

Manuscript Evidence – Week 4

The Hundred Year War – The Battle for a Final Authority

(Notes taken from: *Understandable History of the Bible*, Chapter 4 – The 100 Year War, Dr. Sam Gipp, Fourth Edition, 2019)

- 1) Where is the Bible?
 - a) The battle over where is the Bible has been going on for at least the last 100 years.
 - b) An undermining of the church and a battle for final authority was begun.
 - c) Was the authority going to be the educated theologian and his ability to interrupt the Greek and Hebrew?
 - d) Or was the authority going to be a Bible the common man could hold in his hand and go to.
 - e) The reality is the Roman church and the pope as an authority was replaced with the theologian.
 - f) If you must rely on someone else to interpret the Word of God for you, then that someone has power over you.
 - g) So the question for today is who started this fight to remove the authority of Word of God and replace it with lost theologian?
- 2) The Authority of the AV1611
 - a) How was the AV1611 established as an authority?
 - i) Was it simply decreed by King James as we have been told and everyone just accepted it?
 - ii) Did King James authorize it and hence that his how it got its name and authority?
 - iii) The answer to these questions is no.
 - iv) The AV1611 became the Bible of the church because God established it.
 - v) The fact that God established it is evident by the fact of how it was used for a period of 250 years by all churches without exception.
 - vi) It was also the Bible that preceded and used for the multiple revivals that have happened in America, England and throughout the world.
- 3) The History of the AV1611
 - a) From its publication in 1611, the KJV overtook and replaced every translation that was in existence.
 - b) There was not a big marketing campaign but rather a move that can only be appropriated the Holy Spirit.
 - c) Though the Pilgrims disembarked the Mayflower with the Geneva Bible in 1620, by the beginning of the U.S. in 1776, the KJV had become the Bible that established a nation.
 - d) Until the late 1800's, there was only one Bible.
 - e) It became known as the "Authorized" Version due to its universal acceptance, not due to a proclamation by King James.
 - f) "Says Dr. Lee, Principal of the University of Edinburgh: 'I do not find that there was any canon, proclamation, or act of parliament, to enforce the use of it. "The present version," says Dr. Symonds, as quoted in Anderson's Annuals, "appears to have made its way, without the interposition of any authority whatsoever; for it is not easy to discover any traces of a proclamation, canon or statute published to enforce the use of it." It has been lately ascertained that neither the King's private purse, nor the public exchequer, contributed a farthing toward the expense of the translation or publication of the work.'" – McClure, Alexander, Translators Revived, (Maranatha Publications, Worthington), p.61.
 - g) God established the two greatest nations in existence, England and America, with the KJV.

- h) These two nations have done more to carry the gospel through missions to foreign lands than any other Bible.
 - i) This obviously would infuriate the devil and cause him to want to counterattack.
- 4) The Theory of Westcott and Hort.
- a) Just as the devil would use the theory of evolution to overthrow the authority of the Bible in America, the devil would use a theory in England as well.
 - b) Brooke Foss Wescott and Fenton John Hort were two English scholars at the University of Oxford who developed a theory about the origin of the Bible around 1870.
 - c) The Conflate Theory
 - i) The Conflate Theory makes the assertion that the Traditional Greek Text of the KJV was a “conflated” text produced by a group of editors in the fourth century.
 - ii) The theory asserts that this text was not a copy of the manuscripts as they were of that time.
 - iii) CONFLATION, noun [Latin , to blow. See Blow.]
 - (1) 1. The act of blowing two or more instruments together.
 - (2) 2. A melting or casting of metal. [Little Used.]
 - iv) The theory assumed that since the Alexandrian Greek Text (Vaticanus, etc.) was older than the Majority Greek Text, it must therefore be the original text.
 - v) The Conflate Theory assumes that as a result, the early church fathers around the 4th century then took the “original”, older Alexandrian text and mixed it together with the doctrines of the church and changed it to create the Majority Text that was passed down through the years.
 - vi) If you were Roman Catholic, for sure the doctrine taught by the KJV does not line up with the doctrine of the Catholic Church.
 - vii) This theory has fallen out of favor even among scholars, but the effects of this and the questioning of the Word of God remains.
- 5) The Revolution
- a) In 1870, England was ripe for Wescott and Hort’s radical ideas.
 - b) Higher Education at the University of Oxford began casting doubt on the origins of man and the Bible in the mid 1800’s.
 - c) The Revision Committee of 1871 developed a Greek Text based on a handful of poor-quality Egyptian manuscripts.
 - d) These manuscripts had been rejected centuries earlier by the Church as a whole.
 - e) This Greek Text was then used to create a new English translation in 1881 called the Revised Version.
- 6) Do we have a perfect Bible today?
- a) This question scares the scholar.
 - b) Unregenerate man goes about believing that man evolved from an ameba, yet this cannot be proven scientifically or logically.
 - c) The reason the scholar must believe in evolution is that if he must believe it if he has no final authority higher than himself.
 - d) This same kind of question and reaction occurs with the modern “Christian” or Christian scholar today.
 - e) They believe the Bible is not absolute and not perfect because if they don’t, they would have a final authority.

