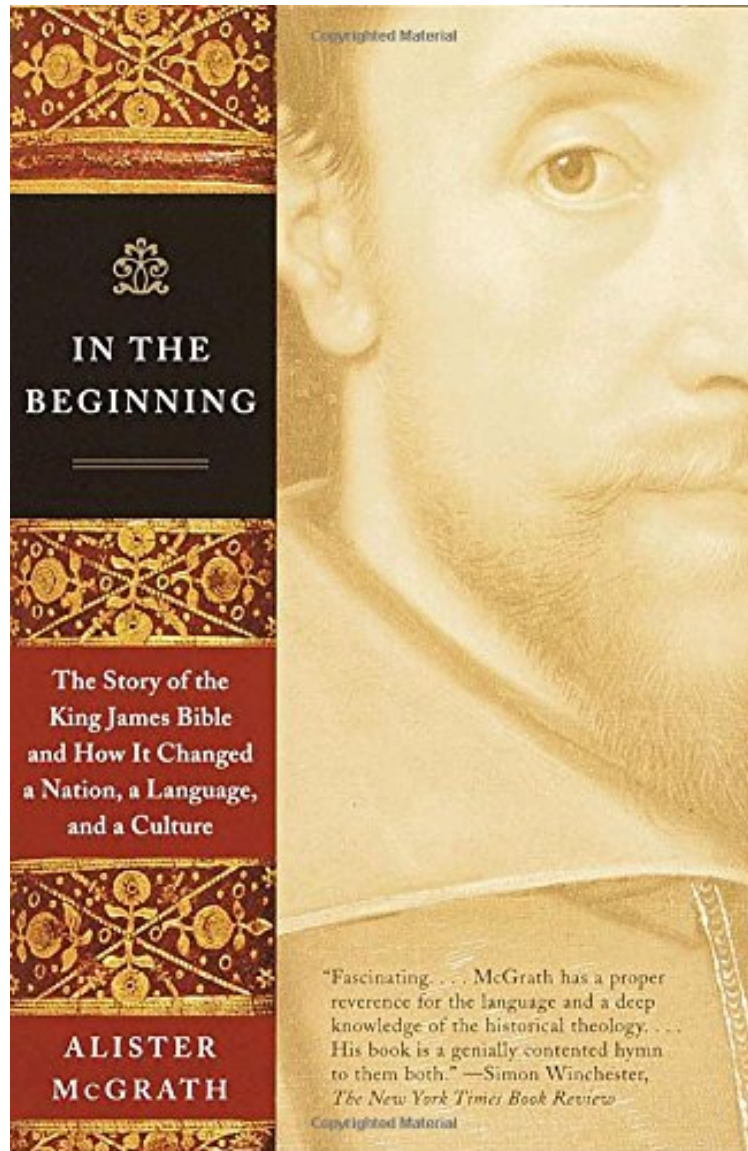


[Free pdf] In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture

In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture

Alister McGrath

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#176630 in Books Alister McGrath 2002-02-19 2002-02-19Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .90 x 5.20l, .73 #File Name: 0385722168354 pagesIn the Beginning The Story of the King James Bible and how It Changed a Nation a Language and a Culture | File size: 24.Mb

