

Manuscript Evidence – Week 11

King James

(Notes taken from: *Understandable History of the Bible*, Chapter 10 – The “King” of the King James Bible, Dr. Sam Gipp, Fourth Edition, 2019)

- 1) Life
 - a) Full name – James Charles Stuart (or Steward)
 - b) Born in Edinburgh Castle on June 19, 1566
 - c) Baptized Roman Catholic by his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots
 - d) He acceded the throne at age 1 on July 24, 1567 when his mother was forced to abdicate
 - e) His father, Henry Lord Darnley was murdered in February 1567, possibly at the hand of his wife Mary
 - f) As an infant, James was rescued from the Catholic Church and raised under a staunch Presbyterian guidance
 - g) The Catholic Church hated this fact and as a result, James was the subject of plots and counter-plots his whole life to overthrow him, with four of these occurring between 1600-1605
 - h) When he was 19 years old, he witnessed the death of several friends in a plot designed to murder Earl of Mar and bring control back to the Roman Catholic Church
- 2) Education
 - a) He was a paragon of learning
 - b) He learned Greek, Latin and other languages
 - c) He had several physical ailments but had a sharp mind
 - d) At age 7, he could read a whole chapter out of the Bible in Latin, translate that into French and then translate that into English
 - e) He became known as the most educated sovereign in Europe
 - f) He said if ever he was to be a prisoner, he desired to be incarcerated in the great library of Oxford University
- 3) Marriage and Children
 - a) Married Anne, the second daughter of Frederick II, King of Denmark on August 20, 1589
 - b) He had eight children
 - i) Henry – February 19, 1594 – November 6, 1612
 - ii) Elizabeth – August 19, 1596 – February 13, 1662
 - iii) Margaret – December 1598 – December 1600
 - iv) Charles – November 19, 1600 – January 1649 – Succeeded his father in 1625 but was murdered
 - v) Robert – January 18, 1602 – May 27, 1602
 - vi) A still born child was born in May 1603
 - vii) May – April 8, 1605 – September 16, 1607
 - viii) Sophia – June 22, 1606 – June 23, 1606
- 4) Monarchy
 - a) Became King James VI of Scotland on July 24, 1567
 - b) Became King James I of England on March 24, 1603
 - c) This united two countries under a single monarchy
 - d) He died almost 22 years later after becoming King of England on March 27, 1625

- e) His son Charles ascended the throne in his place because his first son, Henry had died early at age 18.

5) Health

- a) James had very poor health most all of his life
- b) He had weak legs and often had to be supported when he walked
- c) He had limited use of his hands and required a secretary or chamberlain write for him
- d) He suffered from gout, arthritis and possibly Porphyra ("The Royal Disease").
- e) He was often weak and bedridden
- f) As a result, his bedroom became his office and was surrounded by courtiers
- g) He did not sleep well
- h) He had an overlarge tongue that caused him to drool
- i) He had bouts of pain that often left him delirious
- j) In general, he was physically repulsive
- k) As a result, he could have led a miserable life and had a mean and foul spirit like many men in his condition
- l) In stead of letting his condition overcome him, he let the Spirit of God control his life and became one of the kindness and best of tempered men

6) Temperament

- a) He had a very kind temperament
- b) Bishop Godfrey Goodman describe James by saying, "Here unto you may add the carriage and disposition of King James; truly I did never know any man of so great an appreciation, of so great love and affection. A man so truly just, so free from all cruelty and pride, such a lover of the church, and one who ad done so much good for the church."
- c) Sir Henry Wotton wrote of James in 1602 saying, "There appears a certain natural goodness verging on modesty...among his good qualities none shines more brightly than the chastness of his life, which he has preserved without stain down to the present time, contrary to the example of almost all his ancestors, who disturbed the kingdom with the great number of bastards which they left..."
- d) Sir Roger Wilbraham stated in 1603, "The King is of the sharpest wit and invention...of the sweetest most pleasant and best nature that I ever knew, desiring nor affecting anything but true honor."
- e) He was not a coward and could display considerable nerve in the face of danger
- f) Hugh Walpole tells us, "He had large, prominent blue eyes, and they stared at the person with whom he talked as though he would read all secrets."
- g) Stephen A. Coston Sr. stated, "He profane liberality which sprang from the same source, was the chief if not the sole cause of his constant want of money..."

7) Lessons to His Son

- a) Promoted masculinity and despised the effeminate
- b) He authored the *Basilicon Doran* (The Kingly Gift) for his son Henry for when he was to take the throne, prior to his untimely death
- c) He stated in this book, "But especially eschew to be effeminate in your clothes, in perfuming, preening, or such like...and make not a fool of yourself in disguising or wearing long your hair or nails, which are but excrements of nature."

