

The Messianic Claims
of
Gail A. Riplinger



Dr. Phil Stringer

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“All for the Greater Glory of Gail”

Pastor Phil Stringer, Ph.D.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to all who love the Truth.

*Sanctify them through thy **truth**: thy word is **truth**.*

John 17:17

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the **truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 14:6

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of **truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

John 16:13

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in **truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

John 4:23

*And ye shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you free.*

John 8:32

“Lastly, how was it to have been believed that the Revisionists would show themselves industrious in sowing broadcast over four continents doubts as to the **Truth** of Scripture, which it will never be in their power either to remove or to recal?” [Dean John William Burgon, Revision Revised, Article II, 1883, Reprinted by the Dean Burgon Society, September, 2000, p. 115 (p. 160 in the PDF Version)]

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PREFACE

The Importance of the King James Bible

Next year, 2011, marks the 400th anniversary of the Authorized King James Bible. No book on earth has been more responsible for shaping Western Civilization. This book is the foundation upon which America was built. The fundamentalist movement was born believing, defending, and using the KJB. Even as textual criticism gained a foothold in many of our fundamentalist colleges and universities, the KJB continued to reign in our pulpits. For many of us the KJB will always remain God's final English Bible standard until Christ returns. A spiritual revival through a return to faith in and preaching of the KJB remains the last best hope of our nation, our churches, our families, and our faith.

Confusion Over the King James Bible

Our independent Baptist churches are divided and confused as never before over the Accuracy and Authority of the King James Bible. 1 Corinthians 14:33 says:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

God has blessed Dr. Phil Stringer with the skill to help explain one growing aspect of this division created between two extreme camps that are defending the KJB. One camp stresses using only the God's original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek text as

their source for Bible translation. The other camp stresses using only the KJB for all Bible translation work. They hold the KJB as superior to all other Bible versions including God's inspired Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words underlying the foundation of the KJB.

There Is No Need to Correct The KJB

Dr. Stringer and I have many good friends on both sides of this issue. We have no desire to offend or weaken the faith of anyone on either side who continues to believe, use, and defend the KJB. We reject all "so-called correction" of the KJB by any other source or language including the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. We do not believe it is humanly possible to make changes in the KJB to improve upon either the accuracy and/or authority of the words in the KJB. We accept by faith the KJB as God's final appointed English Bible standard given to us by God's divine providential preservation. I concur with Dr. Stringer's statement:

"For the record's sake, I believe that the King James Bible is pure, perfect, infallible and inerrant. For 399 years it has impacted the world for Christ in a way that no other translation ever has. There is nothing in it that needs to be replaced or changed."

Divisions Must Be Pointed Out

It has been my policy and practice not to publicly attack any believer who uses and defends the King James Bible. Yet the Bible says in Romans 16:17:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which

cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

I believe Dr. Stringer has proven there are some important doctrinal matters confronting us. Therefore I am penning this preface in obedience to God’s Holy Scripture. I gave a very favorable report on Gail Riplinger’s book, *New Age Bible Versions*, in 1992 at the Dean Burgon Society Annual Meeting. I still believe Gail Riplinger is very intelligent and has done a lot of excellent research.

To the best of my knowledge, up until the present conflict, Gail Riplinger remained friends with Dr. and Mrs. Waite, Dr. DiVietro, Dr. Williams, Dr. Stringer and many of us in the Dean Burgon Society for many years. As in the past, I will continue to pray for her daily that God will work His will in her heart and life. She is a very talented person. It is my hope that Mrs. Riplinger will recognize her mistakes and reconcile herself to her estranged brothers and sisters in Christ whom she has erroneously criticized. I sincerely believe that this book, when read and properly assimilated, can have a positive part in that remedial process.

The Start & Primary Thrust of the Controversy

What really started this controversy? Someone reported publicly on Gail Riplinger’s previous marriages and divorces. The Waites heard about this and approached her and they said she denied the truth of the report. The Waites still believed her and defended her cover up until they discovered the truth in legal documents. While this was the apparent start of the

controversy, it is not the primary thrust of Dr. Stringer's book. I can concur with Dr. Stringer's past thinking and words:

"As recently as March, 2009, I said from the pulpit of the church I pastor, 'Gail Riplinger is a gracious Christian lady who has devoted herself to defending the King James Bible. I simply must disagree with her about a few things. I would not say anything similar today.'"

