

# The Battle for the Bible

A 12 Week Course on the Defense of the King James Version

*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21*

**The Right Text:** the Received Text (Textus Receptus), Byzantine text, traditional text, Antioch text

**The Wrong Text:** the Alexandrian text, Critical text, Egyptian text, Westcott-Hort text

## Names To Know

**Kurt Aland** (1915-1994) – One of the editors of modern Greek texts who rejected the verbal inspiration of Scripture as well as the idea that the canon of Scripture was settled. His wife Barbara contributed to his Greek text and shared his modernistic views.

**Dean John William Burgon** (1813-1888) – Oxford educated Anglican who stood against rationalism, Unitarianism, evolution, and other apostasy he saw in his denomination. Defended the Textus Receptus and KJV.

**David Cloud** - A fundamental Baptist missionary to Nepal who has authored several books defending and promoting the use of the King James Bible and its underlying texts.

**David Otis Fuller** (1903-1988) – Baptist pastor whose books “Which Bible” and “True or False” in the 1970s made many people aware of the Bible version issue.

**Johann Griesbach** (1745-1812) – A German professor of New Testament Studies and one of the most important leaders in modern textual criticism. He published a “corrected” Greek New Testament text in which he made changes that undermined the divinity of Christ.

**Dr. Edward F. Hills** (1912-1981) – An American Presbyterian scholar with a doctorate in New Testament textual criticism from Harvard. Defender of the KJV and the Textus Receptus.

**Jerome** (340-420) – a Catholic priest who produced the Latin Vulgate. The underlying text is closer to the traditional text than the Alexandrian one.

**Frederic Kenyon** (1863-1952) – A British paleographer and Biblical scholar who wrote *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts* in 1895.

**Carlo M. Martini** (1927-2012) – One of the editors of the United Bible Society's Greek New Testament. He was a Catholic cardinal who was considered progressive and liberal even within Catholic circles.

**Bruce Metzger** (1914-2007) - One of the editors of the United Bible Society's Greek New Testament. He was a professor of New Testament Languages at Princeton and headed up the New Revised Standard Version translation committee. He approached the Bible rationally and denied its infallibility. He openly questioned the authorship and reliability of many books of the Bible and called several of them “fables” and “myths.”

**Dr. Jack Moorman** (1941-2021) – A fundamental Baptist missionary to South Africa and the United Kingdom who authored several books defending and promoting the use of the King James Bible and its underlying texts.

**Eberhardt Nestle** (1851-1913) - The editor of an influential Greek New Testament that has become a standard among those committed to the critical text. He was an influential father of modern textual criticism and authored *Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the Greek New Testament*.

**Frederick Nolan** (1784-1864) – An Irish Anglican theologian and linguist who resisted Greisbach's theories of textual criticism and defended the traditional text. He published *An Inquiry into the Integrity of the Received Text of the New Testament* in 1815.

**Origen** (185-284) – An early theologian in Alexandria who was the first textual critic. His doctrinal errors are many and he was the source of many corruptions in the Alexandrian text.

**Peter Ruckman** (1921-2016) - KJV-only proponent who taught a number of strange and heretical doctrines in support of his beliefs, including the fact that the KJV was advanced revelation and could be used to correct the original Greek and Hebrew.

**Dr. David Sorenson** – an independent Baptist pastor who has authored many books defending the King James Bible.

**Friedrich Constantine Von Tischendorf** (1815-1874) – German textual critic who discovered the Sinaiticus manuscript in 1859.

**William Tyndale** (1484-1536) – the first person to translate the Bible into English from Greek and Hebrew. He fled England to escape persecution by the Catholic church but was ultimately caught and put to death. A large percentage of Tyndale’s words remain in the King James Version.

**Dr. Donald A. Waite** – an independent Baptist pastor and seminary teacher of Greek and Hebrew who is a staunch defender of the KJV. He is also the chairman of Bible for Today which produced *The Defined King James Bible*.

**B.F. Westcott** (1825-1901) and **F.J.A. Hort** (1828-1892) – Two professors of Divinity at Cambridge who edited the critical Greek text of 1881 and were on the British committee that produced the English Revised Version. They denied the infallible inspiration of Scripture, the historical truth of Genesis, and the substitutional atonement of Christ.

**John Wycliffe** (1324-1384) – the “Father of the English Bible” and “Morningstar of the Reformation” who translated the Latin Vulgate into English. He was a Catholic priest and seminary professor at Oxford who became disillusioned with the Roman church and was persecuted for his outspoken criticisms of it. The popes hated him so much that they dug up his bones and burned them almost 50 years after his death.

## Terms to Know

**Apostasy** – departure from one’s faith or religion

**Arianism** – doctrine that originated with Arius of Alexandria which teaches that Jesus was created by the Father and is not co-eternal with the Father.

**Canon** – the genuine books of the Bible, given by inspiration

**Codex** – a manuscript bound like a book rather than a scroll

**Conjectural emendation** – Conjecture = guesswork. Emendation = correcting.

Technique used by modern scholars to speculate about what the text should say in places where textual examples are in conflict.

**Ecumenism** - A movement promoting unity among Christian churches and denominations

**Gnosticism** – a doctrine of salvation based on secret knowledge of divine things

**Latin Vulgate** – an ancient version of the scripture in Latin which the Catholic church holds to be authentic. It was produced by Jerome in 382.

