

Sunday, March 27, 2022— Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*  
 Lesson 173 The Pre-1611 Evidence for The Text: Bod 1602 Impact on King James Old Testament  
 Readings, Part 2

### **Introduction**

- Last week in [Lesson 172](#) we began discussing the Old Testament annotations found in Bod 1602. We did so by following Dr. Edward C. Jacobs' 1975 essay for *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* titled "An Old Testament Copytext for the 1611 Bible." After looking at three sample passages in Numbers 15, Psalms 10, and Proverbs 27 we were able to observe the veracity of the following statements made by Professor Jacobs:
  - "Some ninety percent of the Old Testament annotations [found in Bod 1602] represent the text of A.V." (Jacobs, 2)
  - "Class I of emended readings in the annotated portions of this Bible [Bod 1602] comprises annotated and unannotated verses which agree exactly with parallel A.V. readings. Some ninety percent of all the annotations are in this class." (Jacobs, 7)
  - "The first observation evident from a study of these collated verses is that the only other readings that agree exactly with the emended readings of Psalms x.9-10 and Proverbs xxvii.15 are the A.V. readings." (Jacobs, 10)
- Dr. Jacobs' doctoral thesis contains an extensive catalogue of examples too numerous to cover in these Lessons proving the connection between the 1602 Bishops' Bible, Bod 1602, and the A.V. of 1611.
- In this Lesson we want make some additional important observations regarding the connection between the Old Testament sections of Bod 1602 and the AV.

### **Bod 1602 Old Testament, Continued**

- In his essay, Dr. Jacobs addressed an additional class or category of annotations found in Bod 1602 that needs to be noted. According to Jacobs, a consideration of this "class" strengthens the connection between Bod 1602 and the A.V. beyond what we observed last week in Lesson 172.
  - "That this relationship between Old Testament annotations and the A.V. reflects the efforts of the King James translators becomes even clearer in Class II of the emended readings. Class II includes those annotated verses and those unannotated verses within the annotated portions which do not fully agree with parallel A.V. readings. Some five to ten percent of the annotations are in this class. This small but significant percentage of annotations proves that these annotations are not a collation between the texts of the Bishops' Bible and the A.V. Because the number of these verses is small, it is clear that the annotations are a record of the nearly finished translation, probably as it was when sent to the Committee of Final Review in London. The Committee checked this work, revised some five to ten percent, and supplied a master copy from which Robert Barker printed the first edition of the A.V. in 1611." (Jacobs, 11)

- This of course means that the Old Testament revision work recorded in Bod 1602 represents that completed translation work of multiple companies that was then forwarded to the Committee of Final Review at Stationers Hall in London. Dr. Jacobs provides three examples of this class of readings: 1) Psalms 62:3, 2) Song of Solomon 3:2, and 3) Jeremiah 4:22.

*Psalms 62:3*

- The following is an image of the reading found in the 1602 Bishops' Bible.

**3 How long will yee imagine mischief against every man: ye shall be flaine all the fort of you, yea as a tottering wall shall yee be, and like a broken hedge.**

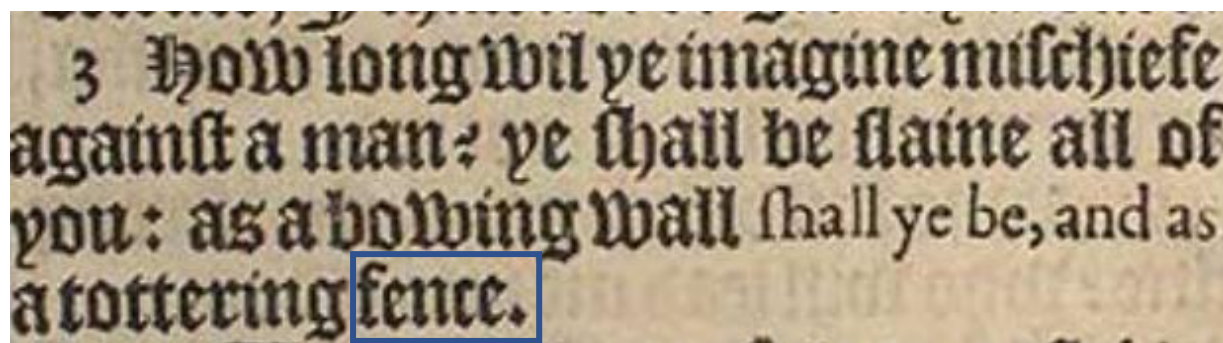
- Bod 1602 reads as follows according to the annotations found therein. Please note that the blue annotations represent those confirmable emendations via Jacobs' essay, he only commented on the final clause of the verse. The red markings represent changes that were made to the 1602 Bishops' text by the King James translators at some point in the process. We cannot know, because of limited access to Bod 1602, if they were noted in Bodleian Bible or represent later revisions made by the General Meeting.

