

Understanding Your KJV Bible With a Comparison of the Septuagint vs the Masoretic Texts

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This paper focuses on the strength of the 1611 AD English language King James Version of the Bible, *and 2* primary collections of texts that were to create it. They are (1) the 270 BC Greek Septuagint or Lxx Bible, and (2) the 900 AD Masoretic Hebrew Bible. The Lxx and Masoretic Bibles were created nearly 1000 years apart and for very different reasons. The Lxx was commissioned by **Ptolemy II Philadelphus** (the Greek Pharaoh of Egypt) around 250 BC. He brought 70 (or 72) Hebrew translators from Jerusalem to Alexandria Egypt to translate the *Tanakh* (or Hebrew Old Testament) into Koine Greek. This Greek version of the Old Testament is not *pro* or *anti*-Jesus, as He was not yet born, whereas the 900 AD Masoretic Hebrew Bible was created for an anti-Jesus audience, and purposely excludes or downplays Him in various texts like Psalm 22 or Isaiah 53.

Sacred texts were and are venerated in the Middle East and thus sincere attempts have been made to transmit them accurately from generation to generation without alteration. This has been the primary job of the posterity of Abraham, and *the way* in which they have *blessed* all the nations of the earth (see Gen. 12:3 & 22:18). The Dead Sea Scrolls are important, as they were preserved in jars to be unearthed in our day, becoming a second witness for the most ancient texts and ideas of our precious KJV Bible, in books like Genesis, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah. Various books of the Old Testament were quoted by Jesus and the early Apostles, Deuteronomy being the most quoted by our LORD, followed by the Psalms and Isaiah. Human error *and* agenda-driven edits have crept into modern translations of the Bible (like the NIV, NASB, NKJV, etc.), but not the 1611 KJV! It has been authored by God and His great care and protection. It alone reveals His majesty, power, intelligence as its Author via the simple witness of *number*.

The King James Version The English language 1611 King James Version of the Bible is the most read book in the world! God knew that it would be in place at the time of His return among the most nations and peoples of earth. He thus saw to it that it preserves the *greatest truth or light*. And it does so in **one** *very* different form than all other Bible translations, revealing that God's Name and Seal are upon it, His stamp of approval. And that difference is *number patterns* such as 144, 153, 666 and others, that reveal His hand over one specific translation, the KJV! By simply searching its text for specific words or phrases with good software, like *King James Pure Bible Search* (which is also free) we can see God's unmatched intelligence in the KJV as compared to other translations (see truthischrist.com). Confirm the search results yourself.

Many Versions Available Today As of September of 2023 there are some 3,030 versions of the Bible available digitally in 2,011 languages on bible.com. There are 900 versions of the Bible in English alone (according to the American Bible Society). The many Bible versions available to us, like the NIV, ESV, NASB and AMP may represent a subtle attack on truth in God's word as they allow individuals and groups to "*pick and choose*" meaning tied to a particular verse via comparison of the different translations for it on easy to use websites. Thus meaning can be **chosen** for the verse based on *one's* agenda or approval. This creates *confusion and division*, rather than **unity of faith in truth**. *Division*, along with *deception and distraction* are favorite tools of Satan. God is the source of **truth**, not man's opinions, no matter how educated one may be. God said, "**I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life" (John 14:6). I believe He has put His Name and Seal on **one** version of the Bible, the KJV, as witnessed by its many inspirational *number patterns* (see truthischrist.com), patterns **not** found in the other translations! We have a standardized Bible providing truth *and* unity.

Compiling the Two Opposing Collections History shows that as time passed, the Jews who kept the ancient Hebrew texts (by God's command) were scattered to other nations, some were taken captive to them, while others traveled to them freely. As a result, these Jews began speaking other languages over time, like those taken into captivity in Babylon. When they returned to Jerusalem 70 years later, the average Jew spoke Aramaic, not Hebrew, as Aramaic was *the* native language of Babylon. Some of the Jewish priests, however spoke and wrote in both languages, and so to aid the people, they translated their Hebrew Old Testament texts into Aramaic for the average Jew. Jesus' ministry was among these Jews after they returned from Babylonian captivity. He native language *was* thus also Aramaic. He is believed to have also spoken Hebrew and Greek, like Paul and others.

