

## **King James Bible**

- In 1604, a conference of churchmen in England declared that the existing English Bible was “corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the original.” James I, who had recently become king of England, started a project to create a new translation.
- Later that same year, King James organized a group of approved scholars into six groups. The groups, each working separately on different parts of the Bible, were directed to follow a set of rules that sought to curb individual preferences and ensure that the work was scholarly.
- The King James version more strongly reflects the influence of the Hebrew language upon the Bible than do earlier translations.
- The current, or vulgar, forms of names appear in the King James version to make the Bible more familiar.
- Two versions of the King James Bible were first printed in 1611. Both contained errors, as have many of the subsequent reprints. A 1631 printing accidentally left the word “not” out of Exodus chapter 20 verse 14, causing it to read, “Thou shalt commit adultery.” The printers were fined £300.
- The King James Bible originally included the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha are Jewish religious books considered part of the Old Testament by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. They are not a part of the Hebrew Bible, nor are they included in most Protestant Bibles.
- The King James version has been the most popular English version of the Bible for more than three hundred years.