**Minuscules** – Greek manuscripts written in cursive

**Modernism** – a theological movement that denies the supernatural aspects of scripture. To the modernist, the Bible is largely pious myth.

**Paleography** - the study and scholarly interpretation of ancient writing

**Primacy** – The Roman Catholic Church claims primacy, or the right of first place, and thus authority, over all other Christian churches.

**Rationalism** - theory that the exercise of reason, rather than spiritual revelation, provides the primary basis for knowledge. They believe that faith in God should be replaced by ‘science.’

**Recension** – a critical revision of a text

**Syrian Recension** – the belief that the Textus Receptus was merely a recension or revision of the Alexandrian Text. There is no historical evidence for this hypothetical event but is the only explanation they have for why the TR accounts for 95% of the textual examples available.

**Septuagint** – a translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek about 270 BC

**Sinaiticus** - a Greek uncial codex that was discovered in 1844 by Constantine von Tischendorf in St. Catherine’s monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

**Stichometry** – Greek texts had certain numbers of letters per line. Using this method, it is possible to determine how many letters are missing from a text fragment and fill in what is missing from other known texts. This will come up in the last class.

**Syncretism** – absorbing non-Christian beliefs and practices into the church

**Textual Criticism** – the science of attempting to recover the original text of an ancient document. Modern textual criticism of the scripture is rationalistic and modernistic and does not account for the supernatural.

**Uncials** – Greek manuscripts written in all capital letters

**Unitarianism** – a doctrine which rejects the trinity and denies the divinity of Christ

**Vaticanus** - a Greek uncial codex that was discovered in the Vatican Library in 1475.

**Vernacular / Vulgar** – in the native language or common language of the people.

## **Additional Reading:**

Faith vs. Modern Bible Versions, David Cloud (Deals with textual criticism and its advocates.)

The Glorious History of the King James Bible, David Cloud (Quick read.)

For Love of the Bible, David Cloud

Why We Hold to the KJV, David Cloud

Defending the King James Bible, D.A. Waite (Will help you see what the changes are.)

The King James Version Defended, Edward F. Hills

Which Bible, David Otis Fuller (The books by Fuller are excellent. Written in the early 70s)

True or False, David Otis Fuller  
Was Codex Sinaiticus Written in 1840, Jack Moorman  
Missing in Modern Bibles, The Old Heresy Revived, Jack Moorman (Quick read)  
Neither Oldest Nor Best, Dr. David Sorenson  
Which Version? Authorized or Revised, Philip Mauro (highly recommend). Read online here: <https://archive.org/details/whichversionauth00maur>  
Touch Not the Unclean Thing, Dr. David Sorenson  
God's Perfect Book, Dr. David Sorenson  
If God Spare My Life, Brian Moynahan (Tyndale biography.)  
William Tyndale: A Biography, David Daniell  
John Wycliffe, David Fountain  
The Bible and Modern Criticism, Sir Robert Anderson  
Is the Higher Criticism Scholarly, Robert Dick Wilson  
The Authenticity of the New Testament Fragments at Qumran, Bill Cooper (Quick read. Highly recommended. Available on Kindle only.)  
The Forging of Codex Sinaiticus, Bill Cooper  
The Preface to the King James Version in Modern English, Myles Smith

Secular book on the influence of the KJV:

Wide as the Waters, Benson Bobrick  
In the Beginning, Alistair McGrath

If you are interested in a broader look at the the Battle for the Bible, Bro. Cloud lists these books for a start:

“Theological liberalism has permeated evangelical scholarship over the past 70 years. This is well-documented by evangelicals themselves, such as Harold Lindsell (The Battle for the Bible, 1976, and The Bible in the Balance, 1979), Richard Quebedeaux (The Worldly Evangelicals, 1978), Francis Schaeffer (The Great Evangelical Disaster, 1983), David F. Wells (No Place for the Truth, 1993), and Iain Murray (Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000). “Evangelical” Bible translators have been tainted in a myriad of ways, and this fact cannot must be prominent in any discussion of modern Bible versions.” David Cloud,  
Transitioning Churches Away From the King James Bible, May 17, 2023

## **Free online resources:**

The Revision Revised by John Burgon, 1881  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36722>

A Guide to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament by Edward Miller, 1886  
<https://archive.org/details/guidetotextualcr00mill>

Codex B and Its Allies: A Study and an Indictment by Herman Hoskier, 1914  
<https://archive.org/details/codexbanditsalli02hoskuoft>

“A Critical Examination of the Westcott-Hort Textual Theory” by Alfred Martin, doctoral dissertation, Dallas Seminary, reprinted in True or False, edited by D.O. Fuller  
<https://gullions.com/true-or-false-fuller/>

The King James Version Defended: A Christian View of the New Testament Manuscripts by Edward F. Hills, Ph.D., Textual Criticism, Harvard, 1956  
<https://archive.org/details/TheKingJamesVersionDefended>

Touch Not the Unclean Thing: The Bible Translation Controversy and the Principle of Separation by David Sorenson, 2001  
<https://northstarministries.com/product/touch-not-the-unclean-thing/>

The Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame  
<https://www.wayoflife.org/books/>

Great audio message on the fact that faith is a requirement to understand the Bible issue.  
<http://www.fundamentalfilms.org/audio/faithimperative.mp3>