

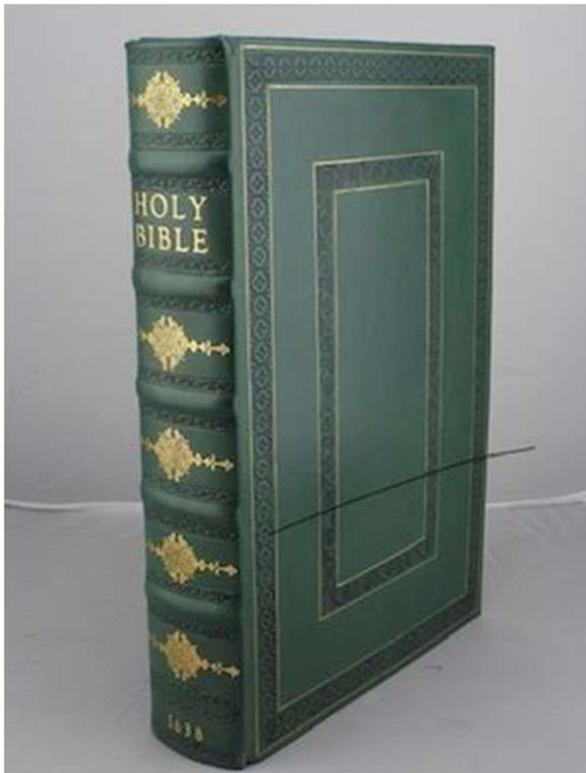
The Cambridge 1638 Second Revision

A recently reviewed edition

Jonathan Wheatley

March 27, 2022

1638 Cambridge Herbert's Description (H.520)



DESCRIPTION Eight preliminary leaves: title, etc. Text: OT ends on p. 744; Apocrypha end on p. 920; NT ends on p. 1152 (Cccc 8 b).

Signatures: ¶⁸ Aa-Zz⁸ Aaa-Zzz⁸ Aaaa-Cccc⁸; 584 ff.

Both titles are within the border with heart-shaped centre; the general title has a cut of the royal arms on verso. A cut of Adam and Eve occurs before Genesis.
1 Tim. iv. 16, *thy*.

1638 The Holy Bible . . .

THO: BUCK AND ROGER DANIEL, *Printers to the University of Cambridge*

520. (403) 2331 BH* BM Bod ULC: CSmH MH NN NNAB

f° 329 × 205

'The authentique corrected *Cambridge Bible*, revised *Mandato Regio*, by the learned Doctor *Ward*, Doctor *Goad* of *Hadley*, Mr. *Boyse*, Mr. *Mead*, &c., and printed by the elaborate industry of *Thomas Buck* Esquire and Mr. *Roger Daniel* in folio in 1638.' (William Kilburne's tract *Dangerous Errors in Several late printed Bibles* . . . , 1659, reprinted in the Introduction to Loftie's *A Century of Bibles*, 1872, p. 35.)

In this edition, thus favourably noticed by Kilburne, the work of correction begun in the folio Cambridge Bible of 1629 was carried further. The revisers took special pains to render uniform the use of italics; and they also introduced a certain number of new readings: e.g. Matt. xii. 23, *Is not this the sonne of David?* (for *Is this* . . .), and 1 John v. 12 . . . *hath not the Sonne of God (of God added)*. Here first occurs the famous reading in Acts vi. 3, . . . *whom ye may appoint* (for . . . *whom we* . . .). This alteration has often been ascribed to the Puritans, and was reputed to have cost Cromwell a bribe of £1000; yet here it is found as early as 1638, in a Bible prepared under the royal sanction.

1 Tim. iv. 16, *thy*.

This remained the standard text until the publication of Dr. Paris' Cambridge edition of 1762.

DESCRIPTION [Seven] preliminary leaves: [1 f. blank ?] title (engraved), verso blank, Dedication—1 f., Preface—7 pp., list of books—1 p. Text: OT pp. 1 to 642 (Iii 4 b); Apocrypha, pp. 1 to 151 (Yyy 4 a), verso blank; NT (with title, bearing device and date 1638), pp. 1 to 202 (R 6 b).

Signatures: [—]² A-Z⁸ Aa-Zz⁸ Aaa-Ggg⁸ Hhh⁴ Iii⁴, Kkk-Xxx⁸ Yyy⁴, A-R⁸; 506 ff. The text begins on A 6. There is no colophon.

The engraved title (*Will: Marshall. sculp.:*) resembles in general design that in the 1629 edition, but it is redrawn and enlarged, and contains a small device *Alma Mater Cantabrigia* in the centre. The ordinary device occurs on the NT title-page.

The 1638 Cambridge Bible - Cotton

Bible, authorized; Cambridge, by T. Buck and R. Daniel, printers to the Universitie.—*Lea Wilson*. fol.

