



He Opened the Book... He Closed the Book

Jesus, Isaiah, and the Panoramic
View of the Bible

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*To Katie,
My wife and best friend.*

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Introduction

The celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible has occasioned commemorative Bibles, articles, conferences, and documentaries. The motives behind such jubilation are suspect at best. In their latest Bible catalog, Christian Book Distributors states:

In the four centuries since the KJV was first published, many other translations have appeared in print, including the Revised Standard Version, the New International Version, the English Standard Version, and *The Message*. Yet the KJV remains the most influential English edition. Why? The **accuracy of its text** and the **incomparable beauty of its language** powerfully communicate God's timeless message in a way that touches hearts and changes lives.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of the 1611 King James Version by **enjoying this majestic rendition of God's Word.**¹

1611 King James Bible reproductions are thus promoted: “Own a **piece of history**”; “Beloved for its **majestic phrasing** and **stately cadences**, the KJV has **profoundly influenced our language** and theology”; “Celebrate the anniversary of this **passionate rendering of God's Word!**”; and finally, “A beautifully crafted **illustrated heirloom** to bless future generations!”²

Others are less cunning, using this year as an opportunity to wage an aggressive onslaught against the authenticity of the Scriptures. Just a few weeks ago, Fox News (“the most *trusted* name in news”) ran an Associated Press article entitled, “Bible Detectives: Jerusalem Scholars Trace Bible's Evolution.” Although it gives the appearance of a grand and noble cause, the underlying scathing attitude toward the Scriptures is apparent:

A dull-looking chart projected on the wall of a university office in Jerusalem displayed a revelation that would startle many readers of the Old Testament: the sacred text that people revered in the past was **not the same one** we study today.

¹ Christian Book Distributors Bibles Catalog, Fall 2011, p. 52 (Emphasis added).

² Ibid.

An ancient version of one book has an **extra phrase**. Another appears to have been **revised to retroactively insert a prophecy after the events happened**. Scholars in this out-of-the-way corner of the Hebrew University campus have been quietly at work for 53 years on one of the most ambitious projects attempted in biblical studies—publishing the authoritative edition of the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Bible, and tracking every single **evolution of the text** over centuries and millennia.

And it has evolved, despite deeply held beliefs to the contrary. For many Jews and Christians, religion dictates that the words of the Bible in the original Hebrew are divine, unaltered and unalterable...But the ongoing work of the academic detectives of the Bible Project, as their undertaking is known, shows that this text at the root of Judaism, Christianity, and **Islam** was **somewhat fluid** for long periods of its history, and that its transmission through the ages was **messier and more human than most of us imagine**.³

One will not have to look hard among the mainstream media to find other articles similar in their derision of the Scriptures.

Though Baptists agree that the King James Bible is the pinnacle of all English literature and do not deny its

³ “Bible Detectives: Jerusalem Scholars Trace Bible’s Evolution,” Associated Press: August 12, 2011 <<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/08/12/bible-detectives-jerusalem-scholars-trace-bibles-evolution/?test=faces>> Emphasis added. Retrieved April 5, 2012.

contribution to our language and culture, we celebrate its 400th anniversary as the **perfect words of God in English, preserved forever**: “*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*” (Isaiah 40:8) J.A. Shakelford said:

The blood of martyrs in other ages attested the love they bore to the cause of Christ and the truths in his word. We should be no less faithful in our day. Human traditions are as displeasing to God now as they were eighteen hundred years ago. Among all the conflicting doctrines as taught by men, we can only hope to find the truth in the word of God.⁴

Baptists are known for their love of the Scriptures, never appealing to anything else for proof of their faith and practice. As Thomas Curtis wrote, “The Bible and Christian experience in the heart are the only weapons needed. All the rest has ever been regarded by them as Saul’s armor. They have preferred the simpler sling and stone of David.”⁵ God promised that He would preserve His words forever: “*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever*” (Psalm 12:6-7). God cannot lie: “*In hope of eternal*

⁴ J.A. Shackelford, *Compendium of Baptist History*, (Louisville: Press Baptist Book Concern., 1892), 15.

