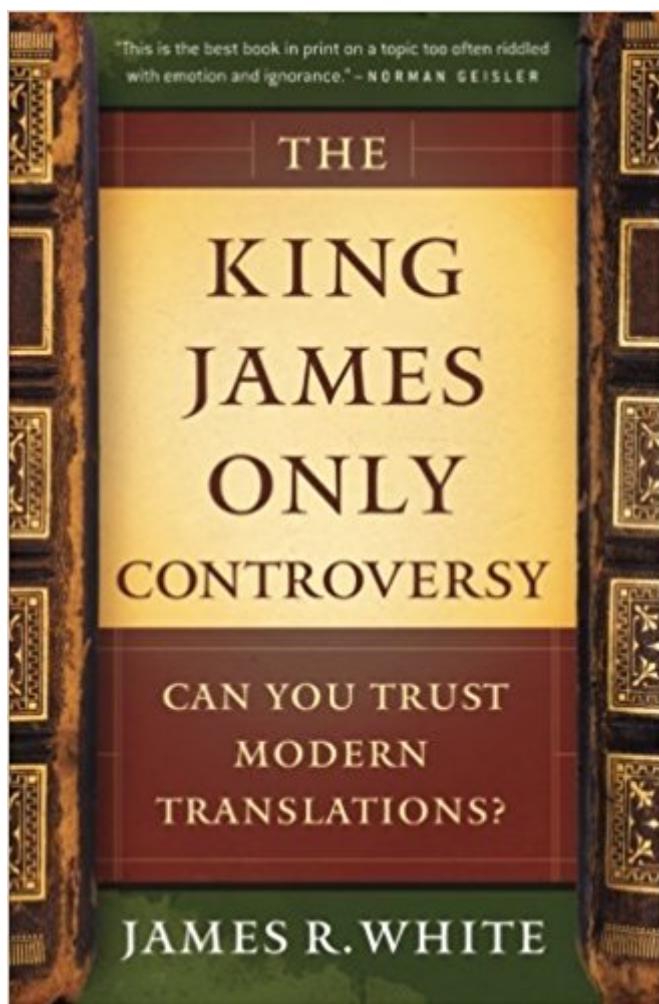


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# The King James Only Controversy: Can You Trust Modern Translations?



## **Synopsis**

Authoritative answers defending the modern translations from those who say the King James is the only true Bible; shows how Bible translation actually works.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

James R. White is the author of several acclaimed books, including *The God Who Justifies* and *The Forgotten Trinity*. The director of Alpha and Omega Ministries, he is an accomplished debater of Muslim apologists and an elder of the Phoenix Reformed Baptist

Note: This book was reviewed as part of a grad school class project. This book was reviewed by Steve Cha, author of the hit book, "Hollywood Mission: Possible: Piercing the Darkness of a Decadent Industry." Is your Bible translation reliable? Is it the real Bible?" This is the tagline that summarizes the topic of James R. White's apologetics work, *The King James Only Controversy*. The book explores and analyzes the claim from KJV Only advocates that the King James Version is the only inerrant and authoritative Bible translation in existence while the other Bible versions are flawed and corrupted. The sovereignty of God, His trustworthiness, and His ability to providentially preserve Scripture is at the heart of this crucial debate, which is what James R. White seeks to defend. Through *The King James Only Controversy*, White shows that the majority of modern Bible translations are indeed accurate and reliable, affirming the Christian's faith in the words of God that are not merely restricted to a King James translation from 1611. Author James R. White is known for