This edition is said to have been revised by the king's command, by several learned men of Cambridge, Dr. Ward, Dr. Goad, Mr. Boyse, Mr. Mead, &c. Probably this was the bible, in which Buck and Daniel challenged the whole of Cambridge, by a bill fixed over the door of St. Mary's church, that if any scholar could find any literal fault in it, he should have a Bible for his pains. Bagford, in relating this story, merely says that it was a *folio* edition, but does not name the year. It is believed that it is the *first* in which the clause in Acts, ch. vi. 3, is rendered, "whom ye may appoint," instead of "whom we may appoint. The mistake was copied into many following editions, which are enumerated in Lewis's History. Dr. Lee adds three more to Lewis's list; viz. the Bibles of 1660, 1671, and 1682. I believe that the first person who publicly noticed this mistranslation was Dr. William Wotton, in a sermon "preached at Newport Pagnell, Bucks, in answer to Tindal's book, 'The Rights of the Christian Church.'" [See Sermon, p.15. edit. 1707.]

P. 69, Editions of the Bible and Parts Thereof. 2nd. Edition. Henry Cotton.

The 1638 Cambridge Bible - Lewis

In some (o) editions of the Bible of this royal translation betwixt 1638 (when, so far as I can find, it first appeared,) and 1685, that text in the Acts of the Apostles, chap. vi. 3. *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business,* is altered thus, *whom ye may appoint*: which favouring the independent scheme, made it suspected to have been done by the contrivance of some of that narrow-

(n) ——— did render much of the Old Testament from the original Hebrew into English. Dr. Parr's Life of Archbishop Usher.

(o) The editions printed with this *erratum* are as follows: that printed at Cambridge, 1638, as above said; that at Cambridge, in 8vo, by John Field, 1660; at London, in 24to, by the Assigns of J. Bill and Christopher Barker, 1674; in 8vo, by J. Bill, Tho. Newcomb, and Hen. Hills, 1679, 1680; in 8vo, by the Assigns of J. Bill and Tho. Newcomb, 1685; at Edinburgh, in 8vo, by Andrew Anderson, 1673 and 1675; and at Amsterdam, in Folio, 1679. Howel's History of the Holy Gospel.

spirited faction. But the (p) *first* Bible in which this was observed is that printed at Cambridge by ——— Buck and ——— Daniel, 1638, which makes it probable, however, that it was only an error of the press, without any ill meaning or design. Howel, in his History of the Holy Gospel, tells us, that in Baxter's Paraphrase [on the New Testament]——the Greek word *catasteesomen*, *we may appoint*, is rendered *ye may appoint*. And so it is, by an evident mistake of the printer, in the *first* edition of it in 4to, 1685, which is corrected in the after editions; for in the notes on this place it is observed, that *the chosen persons must be appointed or authorised and directed by the Apostles, not by the electors.*

A Reference Edition for Review

1638 Cambridge KJB from 316 Antique Bibles

Description (from 316 Antiquebibles.com Website)

Description

1638 King James Holy Bible Second Cambridge Folio Edition

PRESENTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AN EXQUISITE GENUINE 383-YEAR-OLD KING JAMES BIBLE- SECOND CAMBRIDGE FOLIO PRINTED BY THOMAS BUCK & ROGER DANIEL AT CAMBRIDGE IN 1638. FEATURING A LUXURIOUS NEW FINE HEWITT GREEN FULL LEATHER BINDING WITH HANDMADE MARBLED END PAPERS. MEASURES 14 x 9 x 3 1/2 inches overall AND WEIGHS NEARLY 9 POUNDS. 68 LINES OF EASY-TO-READ ROMAN TYPE TO THE FULL PAGE. COMPORTS WITH HERBERT #520- **A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A** WONDERFULLY IMPORTANT CAMBRIDGE KING JAMES BIBLE.

COLLATION AND CONDITION

GENERAL TITLE PAGE, 1 page, A magnificent full page architectural engraving by Will Marshall, Sculp. **THE HOLY BIBLE CONTAINING THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW: NEWLY TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES, AND WITH YE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED BY HIS MAJESTIES SPECIAL COMMAND. APPOINTED TO BE READ CHURCHES. PRINTED BY THOMAS BUCK AND ROGER DANIELS, PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.** Featuring from the top down: God the Father in heaven with His creations being the sun, earth and the moon and stars; two flanking winged cherubs holding an inscribed banner: *God saw everything He had made and behold it was very good*; inset scenes from Judges 6 and 1 Samuel 16 with justice and peace seated between them; Moses with the tablets and his staff; King David strumming his harp; center inset scene of the last supper with the hart panting after water (psalm 42) and assvr ou pressa; and the four Evangelists are to the left and right next to their respective symbols (Rev.4:7). A very crisp and clean impression, verso is blank and clean, Very Good! **COMPLETE**.

KING JAMES DEDICATION, 2 pages, features a wonderful fleur-de-lis headline and a floriated initial. Paper is crisp, bright and clean with excellent margins. Very Good!, **COMPLETE**.

THE TRANSLATORS TO THE READER, 7 pages, the preface, features a lovely fleur-de-lis headline and an ornate initial on the opening page. Paper is crisp, bright and clean with some faint soiling, header margins are trimmed tight to and into the running headlines. Has clean gutters, straight edges and strong corners. Very Good!, **COMPLETE**.

THE NAMES AND THE ORDER OF ALL THE BOOKES OF THE OLDE AND NEW TEFTAMENT..., 1 page, the table of contents, printed in a double column with fleur-de-lis borders, clean, bright and crisp. Excellent margins, Very Good!, **COMPLETE**.

