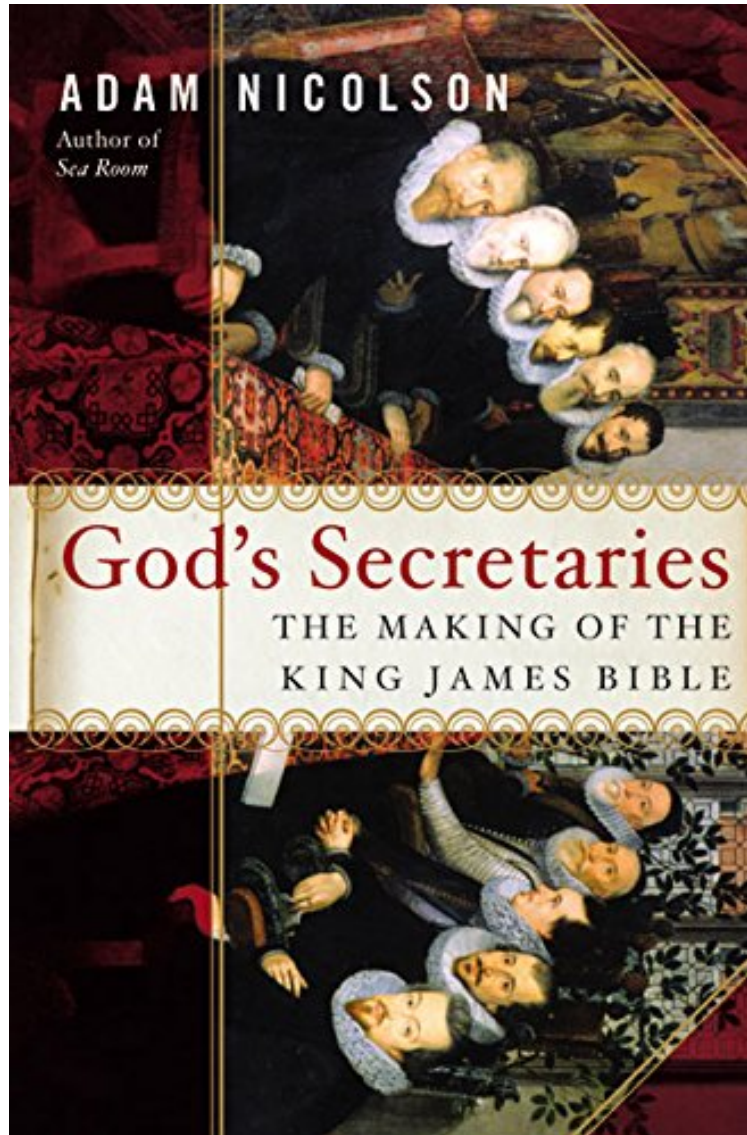


[Ebook free] God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible

God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible

Adam Nicolson

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Adam Nicolson : God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History at its finest: informative, efficiently edited, fervently written, remarkably moving. By Terry S Wichert Information on the version I bought and read follows: Version: Kindle ASIN: B000FC11ZG Page Numbers: No English Style: Contemporary with numerous excerpts from 16th century Jacobean English presented in its original form. Table of Contents. Yes and linked for use in Kindle Length: 336 pages in book

