

# Superstition

## *Introduction*

The issue of **superstition** Acts 25:19 - where the term is *falsely* applied to **Jesus, and the resurrection** Acts 17:18, showing that the term refers generally to describing any belief system regarded as false - is set out as follows.

Acts 17:16 **Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.**

Acts 17:17 **Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.**

The idolatry was so deeply entrenched in Athens that the Athenians were as Paul described them as follows, and in Athens even the Jews, via *Gentile* heresy, were as **Barnabus...carried away with their dissimulation** Galatians 2:13, as Acts 17:17 shows. Tragically, therefore, even though **unto them were committed the oracles of God** Romans 3:2 the Jews in Athens could not be **a light that shineth in a dark place** 2 Peter 1:19 even for themselves and certainly not for their fellow citizens. It was a case of the competing effects of John 1:9 and John 3:19 and in Athens, those of John 3:19 won out.

Paul effectively described the Athenian mindset as follows.

Ephesians 4:17 **This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,**

Ephesians 4:18 **Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:**

What follows is Paul's rebuke - as a saved Jew - to the idolators of Athens, a description that applies to any set of wilfully ignorantly worshippers as the Lord Jesus Christ declared in John 4:22 **Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.** Paul of course in his rebuke was careful to apply Colossians 4:6 **Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

## *Paul's Rebuke*

Acts 17:22 **Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.**

Acts 17:23 **For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.**

## *Superstition Definition*

Acts 17:22, 23 therefore define and confirm that superstition is wilful worship in ignorance.

Wilful worship in ignorance is a good description of Darwinism and other false belief systems<sup>1</sup>.

As indicated, the Athenians were **in all things...too superstitious** in that until Paul arrived, they had no **light in the darkness** Psalm 112:4. That is a good description of the adherents of Darwinism and other false belief systems.

## *Many Seekers, Few Finders*

Superstition as wilful worship in ignorance *persists even if*, as indicated by John 1:9 **That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world** and as Paul graciously remarked in Acts 17:23, *the object of the worship is valid.*

It was in Athens at the time and is so even to this day - even if subconsciously - as the disciples declared to the Lord in Mark 1:37 **And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.**

But unsaved men are of course vulnerable to the deception of **false Christs** Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22, as Revelation 13 starkly reveals and susceptible to the world, the flesh and the devil **a king**

**over all the children of pride** Job 41:34 as John warned in 1 John 2:16 **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

The Lord Jesus Christ therefore lamented that few seekers become finders **Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it** Matthew 7:14.

That was the outcome in Athens. Superstition, Acts 17:22-23, largely stymied saving faith.

Acts 17:32 **And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.**

Acts 17:33 **So Paul departed from among them.**

Acts 17:34 **Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.**

Those who wished to hear from Paul again never did so. That is why Paul testified for then and now in 2 Corinthians 6:2 (**For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)

### *Acts 17:22, Truth versus Error*

Note this summary extract<sup>2</sup> of the truth versus error concerning Acts 17:22, one of numerous examples in that study:

*Acts 17:22*

1611, 2011+ AV1611s ***“too superstitious”***

NKJV, 1984, 2011 NIVs ***“very religious”***

The NKJV, NIVs won't rebuke idolaters – and the Athenians were *not* “*very religious*,” James 1:27 [**Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world**].

Changes to the Text of the AV1611 *repeatedly corrupt the word of God* 2 Corinthians 2:17 and lead to error. The Athenians were *not* interested as Paul *was* interested **that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do** Galatians 2:10. To make contemporary application, the Athenians were too busy checking their smartphones and surfing social media.

Acts 17:21 (**For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.**)

### *Archaic Meaning?*

The question arises, did the term **superstition** Acts 25:19 have a 17<sup>th</sup> century meaning that is therefore now archaic?

No.

Dr Hills<sup>3</sup> states.

*The English of the King James Version is not the English of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. To be exact, it is not a type of English that was ever spoken anywhere. It is biblical English, which was not used on ordinary occasions even by the translators who produced the King James Version...Even in their use of thee and thou the translators were not following 17<sup>th</sup>-century English usage but biblical usage, for at the time these translators were doing their work these singular forms had already been replaced by the plural you in polite conversation.*

Gail Riplinger<sup>4</sup> states, this writer's emphasis.

