTRO.:** A. There is no doubt about it, the NIV has become THE version of choice today among "Bibles". It is accepted, not only in Neo-Evangelical circles, but in Charismatic churches, among the cultists & even in what are called Fundamentalist conclaves (not to mention Catholic 'Bible Study' groups).

B. What is it that gives this translation of Scripture its wide acceptability? One thing is its form of publication. The International Bible Society, in league w/several publishers in N. America & England, has packaged the NIV in every style & binding imaginable & for every group under the English-speaking sun. "There are expensive, luxurious leather editions and cheap paperback editions, versions for children & ...for college students, whole Bibles & indiv. verses, Bibles w/'Holy Bible' stamped in gold on the cover & Bibles that are only discovered to be Script. when read by those familiar w/the NIV." Another reason is because of its wide distribution: Colleges & Seminaries distribute it to their students & require it in the classroom, churches place it in pew racks & use it exclusively from the pulpit, bookstores promote it (due to high profits). It has spawned commentaries, interlinears, systematic theologies and concordances. *(Most of what we say here about the NIV is also true about most of the so-called new "Bibles" e.g., the NKJB, the ESV, etc.)*

### I. PHILOSOPHY OF TRANSLATIONS:

#### A. The King James (Authorized) Bible:

1. The beloved & venerable 400+ yr. old KJB is a translation, not a paraphrase.
2. The translators revered the Word & words of God & with scholarship, & piety did their best to protect what God said (as opposed to what He meant).

**NOTE:** Other versions claim to be literal translations also, the NKJV, RSV, the ASV, and the NIV. Others claim excellent readability: Phillips, Living Bible, etc. The NIV claims both literalness & readability. It is certainly readable. It is certainly NOT literal.

#### B. The New International Bible:

1. It RSV, NWT, etc is not 'NEW' since it uses the same basic approach & the same manuscripts as others, e.g., the RSV, NWT (J/W'S), ESV, NKJV, etc.
2. It is not 'INTERNATIONAL' since its translators are nearly all Americans.

**NOTE:** Its translators are NOT fundamentalists nor 'Bible Believers'. The list reads like a 'Who's Who' of Neo-Evangelicals & Charismatics & interdenominationalists...including one self-proclaimed lesbian Ms. Virginia Molenkott.

3. IT is not a "BIBLE" in the strictest sense, i.e., only a literal translation from the Hebrew & Greek MSS can qualify as a Bible, and since the NIV follows a "dynamic equivalent" concept rather than a literal word for word translation, it does not measure up .

**QUOTE:** A translation should "differ from the original texts only in idiomatic expressions, word order, & alternative definitions of words; the operating principle of this literal equivalence translation is 'as literal as possible, as free as necessary.' This philosophy of translation has been the standard of most translators throughout the centuries..." New Inter. Version What today's Christian needs to know about the NIV, G.W. & D.E. Anderson, p.3

- a. The NIV follows the recent trend of "dynamic equivalency" which says that it is not the words that are important but the thoughts or truth behind the words (it is not what Gen. 1 says that is important but the "truth" behind what it says).

b. By their own words they sought by "frequent modifications in sentence structure & constant regard for the contextual meanings of words" to produce a translation that would speak to people in that people's own culture.

**ILLUS.:** Example: "How would Paul have written his N.T. letters had he written them in English? Question: How can a man's thoughts be known apart from his words? If a man's words do not express his thoughts, esp. in Script. how can truth be known at all? Where can truth be found if not in the very words of God to man?"

- 1) Simplicity: the NIV reads like a newspaper, w/short, chopped sentences. (Problem: this cannot be done w/out changing the concept being presented in many cases.)
- 2) Readability: the NIV is often so easy to read it is often read quickly & w/little comprehension - "skimming". (Skimming the newspaper is acceptable but skimming the Scripts. is not.)
- 3) Spirituality: no matter how closely or loosely translated the unsaved man will never understand the Scripts. unless the Spirit of God opens his eyes to its truth.

## **I. PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATIONS:**

### **A. The King James Bible (KJB):**

1. King James only "authorized" the translation of the Bible into English, he had nothing to do with its translation.

**NOTE :** The assertion that King James was a homosexual & thus the KJB is somehow "tainted" by him is ridiculous. There is NO EVIDENCE to support the allegation as to his sexual orientation anyhow (regardless of what Moody Monthly has to say to the contrary).

2. The KJB has "problems", i.e. difficulties we need to deal with, but no "errors".

**NOTE:** Any translation from one language to another will have problems and may not be 100% exact, but that is not the same as having errors. Example: we have only one word for "love" & it carries several meanings. In Greek there are several words used all translated "love" generally. That would not be an "error" - just a problem. (The KJB translators used the word "charity" in I Cor.13 to express a form of love that gives. The word love would have been too weak.)