Alister McGrath : In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a

Culture:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Brings KJV History Alive! By Readalots Alister McGrath's "In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible" is a refreshing voice in the history of English Bibles. It brings a surprising and interesting witness to the most famous English Bible translation. Many, particularly in modern times, have found the KJV to be stodgy, antiquated, and even dull. McGrath aptly demonstrates with this valuable narrative history that the KJV continues to compliment and under gird many of today's spiritual environs. This book brings the KJV alive from the fascinating and remarkable history of English Bibles. With inspired determination and without apology McGrath tells the chronological and social history of the KJV in only 310 (paperback) pages. His story begins with a brief review of the earliest printed Bibles: Gutenberg's 1456 (2 volume) edition, Mentelin's German edition of 1466, and Wycliffe's supposed English Bible translation from the 1380s (if Wycliffe did translate Scripture it was only piece meal, hand written, and never widely distributed). From this basis McGrath briefly tells the various stories of the rise of the English language, the Reformation's theological honing of God's Word, and the power of the printed word in 17th century European society. With academic honesty and a captivating novelistic writing style McGrath explains the rise and fall of Tyndale (the first to translate the Bible into English), the reworking of Tyndale's Bible by Coverdale (possibly through Queen Anne Boleyn's patronage), and the royal appointments to make the first-ever official English Version of Scripture (The Great Bible of 1539). Other English translations followed until each English Christian community had its own favorite version. By 1610, mass confusion (and total politics) reigned over Scripture textual warrant. McGrath explains that the "Authorized Version" (ordered by King James of England in 1611) brought some unity to the realm's Bible users. This is a fascinating and informative story well worth reading. The book speaks to Archbishop Bancroft's translation rules (ordering previous English Bible translations to be diligently considered), about the six companies of KJV translators (47 to 51 translators were appointed), of the academic jealousies among the scholars (the age-old Oxford vs. Cambridge rivalry), and to the KJV printing woes (the massive undertaking- two columned, with black letter type and no page numbers- which took almost a year to complete at astronomical costs). McGrath points out that there were many printing mistakes in this first edition, i.e. Exodus 20:14's omitting "not" to say "Thou shalt commit adultery". (Certainly, one of English Christianity's special memories.) McGrath has included almost 30 photos (mainly of the principal players), a helpful 3-page time line, an interesting 3-page "comparison of historical translations for the 23rd Psalm", and a useable 12-page bibliography for further reading. His non-technical writing style makes this an absorbing story for specialty reader and general reader alike. McGrath's "In the Beginning" is very recommendable to all who want to know more about English Bible history, the KJV in specific, or who are simply looking for an interesting read. It is a great gift candidate.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Far More Than King James By John D. Cofield This is an engrossing history of the King James Bible (Authorized Version) and its impact on the English language and culture. The author details the movement towards an English Bible and connects it to the wider story of the Protestant Reformation. It turns out that the King James Bible was authorized out of political necessity. The King was new on the throne and in the country and wanted to do something to solidify his support. He also wanted to weaken the growing power of the Puritans, whose preferred translation, called the Geneva Bible, contained notes which were too anti-monarchy for the King's comfort. There's a lot of fascinating information about the way the King James Bible reflected its own times (it was deliberately produced in language which was slightly old fashioned even in the 1600s) and the varying ways in which it has been received over the centuries. Its an excellent book whether you are interested in theology, language, or both.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous -real history and a great read! By Mimi Kings, Popes, smuggling, plotting, death penalties, intrigue, politics, and more are in this real history that kept my attention riveted to the end. This book helped me better understand the Protestant Reformation and lead me through the historical events of an important time in history. Until I read this book I had not realized that some people in England were actually burned alive merely because they objected to the Catholic Church's power and control and because they wanted to be able to read and own a Bible for themselves- instead of having to rely on what a Priest told them it said. We can be thankful for those early trail-blazers who gave up so much for the liberties we now have. Sadly, today many can't even be bothered to see what the Bible is all about. Thousands of years of carefully preserving, copying, and passing down the original scriptures have evolved into our modern printed Bibles. People need to pick one up and read learn about God's simple laws written inside the Bible. We need to get away from today's instant-gratification and self-centered mentality and back to a more genteel society that genuinely cares for one another and helps one another through life. Our country - America - was colonized in the early years by courageous Protestants seeking a new beginning. My ancestors were among them - landing their ships in New England in 1633. I now realize better why they left England- and why they were willing to travel under such hardships to start from scratch in a new land. I also now understand why only a few years back people said that a Catholic (John Kennedy) would never get elected President. The U.S. and much of the world has come a long way in accepting others rights to their own religious views and freedoms. But, today some faiths are still stuck in the past and want to kill those who don't follow their religion. I hope some day soon that changes.

