

# INTRODUCTION

The quatercentenary of the King James version of the Bible—the Authorized Version—in 2011 occasioned not a few books and articles on King James, his Bible, and its translators. This collection of essays, written at scattered intervals during the years 1996–2020, is my contribution to these subjects.

Fifteen of these twenty-nine essays appeared in the first edition of this book (1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26 & 27). Some of them had been previously published in print or online, and were revised or rewritten for publication. Before inclusion in the second edition, most of them had minor or major revisions and additions.

Seven of the twelve new essays in the second edition (4, 6, 9, 10, 22, 23, 28) appeared for the first time. Five of the twelve (3, 8, 13, 16, & 29) had been previously published, but all of them except the last were revised for publication. Much shorter versions of the last essay appeared as different articles in three different publications before being issued in booklet form for the quatercentenary of the King James Bible in 2011. Unlike the rest of this book, this essay alone updates the spelling of all quotations from ancient sources. The essay titled “The Story of the John Bois Notes” differs from the rest in that it is fully footnoted because it was originally written as an academic paper for presentation at the 2011 annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco.

New to the third edition are essays twelve and fifteen. A shorter version of the latter was previously published. Before inclusion in the third edition, five of the essays (9, 13, 18, 24, 29) had very minimal revisions, nine of the essays (2, 5, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22, 25, 28) had minor revisions and additions, and five of the essays (11, 14, 16, 17, 26) had major revisions and additions.

The form in which each of the essays appears in this third edition should be taken as the author’s mature thought on the subjects in question.

These essays are all the result of painstaking, original research, with a strict emphasis on primary sources. Although I am indebted to some key secondary sources—both books and articles—these essays are not a rephrasing or a retelling of what can readily be found in a standard work on English Bible history. In fact, some of them are designed to correct the errors and misconceptions that are un-

fortunately too prevalent in the material written—by friend and foe alike—about the Authorized Version.

Although each of these essays can be read independently, they have been arranged in somewhat of a logical order. The essays can be divided into six categories. The first four relate to the origin of King James's Bible. Essays five through ten relate to the translators and their work. Essays eleven through seventeen explore the translators' finished product. Essays eighteen through twenty-one deal with the nature of the Authorized Version in the context of English Bible history. Essays twenty-two through twenty-eight address certain issues that relate to the Authorized Version. The last essay provides an overview of the King James Bible that was specifically written to commemorate its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The essays in the first and second categories are better read in the order in which they appear, as also the third and fourth essays (24 & 25) in the fifth category.

Although a great many sources were consulted in the preparation of these essays, the bibliography includes only works cited and works consulted that provided valuable assistance or significantly influenced my thought.

Even though the four-hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Authorized Version has come and gone, we will undoubtedly see more books, articles, and essays on King James, his Bible, and its translators in the coming years. Nevertheless, I believe that these twenty-nine essays will stand as a unique contribution to the subjects treated herein.