- f) The problem is when fundamentalist, that should know better, start to fall into this trap.
 - g) They begin to say one thing in the pulpit, that the Bible is infallible, but later start to say that it is full of mistakes.
 - h) They begin to believe that any Bible is the “Word of God” where it is correctly translated.
 - i) The 8th Tenant of the Mormon Church reads, “We believe the Bible to the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.”
 - j) This leaves them with the only authority being themselves just like the evolutionist.
- 7) The Supposed Problem
- a) The scholar blames a small group of fanatics that believe the KJV is the infallible Word of God (i.e. Bible Believer) because they refuse to face the “facts” that the oldest and best manuscripts support the new translations.
 - b) The Bible Believer claims that there is only one infallible Bible.
 - c) This cannot stand with the scholar because it questions their authority.
 - d) The scholars and other Christian’s claim that if the Bible Believer was not so divisive, more could be done for the cause of Christ.
 - e) Despite being blamed for the problem; Bible believers are not the culprit and did not start the fight.
 - f) The problem is the Greek text used by the AV1611 has been the only text used by Christians for centuries and the vast majority of Greek texts support this.
 - g) This same Greek text was the basis for all translations prior to the AV1611 as well.
 - h) The AV1611 was the “Common Bible” used at home, public school, government functions, Christian colleges until late into the 19th century.
 - i) Thus, whoever tries to bring any other version to the world is the one who is truly causing division.
- 8) The Real Problem
- a) The real problem is Christians have been deceived or intimidated into abandoning the God-honored, God-used AV1611 for something inferior.
 - b) This is ultimately a ploy of the Roman Catholic Church because the modern church has accepted a new Bible that is decidedly Roman Catholic in doctrine.
 - c) Since the Roman Catholic church cannot easily burn people at the stake anymore, they have chosen instead to get Christians to give up their God-honored Bible.
- 9) The Oxford Movement
- a) The 100 year long war of words started in England in the 1800’s.
 - b) Scholarship at the University of Oxford was rank with infidelity to the Bible.
 - c) “The Oxford Movement” was an instrument that the Roman Catholic Church used to reintroduce Roman Catholic practices into the Church of England.
 - d) This movement was to have an affect on other churches outside England as well.
- 10) The Battle for England
- a) Influence of the Catholic Church
 - i) England had been under the heavy hand of the Roman Catholic Church for centuries.
 - ii) She had tried to control the population through their kings and other means.
 - b) King Henry VII
 - i) King Henry VIII took the throne in 1509 and ruled until 1547.
 - ii) He married Catherine of Argon and had six children, with only one child living, Mary.

