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There are two bedrock questions that **must** be addressed in seeking the truth. The first is.

### **1. Did God inspire His Word perfectly in the original autographs?**

The answer is childishly simple to find:

*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:21).*

If Peter's testimony isn't clear enough, God placed another witness, just as dogmatic, in **Psalm 12:6**

*The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

There can be **no doubt** then that the original autographs were divinely inspired and perfect, free from any tainting by their human writers. God simply overcame their humanity with His divinity!

But, as stated earlier, **“inspiration” without “preservation” is a Divine waste of time!** Why should God bother inspiring a Book that He was going to allow to get “lost”? Why give first-century Christians a perfect Bible, while those of us who are almost two thousand years removed from Christ are expected to get along with an error-riddled translation?

If God really did intend for those with access to the original autographs to be the only people in history to profit from a flawless Bible, there must be a logical reason. Several scenarios must be examined to explain why God wrote a perfect Book in the originals and then allowed it to become a victim of history:

**1.** Did God feel that only those who would come in contact with the originals needed a perfect Bible? Was He doing a particular work at that time which required a perfect Book, (a work that is apparently no longer going on since He cut this generation off from any contact with that perfect Bible)?

This can not be! It is simply implausible to believe that God's divine plan centered only around those who had access to the original Old Testament and New Testament autographs. By allowing His **perfect** Bible to pass into oblivion, would God be telling us that His goal, whatever it was, had been reached?

**2.** Did God intend for the Bible to be transported through time perfectly but His plan was thwarted by the devil?

If this was true, then it would mean that the devil would be more powerful than God! The devil could claim that he had been able to overcome God's efforts to preserve His Book throughout time without any errors.

Anyone who believes this is, **in practice**, a devil worshiper, no matter **what** he claims to believe about Jesus Christ.

**3.** Did God intend for the Bible to be transported through time perfectly but that desire was thwarted by the man?

This couldn't possibly be true! God had overcome the sinful nature of the men who wrote the Bible. Are we to believe He had now **lost the ability** to overcome their nature in preserving it?

**4.** Did God possibly preserve His Book perfectly across time, but it simply hasn't been found yet and is patiently waiting in some dark cave in the Middle East to be discovered?

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Actually, this foolish belief is very similar not only to what Bible rejecters believe but to what they claim has happened! They truly believe that the Bible was “lost” for literally **centuries!** Then one copy was found in a wastebasket in a monastery and another mysteriously appeared **in the Vatican library!** Anybody who believes that **this** is how God preserved His words has been reading too much science fiction!

All this leads us to the second important question:

## **2. Did God promise to preserve His words perfectly throughout history?**

The answer to this question is no more difficult to find in Scripture than is the answer to the first one. All we need to do is to read the verse following Psalm 12:6...verse 7.

*Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.<sup>11</sup>*

You then need to follow that up with the testimony of none other than Jesus Christ Himself as found in **Matthew 24:35**.

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

We need to face the very real question, do we have Christ’s words, or have they “passed away”? If they have “passed away,” then

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<sup>11</sup> The Hebrew word translated “them” in verse seven is a **third person plural** pronoun. In an effort to get rid of the doctrine of Preservation, the translators of the New International Version and several other modern translations have altered the verse to read, “You will keep **us...**,” even though there is absolutely **no Hebrew authority** for this translation. This is very poor translating!

Jesus Christ didn't know what He was talking about when He made this statement.

The first verses referred to, 2 Peter 1:21 and Psalm 12:6, guarantee that God was active in originating His Word in the first place. "Inspired" we call it. Inspired perfectly, without any error. God was the all-powerful agent in seeing to it that sinful man wrote down His words flawlessly. Because of this Divine intervention, the words written were the very words of God.

The second reference, Psalms 12:7, claims that God was not only the agent in writing His words (verse 6) but is also the primary agent in **preserving** His words. Note that the subject is God's words, not His "thoughts."