THE OLD TESTAMENT, paginated 1- 642 , misnumbered at times but without a break in the collation, printed in 68 lines of Roman type to the full page, features beautiful fleur-de-lis borders and historiated initials. NO loose, missing or torn pages. Paper is crisp, bright and clean with faint staining to lower inner margins into the inside columns of text from the beginning and fading out through Moses. Very minimal, light and scarce soiling- an amazingly clean example. A dozen or so pages with some light pencil underlining without offense. Occasional header margins are trimmed to and into the running headlines. The fore edge and footer margins are wide and appear to be untrimmed as evidenced by the presence of a printer's tab at page 368. Clean gutters, straight edges and strong corners. Very Good+! **COMPLETE**.

Description (from 316 Antiquebibles.com Website)

THE APOCRYPHA, paginated 1- 151 , printed in 68 lines of Roman type to the full page, features beautiful fleur-de-lis borders and historiated initials. NO loose, missing or torn pages. Paper is crisp, bright and clean with very minimal, light and scarce soiling and virtually free from staining. A dozen or so pages with some light pencil underlining without offense. Excellent margins all around. Clean gutters, straight edges and strong corners. Very Good+! **COMPLETE**.

NEW TESTAMENT TITLE PAGE, 1 page, THE NEW TESTAMENT OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. NEWLY TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK: AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED BY HIS MAJESTIES SPECIAL COMMAND. APPOINTED TO BE READ IN CHURCHES. PRINTED BY THOMAS BUCK AND ROGER DANIELS, PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITIE OF CAMBRIDGE. ANNO DOM. 1638. Set in fleur-de-lis border lines and featuring a central printer's device : ALMA MATER CANTA BRIGIA, verso blank, very clean, VERY GOOD+ !, **COMPLETE**.

THE NEW TESTAMENT, paginated 1- 202, printed in 68 lines of Roman type to the full page, features beautiful fleur-de-lis borders and historiated initials. NO loose, missing or torn pages. Paper is crisp, bright and clean with very minimal, light and scarce soiling and staining. Scattered underlining throughout without offense. Excellent margins all around. Clean gutters, straight edges and strong corners. Final page with an ornate engraving ending with "FINIS" without a colophon as intended, Very Good+! **COMPLETE**.

THE WHOLE BOOK OF PSALMES TITLE PAGE, 1 page (A1), Featuring two scripture verses from James 5 and Colossians 3 and is dated 1638 with the engraved Cambridge device, verso is blank and clean, Perfect ! , **COMPLETE**.

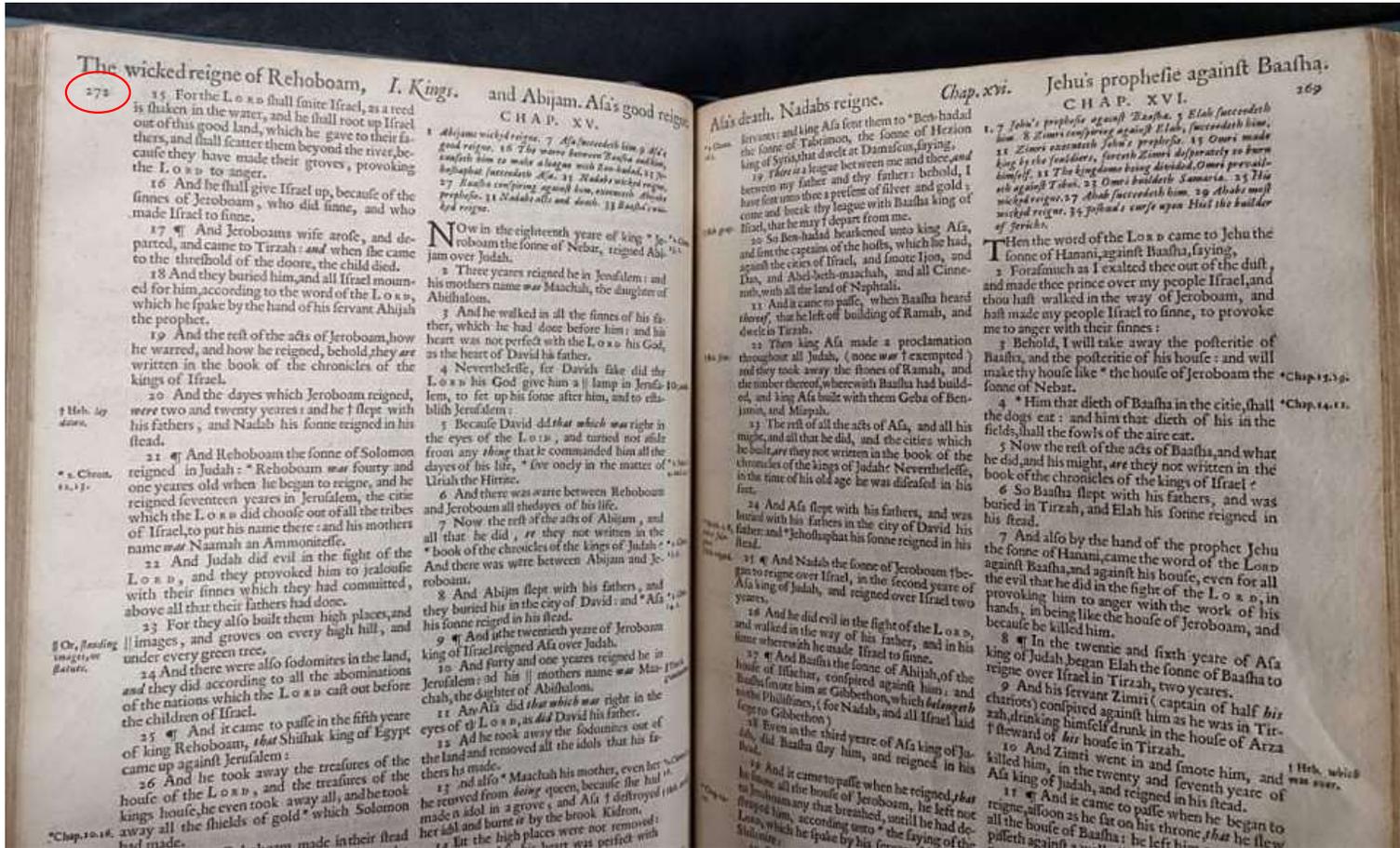
THE WHOLE BOOK OF PSALMES COLLECTED INTO ENGLISH MEETER, signed A2- A4 then paginated 1-94 followed by 5 pages of prayers and 1 page of a table for the whole number of the Psalmes. Features a curious woodcut initial on the opening page and musical staves throughout. NO loose, missing or torn pages. Paper is crisp, bright and clean and virtually free from soiling. Faint staining to the lower inner blank margins without offense. Excellent margins all around. Clean gutters, straight edges and strong corners. Very rare to find 100% intact as intended by the printer, Very Good+! **COMPLETE**.