formX-Ray: NoReview begins here:An excellent overview of the remarkable sequence of events in both the church and the state that came together to produce the beloved King James Bible. This is history at its finest fervently written, efficiently edited, remarkably moving. A finely balanced work.Despite what follows in my review, this book as indicated above is first and foremost history, a point not to be lost. The story is told both through narrative history that introduces the extraordinary (yet quirky and flawed) men and events who brought this work together (not the least of which was King James himself), and Nicolsons own insightful analysis sprinkled throughout the book which explains why this bible has reigned for over four centuries as the centerpiece of literary achievement in the English speaking world. This second part, the analysis, for me at least was the centerpiece of the book. While not overtly polemic in nature, Nicolson nonetheless makes a convincing case that this bible forever has a place in the English speaking church despite recent trends to more modern (or worse PC) tones because it makes no excuses about the fact that the language of majesty is neither common nor natural. To the contrary, in Nicolsons own words:This is about more than mere sonority or the beeswaxed heritage-appeal of antique vocabulary and grammar. The flattening of language is a flattening of meaning. Language which is not taut with a sense of its own significance, which is apologetic in its desire to be acceptable to a modern consciousness, language in other words which submits to its audience, rather than instructing, informing, moving, challenging and even entertaining them, is no longer a language which can carry the freight the Bible requires. It has, in short, lost all authority. Nicolson, Adam (2009-10-13). God's Secretaries (P.S.) (Kindle Locations 2382-2387). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.I especially appreciate the authors insinuation that to those who are willing to acquaint themselves with the rhythms of the King James Bible, a rich poetry awaits that can stir a soul to passionate response in a way that is difficult to imagine in the more recent, common language, translations. This rang especially true for me as I set aside my NKJV this year and bought an English Standard Version for my annual reading through the bible. I am now nearly two months into my reading and while feeling adequately informed, something of the magnificence, the deep splendor, has been likewise set aside (apologies to the ESV loyalists). I will finish my reading in the ESV this year, mostly out of curiosity, but judging from what I have seen so far as I close the last pages of Malachi and Revelation at years end I wont be going back, except for an occasional cross reference. Do I hear the mental gears of the critics whirring ? Did I happen to notice the N in front of the KJV above? Yes, I did. I dont require (but also dont mind) the thees or thous of forgotten Jacobean English, but even after a short two month absence I very much miss the gracefully expressive rhythm and sense of majesty by which it connects at the deepest levels and which seem to be absent from the other modern translations I have tried (NIV, ESV, RSV (better), and worst of all the wooden NASB). I think Nicolsons book has captured why (and I am paraphrasing as I truly believe the authors intent here was to write good history and then provide some insightful analysis into it rather than convert the English speaking world to the KJV): Do you want to read an informative memo from God or be ushered into his throne room,.. where the rich grandeur of his voice fills to overflowing the chambers of a heart,. stirring its soul to single-minded passionate response ? If it is the latter, then I highly recommend Nicolson's book for some additional perspective.Needless to say, the book is a 5 star for me as is the King James Bible and its modern follow-up the NKJV.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaged and engagingBy CustomerEngaged and engagingA lively story out of the translation that resulted in the King James Bible. There are few records of the deliberations of the scholars and of their choices. He has done fascinating work in digging out information about the translators and how they fit into Jacobean England and its religion. He also includes pertinent quotations, showing the strength of the famous translation. I found it a gripping read0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poetry by CommitteeBy Macaw LadyFascinating on so many levels....if you love words, or political history, or the Bible itself, dont miss this richly layered book.

A net of complex currents flowed across Jacobean England. This was the England of Shakespeare, Jonson and Bacon; of the Gunpowder Plot; the worst outbreak of the plague England had ever seen; Arcadian landscapes; murderous, toxic slums; and, above all, of sometimes overwhelming religious passion. Jacobean England was both more godly and less godly than it had ever been, and the entire culture was drawn taut between the polarities.This was the world that created the King James Bible. It is the greatest work of English prose ever written, and it is no coincidence that the translation was made at the moment Englishness and the English language had come into its first passionate maturity. Boisterous, elegant, subtle, majestic, finely nuanced, sonorous and musical, the English of Jacobean England has a more encompassing idea of its own reach and scope than any before or since. It is a form of the language that drips with potency and sensitivity. The age, with all its conflicts, explains the book.The sponsor and guide of the whole Bible project was the King himself, the brilliant, ugly and profoundly peace-loving James the Sixth of Scotland and First of England. Trained almost from birth to manage the rivalries of political factions at home, James saw in England the chance for a sort of irenic Eden over which the new translation of the Bible was to preside. It was to be a Bible for everyone, and as God's lieutenant on earth, he would use it to unify his kingdom. The dream of Jacobean peace, guaranteed by an elision of royal power and divine glory, lies behind a Bible of extraordinary grace and everlasting literary power.About fifty scholars from Cambridge, Oxford and London did the work, drawing on many previous versions, and created a text which, for all its failings, has never been equaled. That is the central question of this book:

How did this group of near-anonymous divines, muddled, drunk, self-serving, ambitious, ruthless, obsequious, pedantic and flawed as they were, manage to bring off this astonishing translation? How did such ordinary men make such extraordinary prose? In *God's Secretaries*, Adam Nicolson gives a fascinating and dramatic account of the accession and ambition of the first Stuart king; of the scholars who labored for seven years to create his Bible; of the influences that shaped their work and of the beliefs that colored their world, immersing us in an age whose greatest monument is not a painting or a building, but a book.

From *Publishers Weekly* The King James Bible remains the most influential Bible translation of all time. Its elegant style and the exalted cadences of its poetry and prose echo forcefully in Shakespeare, Milton, T.S. Eliot and Reynolds Price. As travel writer Nicolson points out, however, the path to the completion of the translation wasn't smooth. When James took the throne in England in early 1603, he inherited a country embroiled in theological controversy. Relishing a good theological debate, the king appointed himself as a mediator between the Anglicans and the reformist Puritans, siding in the end with the Anglican Church as the party that posed the least political threat to his authority. As a result of these debates, James agreed to commission a new translation of the Bible as an olive branch to the Puritans. Between 1604 and 1611, various committees engaged in making a new translation that attended more to the original Greek and Hebrew than had earlier versions. Nicolson deftly chronicles the personalities involved, and breezily narrates the political and religious struggles of the early 17th century. Yet, the circumstances surrounding this translation are already well known from two earlier books-Benson Bobrick's *Wide as the Waters* and Alister McGrath's *In the Beginning*-and this treatment adds little that is new. Although Nicolson succeeds at providing insight into the diverse personalities involved in making the King James Bible, Bobrick's remains the most elegant and comprehensive treatment of the process. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist**Starred* The quip about the Bible being the greatest book ever written by a committee is just a quip, but the English Bible that King James I commissioned in 1604 really was committee work. Each of six committees, or companies, as they were called, was charged with translating a different portion of the original Hebrew and Greek texts. The Translators (their official title, and as such, capitalized) were far-from-saintly Anglican clergymen and scholars, selected to exclude radical Puritan sentiments from the finished translation (James had had enough of Puritan divisiveness while on the throne of Scotland). Their handiwork was to be the preferred pulpit Bible, so it had to be accessible in vocabulary and tonally. In that respect, the Translators succeeded so brilliantly that their style remains the quintessence of sacred prose to this day. Religious utility wasn't, however, the primary original purpose of the King James Version. Rather, the KJV was an element of James' grand dream of forging a harmoniously united realm out of the faction-ridden one he inherited from Elizabeth I. In that respect, the book was a failure, for not until after the Puritan American colonies embraced it (ironically, given its anti-Puritan conception) did England accept it. Nicolson tells the KJV's story so well that his book may prove to be the KJV's indispensable companion for years to come. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This scrupulously elegant account of the creation of what four centuries of history has confirmed is the finest English-language work of all time is entirely true to its subject: Adam Nicolson's lapidary prose is masterly, his measured account both as readable as the curious demand and as dignified as the story deserves." --Simon Winchester, New York Times bestselling author "A marvelous book: there are few more stylish or sensitive introductions than this to the personalities, the sights and the smells, as well as the words of Jacobean England." --Sunday Telegraph (London) "Unobtrusively learned, rich in curious and purposeful detail, an ideal balance between fervent enthusiasm and elegantly witty detachment . . . A brilliantly entertaining, passionate, funny, and instructive telling of an important and gripping story . . . Adam Nicolson has written a thrilling and constantly absorbing book." --Spectator "Nicolson tells the KJV's story so well that his book may prove to be the KJV's indispensable companion for years to come." --Booklist (starred review) "Nicolson deftly chronicles the personalities involved and breezily narrates the political and religious struggles of the early seventeenth century . . . Nicolson succeeds at providing insight into the diverse personalities involved in making the King James Bible." --Publishers Weekly