In the next reference, Matthew 24:35, we find that Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, reinforces what Psalm 12:7 has already said. Christ said that Heaven and earth would pass away before His **words** would. Heaven is still above us, and I am relatively sure that the earth is still beneath our feet. Therefore, the very words of God must be here, within our grasp **somewhere**. If His words are to be found only in Greek, then He has restricted their usage to an elite number of scholars who, I might add, are doing **absolutely nothing** in fulfilling the Great Commission! This, however, was never Jesus Christ's method when He was on this earth. He always went past the religious, scholarly minority and took His words to the common people. Until then, only the Pharisees had possessed God's words in the form of the completed, accepted Old Testament books, and although they were well educated and very religious, they were found to be taking advantage of the common people. Christ eliminated this problem by going directly to the common people of His day.

The Gospel is meant for all. God gave His Word to every person and gave the Holy Spirit as a guide to all truth (John 16:13) in spite of

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the Roman Catholic teachings that only the “clergy” are allowed to interpret the Scripture.

If God’s words are locked up in the “Greek Text,” then once again education is a prerequisite to having the Word of God and knowing what it says. This type of philosophy would have eliminated Peter and John from the ministry, for they were “unlearned and ignorant men.” They were unlearned, and the Bible states that they were ignorant as though incapable of learning. Yet “they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:12,13)! Jesus Christ made the difference, giving Peter a greater understanding of Scripture than the “educated” Pharisees! Notice his delivery in Acts 1:15-22, 2:14-36 and 4:8-12. He understood the Scripture, though “unlearned and ignorant.” Education, though beneficial, is not a necessity for being used of God. I am not anti-education or anti-college, but the first requirement for God to use someone is that a person has “been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13) and that they realize and believe that the written Word which they have in hand is “more sure” than God’s spoken words.

Now, today we know that it is easy to “be with Jesus.” The Bible says in **Romans 10:9**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* **John 14:20** says, *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

## THE “DUMB GOD” THEORY

I have often told those who believe there is no perfect Bible **that you can hold in your hand** in existence today that I do not agree with them because I do not subscribe to the “Dumb God” theory.

You see, **they** believe that God is **so powerful** that He could overcome man's sinful nature and **inspire** a Book with no errors. But then He was **so dumb** that **He lost it!**

We Bible-believers simply believe that the God who was **so powerful** that He could **inspire** a Book with no errors also **has the power to preserve it**. He simply is not so "dumb" that He lost it.

So where is that perfect Book? Where is that written Word that we can be confident is "more sure" than God's speaking from heaven? A Word which the Bible claims God has exalted above all of His name (Psalms 138:2)? Do we have God's words today in our common language?

## THE COMMON LANGUAGE

While on the subject of a common language, let me point out that many opponents of the infallibility of the Authorized Version say that if God provided a perfect Bible in English, He is also obligated to furnish such a translation in every other language in the world. They claim that there must also be a perfect Bible in German, French, Japanese and all of the other languages of the world. Unfortunately for them, the answer to this argument is embarrassingly simple to even a casual student of history. It is simply that God did nothing different by putting His words in one language (English) than He did when He inspired the Old and New Testaments. God has **always** used only **one language** in which to have His words to be found perfectly.

## HEBREW, GOD'S DIVINE CHOICE

There were many languages on this earth at the time that **God chose to inspire His Old Testament in Hebrew**. This was the

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language of His chosen people, the Jews. He did not bother to inspire a perfect copy of His Book in Egyptian, Syrian, Ethiopian, Greek, or any of the languages in existence at that time. During Old Testament times if someone wanted access to the perfect Bible, **he had to learn Hebrew**. God did not feel obligated to provide every other language with a perfect copy of His Word.

It may be said that this was unfair. **It doesn't matter** what is said about it. It is **still** the method that God chose to use in providing the world with a **written** message. And **God is never wrong!**

### GREEK, GOD'S DIVINE CHOICE

There were also hundreds of languages on this earth when God chose to inspire His New Testament in Greek. Matthew 13:18, Acts 13:46, 28:28, and Romans 11:11 show that this time God was going to be taking His message to the Gentiles, so He furnished it in the common language of the day-Greek. Think about it. Not only did God not feel it to be necessary to inspire a copy of His Book in any of the other languages of the day, but He didn't even feel it was necessary to inspire a copy in Hebrew, the language of His chosen people! If the Jews wanted access to the perfect words of God **they would simply have to learn Greek**.