A WORD FROM THE CONSERVATOR

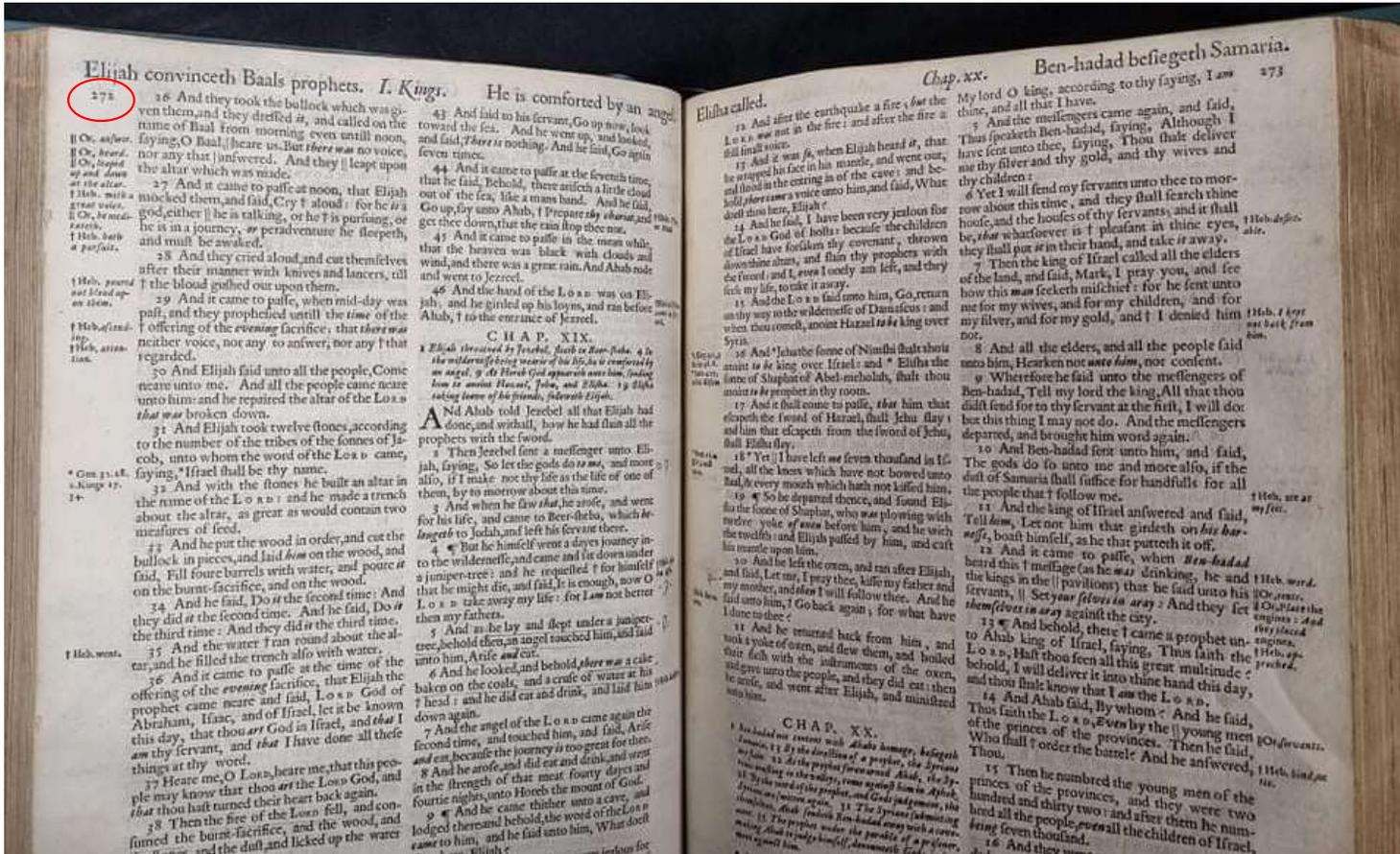
This Bible has undergone a page-by-page comprehensive paper conservation leaving no condition concerns or further actions required . Many newer collectors often call into question the authenticity of our Bibles because of their outstanding , fine condition. As with any item of age, value is determined according to condition-condition-condition ! This ancient 17th century treasure is NOT a replica, reproduction, facsimile, reprint or forgery. The fine art of hand bookbinding is alive and well.