- iii) He asked Pope Clement VII to divorce Catherine so he could produce a male heir to the throne, and he refused.
 - iv) As a result, Henry VIII broke all ties to Rome, confiscated all Roman Catholic property, and eliminated a lot of Roman Catholic practices throughout England
 - v) He also instituted the Act of Supremacy in 1534, which made the ruler of England the head of the Church of England.
 - vi) The fatal flaw in this plan was that in practice and doctrine, the Church of England was just an “English” Catholic Church.
 - vii) Henry VIII did not want anything to do with Biblical Christianity.
 - viii) Henry married and divorced two more times (Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour) with the hope of producing a male heir and eventually did.
- c) King Edward VI
- i) Edward VI was a child from King Henry VIII marriage to Jane Seymour.
 - ii) He ruled from 1547-1553 and steered the Church of England further from the Roman Catholic Church.
- d) Queen Mary I
- i) After Edward’s death, his half-sister, Mary I took the throne.
 - ii) Mary was the only living child of King Henry VII first marriage to Catherine.
 - iii) Mary I was a staunch Romanist
 - iv) She tried in vain to force the Church of England back into the Roman Catholic Church.
 - v) She was better known as “Bloody Mary” because she killed thousands in her attempts to achieve this goal.
 - vi) Mary died five years later in 1558
- e) Queen Elizabeth I
- i) Queen Elizabeth I reigned from 1558-1609.
 - ii) She was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII.
 - iii) She was referred to as “The Virgin Queen”.
 - iv) She started the church back toward Protestantism.
 - v) Pope Pius V tried in vain to get Elizabeth and the Church of England back into the “fold”.
 - vi) This went so far as to have Spain attempt to invade England and unseat Elizabeth and attempt to install Mary Stuart. Fortunately, the plan failed.
 - vii) Elizabeth died in 1609 without a direct heir to the throne.
- f) King James I
- i) James VI of Scotland became James I of England and began to rule England in 1603.
 - ii) Though he was the son of the Catholic Mary Stuart, he was a devout Protestant.
 - iii) He was raised a Presbyterian after the teachings of John Knox.
 - iv) He immediately sanctioned a translation of the Bible into English upon taking the throne.
 - v) In 1605, the Roman Church attempted to murder him in “The Gunpowder Plot”.
 - vi) James I united England and Scotland that laid the foundation for what would become the British Empire.
 - vii) He died in 1625.
- g) King Charles I
- i) Charles ruled from 1626 until 1685.
 - ii) He was beheaded and replaced by his son.
- h) King James II

- i) King James II was radically different than King James I, his grandfather.
 - ii) He was a devout Roman Catholic and wanted to reestablish the Roman Catholic Church in England.
 - iii) He placed Roman Catholic bishops in the Church of England.
 - iv) He was very unpopular in England and was replaced by William of Orange in 1688 in the bloodless “Glorious Revolution”.
- i) King William III
 - i) He began to rule in 1688.
 - ii) Immediately after taking rule of the throne, he saw Parliament pass the “English Bill of Rights” which required that all future rulers of England must be Protestant.
 - iii) In 1701 he also helped to establish the “Act of Settlement” which required British monarchs to be a member of the Church of England.
 - iv) William, and his wife Mary, jointly ruled until he died in 1702.
 - j) The End of an Era
 - i) Thus ended any chance for the Roman Catholic Church to take control of England directly.
 - ii) Instead, the Roman Church would need to attack in a different manner.
 - iii) They would now focus on the minds of English Protestantism.
 - iv) This would allow the Church of England to be destroyed from within through the “Oxford Movement.”
 - v) This would end with England becoming a second-rate power.

11) Examining the Evidence

- a) The Right Kind of Evidence
 - i) We need to first look at the internal evidence of the scripture.
 - ii) Next, we need to not be intimidated by those who think they are better than us.
- b) Did God inspire his Word perfectly in the originals?
 - i) Did only those who would come in contact with the originals need a perfect Bible?
 - ii) Did God intend for the Bible to be transported through time but his plan was thwarted by the devil or man?
 - iii) Did God preserve His Book perfectly across time but it simple has not been found and we need to wait patiently until it is discovered in some cave in the Middle East?
 - (1) This is what the Bible rejectors actually believe.
 - (2) They believe the Bible was lost for centuries and found in some Vatican library.
- c) Did God promise to preserve his word perfectly throughout history?
 - i) Preservation and Perpetuation
 - (1) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. Psalms 12:7
 - (2) Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35
 - (3) God’s words must be within our grasp if they are preserved
 - (4) God’s words also need to be available to every generation forever if they are to be perpetual.
 - ii) History of the Alexandrian Text and the Pharisees
 - (1) If the words are only in Greek, he has limited their usage to a few scholars.
 - (2) If the words have been locked away for 1400 years in some library in Alexandria Egypt, they would be useless to the church.