It may be said that this was unfair. **It doesn't matter** what is said about it. It is **still** the method that God chose to use in providing the world with a **written** message. And **God is never wrong!**

### ENGLISH, GOD'S DIVINE CHOICE

**Question:** When would the two Testaments be combined into one perfect Book?

**Answer:** As soon as God chose a language to become common to the entire world.

Before combining His two Testaments, God would have to choose which language He was going to make the world's most common language. Germany, Spain, France and almost all of Europe were soon to be overly influenced by Rome. No useful language to be found there.

French, though fairly common at one time, has just about disappeared outside of France and few portions of Canada. I once heard of a professor at the University of Paris who asked each of his students to write a paper explaining why they thought French was a dying language. Of fifty-two papers, **fifty** of them were turned in **written in English!** This, in the capital of France! French isn't a "dying" language. It's dead!

There had been great Latin and Syrian translations of the New Testament, but these languages **never became common to the entire world.** The Roman Catholic Church adopted Latin as its official language. This action destroyed any hope of it ever becoming accepted by the world.

What God needed was an island of purity, a nation not shackled by Romanism. A nation with a language so descriptive and simple that it could best deliver His message. Both of these needs were satisfied in England. Here was a people who had thrown off the bondage of Rome and had a young language which was to find its way into every corner of the world; from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from England and America to Moscow and Peking. **English is the language of this world!**

Today English is taught to Russian pilots, because it is universal. It is learned by Oriental businessmen, because it is universal. It was the

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first language spoken on the moon! English is spoken the world over. This is the language God would use.

Being a God of purity, He would want to use this language in its purest form. The English of the King James Bible has been known to be the finest form of the language ever used. McClure praises the Authorized Version in this manner:

“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.”<sup>12</sup>

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH

Many people are under the false impression that the King James Bible is written in **Old** English. This is due to three things. First, the original King James Bible was set in **Gothic** type face. This font is sometimes even referred to as “Old English”. It is very ornate and equally difficult to read. Roman type was in use in 1611 and subsequent editions of the King James were changed to that. Second, some folks think that the use of “thees” and “thous” identifies the English of the Authorized Version as “Old.” This is incorrect. The use of “thees” and “thous” was in use in common speech in 1611 and is not at all associated with either “Old” or even “Middle” English. Third, many not-so-well-meaning critics like to make the assertion that the English

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<sup>12</sup> McClure, Alexander, *Translators Revived*, (Maranatha Publications, Worthington), p.61.

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of the King James Bible is “Old” English in order to mislead their congregations and further alienate them from God’s perfect Bible.

The English language developed over approximately 1000 years. It passed through three distinct segments known as, Old English, Middle English and Modern English.

**Old English** was spoken from 449 AD to around 1100 AD. When the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded England in 449 AD, they brought with them their own individual languages. Over the years these languages combined to form Old English which utilized six vowels rather than the five of Modern English. The sixth being similar in appearance to a lower case **e** and **a** superimposed over one another. Old English was further divided into four distinct dialects by geographic location. These were, Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon and Kent. Old English looked nothing like the English of today and could not be read, spoken or understood by someone who speaks Modern English as the following example will illustrate.

**Example #1**

**Modern English** - “The man saw the woman.”

**Old English** - “se guma geseah þa cwen.”

**Example #2**

**Modern English** - “The woman saw the man.”

**Old English** - “seo cwen geseah þone guman.”<sup>13</sup>

**Example #3**

**Modern English** - “When this answer was received he began immediately to sing in praise of God the Creator, with verses and words that he had never heard.” (Translated.)

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<sup>13</sup> *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, (Cambridge University Press, 1995), p. 20.

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**Old English** - “he ða þas andsware onfeng, þa fers ond þa word þe he naefre gehyrde.”<sup>14</sup>

Thus, it is obvious that the King James Bible was **not** written in **Old English** as some would have us believe. Bible critics may wear this transparently false argument out but **the facts** prove that is simply isn't true.