penning theology and apologetics books such as Who Justifies, The Forgotten Trinity, and The Roman Catholic Controversy. White is a graduate of Columbia Evangelical University with a Doctor of Ministry and founding director of the Christian apologetics organization called Alpha and Omega Ministries. Having also participated in over a hundred moderated debates between himself and opponents of Christianity, White proves himself to be an apt candidate to defend the Christian faith against skeptics and heretics. In an interesting new challenge, White defends Christianity against non other than Christians, this time regarding the inerrancy of Scripture between Bible versions and whether or not the King James Version is the only trustworthy, inspired Bible on the market. The author structures The King James Only Controversy to speak to both the KJV Only advocates and general Christians who may not be familiar with the subject matter but are approaching it for the first time. The book begins appropriately with the author exploring textual criticism on a higher and lower level, taking the reader through a brief history of what manuscript the King James Version is based off of (The Textus Receptus) and what manuscripts inspired the modern translations. In Chapter 5, White brings up the objections and critiques that KJV Only advocates raise against modern translations. In turn, White points out some of the flaws in the arguments of the KJV Only camp and shows that the King James Version is not as inerrant and authoritative as the KJV Only advocates believe. In the rest of the chapters, the author skillfully compares Bible passages from the King James Version and modern translations such as NIV, NASB, and RSV to prove his point that the interpretation, translation, and omissions do not alter crucial doctrines in any significant way. White takes this a step further in Part Two: The Textual Data, which is the closing section that compares and contrasts KJV and modern translation passages, delving deep into exegesis to show what truths the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts contribute to an overall understanding of God's word. White is to be commended for his comprehensive and thoughtful approach to this subject matter, displaying great knowledge, impressive research, and a gentle spirit that seeks to not harm the KJV Only advocates, but to help them see the truth of God's sovereign power in preserving the modern translations. The King James Only Controversy has its amazing strength in Chapter 6-9, in which the author compares KJV and modern translation texts to explain the issues behind the missing words, replaced words, and the Bible translation conspiracy theory that claims to downplay Jesus' deity. But what makes this book terrific is how it sets forth the history of the various manuscripts that led to the production of the Bibles we have today. This gives a better understanding of the root cause of the Bible version debate and whether or not there is validity in the arguments of KJV Only advocates. The expansion of piety theory, that the Byzantine manuscript expanded on words used to further reverence Christ or expand on the truth of His deific nature,

sheds much light on the "missing words" in modern translations. If the theory true, then the church is given assurance that translators of modern texts did not delete or alter words, but stayed true to what was written in the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. Thus, God's sovereignty and faithfulness is upheld and honored, which is the ultimate take-away value of The King James Only Controversy. This is a book that I would well recommend to pastors, apologists, and people within the KJV Only camp. It is the best book I've read of its kind, and its information can surely benefit any Christian wanting to know more about the history of their Bibles and why they can trust in its message. The King James Only Controversy is a much needed resource in Christendom, for its essential purpose is not so much to validate the modern translations in the face of KJV opposition, but to point to the greater truth of God's unfailing plan and purposes, for God is powerful enough to preserve His Scripture so that He may use it to accomplish His eternal purposes with mankind everywhere and in every epoch. White's work rings true with the words of Matthew 5:18, which states, "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

I have read three different books on the subject in the last few months and this was my favorite. The other books were by John Ankerburg and by D.A Carson. I would say the Ankerburg was introductory, the D.A Carson more scholarly, and the James R. White more feisty. I would really appreciate having the James R. White book in Kindle but as of yet there is no Kindle version.

I grew up in a strong KJV only environment and over the last 8 years or so went from strong KJV myself to "soft" KJV. I enjoyed the author's description of the various levels/fractions of KJV only groups. I had already disconnected from the KJV only camp when I bought this, but found the information very helpful in expanding my understanding of the arguments about text. The comparison of verses also helped me to decide which Bible I want to buy next (NASB). Mr. White is a good writer and I enjoy reading his work as well as listening to his podcasts on youtube.

James White does an excellent job of evaluating the King James Only controversy. His position is well documented, concise, to the point and easy to understand. He shows respect for the KJV, as he does for other translations, but he does not elevate any translation above the original Greek and Hebrew texts, which is at the core of the KJV Only argument. He does, however reasonably refute some of the claims of G.A. Riplinger in her book, "New Age Bible Versions", which is the doctrinal book of the KJV Only folks. I attend a KJV only church and have read and have a copy of Ms.

Riplingers' book, wherein she makes scathing claims of changed doctrines in comparing the KJV against all the newer versions. Dr. White puts those claims in context, such as showing that the passages which she claims the newer translations to have eliminated the names of Jesus Christ, and other Biblical doctrine, that the words she claims were eliminated in the newer versions are printed in italics in the KJV, indicating that they were not in the original documents, but had been added by the KJV translators. Also, the very same terminology that Ms. Riplinger claims was deleted in certain passages of newer translations exists in other passages of the very same translations, so that the doctrines are contained in the newer translations, as well as in the KJV.

The King James Only Controversy by Dr. James White is many things. It is first of all readable. Dr. White has made this entire subject one of compelling interest and great understanding. It is very enjoyable to read, as if it is a common-man's conversation about an important matter. It is educational. While presenting the subject in readable and understandable terms, the book is absolutely centered around well-done scholastic research. Dr. White does not avoid important terminology, history, or the controversy itself. He presents his argument as a cogent, proved-out answer with sufficient supporting data that the reader can further investigate the issues. It is congenial. There is not one bit of vitriol found in these pages, unlike many of those who write from the KJV-only camp.

Incredibly well researched, but the best part is that he presents it with a lovely, humble spirit. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it, and how exciting to learn about the history of how God preserved his word. If you are witnessing to anyone who doesn't believe the bible is trustworthy, this book will give you lots of good evidence to counter their argument.

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