We strive hard to acquire only those Bibles which we would like to collect ourselves, perform any needed restoration work professionally to archival standards and present them to you free from concerns. There has been much discussion regarding the addition of this volume to our permanent collection ! Antiquarian Bibles continue to increase in value making them a sensible addition to any portfolio . **A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO OWN A TRUE MUSEUM PIECE!**

Page numbering – Original 1638 has 272 instead of 278 at 1 Kings chapter XIV: 15



Page Numbering – 272 is correct at 1 Kings chapter 18: 26



Elijah convinceth Baals prophets. 1 Kings.

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leapt upon the altar which was made.

He is comforted by an angel

43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

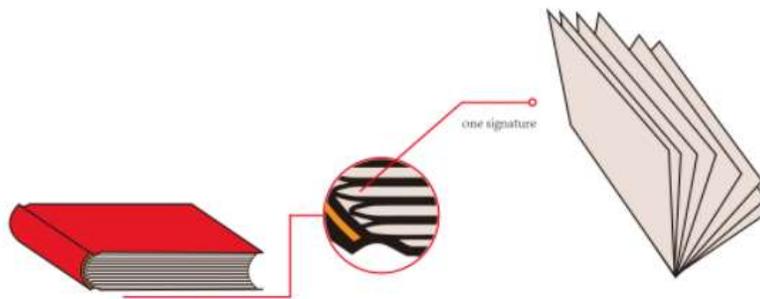
Chap. xx.

Ben-hadad besiegeth Samaria.

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

My lord O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

Signature - Example

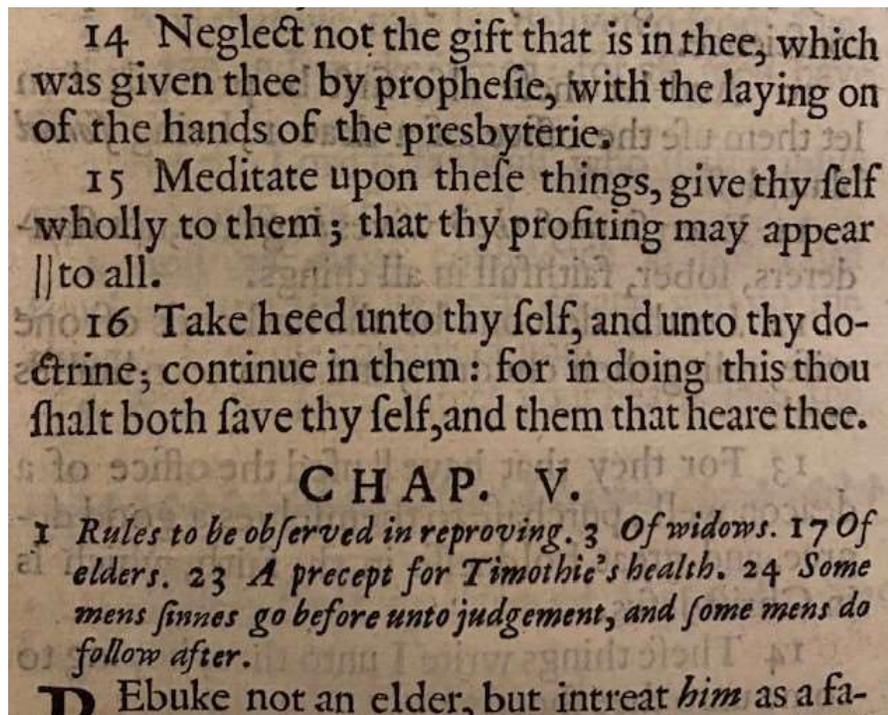


page 5	page 12	page 9	page 8
page 4	page 13	page 16	page 1

page 7	page 10	page 11	page 6
page 2	page 15	page 14	page 3

- Print signatures refer to a group of pages that are printed on both sides of a sheet of paper
- The page count in all print signatures is always in multiples of four with common binding and finishing processes

This Edition: Proof text – 1 Tim. 4:16



- **thy** doctrine vs. **the** doctrine
- This was first introduced in the 1629 Cambridge KJB
- **1 Timothy 4:16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto **the** doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

This Edition: Proof text – Acts 6:3

ANd in those dayes, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the holy Ghost and wisdom, whom ye may appoint over this businesse.