This fascinating history of a literary and religious masterpiece explores the forces that obstructed and ultimately led to the decision to create an authorized translation, the method of translation and printing, and the central role the King James version of the Bible played in the development of modern English. In the sixteenth century, to attempt to translate the Bible into a common tongue wasn't just difficult, it was dangerous. A Bible in English threatened the power of the monarch and the Church. Early translators like Tyndale, whose work greatly influenced the King James, were hunted down and executed, but the demand for English Bibles continued to grow. Indeed it was the popularity of the Geneva Bible, with its anti-royalist content, that eventually forced James I to sanction his own, pro-monarchy, translation. Errors in early editions--one declared that "thou shalt commit adultery"--and Puritan preferences for the Geneva Bible initially hampered acceptance of the King James, but it went on to become the definitive English-language Bible. McGrath's history of the King James Bibles creation and influence is a worthy tribute to a great work and a joy to read.

.com In the Beginning is Alister McGrath's history of the King James Bible, and as the subtitle explains, his explanation of "How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture." McGrath's story begins with the development of the printing press, describes the forces (before, during, and after the Reformation) fueling the demand for English vernacular translations of the Bible, and considers the impact of the King James Version on Western worship and politics. McGrath deftly blends an arch and charming, donnish argot with breezy, tough, brass-tacks directness. Of the ongoing process of creating new biblical translations, he writes, "It has yet to end; indeed, it will not end, until either history is brought to a close or English ceases to be a living language." Elsewhere, describing the cultural influence of the Authorized Version, he explains, "Without the King James Bible, there would have been no Paradise Lost, no Pilgrim's Progress, no Handel's Messiah, no Negro spirituals, and no Gettysburg address.") A professor of historical theology at the University of Oxford, McGrath has written a number of popular books about Christianity (including Theology for Amateurs). In The Beginning continues his work of making complex matters of theological thought and history accessible to a wider audience. --Michael Joseph Gross From Publishers Weekly The peculiar history of the King James Bible highlights the power of marginal notations to destabilize a nation and command the anxious attention of a monarch. McGrath, professor of historical theology at Oxford University, recounts the production of this translation, the forces that allowed for its genesis and its influence on modern English, the history of England and the faith of millions since its 1604 publication. Although his "great men" emphasis on "doing" history offers few new insights and is embedded in a narrative that scans in overly broad strokes the intriguing circumstances of the Bible's production, this remains an engaging chronicle. McGrath frames the context for the KJV in phenomena such as the English church during and after Henry VIII's reign, the incendiary creativity of the translation process, the explosive force for change unleashed by the technological breakthrough of the printing press and the rise of nationalism. McGrath also situates the KJV as more immediately provoked by the English-language Geneva Bible, produced by self-exiled "radical" English Protestants in that republican city, during the reign of the Catholic Mary Tudor. As McGrath explains, prefaces to each book of Scripture and extensive interpretive notes offered in "plain English" account largely for the popularity the Bible enjoyed among laypersons hungry to read the word of God. This is a tale ripe for the telling; one wishes the execution were more satisfying. (Apr.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Many today tend to take the Bible for granted and fail to recognize its permanent influence upon politics, literature, and law. During the 16th and 17th centuries, however, the availability of the scriptures in the vernacular inspired a revolution of free thought culminating in concepts of constitutional government and democracy whose impact upon the world continues to the present day. The far-reaching implications of the printing press, the rise of English as a national language, and the Reformation all closely bound to the history of the vernacular Bible figure prominently in the narrative of both of these new histories of the King James Bible...In the Beginning primarily focuses upon the translation of the King James Bible and is richly illustrated. Each work supplies a chronology and a comparison of major English translations of the most well known passages...Both books are a pleasure to read. Highly recommended for academic and public libraries. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.