An Apology

He has provided many facts in this book about Gail Riplinger of which I and many others had remained ignorant and unaware. So, as a supporter of Gail Riplinger's work in the beginning, I owe all my brethren in the DBS an apology for not being more alert and aware of the changes as they became evident in Gail Riplinger's life and work. I thank Dr. Stringer for having the courage, and taking the time to discover and put in print a number of facts many of us did not know. Thank you!, Dr. Stringer, for giving me the privilege of writing this preface to your work.

The Traditional Foundation of the KJB

To defend the KJB as superior to the inerrant, infallible Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words God first revealed and recorded by verbal, plenary, inspiration is to discredit the historical and traditional foundation upon which the KJB rests. It is to deny the continuity of the inspired, inerrant, infallible body of truth God has preserved in Bibles for every generation of believers for thousands of years. God has not failed to keep his promises to preserve His truth pure in every generation. There is

no new inspired truth in the KJB than that which God first gave by inspiration in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words which the KJB accurately translates. The KJB is pure, perfect, infallible and inerrant because the body of truth accurately translated into the KJB remains God's same body of inspired truth He has preserved from the beginning. That inspired truth has from eternity past been recorded in Heaven.

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Psalm 119:89). “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.” (Acts 15:18).

God's Promises

Please read again prayerfully some of God's Promises to His people:

“As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.” (Isaiah 59:21). “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (Psalm 12:6, 7).

God has preserved his Words pure for thousands of years, even before there was an English language or a King James Bible.

My Beliefs Have Not Changed

Thirty years ago in my introduction to textual criticism entitled, *The Word of God on Trial*, I wrote in the Annotated

Bibliography the following words describing Dr. Waite and the Dean Burgon Society:

Dr. Waite is president of the newly formed “Dean Burgon Society”. He is doing some scholarly work in defense of the traditional Greek text and the King James Version of the Bible. He is also going on the offense against scholars who publicly attack our position. He recently published a book on the heresies of Westcott and Hort. He writes regular columns in “The Dean Burgon News,” a monthly paper circulated by the society. The address of “The Dean Burgon Society” is Box 359, Collingswood, NJ 08108. The Dean Burgon Society is named after John William Burgon, the Dean of Chichester and greatest scholar and defender of the traditional Greek text of the churches and the King James Translation in the last century. His arguments were so complete and conclusive that all the revisionists avoided Burgon like the plague. One hundred years later we still find his books unanswered by the ‘Bible Changers’. Now, in the 20th century, it will be ironic to see God use the name of Dean Burgon to spearhead the drive to victory and a return to the traditional text of the churches.”

I continue to hold this same view of Dr. Waite and my brethren in the Dean Burgon Society into the 21st century.

This preface is a defense of the same strong position members of the Dean Burgon Society have held while defending the KJB for over 30 years. Gail Riplinger was once a friend toward us for many years while knowing our position on the Bible. Now, Gail Riplinger has started publicly attacking the Dean Burgon Society’s defense of traditional Bible texts including the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek text underlying the

KJB. May God use Dr. Stringer's insight into the Riplinger changes and charges to help tear down the growing wall between us as opposing camps striving to defend the same God appointed King James Bible. As the late Baptist missionary J. J. Ray titled his book defending the KJB back in 1955: *God Wrote Only One Bible*.

The Author of Confusion

Satan is the author of confusion. As KJB believers and defenders we are all God's faithful remnant defending, as the late Dr. David Otis Fuller used to say, "*The Bible God Uses and Satan Hates*." Will you pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom to read Dr. Stringer's book with an open heart and mind? As pastors of local independent Baptist Churches, neither Dr. Stringer nor I have any motivation or spare time to engage in unnecessary conflicts between brethren. We are motivated by a love for the truth of and defense of the faith "*once delivered*" to the saints and divinely preserved for us in the Authorized King James Bible.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 1:3).

Defending our faith in the KJB is not a choice! We must contend for the faith!

Dr. Robert J. Barnett, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Grayling , Michigan 49738

*For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I
have walked in thy **truth**.*

Psalms 26:3

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“The simple believeth every word; but the prudent looketh well to his going.” Proverbs 14:15

Messiah—“any long awaited liberator.” (*Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary*, def. 3.)

Megalomania—“a mental disorder in which the subject thinks himself great or exalted.” (*Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary*.)

It is a shame that this monograph needs to be written. However, the circumstances demand it!

*LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the **truth** in his heart.*

Psalms 15:1-2

CHAPTER 1

THE GREAT DEBATE

The Two Positions

A tremendous debate rages among independent Baptist circles over Bible translation. This influences mission boards, Bible colleges, and printing ministries.

On the extremes of this debate are two positions concerning the source texts for Bible translation. One extreme is the “Greek and Hebrew only” group. They believe that all Bible translation must be done directly from the Greek and Hebrew languages.