- d) Of the vices of prosperity he wrote, "Our peace hath bred wealth: and peace and wealth hath brought forth a general sluggishness which makes us wallow in all sorts of idle delights and soft delicacies, the first seeds of subversion of all great monarchies."
 - e) He was against tobacco, even writing a treatise entitled *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*. He was several hundred years ahead of his time on the evils of smoking.
 - f) In *Basilicon Doran* he advised his heir, "There are some horrible crimes that ye are bound in conscience never to forgive: such as witchcraft, willful murder, incest, and sodomy..."
 - g) He also believed a man should be a virgin before he marries and believed the body was the temple of the Holy Spirit and vain allurements
 - h) He did not believe that being a monarch gave a person a license to sin but felt it was even more important for a ruler to be without fault
 - i) He believed that "Holiness being the first and most requisite quality of a Christian (as proceeding from true fear and knowledge of God.)"
- 8) The British Solomon
- a) King James was referred to as the British Solomon
 - b) He was not just knowledgeable of politics but also of academics and theology
 - c) He had a devout interest in the Word of God
 - d) He wanted the Bible to be in the hands of the people
 - e) In his funeral sermon, Bishop Williams compared King James to Solomon in no less than eleven particulars
- 9) The Christian
- a) James not just a king, he was a devout Christians first and foremost
 - b) In regards to ruling he stated in *Basilicon Doran*, "God gives not kings the style of the gods in vain, for on his throne his scepter do the sway...So kings should fear and serve their God again. If they would enjoy a happy reign, observe the statutes of your heavenly king; and from his law make all your laws to spring:...and so you (shall in princely virtues shine). Resembling right your mighty king divine."
 - c) He did not believe like some rulers that a king is answerable to no one but is answerable to God
 - d) He felt that a king is "twice" obligated to God, once as a Christian and second as a sovereign
 - e) He believed in salvation by grace through faith and a prayer life. He said in *Basilicon Doran*, "Now faith...is the free gift of God (as Paul sayeth). It must be nourished by prayer, which is no thing else but a friendly talking to God. Use oft to pray when ye are quiet, especially on your bed..."
 - f) Though he was Presbyterian, he enrolled his heir, Prince Phillip in Magadalen College at Oxford which decidedly had a Puritan bent
 - g) He even spoke of the corruptions in the Church of England and Lancelot Andrews said of him, "did wonderfully play the Puritan."
 - h) He knew his Bible well and could quote it well
 - i) He felt that the common man should have access to the Bible
 - j) As one of his first acts on becoming King of England, he commissioned a new translation of the Bible into English so it would be available to all of his subjects
 - k) He wanted a Bible that was easily understood by the ordinary people of his day
- 10) The New World

- a) He wanted to establish colonies in the New World because he wanted to carry the gospel to the native Americans
- b) Unlike the King of Spain and France, he was not concerned with filling his coffers but carrying the gospel to America with the establishment of Virginia

11) The Accomplishments of King James

- a) Though men like Christopher Columbus, the Wright Brothers, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison all made great discoveries that affected lives, they did not change alter history like King James
- b) England was not the only one that benefited from this King but so did America, Canada, Australia, India and every other nation that flew the British flag
- c) Here are some of his accomplishments:
 - i) United the nations of England, Ireland, and Scotland to form the British Empire
 - ii) Commissioned the translation of the Authorized Version
 - iii) Established the first Christian colony in the New World and provided the foundation for the United States to be built upon Christianity, not religion
 - iv) Developed the concept of trial by jury that then became the standard of Western Civilization, including the United States
 - v) Exalted womanhood and the sanctity of marriage (he spent 15 days in prayer and meditation before marrying Anne)

12) The Enemies of King James

- a) The Roman Catholic Church
 - i) The take over of the throne from his wicked mother
 - ii) The Gun Powder Plot to try and kill him
 - iii) The Spanish Ambassador to England said in 1607, "He is a Protestant,...The king tries to extend his Protestant religion to the whole island. The King is a bitter enemy of our religion [Roman Catholicism]...He frequently speaks of it in terms of contempt. He is all the harsher because of this last conspiracy [the Gun Powder Plot] against his life...He understood that the Jesuits had a hand in it."
- b) Opponents of the Monarchy
 - i) There was animosity of the monarchy in England at the time James came to the throne
 - ii) Within 25 years of his death, the English Civil War under Oliver Cromwell led to the execution of his son Charles I.
 - iii) This was an age when few kings could please their subjects
 - iv) His subjects however still loved James despite these conditions in the world
- c) Anti-Scottish Racist
 - i) He was a Scot that was reigning over England
 - ii) England did not look well on the Scots at the time and were racist against them
 - iii) The Scots to this day are still looked down on by the English in some places
 - iv) King James had a court that he had developed over a period of 36 years while reigning in Scotland
 - v) He took this court, almost fully intact, to England with him when he became King
 - vi) This brought distrust to the English
 - vii) There were several men who wrote very racist things against Scots and King James calling Scots terrible things
 - viii) These disgruntled men committed things to writing including;