- (3) Christ always went past the religious, scholarly Pharisees and went straight to the common people.
- (4) Up until Christ, the Pharisees possessed the complete Word of God, but yet still took advantage of the common people.
- (5) Peter and John were unlearned and ignorant men yet they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13) and had a better understanding of the scriptures than the Pharisees.

12) The Dumb God Theory

- a) The Dumb God Theory is that God was so powerful that He overcame man's sinful natures to inspire a Book but then is so dumb that he lost it.
- b) This is obviously ludicrous but in reality, is what the modern textual critic believes.

13) The Common Language

- a) The Logic of a Common Language
 - i) The opponents of the infallibility of the AV1611 say that if God made a perfect Bible in English, then he is obligated to provide a perfect Bible in every language.
 - ii) However, this is really no different than when God made the Bible in the original language.
 - iii) He made the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.
 - iv) He used a common language at the time to make the word of God.
 - v) God then used a common language, English, to make his final complete Bible.
- b) Hebrew, God's Divine Choice
 - i) There were many languages in existence at the time the Old Testament was written.
 - ii) Hebrew was the language of His chosen people.
 - iii) This was the common language of the people he was taking his word to.
 - iv) He did not provide a copy in Egyptian, Syrian etc.
 - v) If you wanted a perfect Bible at this time, you had to learn Hebrew.
 - vi) You might say that was unfair but that is what God wanted.
- c) Greek, God's Divine Choice
 - i) There were hundreds of languages in existence when God inspired the New Testament in Greek.
 - ii) Matt 13:18., Acts 13:46, Acts 28:28, and Romans 11:11 show that God was now taking his message to the Gentiles.
 - iii) As a result, He furnished his word in the common language of the day, Greek.
 - iv) Greek was a semi-universal trade language of the day and used across multiple nations.
 - v) If anyone wanted to know God's word, he would need to learn Greek.
 - vi) Once again, you may say this is unfair but this was God's method.
- d) English, God's Divine Choice
 - i) The next divine choice came when God would combine His two Testaments into one perfect book.
 - ii) Once again, God would need to choose a language common to the entire world.
 - iii) God needed a nation that was free from the influences of Rome.
 - iv) God needed a language that was simple and descriptive that could best deliver his message in the best method possible.
 - v) These needs were met in the England.
 - vi) English is the language of the world.
 - vii) English is taught the world over as a second language in many nations.

- viii) It is sometimes necessary to have a common language in trade or a field, such as air traffic control.
- ix) “The English language has passed through many and great changes, and had at last reached the very height of its purity and strength. The Bible has ever since been the great English classic. It is still the noblest monument of the power of the English speech. It is singularly free from what used to be called ‘ink-horn terms’ that is, such words as are more used in writing than in speaking, and are not well understood except by scholars.” McClure, Alexander, *Translators Revived*, (Maranatha Publications, Worthington), p. 61.

14) The Development of English

a) Old English

- i) Old English is the start of the English language.
- ii) Old English was spoken from 449 AD to 1100 AD.
- iii) When the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded England in 449 AD, they brought their own individual languages.
- iv) These languages combined to form Old English that used six vowels rather than five vowels like modern English.
- v) Old English had four distinct dialects by geographic location.
- vi) These locations were Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon and Kent.
- vii) Old English looks nothing like English of today and could not be read, spoken, or understood by someone today.
- viii) The origins of English show that it was a relatively modern language and that it was an eclectic language, or a combination of multiple languages.
- ix) Because English was an eclectic language, it could be more descriptive than a single language.

b) Middle English

- i) Middle English was the second step in development of the English language and covers the years 1100 AD to 1450 AD.
- ii) It began to develop when the Norman’s invaded England in 1066 AD.
- iii) The French language was forced upon many of the inhabitants but was absorbed into English rather than replacing it.
- iv) Once again, English becomes more eclectic and more descriptive.
- v) In 1362 AD, the “Statute of Pleading” made English the official language of Parliament.
- vi) Middle English would not be easily understood by us who speak Modern English.