**Middle English** was the second step in the development of the English language and was predominant from around 1100 AD to 1450 AD. It began to develop in 1066 AD when the Norman's invaded England. The French language was forced upon many of the inhabitants, but it was absorbed into English rather than replacing it. In 1362 AD the “Statute of Pleading” made English the official language of Parliament. French had lost the battle for supremacy and English took another crucial step in its development.

Middle English also would not be readily understood by those of us who speak Modern English. It would be as foreign to our eyes and ears any other foreign language is today. The following example is an excerpt from *The Peterborough Chronicle* as written in 1154 AD. It rehearse methods of torture used in monasteries. It is considered by some to be the earliest surviving example of Middle English. For ease of comparison it is presented in an interlinear format.

[Me dide cnotted stenges abuton here] haeued and uurythen it dat it  
 [One placed knotted cords about their] heads and twisted it that it

gaede to þe haernes. Hi diden heom in quarterne par nadres and snakes  
 entered to the brains They put them in cell where adders and snakes

and pade waeron inne, and drapen heom swa. Sume hi diden  
 and toads were in, and killed them so. Some they put in

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 20.

in crucethus, dat is in an cest pat was scort, and nareu, and undep,  
torture box, that is in a chest that was short, and narrow and shallow,

and dide scaerpe stanes perinne and prengde pe man paer-inne dat him  
and put sharp stones therein, and pressed the man therein<sup>15</sup>, that

braecon alle pe limes.  
they broke all the limbs.<sup>16</sup>

These examples make it plain that neither “Old” nor “Middle” English was the language used for the King James Bible. Anyone who teaches anything different is either mistaken or dishonest.

**Modern English** came into existence around 1450 AD and was basically solidified by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In about 1500, major changes in vocal pronunciation, inflection, and spelling simplified and helped solidify the language.<sup>17</sup> This was all in preparation for the ultimate work of the English language, the Authorized Version of 1611.

The greatest works in English, those of the “Golden Age” of English literature, are all in Modern English. William Tyndales’ translation, the works of William Shakespeare and, of course, the **pinnacle** of the English language, The King James Bible.

The English language is made up of elements of Danish, Old Norse, Latin, Greek, French, German and many other dialects. Today we use words such as alcohol and assassins (Arabic), coffee (Turkish), mammoths (Russian), robots (Czech), shampoo (Hindi), ketchup (Malay) and thousands of others which have come to us from all around

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<sup>15</sup> Note the two different ways of spelling “therein.” Spelling was still fluid in the English language into the eighteenth century. Noah Webster and his dictionary had a great deal to do with the standardization of spelling.

<sup>16</sup> *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, (Cambridge University Press, 1995), p. 33.

<sup>17</sup> *New Standard Encyclopedia*, (Standard Educational Corporation, 1977), Vol. L, p. 64.

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the globe. No language is more complete or descriptive than our own marvelous English!

Many claim today that since the Authorized Version was printed in the common English of that day, the Bible should be retranslated into the common English of today. This is not a valid claim. It must be remembered that the English used in the Authorized Version was not only the common language, but it was also the English language in its purest form. The English language has degenerated from what it was in 1611 to what it is today. Those claiming to put the Bible in “modern English” are actually, though possibly not intentionally, trying to force the pure words of God into the degenerated vocabulary of today! What a disgrace to God’s Word! What a shame to those who propose such a thing!

It is also thought by some that the King James Bible is written in “Old” English. This is because the first few printings were set in Gothic type which is very ornate looking. Actually the King James Bible is one of the first to be printed in “**Modern**” English. As previously mentioned, Old English looks completely foreign to anyone who speaks English today. But the English of the King James Bible is basically the same as that which is spoken today. You see. The King James Bible is a “modern” translation!

## THE ARCHAIC CON-JOB

A charge often brought against the Authorized Version is that it is full of “archaic” words. But are we to make the Bible pay the penalty of our own irresponsibility in not keeping our language pure and descriptive? Would we not be richer to learn the meaning of those nasty old “archaic” words and add them back into our own vocabulary? Would we not be making the Bible poorer by depriving it of its descriptive style? Are these words truly “archaic”? I have seen stores today that still advertise “sundry” items. Perhaps the store owner didn’t realize that it was supposed to be archaic. Perhaps it is like the