

1769 King James Version and the 2019 King James Version

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2019 KING JAMES VERSION

1769 KING JAMES VERSION

This column contains the 1769 Edition of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, the edition which is used in Christian Scientist churches and a few other churches.

2019 KING JAMES VERSION INTRODUCTION

The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible used in Christian Science church services is the 1769 edition, not the original 1611 version commissioned by King James I of England. Shortly after 1611, revisions to the language of the 1611 KJV began to appear in print, as the KJV was updated for public understanding.

Our 1769 KJV is the result of one hundred fifty-eight years of alteration. But through all the alterations, the tone, grace, and poetry beloved in the original 1611 edition were preserved as far as possible, along with the “King James” title.

The 2019 KJV stands in this tradition, honoring and preserving the beauty and spirituality of the 1769 edition but updating in the interest of understanding, which is the most important requirement for reaching the hearts and minds of readers, especially Sunday School students.

Following the lead of many recent mainstream translations, the 2019 KJV is dedicated to the use of inclusive language, with the intention to avoid usage so common in previous centuries which appears to exclude women by the constant use of the word “man” where more modern writers would use “person” or “one.” The dominant role held by men in previous centuries influenced their writing; today it is important to correct that imbalance. Thus in Matthew 22:46, for example, after Jesus has asked an unanswerable question, the 1769 KJV states, “And no man was able to answer him a word, nor did any man dare from that day forth to ask him

any more questions.” By contrast the 2019 KJV states, “And no one was able to answer him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day forth to ask him any more questions.”

The 2019 version in this column builds on the inspiration of the 1769 KJV of the Bible. The 2019 KJV updates the vocabulary, punctuation, and spelling of words in the 1769 KJV, adds quotation marks, and capitalizes pronominal references to God the Father consistent with Mary Baker Eddy’s system of capitalization. When it is not certain whether a pronoun refers to God, the pronoun was not capitalized.

The 2019 KJV demonstrates that it would be possible to publish a KJV with limited updating which retains the majesty, power, and above all spirituality of the beloved 1769 KJV. To produce a modified KJV retaining these characteristics, as well as the theology of the 1769 KJV to a great extent, has been the goal of those who have labored to bring forth the 2019 KJV.

This Bible is not intended as a replacement for the 1769 KJV. Rather it is being presented to demonstrate the feasibility of producing an updated alternative to the 1769 KJV.

The version in the right column is designed for those who wish to gain maximum inspiration from their reading of the Bible while focusing on spiritual growth and healing. The left column is for those who believe that they will gain maximum inspiration from their reading of the Bible if they read the 1769 version of a verse.

Readers are welcome to download the 2019 King James Version without charge (coming soon)