- (1) Anthony Weldon –
 - (a) Wrote a treatise entitled A Perfect Description of the People and Country of Scotland that was printed after James’s death in 1659 but said terrible things about the Scots
 - (b) He was a slander of King James.
 - (c) King James dismissed Weldon (rather than quartering him).
 - (d) In 1650 he wrote a treatise against King James.
 - (e) He did not openly accuse King James of sodomy but alluded to King James being an open homosexual.
 - (f) The king was dead and the men he accused of having sodomy with so they could not defend themselves
 - (g) At the time, all of these charges were disregarded and should have been the end of it
 - (h) However, a new wave of hatred of King James crept into modern times and the treatise of Anthony Weldon was resurrected
 - (i) He claimed that James had an open homosexual relationship with the Earl of Buckingham (Villiers) because he was trying to make a point that he did not hate the English because he was a Scot when he said before Parliament, “You may be sure that I love the Earl of Buckingham (Villiers had been raised to peerage) more than anyone else and more than you (Parliament) who are assembled, I wish to speak in my own behalf, and not to have it thought to be a defect, for Jesus did the same and therefore I cannot be blamed. Christ had his John and I have more George.”
 - (j) If King James was a homosexual based on this statement, then Weldon is also accusing Jesus Christ of the same
- (2) Frances Osborne – He considered the Scots wily, beggarly, rabble and possessors of nothing but eggs, barnacles and drugs
- (3) Edward Peyton – Ranked with the worst of them with his hatred of the Scots

13) Claim of Homosexuality Disputed

- a) The Claims
 - i) Many of the enemies of the King James Bible in this day and age will go to any length to destroy this Bible
 - ii) They have dug up works done by Weldon and now spread them as truth
 - iii) They make the claim that King James was an open homosexual and because of that there is no way the King James Bible is any good
 - iv) We will now examine several reason why King James could not have been a homosexual, in addition to previous things we have discussed about his hatred of the effeminate and his views on marriage and fornication
- b) Public Reaction
 - i) If King James were an open homosexual, as Weldon claimed after his death, there would have been a public reaction
 - ii) In this day and age of the Puritan, they probably would have killed him
- c) Public Outcry
 - i) If this was true, our history books would be full of letters, tracts and books written against this sin

- ii) Upstanding citizens of his time would have written about it while he was on the throne and alive
- iii) There is no way if he was an open homosexual it would not have been documented everywhere
- d) Puritan Cooperation
 - i) The Puritans would never have agreed to help a homosexual king translate the Bible
 - ii) They were much too strict to have went along with this King and to have been friends with him
- e) The Anglicans
 - i) The King was the head of the Church of England
 - ii) They never would have had a queer running the Church of England
 - iii) Even to this day, the Church of England is not in favor of ordaining openly homosexual priest
- f) The Bible Translators
 - i) The translation committee was made of Anglicans and Puritans
 - ii) The Puritans were the more Bible oriented of the two groups but neither would have accepted a blatant homosexuals request to translate the Bible
 - iii) The Epistle Dedicatory would not have said of a homosexual king "Great and manifold were the blessings, most dread Sovereign, which Almighty God, the father of mercies, bestowed upon us the people of England, when first he sent Your Majesty's Royal person to rule and reign over us."
 - iv) Some have claimed that the Epistle Dedicatory was just political posturing but how could a group put the name of a pervert on the front of a Bible
- g) The Pilgrims
 - i) Throughout the charter, the Pilgrims refer to both God and King James in terms of adoration and praise in the Mayflower Compact
 - ii) These people were unwanted in Europe and sought a new home for religious purposes
 - iii) They had nothing to lose and would not have written the Compact as such
- h) God
 - i) After its publication, the King James Bible found its way around the world
 - ii) Foreign missions were started from England and kicked off by this Bible
 - iii) There were several great translations before the King James and God could have used any of them
 - iv) However, God chose a humble King for his Bible to be translated and carried around the world
 - v) God obviously did not think King James was a homosexual