

# King-James-Only Movement

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(Difference between revisions)

**Revision as of 16:49, 1 July 2005**

Ike9898 (Talk | contribs)

reword a sentence

? Older edit

**Current revision**

MollyTheCat (Talk | contribs)

add'l counterpoint re KJO variations for balance, add sentence re Burgon

**Line 1:**

The "King-James-Only Movement" is a **movement** within [[Protestant]] [[fundamentalist Christianity]] of [[English language|English]]-speaking countries which rejects all modern translations of the [[Bible]], and accepts only the [[King James Version]] (KJV).

This position is most prevalent within the [[Independent Baptist]] branch of the [[Baptist]] movement. The rejection is based in part on the different texts which were used as source material for the different translations of the [[New Testament]]. Most modern translations are translated mainly from the [[Alexandrian text-type|Alexandrian manuscripts]], [[Codex Vaticanus]], [[Codex Sinaiticus]] and also of the other minority texts numbered around 50, while the [[King James Version]] was translated from the <i>[[Textus Receptus]]</i>, or Received Text, which is [[Byzantine text-type]] (but "not" a "majority text"). To some extent, doubts are also expressed about the texts used to translate the [[Old Testament]], **and** in particular **the use of** the <i>[[Biblia Hebraica]]</i> and <i>[[Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia]]</i> and the variant readings in their footnotes **is** condemned.

There are variations within the King-James-Only Movement. For example, the late [[John R. Rice]], who published <i>[[The Sword of the Lord]]</i>, took a position that only the original [[Greek language|Greek]] and [[Hebrew language|Hebrew]] manuscripts are inspired scripture, and that all translations of those done in good faith are useful as scripture, but he expressed a preference toward the [[King James Version]] for aesthetic reasons. On the other extreme can be found the teachings of [[Peter Ruckman]], who believes that the King James translation constitutes an "advanced revelation" from [[God]] which is superior to even the **original** Greek and Hebrew texts. **Most** King James Only advocates hold to a position somewhere between those two extremes.

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contains errors that are subject to correction would logically "not" fall under the classification established by White's book, which is meant to critique those who hold to the King James Version as the "best" translation or "only perfect" translation of the Scriptures into English.

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The King-James-Only Movement as it exists today began to take form after [[conservative]] and [[evangelical]] [[Christian]] groups began producing their own modern Bible translations, including the [[New American Standard Bible]], the [[Good News Translation]], and the [[New International Version]]. Most evangelicals who were wary of the RSV readily accepted these other new translations, but some [[fundamentalists]] did not. Those who rejected all modern translations began to formulate the ideas which are held by the King James Only Movement, such as their belief that the Received Text is superior to the Alexandrian manuscripts, and that [[Codex Alexandrinus]], Vaticanus and Sinaiticus have been corrupted by [[Gnostic]]s. The King-James-Only Movement became one of the core beliefs within the growing Independent Fundamental branch of Baptists. Interestingly, even the use of only the texts available in the early 1600s for the main body of the work fails to placate the supporters of the King-James-Only Movement, who see the [[New King James Version]] (1982) as a total counterfeit unworthy of the name "King James."

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Within broader evangelical circles, the King James Only belief is controversial and is widely rejected. Most evangelical scholars, in fact, hold that the <i>Textus Receptus</i> manuscripts which the KJV was translated from contain a number of errors, and that the modern translations are translated from the earliest and supposedly more accurate manuscript evidence which we currently have. Most scholars who support [[biblical inerrancy]] believe this applies only to the original manuscripts, e.g. the [[Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy]].

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The King-James-Only Movement became one of the core beliefs within the growing Independent Fundamental branch of Baptists. Even the use of only the texts available in the early 1600s for the main body of the work fails to satisfy the supporters of the King-James-Only Movement, who see the [[New King James Version]] (1982) as something less than a true successor to the 1611 version. Some such supporters argue that, because the New King James Version makes scores of changes to the meaning of the 1611 translators, it is not a simple "updating" but actually constitutes a new version; at the same time, the inclusion of verses found solely in the Textus Receptus (such as 1 John 5:7) in the NKJV may make this attempt at revision less than palatable to many advocates of modern versions. (Regarding this latter point see David Dewey, "A User's Guide to Bible Translations," pp. 162-3, where he quotes strong criticism of the NKJV's textual basis by Steven Sheeley and Robert Nash.)

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Besides Independent Baptists, there are a number of other denominations which hold, to varying degrees, to a King James Only position. These include the [[United Pentecostal Church]], the [[Church of God Mountain Assembly|Church of God of the Mountain Assembly]], and some (but not all) of the more conservative denominations from the [[Anglican Communion]] tradition which collectively refer to themselves as the [[Continuing Anglican]] movement. Outside the US, the very small [[Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland]] has a King James Only position.

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External links==

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\* "Pro"

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\*\*Branderburg, K., et. al., 2003. "Thou Shalt Keep Them: A Biblical Theology of the Perfect Preservation of Scripture" ISBN 0-974-38170-5

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\*\*Holland, T., 2000. "Crowned With Glory: The Bible from Ancient Text to Authorized Version" ISBN 0-595-14617-1

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\*\* [http://wayoflife.org/fbns/fbns-index/versfbns.htm Way of Life's Electronic KJV Defense Library]

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\*\* [http://logosresourcepages.org/uncials.htm The Great(?) Uncials] Textual Criticism of Codex Alexandrius, Vaticanus and Siniaticus.

[http://logosresourcepages.org/uncials.htm The Great(?) Uncials] Textual Criticism of Codex Alexandrius, Vaticanus and Siniaticus.

\*\* [http://logosresourcepages.org/received.htm Early Witnesses to the Textus Receptus]

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\*\* [http://www.seekgod.ca/chart.htm Topical Bible Version Comparison Charts]

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\*\* [http://www.aomin.org/kjvo.html James White critiques of KJV-Onlyism]

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\* "Related Concerns"

\*\*Ryken, Leland, 2002. "The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation" ISBN 1581344643

+ \*\*Dewey, David, 2004. "A User's Guide to Bible Translations" ISBN 0830832734

[[Category:Christian fundamentalism]]

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## Current revision

The so-called **King-James-Only Movement** is a position within Protestant fundamentalist Christianity of English-speaking countries which rejects all modern translations of the Bible, and accepts only the King James Version (KJV). The nickname "King-James-Only" appears to have originated with a popular book by James R. White published in 1995 entitled *The King James Only Controversy*, but it should be noted that this name and the claim that such advocacy of the KJV constitutes a "movement" have been hotly contested by some. (White himself addresses the idea that the term "KJV Only" may be an "insulting" or "inaccurate" term in *King James Only Controversy*, p. 248.)

This position is most prevalent within the Independent Baptist branch of the Baptist movement. The rejection is based in part on the different texts which were used as source material for the different translations of the New Testament. Most modern translations are translated mainly from the Alexandrian manuscripts, Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus and also of the other minority texts numbered around 50, while the King James Version was translated from the *Textus Receptus*, or Received Text, which is Byzantine text-type (but not identical with the "Majority Text" as that term is used currently). To some extent, doubts are also expressed about the texts used to translate the Old Testament, in particular the *Biblia Hebraica* and *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, and the variant readings in their footnotes are condemned.

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## References/External links

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- n Those Lazy Old Blokes of 1611 (from *The Idle Babblers Illustrated*; colorful polemic refers to KJV as "a Holy Rip Off") ([http://www.godstruthfortoday.org/Library/priddy/ibi\\_4\\_2.htm](http://www.godstruthfortoday.org/Library/priddy/ibi_4_2.htm))
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