4 But we will give our selves continually to prayer, and to the ministerie of the word.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom **we** may appoint over this business.
Acts 6:3

Sources Consulted

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- Herbert, A.S. Historical Catalogue of Printed Editions of The English Bible. 1525-1961. British and Foreign Bible Society, 1968. P.176.
- Kilburne, William. Dangerous Errors in Several Late Printed Bibles. Finsbury, 1659. P.2.
- Lewis, John. A Complete History of the Several Translations of the Holy Bible and New Testament into English, Both in MS. And in Print: and the most remarkable editions of them since the invention of printing. Pp.340-341. The Third Edition. London. W. Baynes, 54, Paternoster Row. 1818.
- Norton, David. A Textual History of the King James Bible. 2005. Pp. 89-92
- <https://www.purecambridgetext.com/post/2017/03/14/the-1638-cambridge-bible>. Accessed March 6, 2022.

Appendix

Another reference copy

Reference Copy: A complete 1638 Edition

[Bible in English.] The Holy Bible... Cambridge;
Tho: Buck and Roger Daniel [1638].

“The authentique corrected Cambridge Bible, revised *Mandato Regio*, by the learned Doctor Ward, Doctor Goad of Hadley, Mr. Boyse, Mr. Mead, &c, and printed by the elaborate industry of Thomas Buck, Esquire and Mr. Roger Daniel in folio in 1638” (William Kilburne’s tract *Dangerous Errors in Several Late Printed Bibles...* 1659, reprinted in the Introduction to Loftie’s *Century of Bibles*, 1872, p. 35).

“In this edition, thus favorably noticed by Kilburne, the work of correction that was begun in the Cambridge 1629 Bible was carried further. The revisers took special care to render uniform the use of italics” (Herbert, p. 176).

This remained the standard text until the 1762 publication of Dr. Paris and Dr. Therhold’s Cambridge Bible.

The occasional small stain or light soiling; occasional short tear or repair. That said, overall, this is a very fresh and lovely copy. Very comfortably margined; a tall copy.

Herbert 520. Norton, David, *A Textual History of The King James Bible*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp. 89-94. DM403. STC 2331.

1638 ‘Corrected’ Cambridge Bible

King James Version

Size: 15x11x4 ”