*The words of the King James Bible are often higher, 'special' words, not defiled or defined by worldly use. ...lexicographers avoid them, calling them “ecclesiastical” words. These include words such as 'hell,' 'heaven,' 'preach,' 'grace,' 'gospel,' 'mercy,' 'lust,' 'carnal,' 'charity,' 'salvation,'*

'sanctification,' 'heathen,' 'heresy,' '**superstition**,' 'heretick,' 'redemption,' 'righteousness,' 'salvation,' 'repent,' 'judgment,' 'covetousness,' 'ungodly,' and 'tribulation.' One will be hard pressed to find these words in most new versions and Bible study tools...

Nevertheless, as Gail Riplinger shows further.

*The New Testament has approximately 5,170 lexical items, which potentially could have scores of thousands of English equivalents...But only one of these equivalents is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, made higher" and is perfect for each context (Heb. 7:26). Who, but God, can choose which word fits in which context? Because of these wide varieties of options, none of the hundreds of English translations of the Bible are the same. The Bible says, "let one interpret" (1 Cor. 14:27).*

In sum **the book of the LORD** Isaiah 34:16 is never archaic. Neither is its Compiler. Both stand fast forever as King Solomon testified. **The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.** Ecclesiastes 12:11. See the attached study **God's Standard**.

### **Ministers' Responsibility**

**ministers of the word...able ministers of the new testament** Luke 1:2, 2 Corinthians 3:6 should be as Paul exhorted **Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ** 1 Corinthians 11:1 with respect to this study and the attached study and indeed with respect to **all the counsel of God** Acts 20:27.

As Paul exhorted Timothy **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine** 2 Timothy 4:2.

Failure to do so is a violation of the principle of Colossians 4:17 **Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it** and will incur the judgement of Colossians 3:25 **But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.**

### **Conclusion**<sup>5</sup>



## God's Standard

***“My words shall not pass away”*** Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33

Critics often first attack the AV1611 by accusing it of being archaic because words have ‘changed their meaning’ and need to be updated by the modern versions. That is a lie. Biblical words have not ‘changed their meaning.’ The Lord Jesus Christ said that cannot happen, Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33. Biblical words have a range of meanings as Benjamin Wilkinon<sup>6</sup> has shown.



*The English language in 1611 was in the very best condition to receive into its bosom the Old and New Testaments. Each word was broad, simple, and generic. That is to say, words were capable of containing in themselves not only their central thoughts, but also all the different shades of meaning which were attached to that central thought. Since then, words have lost that living, pliable breadth. Many examples may be shown. See the following selection<sup>7</sup>.*

- ***“conversation”*** means *“conduct”* Philippians 1:27, *“behaviour”* I Peter 3:1, *“citizenship”* Philippians 3:20 NASVs, NIVs, NKJV *but also that which is heard i.e. speech as well as seen, as with ***“Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)”*** 2 Peter 2:7-8.*
- ***“prevent”*** means *“comes before”* Psalms 88:13, *“precede”* I Thessalonians 4:15 NASVs, NIVs, NKJV *but also beset by trouble on all sides like David. ***“The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me”**** 2 Samuel 22:6.
- ***“quicken”*** Romans 8:11 means *“give life to”* NASVs, NIVs, NKJV *but also to be risen from the dead with Christ to die no more, as Paul explains ***“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him”**** Romans 6:9 *and therefore ***“he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you”**** Romans 8:11 *i.e. to die no more.*

The above examples are not exhaustive. See above site for many more, with more detail.