After the Jews of Jesus' day were scattered to various nations by the Romans, a large community of them settled and prospered in the city of Alexandria, Egypt. They were free people united by their new Greek language. Like the Jews in Babylon, the Jews in Alexandria had replaced their various tribal languages with mostly Greek in Egypt by the 3rd

century BC (Jesus had not yet been born). They wanted an accurate translation of their venerated documents in the Greek language. Around 250 B.C., 70 scribes translated their sacred texts into Greek. This translation was not a bootleg or “non-approved” edition. It was officially sanctioned by both *the* Jewish High Priest later in Jerusalem *and* by the 70 members of the Jewish *Sanhedrin* there.

The word “Septuagint” is Latin for *Vetus Testamentum ex versione Septuaginta Interpretum*, meaning, “The Old Testament from the version of the Seventy Translators” (Jewish tradition today says there were 72 translators for it). Ptolemy II Philadelphus (the Greek Pharaoh of Egypt) is the one who brought in 72 Hebrew translators (6 from each Tribe) from Jerusalem to Alexandria to translate the *Tanakh* from Biblical Hebrew into Koine Greek. He did so that he might include it in his personal library. This narrative is supported to by 5 corroborating sources! It first originates in (1) the pseudepigraphic Letter of Aristeas to his brother Philocrates, which is repeated by (2) Philo of Alexandria and (3) Josephus in *Antiquities of the Jews*, and by later sources including (4) Augustine of Hippo. A 5th witness is that of (5) the Tractate Megillah of the Babylonian Talmud. It reads, “King Ptolemy once gathered 72 Elders. He placed them in 72 chambers, each of them in a separate one, without revealing to them why they were summoned. He entered each one's room and said: “Write for me the Torah of Moshe your teacher.”

The earliest Greek “Septuagint” translation had only Old Testament texts in it, those gathered and put together in 270 BC in Egypt. After Jesus’ ministry (from about 30 to 33 AD), the New Testament records were being compiled documenting His teachings. And by 70 AD, the time when many Jews went into captivity in Babylon, some of these Jesus-oriented texts were circulating among the Jews, those converted to Christianity, like the 12 Apostles and others. This is 340 years after the *first* Septuagint “Bible” had been created in Alexandria Egypt. Thus, later “Bibles” *among the believing Christians* began containing both testaments.

God told Abraham “in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (see Gen. 12:3 & 22:18). Their greatest blessing for all humanity remains God’s word in the KJV Bible! God loves the Jews, believers *and* nonbelievers. And we must too. God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel as verse 3 of Genesis says. We have our amazing Bible because of these people and their diligent work in preserving so much truth.

Today’s modern “Septuagint” or Lxx contains both the Old and New Testaments in more refined form within one “Bible.” The Hebrew Old Testament in it was put together by Jews **BEFORE** Yeshua was born! This is significant, as anti-Jesus editing did not occur in it, as **it did** *after* our LORD’s ministry in the Masoretic texts. The Masoretic Hebrew Bible was created by Jews (and *supposed* Jews) who did **not** accept Jesus as Messiah. I say “supposed” Jews as our LORD spoke of *those who claimed to be* Jews but were not in Revelation 2:9 & 3:9. Some were in power in Jesus’s day (Herod and others). They were not of Abraham’s bloodline (see John 8:38-44) but rose to power or were appointed by those in power (Rome) in His day and at other points in time.

For many reasons Jesus or Yeshua, the Son of Man was strongly rejected by many Jews in His day. Paul was one early on. This has continued down to our day, along with versions of the “Bible” that promote Him or Christian beliefs. The Masoretic Bible was created to downplay Yeshua or Jesus. This is seen in some words and phrases edited in it (see below). The Masoretic Bible was finalized by 900 AD by Jewish scribes and rabbis who were not accountable to the High Priest in Jerusalem, as there was no High Priest at that time, nor was it approved by a San Hedrin, as it too no longer existed at this time. The Rabbi’s had taken control of a different religion than the early Patriarchs (who were kings and priests) after the scattered Jews were gathered back to Jerusalem. The Kingdom gospel administered by David and Solomon (in the 1st Temple period) *with living* Prophets, Priests, and Kings had disappeared, along with the doctrines tied to God as King, along with His mortal representative king on earth. The later Rabbis put together the “Masoretic” version of the Hebrew texts to coincide with a narrative that did not include Jesus of Nazareth.

By the time Jesus came among the Jewish people, there was no official King of Israel (except Jesus), but they did have an appointed High Priest (by Rome) and a San Hedrin (this time frame is known as the 2nd Temple period, of Herod’s Temple). The **Lxx** predates the first appearance of the Masoretic Bible by nearly 1,000 years and is based upon the older Hebrew and Aramaic *Old Testament* texts *and beliefs*. Some modern Bibles utilize portions of the later “Masoretic Hebrew Bible” texts and thus it is a good idea to check specific verses against the Lxx for these Old Testament biases.