⁵ Thomas F. Curtis, *The Progress of Baptist Principles in the Last Hundred Years*, (Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1855), 319.

Chapter 1

The Pentateuch

Isaiah 1	Genesis
<p>2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.</p>	<p>1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.</p> <p>1:3 And God said...</p> <p>1:26 ...let us make man in our image, after our likeness...</p> <p>3:11 ...Hast thou eaten of the tree...</p>

3 The ox knoweth...

4 Ah sinful nation,
a people laden with
iniquity, a seed of
evildoers, children that
are corrupters: they have
forsaken the LORD,
they have provoked the
Holy One of Israel unto
anger, they are gone
away backward.

3:4-5 And the serpent
said unto the woman, Ye
shall not surely die: For God
doth know that in the day
ye eat thereof, then your
eyes shall be opened, and ye
shall be as gods, knowing
good and evil. (*Lucifer, as
the anointed cherub, had the
face of an ox before his fall.*
Ezek. 1:10; 10:14)

6:4-7 There were giants
in the earth in those days;
and also after that, when the
sons of God came in unto
the daughters of men, and
they bare children to them,
the same became mighty
men which were of old, men
of renown. And God saw
that the wickedness of man
was great in the earth, and
that every imagination of
the thoughts of his heart
was only evil continually.
And it repented the LORD
that he had made man on
the earth, and it grieved
him at his heart. And the

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will **revolt more and more**: the **whole head is sick**, and the whole heart faint.

9 We should have been as **Sodom**, and we should have been like unto **Gomorrah**.

11 I am full of the burnt offerings of rams...

LORD said, I will **destroy man** whom I have created from the face of the earth...

6:11-12 The earth also was **corrupt before God**, and the earth was **filled with violence**. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for **all flesh had corrupted his way** upon the earth. (*from Adam, the head, unto every generation, man was now corrupt*)

19:24 Then the LORD rained upon **Sodom** and upon **Gomorrah** brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself** a lamb for a burnt offering:

22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a **ram caught in a**

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves.

30 For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water.

thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and **took the ram**, and offered him up for a **burnt offering** in the stead of his son.

3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the **LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.**

37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his **brethren** were content.

3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the **garden of Eden**, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Isaiah 2

2-3 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the **top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, **Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD**, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will **teach us of his ways**, and we will walk in his paths: for out of **Zion shall go forth the law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

7 Their land also is full of **silver and gold...**

Exodus

24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, **Come up to me into the mount**, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which **I have written; that thou mayest teach them.**

12:35-36 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians **jewels of silver, and jewels of gold**, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians,

9 ...the great man
humbleth himself...

11 The lofty looks of
man shall be humbled, and
the haughtiness of men
shall be bowed down, and
the LORD alone shall be
exalted in that day.

12 For the day of the
LORD of hosts shall be
upon every one that is
proud and lofty, and
upon every one that is
lifted up; and he shall be
brought low:

17 ...the LORD alone
shall be exalted in that day.

18 And the idols he shall
utterly abolish.

so that they lent unto
them such things as they
required. And they spoiled
the Egyptians.

9:17 As yet exaltest
thou thyself against my
people, that thou wilt not let
them go?

20:3 Thou shalt have no
other gods before me.

12:12 ...against all the
gods of Egypt I will execute
judgment: I am the LORD.

19-21 And they shall go into the **holes of the rocks**, and into the **caves of the earth**, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when **he ariseth to shake terribly the earth**. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and **for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth**.

19:16-19 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were **thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount**, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that **all the people that was in the camp trembled**. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and **the whole mount quaked greatly**. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Isaiah 3

5 ...the child shall **behave himself proudly** against the ancient...

