

The Greek Text of the Authorized Version

By James D. Price

According to Bruce M. Metzger, a well-known authority on the text of the Greek New Testament, “Stephanus’ third edition [1550] became for many persons, especially in England, the received or standard text of the Greek New Testament.”¹ This was the “standard” text used by the translators of the Authorized Version. In addition, the translators had at their disposal the editions of Erasmus (1516, 1519, etc.), Beza (1589), and the Complutensian Polyglott (1514-1522).² The translators did not always follow the standard text of Stephanus (Stephens), but sometimes followed readings found in the other available texts. Until the nineteenth century, the exact form of the resultant text was not published in printed form. In 1825 Oxford Press published a Greek text containing the words that underlie the English of the Authorized Version. This was followed by editions published by F. H. A. Scrivener (1894, 1902). Scrivener’s edition is currently reprinted by the Trinitarian Bible Society.³

This is a list of the places where the AV translators followed a Greek text other than Stephens’ 1550 edition, the edition that was regarded as the traditional Received Text in 1611.⁴

Against Stephens and Beza

Scrivener catalogued 23 passages in which the text of the AV differs from that of Stephens (1550) and Beza (1589) jointly. These readings were usually derived from the Complutensian Polyglott that seems often to have been influenced by the Latin Vulgate. A few were derived from Erasmus. One reading seems to have been derived from some unknown source.

¹ Bruce M. Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament*, 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968), p. 104.

² In addition they had the text of Aldus (1518), but his text was never selected against the others.

³ *H KAINH ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗ, The New Testament: The Greek Text Underlying the English Authorized Version* (London: The Trinitarian Bible Society, n.d.).

⁴ Source: H. F. A. Scrivener, *The Cambridge Paragraph Bible of the Authorized English Version* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1873), Introduction: Appendix E, pp, c-ciii. The list does not include the places where the KJV translators followed the text of Stephens against the other Greek texts they had available.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Source</u>
<u>Ref.</u> ⁵	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Source</u>
Matt. 2:11*	εἶδον	Compl.
Matt. 9:18*	ἄρχων εἷς	Compl., Vulg.
Matt. 10:10	ῥάβδους	Compl.
Mark 4:18	οὐτοί εἰσὶν (omits 2 nd occurrence)	Compl.
Mark 5:38*	καὶ κλαίοντας	Erasm., Vulg.
Mark 9:42*	τῶν μικρῶν τούτων	Compl, Vulg.
Mark 15:3	αὐτὸς δὲ οὐδὲν ἀπεκρίνατο	Comp., Steph. (1546)
Luke 3:31	Μειάμ	Erasm.
Luke 3:35	Ἐβέρ	Erasm.
Luke 12:56	τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τῆς γῆς	Compl., Vulg.
Luke 20:31	καὶ (added)	Erasm.
John 8:6	μὴ προσποιούμενος	Compl., Steph. (1546, 1549)
John 18:1	τῶν (!) Κέδρων	???
Acts 7:16	Ἐμὸρ	Erasm.
Acts 8:13	δυνάμεις καὶ σημεῖα γινόμενας	Erasm.
Acts 27:29*	ἐκπέσωμεν	Compl.
Phile. 7*	χαρὰν	Compl., Vulg.
Heb. 12:24	τὸ Ἄβελ	Erasm.
2 Pet. 1:1	Σίμων	Compl., Vulg.
1 John 3:16	τοῦ Θεοῦ (added)	Compl., Vulg.
Jude 12	ὑμῖν (added)	Compl.
Rev. 11:4	αἱ δύο λυχνῖαι	Compl.
Rev. 17:4*	ἦν περιβεβλημένη	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 18:1	ἄλλον (added)	Erasm., Compl.
Rev. 18:5*	ἐκολλήθησαν	Compl.
Rev. 19:18*	ἐλευθέρων τε	Compl.
Rev. 21:13*	καὶ ἀπὸ δυσμῶν	Compl., Vulg.

Total = 23.

Beza Against Stephens

Scrivener catalogued 87 passages in which the text of the AV agrees with the text of Beza (1589) against that of Stephens (1550).

⁵ An asterisk (*) beside a reference indicates that Scrivener's TR agrees with the UBS/NA text.