Fortunately, the New Testament texts in most modern Christian Bibles, including the KJV, originate in the Lxx translation, which originate in the Greek language with some Hebrew and Aramaic in places. The integrity and truthfulness of the Septuagint translation is completely dependent on it being a truthful, dependable OT translation. If one can discredit it, then there is no New Testament to place with it in our Bible! It is significant that there was *no controversy* about the integrity of the Septuagint from 250 B.C. until about 135 AD. This includes the time Jesus was on earth in his mortal ministry here! The later New Testament documents, written by contemporaries of Jesus were circulating among the Jews by about A.D. 70. In Old Testament books like Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, Jesus clearly fulfills prophecies made in them tied to **Messiah ben Joseph** – “*the suffering servant*” (like Joseph of Egypt, who saved *his brothers* who sold him into Egypt). Many Old Testament scriptures address His return in our day as **Messiah ben David**, “*the conquering King*” (like King David of old). Both Messiahs are Jesus, but in different missions separated by 2000 years.

Annas and Caiaphas (appointed High Priests at the time of Jesus) and the Jewish Sanhedrin rejected the messianic claims of Jesus, and especially those He made tied to His preferred title “the Son of Man” (see Dan. 7:13-14)! New Testament documents quoting Jesus’ usage of “the Son of Man” for Himself were circulating among them by A.D. 70. Jewish leaders knew that the credibility of the Christian Gospels depended on the credibility of the Septuagint, so around 95 A.D. Rabbi Akiva (who later proclaimed Bar Kochba as the messiah) hired a man named Aquila to translate a Hebrew to Greek version of the Old Testament that would **undermine** the Messianic claims of Jesus found in the Septuagint. Today, many Bible scholars believe that the Masoretic text was based in part on this early, agenda-driven translation by Aquila. Most Christians are unaware of this.

The Example of Psalm 22 – “they pierced” (270 BC Septuagint texts versus “like a Lion” (900 AD Masoretic texts)

One thousand years prior to His birth, King David prophetically addressed our LORD’s suffering in the crucifixion in Psalm 22. In verse 16 of the KJV, we read, “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they **pierced** my hands and my feet.” In the pre-Christian Greek Septuagint (270 with its 70 or 72 Jewish translators) this verse reads, “*For many dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked doers has beset me round: they **pierced** my hands and my feet.*” The Lxx translators read the Hebrew word כָּאָרוּ, *ka’aru*, כָּאָרִי, *ka’ari* and translated it “they dug” or “they **pierced.**” A thousand years later the Masoretic translators edited the same verse to say, “For dogs have encircled me, an evil congregation surrounded me; like a **lion** my hands and my feet.” The original word for “**pierced**” or “**lion**” ended with a vav or a yod in Hebrew.

A second witness for the correctness of the Septuagint translation is given us in scraps from an ancient scroll containing some of the Psalms discovered at Nachal Hever. One scrap contained the line from Psalm 22:16 with the word in question well in view. Though the writing on the scrap was faint, under magnification it was easy to see and decipher. The word clearly ended in a *vav* not a *yod*, and was therefore a 3rd person plural verb: “they dug” or “they **pierced.**” According to Dr. Peter Flint, “This scrap is dated (in accordance with the style of letters used) to 50-68 CE and is almost 1,000 years earlier than the Aleppo Codex, the earliest extant manuscript of the Masoretic text, and shows that in at least one of the earliest Hebrew traditions of Psalm 22, the word is not “like a lion” but “they dug” or “**pierced.**” Dr. Peter Flint, who published the principle edition of the scrap, notes that in the Herodian script, ‘*vav* and *yod* are usually distinguished, with *vav* generally longer than *yod*.’ Indeed, in this instance, we have a perfect example for comparison, since the very next letter following the word in question is a yod: ‘my hands’ (יָדַי). The last letter of *ka’aru* is without doubt a vav when compared with the beginning letter of the next word which is clearly a yod. Here, then, is a Hebrew manuscript, pre-Christian, with ‘they dug’ or ‘they **pierced.**” See Torah Resource at: <https://torahresource.com/psalm-2216>

In Isaiah chapter 53 (another Jesus-centered text) there are 17 differences between the 2 differing translations. Isaiah chapter 53 is most often excluded from most Synagogue readings today for its obvious ties to Jesus!