Another extreme is the “English only” group. They believe that all Bible translation must be done directly from the King James Bible.

This tension is seen in the reaction to the revision of the Spanish Bible headed up by Humberto Gomez. He used three source texts: the 1602 Reina Valera Bible, the Greek and Hebrew Traditional Texts, and the King James Bible. These were all diligently compared and studied in an effort to provide the most accurate possible Spanish Bible.

The “Greek and Hebrew only” crowd have viciously attacked Humberto. Calvin George and some (but not all) of the leadership of the Trinitarian Bible Society have vilified Dr. Gomez for using the King James Bible as a source text. However, Gail Riplinger and most (but not all) of her supporters have attacked him aggressively because the King James Bible was not his only source text.

This same scenario is taking place in many languages around the world.

Genuine Bible translators should be able to relate to a

section of the famous poem, “The Charge of the Light Brigade”:
“Cannons to the right of them,
Cannons to the left of them,
Cannons in front of them”

Who Is Pushing This Debate

No one is pushing this debate with greater fervor than author and Bible teacher, Gail Riplinger.

Both the King James translators and those that worked with William Carey used multiple source texts. The King James Bible is the most successful Bible translation in the history of the world. Perhaps we could learn something from their work.

The King James Bible translators used: (as quoted by Gail Riplinger in *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1019),

“the original sacred tongues, together with comparing of the labours both of our own [previous English Bibles] and other foreign languages [Chaldee, Syriac, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch] of many men who went before us...”

There is a better way to do Bible translation—than either “Greek only” or “English only.” Use as many good source texts as possible.

Something To Be Learned From William Carey

Perhaps something could be learned from the ministry of William Carey.

Carey was a shoemaker, Baptist pastor, Bible translator, and educator.

Carey was born in 1761 and baptized in 1783. He went to India as a missionary in 1793. He served 41 years without a

furlough. He died and was buried in India in 1834.

Carey studied at least one chapter of the Bible every day in each of six languages: English, Koine Greek, Latin, French, German and Italian.

He has been called the Bengali Luther, the Wycliffe of the East, the Tyndale of our Time, the Polyglot of India, and a Plodder for Christ. He is commonly known as the Father of Modern Missions. He has been called the greatest linguist who ever lived.

He served as a Professor of Oriental Languages at a secular university (Fort William College, which became Calcutta University). He also started a Bible college, a medical hospital, a leper hospital, and a Christian liberal arts university, which accepted non-Christian students.

His mission teams translated the Bible into forty languages and dialects—seven complete Bibles and thirty-three New Testaments. They also produced eight grammars and three dictionaries. Carey produced four translations himself (Bengali, Hindi, Marathi and Sanskrit). He worked with other missionaries on translations and he supervised other translation efforts. In all of these efforts, the advice and aid of nationals was incorporated.

Carey's translation teams used any and all good sources available and usable by the translators. Greek and Hebrew were used when possible. The King James Bible was always present. Earlier Indian translations were used in producing later Indian translations.

Carey certainly accomplished more than any of the loud voices in the current debate.

Maybe we should be learning something from both the King James translators and William Carey.

Absurdities On Both Sides of the Debate

Absurdities have arisen on both sides. In a June 2006 internet exchange, Calvin George castigated Mickey Carter, and J. J. Ray and others for suggesting that hundreds of translations have been done from the King James Bible. He and his correspondents mocked Dr. Carter and the others for being uneducated and ignorant. One of the participants called King James Bible believers “retards.”

Calvin George asserted that only four or five translations had been done from the King James Bible.

In reality the original statement that the King James Bible has been translated into hundreds of languages comes not from Dr. Carter or J. J. Ray, but from Winston Churchill (*History of the English Speaking Peoples*, one volume, Commager edition, p. 160).

“It won an immediate and lasting triumph. Copies could be bought for as little as five shillings, and even with the inflated prices of today can still be purchased for this sum. It superseded all other versions. No new revision was deemed necessary for nearly three hundred years. In the crowded emigrant ships which sailed to the New World of America, there was little room for baggage. If the adventurers took books with them they took the Bible, Shakespeare, and later *Pilgrim’s Progress*, and the Bible they mostly took with them was the Authorised Version of King James I. About ninety million complete copies are thought to have been published in the English language alone. It has been translated into more than 760 tongues. The Authorised Version is still the most popular in England and the United States. This may be deemed James’ greatest achievement, for the impulse was largely his. The Scottish pedant built better than he knew. The scholars who produced this masterpiece are