Another "problem" has to do with "archaic words" or expressions. But a good dictionary will clear up these problems quickly. We don't need a new translation of the Bible for a few "archaic words."

### **B. The New International Version (NIV):**

1. The NIV is translated from different manuscripts than the KJB.
2. The NIV took liberties to change the Masoretic or Traditional O.T. text w/out indicating the changes with footnotes (changing vowels often changes words completely (ex: "dog" & "dug" in Eng.).
3. The NIV made word changes just for the sake of change (ex: "Shalom" is translated "peace" in some places, but the sacrifice of shalom is not translated "peace offering" but "fellowship offering!").

**NOTE:** These kinds of changes often destroy the cross-reference system in the Scriptures & hinders the reader from seeing parallels between the two Testaments. ("Lord GOD" is translated "Sovereign Lord" in NIV).

4. The NIV is most infamous for its changes in the N.T. text, due primarily to its use of the two Roman Catholic MSS, the Vaticanus & Siniaticus.

**NOTE:** The Vatican MSS differs from the Traditional Text in 7,578 places, the Sinai MSS in 8,972 places. Worse, the Vatican & Sinai MSS disagree between themselves more than 3000 times IN THE GOSPELS ALONE! As Dean Burgon observed: "It is in fact easier to find 2 consecutive verses in which these two MSS differ the one from the other, than 2 consecutive verses in which they entirely agree."

5. The NIV contains errors in INTERPRETATION (which has no place in a translation, errors in DOCTRINE (which are excused on the basis that if a doctrine is omitted or downplayed in one place, it is found elsewhere), and errors CONSISTENCY (which is always a criticism leveled at the KJB translators).

**ILLUS.: I Tim.3:16** Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (NIV) (KJB: "God was manifest in the flesh..." Of course "He" had a body, but Who was He?!)

**Romans 14:10** You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. (NIV) (Compare v.10 & v.14 in the KJB and you will see that Christ is God!)

**Luke 2:33** The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. (NIV) (Of course Joseph was not Jesus' real father. This is a frontal attack on Jesus' Deity!)

**Col.1:14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (NIV) (What happened to "redemption through His blood"?!)

**Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (NIV) ("the Gospel OF CHRIST" is omitted...it is the only Gospel or "Good News" worthy of the name!)

**Matt.27:35** When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (NIV) (KJB: "that it might be fulfilled..."The NIV obliterates the cross ref. & prophecy thus doing away with that which makes the Bible one Word)

**Matt. 17:21; 18:11; 23:14 Mark 9:44,46; 11:26; 15:28 Lk. 17:36; 23:17, John 5:4 Acts 8:37; 15:34; 24:7; 28:29 Romans 16:24,** etc are all omitted from the NIV!!!!

These omissions affect the DOCTRINE of the innerancy of Script, innerancy must be based upon the WORDS of Script, not the author's thoughts or God's thoughts, for these are beyond man's ability to discover or know.

These omissions destroy any preaching or teaching on these verse or sections of the Bible.

6. The NIV contains errors in retranslating key doctrinal terminology: grace becomes favor, glory becomes honor, righteousness becomes doing what is right, believe becomes trust, Comforter becomes Counsellor, Advocate becomes "one who speaks to the Father in our defense, think becomes feel (!), propitiation becomes sacrifice of atonement, etc. Many of these terms are not synonyms. This becomes reinterpretation

**Titus 1:2** "...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, (NIV) (The KJB has "God, that CANNOT lie" - is it that He CANNOT or that He DOES NOT?!)

**Phil.2:7** "...but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (NIV) (Did Jesus make "Himself nothing"?! or simply make "Himself of no reputation...?" as in the KJB?)

**I Cor.7:1** "Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. (NIV) (KJB: "not to touch a woman" - God wants us to marry, but not to be involved in immoral intimate contact!)

**I Cor.5:5** "...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. (NIV) (KJB: "the FLESH may be destroyed" This is interpretation, not translation. The Greek word is "sarx" = flesh!)

**CONCL.:** It can be seen from this small sampling of references that the NIV is NOT a reliable translation, though it may be a very readable version. It contains DOCTRINAL ERRORS, it RETRANSLATES Scripture, it INTERPRETS Scripture, it takes LIBERTIES with the text, it OMITTS important passages, it attacks the VIRGIN BIRTH, THE DEITY and THE BLOOD ATONEMENT of our Savior.

**The NIV is a loose attempt at translating the Word of God. The end product is no longer God's Word, it is man's word about God's Word!**

