Purification of "The words of the LORD" Psalm 12:6, 7 – Summary¹

Introduction

Philippians 2:16 states "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Inspiration must be inviolate throughout the purification process of "the word of life" otherwise it is no longer "the word of life" and Paul and the other writers of scriptures would have run and laboured in vain. However, they did not, because "the word of the Lord endureth for ever" 1 Peter 1:25. An overview of the seven-stage purification sub-processes embedded in the overall purification process.



The Authorized 1611 King James Holy Bible

A Seven-Stage Purification Process – Historic Bibles

Dr Vance² shows that Psalm 12:6, 7 was fulfilled in history *largely with inspired translations* Genesis 2:7, 2 Samuel 3:10, Ezekiel 37:9-11, Matthew 24:35, John 6:63, Colossians 1:13, Hebrews 11:5, 1 Peter 1:23, 25.

- A received Hebrew text, 1800 BC to 389 BC
- A received Aramaic text at the same time (Genesis, Daniel, etc.)
- A received Greek text from AD 40 to AD 90
- A received Syrian text from AD 120 to AD 200
- A received Latin text from AD 150 to AD 1500
- A received German text from AD 1500 to AD 2006
- A received English text from AD 1611 to AD 2006 (2012+)

Dr Mrs Riplinger³ has this incisive observation in agreement with the priesthood of all believers, 1 Peter 2:5, 9. The Bible appears in many forms – such as Hebrew, Hungarian, English and Polish. The "form" of the Word seemed different at various times, yet it was still Jesus (e.g. the "fiery furnace" (Dan. 3:35), the "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (Luke 2:12), when "She supposing him to be the gardener" (John 20:15), and when "his eyes were as a flame of fire" (Rev. 1:14)). When the Word "appeared in another form," as Jesus did, "neither believed they them" (Mark 16:12, 13). Likewise, some still dig for words in haunted Greek graveyards.

A Seven-Stage Purification Process – Pre-English and English Bibles

Dr Mrs Riplinger⁴ documents the development of the seven purifications of the English Bible from its earliest inception, in fulfilment of Psalm 12:6, 7.

- The Gothic
- The Anglo-Saxon
- The Pre-Wycliffe
- The Wycliffe
- The Tyndale/Coverdale/Great/Geneva*
- The Bishops'
- The King James Bible

*The progression of the 16th century English Bibles to the King James Bible exhibits a further embedded seven purifications⁵.

- The Tyndale 1525
- The Coverdale 1535
- The Matthew 1537
- The Great 1538
- The Geneva 1560
- The Bishops' 1568

• The King James Bible 1611

Dr Mrs Riplinger⁶ states, her emphases "Seven" times "they purge...and purify it..." (Ezek. 43:26) – not eight. The KJV translators did **not** see their translation as one in the midst of a chain of ever evolving translations. They wanted their Bible to be one of which no one could justly say, 'It is good, **except** this word or **that** word...' They planned⁷: "...to make...out of many good ones [Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Geneva, Bishops'], one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against; that hath been our endeavor, that our mark...the same will shine as gold more brightly, being rubbed and polished..." In a sense God did inspire the King's men to achieve their mark 2 Peter 1:21 as John Selden⁸ notes in Table Talk. "The translation in King James' time took an excellent way. That part of the Bible was given to him who was most excellent in such a tongue and then they met together, and one read the translation, the rest holding in their hands some Bible, either of the learned tongues [Greek, Hebrew, Latin], or French, Italian, Spanish &c [and other languages]. If they found any fault, they spoke; if not, he read on."

A Seven-Stage Purification Process – King James Bibles

God has refined the 1611 Holy Bible through seven major editions⁹. The only changes to the KJV since 1611 are of three types:

- 1. 1612: Typography (from Gothic to Roman type)
- 2. 1629 & 1638: Correction of typographical errors
- 3. 1762 & 1769: Standardization of spelling. Therefore, fulfilling Psalm 12:6, 7: Two 1611 editions = seven stages. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" Luke 1:37.

Particular Purification Steps

Addition of Words

Dr Scrivener¹⁰ notes textual changes to early editions e.g. the words "of God" first being added to 1 John 5:12 in 1638. God oversees such changes. "Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words" Jeremiah 36:32.

Elimination and Alteration of Words

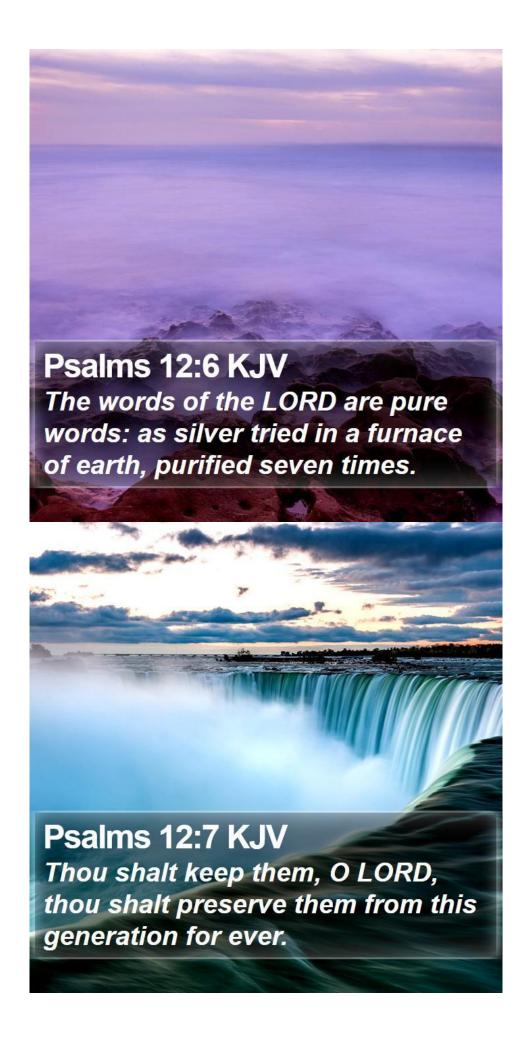
The NIV adds "of Jesus" in Acts 16:7. The Geneva Bible* has "Passover" instead of "Easter" in Acts 12:4. God corrects such imperfections as illustrated by John 15:2 with respect to "the true vine" John 15:1, which is "the Word of life" 1 John 1:1, like "the word of life," purging being a form of purifying. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." *Post 1557 editions¹¹. The 1557 Edition has "Easter."

Restoration of Words

Current editions of Wycliffe's Bible omit some scriptures e.g. the end of Matthew 6:13. God restores such omissions as illustrated by Romans 11:20, 23, AV1611. "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:...And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again."

Conclusion

These purifications ensure that the AV1611 is "the words of the LORD...pure words" Psalm 12:6¹².



References

All web references were current at the time of writing. Web reference and author are given as appropriate the first time a particular work is cited. Only the work itself is cited in subsequent references.

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