Other Bible Facts The 60 translators for the KJV utilized 2 collections of texts for it; (1) The 270 BC Greek Septuagint texts (or Lxx, Greek for 70), and (2) The 900 AD Masoretic texts. The Lxx collection preceded the later Masoretic collection by nearly 10 centuries or 1,000 years. Both collections were created by Jews, but at 2 different time periods and with 2 opposing agendas, either *for* or *against* Jesus the Christ, in the 3 primary languages of the ancient texts; Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic.

The oldest known “Bibles” (collections of texts that became “the Bible”) are the early Greek Septuagint (270, early Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts), the Codex Sinaiticus (450 AD), and the Codex Vaticanus (1209 AD). About 55% of Americans use the KJV. The top 3 men overseeing this “new” 1611 anti-Catholic translation (60 total translators, taking 7 years to complete) were all Freemasons (King James, Francis Bacon & Robert Fludd, see [endnote 19](#)). About 19% of Bible-using Americans use the NIV (New International Version, 1978). Catholics typically use the RSV (the “Revised Standard Version,” 1946). Many Bible scholars use the NRSV (the “New Revised Standard Version,” 1989). The Septuagint *and* the early 1611 KJV generally had 14 additional apocryphal books in them; 80 total books; 39 OT, 27 NT and 14 Apocrypha, which included 1 Esdras, 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Additions to Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, Prayer of Manasseh, 1 Maccabees, and 2 Maccabees. Of the 900 English translations of the Bible alone, I list only 12 below, arranged by date.

KJV	King James Version (1611)	ERV	English Revised Version (1986)
JST	Joseph Smith Translation (1867)	NRSV	New Revised Standard Version (1989)
RSV	Revised Standard Version (1946)	NLT	New Living Translation (1996)
NAS	New American Standard (1960)	ESV	English Standard Version (2008)
NIV	New International Version (1978)	ISV	International Standard Version (2011)
NKJV	New King James Version (1982)	BSB	Berean Study Bible (2016)

The KJV Epistle Dedicatory The introduction to the King James Bible is often called “*The Epistle Dedicatory*” and reveals that is a *Protestant, anti-Catholic* Bible, dedicated to truth, an effort supported by King James, head of the Church of England. The Old English of this dedication has key phrases in *italics* that are revealing. In its 3rd paragraph the translators state their belief they were “*writing in defence of the Truth, which hath given such a blow unto that **man of sin**, as will not be healed.*” The 60 translators, all members of *the Church of England* believed their new 1611 *Protestant* translation of Jewish texts would **not** allow Satan, the lead rebel “son of God” to raise up “*the man of sin*” among the people in the last days. John and Paul state that it will happen, but be limited in time. The last paragraph reveals that the translators didn’t want to be influenced in their work by “*Popish persons* [the Pope of the Catholic Church & others] . . . *whom they desire still to keep in ignorance and darkness.*” Their sincere desire was to bring **light** to the people.

The JST Mormons (mostly led by the modern Utah Church) use the 1611 KJV (updated by various churches) rather than the 1867 JST (Joseph Smith’s Inspired Translation of the KJV Bible), available to him within his father’s family (it had the older Apocrypha in it, typical of more Catholic influenced Bibles then). Utah Mormons utilize an LDS version of the KJV Bible. The 1867 JST is copyrighted by the Community of Christ Church in Missouri. This Christian Church was founded by Joseph Smith’s firstborn son, Joseph Smith III, the first president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (which later became the Community of Christ Church).

President Brigham Young (2nd Pres. of the Utah based version of this church, living polygamy at this time) went west without the 500-page JST transcript, then in possession of Emma Smith, the Prophet Joseph Smith’s wife. The Smith family (east in Missouri) and the Brighamites of Utah were at doctrinal war with one another at the time the Joseph Smith III published the JST in 1876. Joseph Smith senior (his father and his two brothers Hyrum and Samuel Smith, uncles of Joseph Smith III) were murdered by a group calling themselves “the Secret Chamber” in Nauvoo. The Smith family believed the 3 murdered Smith brothers were taken out by “the Secret Chamber,” a secretive group led by Brigham Young (they were practicing polygamy secretly behind Joseph Smith’s back). Brigham Young took power in the murders, leading the half of the church west to Utah Territory, starting his own “kingdom” of polygamy there beyond the borders of the U.S. The Smith family stayed in Missouri, rejecting Polygamy and other doctrines introduced by Brigham Young into his version of the early Church, started in 1830 by Joseph Smith the Prophet.