⁶ According to Scrivener, who examined the actual printed editions, the KJV differed from the texts of Stephens and Beza. My electronic edition of Stephens agrees with Scrivener's TR here. I must assume that the electronic Stephens is wrong.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Additional sources</u>
Matt. 9:33*	omits ὅτι	Compl., Erasm.
Matt. 21:7	ἐπεκάθισαν	
Matt. 23:13, 14	verse order reversed ⁷	Compl.
Mark 6:29*	ἐν μνημείῳ	
Mark 8:24	ὅτι (omitted)	Compl.
Mark 8:24	ὁρῶ (omitted)	Compl.
Mark 9:40	ἡμῶν	Erasm.
Mark 9:40	ἡμῶν	Erasm.
Mark 12:20	οὖν (added)	
Luke 1:35	ἐκ σοῦ (added)	Compl., Erasm., Vulg.
Luke 2:22	αὐτῆς	Compl.
Luke 7:12	ἱκανὸς ἦν	
Luke 15:26	αὐτοῦ (omitted)	Compl., Vulg.
Luke 17:35	ἡ μία	Erasm.
Luke 17:36	verse added	Compl.
Luke 17:45	αὐτοῦ (added)	Erasm.
John 8:25*	ὅ τι (instead of ὅτι)	
John 13:31*	οὖν (added)	Erasm., Vulg.
John 16:33	ἔξετε ⁸	
John 18:24*	οὖν (added)	
Acts 1:4	μετ' αὐτῶν (added) ⁹	
Acts 17:25	καὶ τὰ πάντα	Vulg.
Acts 21:8*	ἤλθομεν	Compl., Vulg.
Acts 22:25*	προέτειναν	Compl., Vulg.
Acts 24:13*	με (omitted)	Compl.
Acts 24:18	δέ (omitted)	Compl.
Acts 24:19	ἕδει (instead of δεῖ)	Vulg.
Acts 27:13	ἄσσον (instead of Ασσον) ¹⁰	Erasm.

⁷ According to Scrivener, who examined the actual printed editions, the KJV agrees with the text of Beza against that of Stephens. My electronic edition of Stephens agrees with Scrivener's TR here. I must assume that the electronic Stephens is wrong.

⁸ Of this word, Scrivener stated: "there is very little authority, [it] is a false correction by Beza of a typographical error in Stephens (1550)" (p. ci).

⁹ Of this phrase, Scrivener stated: "being doubtless derived from his [Beza's] own celebrated manuscript, Codex D. The italics in 'with *them*' belong to 1769: no other English [versions] have 'with'" (p. ci). He means that the italic print in the KJV 1769 revision is an error; and so it is an error in the NKJV.

¹⁰ See footnote 7.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Additional sources</u>
Rom. 7:6	ἀποθανόντος ¹¹	
Rom. 8:11*	διὰ τοῦ ἐνοικοῦντος αὐτοῦ Πνεύματος ἐν ὑμῖν	Compl.
Rom. 12:11*	Κυρίῳ (instead of καιρῷ)	Compl., Vulg.
Rom. 16:20	ἀμήν (added)	
1 Cor. 5:11*	ἢ πόρνος (instead of ἡ πόρνος)	Erasm., Vulg.
1 Cor. 14:10*	αὐτῶν (omit)	Vulg.
1 Cor. 15:31*	ὑμετέραν (instead of ἡμετέραν)	Compl., Vulg.
2 Cor. 3:1*	ἢ μὴ (instead of εἴ μὴ)	Vulg.
2 Cor. 5:4*	ἐφ' ᾧ (instead of ἐπειδή)	Compl., Vulg.
2 Cor. 6:15	Βελιάλ (instead of Βελιάρ)	Compl., Vulg.
2 Cor. 7:12	τὴν σπουδὴν ἡμῶν τὴν ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν	Vulg.
2 Cor. 7:16*	οὖν (added)	
2 Cor 11:10*	φραγήσεται (instead of σφραγίσεται) ¹²	
Eph. 1:3*	ἐν Χριστῷ (instead of Χριστῷ)	Compl., Vulg.
Eph. 6:7*	ὡς (added)	Compl. Vulg.
Col. 1:2*	Κολοσσαῖς (instead of Κολασσαῖς)	
Col. 1:24	Ὅς (added)	Vulg.
Col. 2:13	ὑμῖν (instead of ἡμῖν)	Vulg.
1 Thes. 2:15*	ἡμᾶς (instead of ὑμᾶς)	Compl., Vulg.
1 Tim. 1:4	οἰκοδομίαν (instead of οἰκονομίαν)	Erasm., Vulg.
Titus 2:10*	ἡμῶν (instead of ὑμῶν)	Erasm., Compl., Vulg.
Heb. 9:1*	σκηνή (omitted)	Erasm., Vulg.
Heb. 10:10	διὰ (instead of οἱ διὰ)	
Heb. 12:22	πανηγύρει (1 st word of vs. 23) ¹³	
James 4:13*	πορευσόμεθα ¹⁴	Vulg.
James 4:13*	ποιήσομεν	Vulg.
James 4:13*	ἐμπορευσόμεθα	Vulg.
James 4:13*	κερδήσομεν	Vulg.
James 4:15*	ποιήσομεν	Vulg.
James 5:12*	ὑπὸ κρίσιν (instead of εἰς ὑπὸκρίσιν)	
1 Pet. 3:21	ᾧ (instead of ὃ)	Compl.