OT Title: 1638

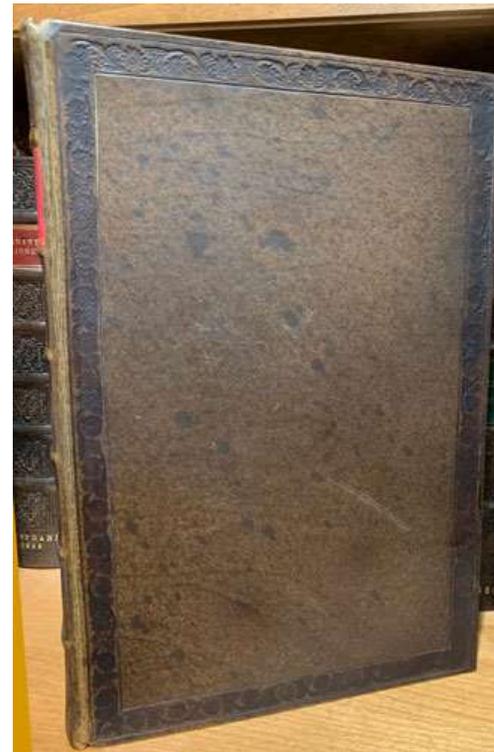
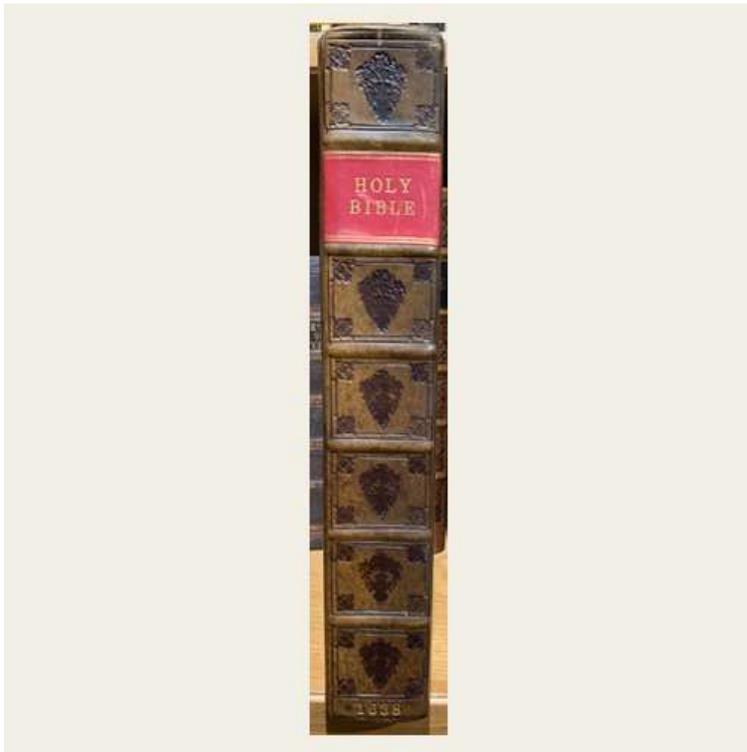
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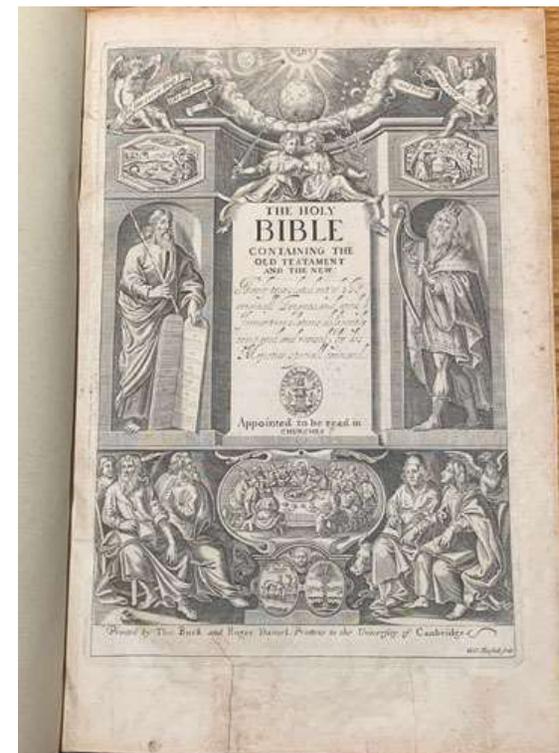
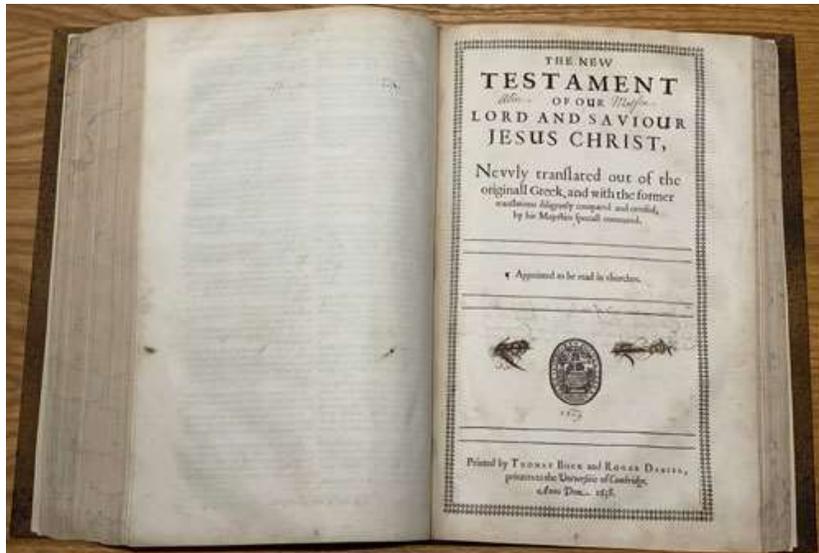
- Additional Features: Full Calf Binding

End Papers: Cotton

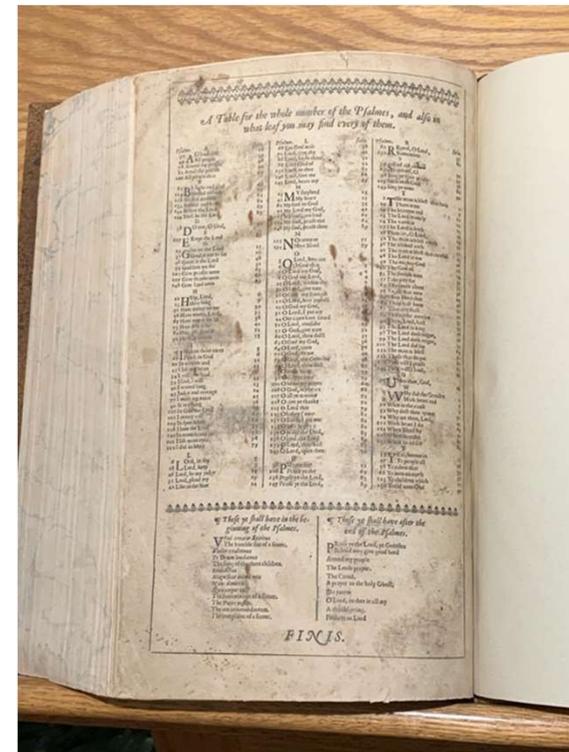
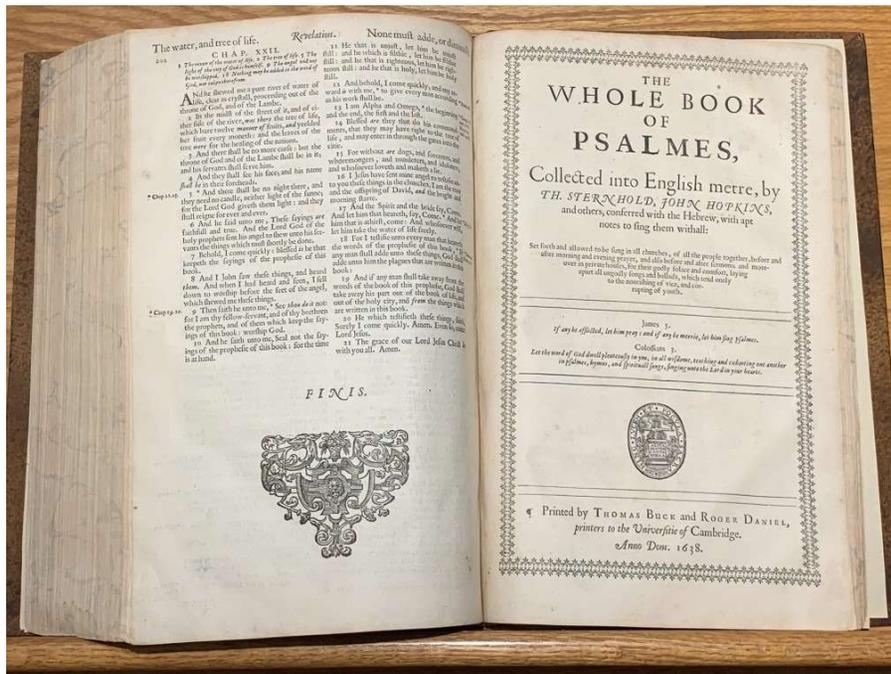
Reference Copy: A Complete 1638 Edition (Greatsite)



