

“Cults and the King James Bible”

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Many cults and isms use the KJB. They use and misuse it for their own ends. By adopting the pure Bible, they deceive many. The issue is not an issue of accuracy, but rather, their attitude toward the Bible.

They Use It

Rather than submitting to a “thus saith the Lord”, they view it as a text to support their arguments, support their cause, a tool to be used by men to accomplish their goals.

They Interpret It

When a passage does not suit their beliefs, they interpret, delete or avoid it to their advantage. The adjustment of scripture is as easily done as their attitude toward the scripture is flexible.

Their Attitude

Their attitude towards the Bible lies at the root of the issue. Their view of inspiration is faulty. Verbal

Plenary Inspiration is resisted and replaced by Concept Inspiration. Thoughts, principles and doctrine have replaced God's precise words from Heaven to Earth. Pseudo-intellectualism and religious terms allow a scorning of a belief in a God both capable and desirous of communicating to mankind in specific words. Satan approached Eve with those treacherous words, "Yea hath God said?" The following discussion that led to the fall of man was an exchange of words for thoughts based on logic, lies, and loose interpretation. If God didn't speak but only communicated thoughts and different people would verbalize these thoughts in different words according to vocabulary, personality, culture etc., then rewording of God's command was permissible. Either God said or we may restate His thoughts according to our own understanding, approach, doctrine or desires.

Such is the approach and attitude of cults and isms today.

In 1988, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists published "Seventh-day Adventists Believe..." to clarify their beliefs on 27 Doctrines. On page 6 they brazenly state: God inspired men-not words." This is the very opposite view from verbal inspiration. Their variant view is seen in the following quotes. "God 'breathed' truth into men's minds. They, in turn, expressed it in the words found in the Scriptures."(p 7) "These revelations were embodied in human language with all its limitations and imperfections...God inspired men-not words." (p 8)

"Were the prophets as passive as tape recorders that replay exactly what is recorded?" (p 8)

“... in most cases God instructed them to describe to the best of their ability what they saw or heard.” (p 8)

“The Bible ‘is not God’s mode of thought and expression...God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God’s penmen, not his pen’.

‘Inspiration acts not on the man’s words or his expression but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. ...thus the utterances of the man are the word of God’.” (p 8)

“The Bible, then, is divine truth expressed in human language.”(p 8)

“It is our limitations that restrict what he can communicate to us.” (p 8)

“So the Bible is divine and human combined.” (p 8)

In their thinking, God gave thoughts, ideas, and truth from His mind to men’s minds and they wrote what they could in their words-uninspired words-and the result is the Word of God. Inspiration was, to them, only a mind issue from God to the writers. The actual writing was human penman working with limitations in expressing God’s thoughts. They further believe that God still has “possessors of prophetic inspiration.” (p 221) “The gift of prophecy was active in the ministry of Ellen G White...She has given inspired instruction...” (p 224) As with most cults, the rejection of Verbal Plenary Inspiration and its replacement with Concept Inspiration leads, eventually, to extra Biblical inspiration.

Most cults feel the need to write books to clarify, correct or change what they believe was lost by the

penman not giving us God's words. Christian Science produced "Scientists Health with a Key to the Scriptures". Ellen White wrote many books to help us overcome the inadequacies of the writers' attempts to express God's thoughts. Joseph Smith even revised the Bible, an atrocious combination of error and pagan thought. Jehovah's Witnesses treat the Bible as a group of texts to be used to defend their Watchtower Publications. Mormonism reveals its attitude towards scripture in the following quote: "Wilfred Woodruff is a prophet, and he has many great prophets around him, and he can make scriptures as good as those in the Bible." John Taylor-footnote 35-Cf. Nutting, *Why I Could Never Be a Mormon*, p 21

"And whatsoever they [those ordained unto the priesthood] shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord,

shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.” Joseph Smith-footnote 32-
Doctrine and Covenants, p 248

Poor views of inspiration allow many to elevate their words because they feel it was inspiration when they felt that light has come to their thoughts.

Illumination and Revelation are far different from Inspiration.

Translation

The following is from the Articles of Faith,
“Scriptures, 8. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated accurately.” This is not from some Evangelical group but from the Mormons. When faced with the words of scripture, they will often push it aside with the comment that it

must have been translated wrong or perhaps it is different in another translation.

Inspired Version

This is not a recent idea. Joseph Smith, who founded the Mormon Cult, used that concept and title for his revision of the King James Bible. Claiming supernatural help, he produced his own "Inspired Version" for use of his group.

These four doctrines of the cults have moved over into circles near us.

1. God inspired men, not words.
2. God gave the thoughts but man gave the words.
3. The King James Bible is the word of God except for translation errors.

4. We can have an Inspired Version
of the Bible in our language.

The thinking and teaching of the Cults has conquered the thinking of our friends. Hath God spoken or did he only communicate concepts which men diffused into words of their choice? Were the words of the scripture given by inspiration or did He inspire men? Can we have a trustworthy Bible in our language or are we to stand in doubt over translation inaccuracies? Does God inspire men to correct our Bibles and produce inspired versions? To what degree has cultish thinking affected us? Brethren, these are sobering questions which we must face honestly. We must guard against laxness that would cause great embarrassment. We must stand alert against error. Wrong definitions and concepts would lead us down the slippery slope to heresy.