¹¹ Of this word, Scrivener stated: "on no authority" (p. ci).

¹² Of this word, Scrivener stated: "a mere error of Steph. only" (p. ci).

¹³ See footnote 7.

¹⁴ According to the printed edition; the electronic edition has πορευσόμεθα.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Additional sources</u>
2 Pet. 2:18	ἐν ἀσελγείαις ¹⁵	
2 Pet. 3:7*	αὐτῷ (instead of αὐτοῦ)	Vulg.
1 John 1:4	ὑμῶν (instead of ἡμῶν)	Erasm.
1 John 2:23*	ὁ ὁμολογῶν τὸν υἱὸν καὶ τὸν πατέρα ἔχει (added) ¹⁶	
1 John 5:14	ἡμῶν (instead of ὑμῶν) ¹⁷	
2 John 3	ὑμῶν (instead of ἡμῶν)	Compl.
2 John 5*	γράφων	
3 John 7	αὐτοῦ (added)	Compl., Vulg.
Jude 19	ἑαυτοῦς (added)	Vulg.
Jude 24*	ὑμᾶς (instead of αὐτούς)	Vulg.
Rev. 1:11*	ἑπτὰ (added)	Compl. Vulg.
Rev. 3:1*	ἑπτὰ (added before πνεύματα)	Compl. Vulg.
Rev. 5:11*	καὶ ἦν ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτῶν μυριάδες μυριάδων, καὶ χιλιάδες χιλιάδων (added)	Compl.
Rev. 7:2*	ἀναβαίνοντα	Compl., Vulg.
Rev 7:3*	σφραγίσωμεν	Compl.
Rev 7:10*	τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν (added)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 7:14*	αὐτὰς (instead of στολὰς αὐτῶν)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev 8:6*	οἱ ἔχοντες (instead of ἔχοντες)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 8:11*	τῶν ὑδάτων (added)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 9:19*	ἡ (instead of αἱ)	Compl. (?)
Rev. 9:19*	καὶ ἐν ταῖς οὐραῖ αὐτῶν (added)	Compl.
Rev. 11:1	καὶ ὁ ἄγγελος εἰστήκει (added)	Compl.
Rev. 11:2*	ἕξωθεν (instead of ἔσωθεν)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 13:3*	ἔν (omitted)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 14:18*	τῆς ἀμπέλου (added)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 16:5	ἐσόμενος (instead of ὄσιος)	

¹⁵ Even though Scrivener included the word ἐν in his TR, he stated: "Compl., Erasm., Steph., rightly omit ἐν" (p. cii).

¹⁶ Regarding this addition, Scrivener wrote that this addition "is the well-known clause inserted in italics in our own and the Bishops' versions, to indicate thereby a doubtful reading . . . Though not in Compl., Erasm., Steph., or even in Beza 1565, Tyndale, Coverdale, Geneva 1557, it was brought in within brackets and italicized in the Great Bible, doubtless from the Vulgate, and rightly forms a part of the text in Beza's last three editions" (p. cii).

¹⁷ See footnote 7.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Additional sources</u>
Rev. 16:14*	ἃ ἐκπορεύεται (instead of ἐκπορεύεσθαι)	Compl., Vulg.
Rev. 19:14*	τὰ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ	Compl., Vulg.
Total = 87		

Textual Changes Since 1611

Scrivener produced the Greek text that underlies the English of the 1611 edition of the AV. There have been a few alterations in later revisions of the AV that no longer follow the text followed by the 1611 translators. The following are places where the AV has words not in italics that are not in Scrivener's TR:

- 2 Tim. 1:18 added "unto me" after "ministered" following the Vulg.
 Eph. 6:24 added "amen" at the end.
 1 Cor. 14:10 added "of them" after "none." The 1611 edition had the words in italics, but the 1769 edition erroneously replaced the italics with regular typeface indicating that the words are in the Greek text.

The following is a place where the AV has words in italics that are actually in Scrivener's TR:

- 2 Peter 2:18 The word "*through*" was erroneously italicized in 1769 as though the word is not in the Greek text; and the word "*much*" was added.

The following are places where the AV does not follow the Scrivener's text:

Acts 19:20 Scrivener's TR reads τοῦ Κυρίου (of the Lord) but the KJV reads "of God."

Heb. 10:23 Scrivener's TR reads τῆς ἐλπίδος (of the hope) but the KJV reads "of *our* faith."¹⁸

¹⁸ This may not be a textual problem. It may be regarded as a translator's "oversight" (Scrivener, p. c), because the word ἐλπίς occurs 54 times in 48 verses, always translated "hope" except this passage where the AV translates the word as "faith." All English versions made prior to 1611, and all subsequent ones render the word as "hope."