Reference Copy: A Complete 1638 Edition (Greatsite)



Reference Copy: A complete 1638 Edition (Greatsite)



The 1638 Cambridge Bible

One of the great and notable improvements made in this version was the use of italics. Italics are an added burden to a printer. Not only does the printer need to correctly spell each word but he has to print certain words in italics. One of the tasks involved with printing is proof reading. The first page printed from a tray of letters should be carefully scrutinized to make sure that every word was correct. Normally this was a fairly straight forward operation in which the proof reader would read a page and make sure that every word on the page was in its proper place and spelled properly.

As long as the reader could coherently read the verse and as long as it read like the original copy that he held, he would approve of the page and allow mass printing to take place. Because that in the first 27 years of printing, italics had not been carefully scrutinized and rarely printed properly, the 1638 editors had a very difficult task in front of them. Not only did they need to keep each word correct and in order, but they had to pay attention to whether a particular word was italicized or not.

Italics were used to alert a bible reader that the word he was reading was not in the original language. By italicizing a word the translators had shown that the word in question was a word supplied by the translators. If I were to write a command, I might say, "Go to the store." In English a command does not need to have a subject because it is understood that the subject of the sentence is "you". We don't have to write or say "You go to the store." Just saying, "go to the store" conveys the message. However, if I was translating that sentence into another language or explaining it in another context, it is perfectly acceptable for me to quote that sentence as "you go to the store". Notice that by putting the word "you" in italics the reader is alerted to the fact that it is a supplied word to render the sentence more understandable. The King James translators had been commanded to render all such supplied words in italics. Paying attention to the need for italics and the task of printing a bible with italics in every place that the translators had meant them was no small task. It had been sorely neglected in previous editions.

There were corrections made to the text in this edition. For 27 years *Matthew 23:12* had read, *Is this the son of David?* The editors of this fine edition had noticed the error and corrected it to, *Is this not the son of David?* This illustrates another problem that pops up in proof reading. When the text that a proof reader reads makes sense to him he is often fooled into accepting an erroneous reading. Imagine yourself sitting on a three legged stool in a poorly lit print shop reading over a sheet freshly handed to you. If that sheet had said, *Is this the son of Davvid?* The error would have jumped out at you. Instead, the error seemed to read smoothly and so depending on just how tired you were, or how much pressure you were under to hurry, you might not see that the word "Not" was missing.

The 1638 Cambridge Bible became the standard by which all bibles were judged. Its level of editing and proof reading were far and above anything known to that date. There were errors. They were errors that passed by a proof reader because they were just one letter being changed that still made sense in the context.

One of those errors was *Acts 6:3* in which the apostles command the church to seek out men to be deacons, *whom ye may appoint*. You will notice that the proper reading is *whom we may appoint*. A "we" was changed to a "ye". That may seem like small stuff, but in the English Civil war men were to die to establish who had the authority to appoint deacons. A legend went about that Oliver Cromwell had paid 1000 Pounds to get the editors to slip in that change. Another famous error is I Timothy 4:16 in which Paul says, *take heed to thy doctrine* instead of *take heed to the doctrine*. That last error actually first shows up in the 1629 edition but the editors let it slip by again in the 1638.

All in all, the 1638 is noted for its lack of misprints and errors. It is noted for its excellent printing and for the meticulous detail it paid to italics. It was a labor of love and should be regarded as the second purification of the English text. It is still not perfect and it is encumbered by its use of 17th century rules for punctuation and spelling. The 1638 Cambridge also utilized the Roman Font that is far more readable, but it still retains the frustrating gothic "s"s that look so much like "f"s to the modern eye. However as was noted in my previous post, England thrived under its reign.