15 What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of **the poor**? saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

16-24 ...daughters of Zion are haughty... stretched forth necks... wanton eyes...walking and mincing...tinkling with their feet...cauls...round tires...chains...bracelets.... mufflers...bonnets... ornaments of the legs... headbands...tablets... earrings...rings...nose jewels... changeable suits of apparel... and the mantles, and the wimples, and the

Leviticus

19:32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

19:10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for **the poor and stranger**: I am the LORD your God.

19:27-28 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard. Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

crisping pins, The glasses,
and the fine linen, and the
hoods, and the veils.

17 Therefore the Lord
will smite with a **scab the
crown of the head** of the
daughters of Zion, and the
LORD will discover their
secret parts.

18 In that day the Lord
will take away the bravery
of their tinkling ornaments
about their feet, and their
cauls, and their round tires
like the moon...

24 ...that instead of sweet
smell there shall be stink;
and instead of a **girdle a
rent**; and instead of well set
hair baldness; and instead
of a stomacher a girding
of sackcloth; and **burning
instead of beauty**.

13:2 When a man shall
have in the skin of his flesh
a rising, a **scab**, or bright
spot, and it be in the **skin
of his flesh** like the **plague
of leprosy**; then he shall
be brought unto Aaron the
priest, or unto one of his
sons the priests.

3:15, 4:9, 7:4, 8:16

*...caul... (This unique word
is only found here in Isaiah,
twice in Exodus, once in
Hosea, but nine times in
Leviticus.)*

1:9 But his inwards and
his legs shall he wash in
water: and the priest shall
burn all on the altar, to be a
**burnt sacrifice, an offering
made by fire, of a sweet
savour unto the LORD**.

Isaiah 4

1 And in that day **seven women** shall take hold of **one man...** (*Two numbers found in the first verse*)

3 ...even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

5 ...a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night:

6a And there shall be a **tabernacle** for a shadow in the daytime from the heat...

Numbers

1:2 Take ye the **sum** of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their **families**, by the house of their fathers, with the **number** of their names, every male by their polls;

1:19 As the **LORD** commanded Moses, so he **numbered them** in the wilderness of Sinai.

9:16 So it was alway: **the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.**

9:15 And on the day that the **tabernacle** was reared up the cloud covered the **tabernacle**, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the **tabernacle** as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

6b ...for a place of refuge ... (*The first time “refuge” is found in the book of Isaiah.*)

35:6 And among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge (*The first time “refuge” is found in the Bible.*)

Isaiah 5

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

5 ...and break down the wall thereof...

6 I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

Deuteronomy

28:30 Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.

28:52 And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land:

28:24 The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

13 Therefore my people are **gone into captivity**, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

14 Therefore **hell** hath enlarged herself, and **opened her mouth** without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, **shall descend into it.** *(The first time "hell" is mentioned in Isaiah.)*

22 Woe unto them that are mighty to **drink wine**, and men of strength to **mingle strong drink**:

24 ...because they have **cast away the law of the LORD of hosts**, and **despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

28:41 Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for **they shall go into captivity.**

32:22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the **lowest hell**, and shall consume the **earth** with her increase, and set on fire the **foundations of the mountains.** *(The first time "hell" is mentioned in the Scriptures.)*

29:6 Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye **drunk wine or strong drink**: that ye might know that I am the LORD your God.

27:26 Cursed be he that **confirmeth not all the words of this law** to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

26 And he will lift up
an ensign to the nations
from far...

27 ...neither shall the
girdle of their loins be
loosed, **nor the latchet of
their shoes be broken:**

28:58-63 If thou wilt not
observe to do all the words
of this law that are written
in this book, that thou
mayest fear this glorious
and fearful name, THE
LORD THY GOD....

28:46 And they shall be
upon thee for a sign and
for a wonder, and upon thy
seed for ever.

29:5 ...your clothes are
not waxen old upon you,
and thy shoe is not waxen
old upon thy foot.