c) Modern English

- i) Modern English came into existence around 1450 AD and was solidified by the mid-16th century.
- ii) In about 1500, major changes in vocal pronunciation, inflection and spelling simplified and solidified the language.
- iii) This all prepared the way for the Authorized Version.
- iv) The greatest works in English were all written in Modern English including Tyndale, Shakespeare and the KJV.
- v) The English language became more eclectic and mixed in more and more words.
- vi) As a result, English is the most complete language on the face of the earth.

d) PNG Pidgin vs English – A Comparative Illustration in Bible Translation

- i) PNG Pidgin

- (1) Bible Believers have recently made a PNG Pidgin Bible for the tribes of Papua New Guinea
 - (2) PNG Pidgin was developed as a trade language by the Australians after WW II and is a relatively new language.
 - (3) A pidgin language is a very minimalistic language with just enough words to accomplish trade with a primitive people group.
 - (4) A pidgin language contains very few words as a result.
 - (5) When trying to make a Bible translation, the translators of the PNG Pidgin Bible had great difficulty trying to describe many of the concepts in the Word of God due to extreme limitations of the language
- ii) English
- (1) English was developed over a period of nearly 1150 years before the translation of the KJV.
 - (2) It was a very mature language, going through three distinct phases.
 - (3) It is a very descriptive language with the largest vocabulary in the world with nearly 1,025,110 words.
 - (4) It often uses many different words to describe one Greek word in the originals.
 - (5) It can draw finer detail than even the original language.
 - (6) That is often why we say that the KJV “corrects” the Greek. It can be much more descriptive because of the language.
 - (7) The Bible was translated into the purest form of English in 1611 while still being the common language of the day.
- e) The KJV – A Modern English Translation
- i) The KJV was not translated into Old English or Middle English.
 - ii) It was translated into Modern English.
 - (1) Here is a comparison of Modern vs Old English
 - (a) Modern English – “The man saw the woman.”
 - (b) Old English – “se guma geseah ba swen.”
 - (2) Here is a comparison of Modern vs Middle English
 - (a) Modern English – “One placed knotted cords about their heads.”
 - (b) Middle English – “Me dide cnotted stenges abuton here haeued.”
 - iii) The KJV was printed in a very ornate Gothic type when it was first printed. This is not Old English.
 - iv) The KJV was one of the first books to be printed in Modern English.
 - v) The KJV is a Modern translation because it is translated in Modern English.
- 15) Archaic Words and the KJV
- a) The words the KJV uses that are often termed archaic by critics and those who favor modern translations.
 - b) Archaic words are words that are no longer in modern use but still exist.
 - c) Examples from the Bible
 - i) **Conversation** – An example of a more descriptive term
 - (1) Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; Philippians 1:27

- (2) We see the use of the word “conversation” in the place of what we would normally refer to as our “life” or “lifestyle”.
 - (3) However, “conversation” is much more descriptive as it refers to how our life speaks or talks through our actions and not just what we say.
 - ii) **Seer** – The Bible definition of archaic language
 - (1) We see the story of Saul seeking the lost asses.
 - (2) (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)¹⁰
Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.
¹¹ And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here? 1 Samuel 9:9-11
 - (3) We see that the Bible corrects archaic language by defining it in modern terms in vs 9.
 - (4) We also see that God still leaves the archaic word in the text in vs 11 after defining it.
 - (5) This is the proper way to deal with archaic language and the Bible, as shown in a Bible example.
 - d) The Dictionary – The proper way to deal with archaic words
 - i) We can also define words we don’t understand with a dictionary
 - ii) The Webster’s 1828 dictionary was written almost 200 years after the KJV.
 - iii) It provides the best definitions or the words in the KJV and often uses scripture in the definitions.
 - iv) Hereby we can get a more complete picture of what God intended.
- 16) Conclusions
- a) The Bible does not need to be re-written, it needs to be read.
 - b) God has given us a Bible in the common language he intended it to be in, English.
 - c) If we are to understand God’s word complete, then we must learn English just as the Jew needed to know Hebrew or the early New Testament Christian needed to learn Greek.