### ***Modern Degenerative Versions***

Enough examples have nevertheless been given to show that words used in modern versions typically do not have the same breadth of meaning as the equivalent AV1611 words and that modern version editors may have to resort to two or more words in order to replace a single generic AV1611 term. What has happened therefore is that the range of meanings of Biblical words has been arbitrarily restricted to yield, at best, only the limited, often single-meaning words of modern versions as exemplified above. Note that modern version alternatives to the equivalent 1611 Holy Bible terms are often not merely restricted in meaning but in fact *wrong* in their particular contexts. Note the following examples<sup>8</sup>:

- *“adequate”* NASVs, *“complete”* NKJV, OMITTED NIVs versus ***“perfect”*** 2 Timothy 3:17 AV1611
- *“called”* NASVs, NIVs versus ***“sanctified”*** Jude 1 AV1611
- *“excellence”* NASVs, *“excellent”* NIVs versus ***“virtue”*** Philippians 4:8 AV1611

The aim of restricting Biblical word meanings, which may lead to error, see above, is to discredit the 1611 Holy Bible by making it seem 'archaic,' when it is not, as the Lord Jesus Christ promised it never would be, Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33. See opening remarks. It is the modern versions that are instead *degenerative* with respect to the range of meanings of their words<sup>9</sup> The restrictive operation has been carried out by men but it is satanic in its origin, in its objective and in its oversight, ever since Genesis 3:1 **"Yea, hath God said...?"** As Paul in principle rightly warns **"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things... Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"** 2 Corinthians 2:9, 11. An information scientist would probably say that the modern alternatives to the AV1611 generic terms have suffered a loss of information in transmission. They have, and as Paul declares **"that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away"** Hebrews 8:13.

### **God's Standard - "the book of the LORD" Isaiah 34:16**

By contrast, **"the book of the LORD"** Isaiah 34:16 has gone **"from strength to strength"** Psalm 84:7 in its transmission from the old languages to the English language of the pre-1611 Bibles to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1611 Holy Bible to the sevenfold perfected 1611 Holy Bible. That Book became *God's standard* in time for the world-wide missionary and revival movements of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries and running up to the Lord's Return, which is imminent. **"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints"** Jude 14. It therefore appears that God has carried out this stage-wise *supernatural* process for the perfection of **"the book of the LORD"** Isaiah 34:16 to show that *His* transmission of **"The words of the LORD"** Psalm 12:6 is *not* degenerative but *regenerative*. Observe the association between **"The words of the LORD"** Psalm 12:6 and **"the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual"** 1 Corinthians 2:13. These words are indeed regenerative as the following scriptures show.

**"...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"** Ephesians 5:26.

**"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"** Titus 3:5.

In sum **"This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes"** Psalm 118:23<sup>10</sup>.

**"Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders...and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me"** Isaiah 49:22, 23. Finally:

**"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ"** 2 Thessalonians 3:5.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/)

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*Racial Slurs and Dr F. J. A. Hort*

<sup>2</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php) *1611, 2011 AV1611 Precision and Modern Version Impurity* p 10

<sup>3</sup> [archive.org/details/TheKingJamesVersionDefended/mode/2up](http://archive.org/details/TheKingJamesVersionDefended/mode/2up) *The King James Version Defended* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Dr Edward F. Hills, Chapter 8 p 218 printed edition

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<sup>4</sup> [www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html](http://www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html) *Hazardous Materials, Greek & Hebrew Study Dangers* by Gail Riplinger, pp 101, 113

<sup>5</sup> [www.pinterest.com/pin/thessalonians--823595850577822166/](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/thessalonians--823595850577822166/)

<sup>6</sup> [www.sdadefend.com/Living-Word/Wilkinson/AuthorizedBibleTOC.htm](http://www.sdadefend.com/Living-Word/Wilkinson/AuthorizedBibleTOC.htm) *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* by Benjamin Wilkinson, Chapter 5

<sup>7</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php) *Twist and Curl - Your Fiendly\* Neighbourhood Bible Correctors* pp 63-64, 87, 89. \*Not a misspelling

<sup>8</sup> [www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html](http://www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html) *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Riplinger, Chapter 9 *Men Shall Be Unholy* 2008 Edition pp 161ff 2019 Edition pp 175ff

<sup>9</sup> *New Age Bible Versions*

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*In Awe of Thy Word* by Gail Riplinger

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<sup>10</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/)

*The purification of the Lord's word – Psalm 12:6-7*

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