**3 How long will yee imagine mischief against ~~every~~ man: ye shall be flaine all ~~the fort~~ of you, yea as a <sup>bowing</sup> ~~tottering~~ wall shall yee be, and <sup>as</sup> ~~like~~ a ~~broken~~ hedge.**

Bishops' Bible, emended through annotation to read:

... Yea as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering hedge.

- The 1611 A.V. reads



3 How long wil ye imagine mischief against a man: ye shall be flaine all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.

- By following the annotations marked in blue we can see that the Final Review Committee at Stationers Hall accepted the following revisions into the AV as emended by Bod 1602:
  - Changed “tottering” to “bowing”
  - Changed “like” to “as”
  - Changed “broken” to “tottering”

- A careful reading will note that the Final Review Committee made two additional changes to the verse not noted in Bod 1602. The word “yea” is removed in the AV from the clause “yea as a bowing wall.” In addition, the word “hedge” at the end of the verse was changed to “fence” in the AV. No other pre-1611 English Bible contains the word “fence” at the end of Psalms 62:3. It was a final revision made at the General Meeting.

*Song of Solomon 3:2*

- The following is an image of the reading found in the 1602 Bishops’ Bible.

**I will get vp, thought I, <sup>b</sup> and  
goe about the city, in the wayes in all the streets  
will I seeke him whom my soule loueth : but  
when I sought him, I found him not.**

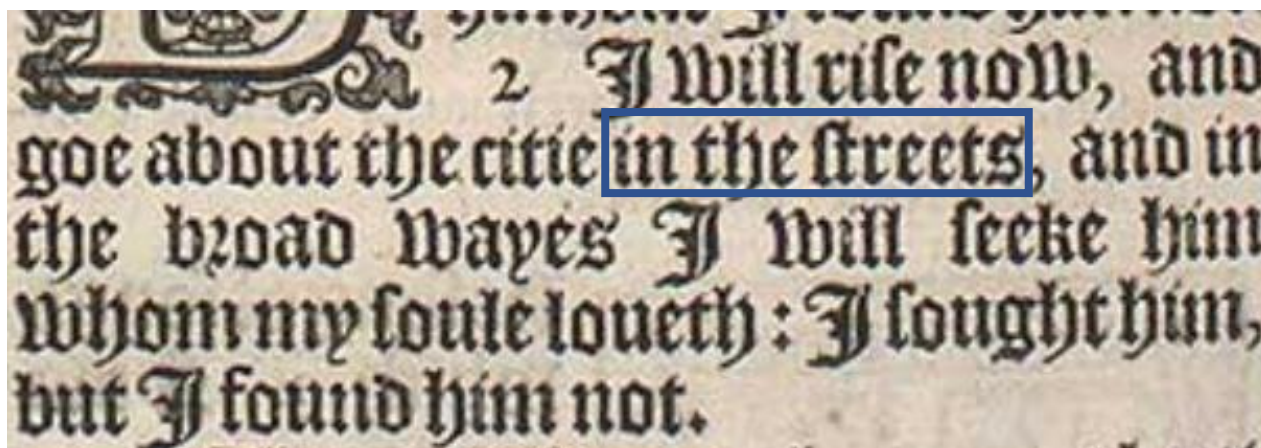
- In the image below readers can view the verse as emended by the annotations in Bod 1602. Once again, the blue markings represent the emendations found in Bod 1602, according to Dr. Jacobs. The red markings note changes made to the 1602 Bishops’ Bible by the King James translators the timing of which is not clear because they are not noted by Dr. Jacobs. Therefore, we cannot know for certain if they were noted in Bod 1602 or made by the General Meeting.

**I will <sup>rise now</sup> get vp, thought I, <sup>b</sup> and  
goe about the city, <sup>and</sup> in the <sup>broade</sup> wayes in all the streets  
<sup>I will</sup> will I seeke him whom my soule loueth : ~~but~~  
~~when~~ I sought him, <sup>but</sup> I found him not.**

Bishops; Bible, emended through annotations to read:

2) I will rise now, and go about the city, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: . . .

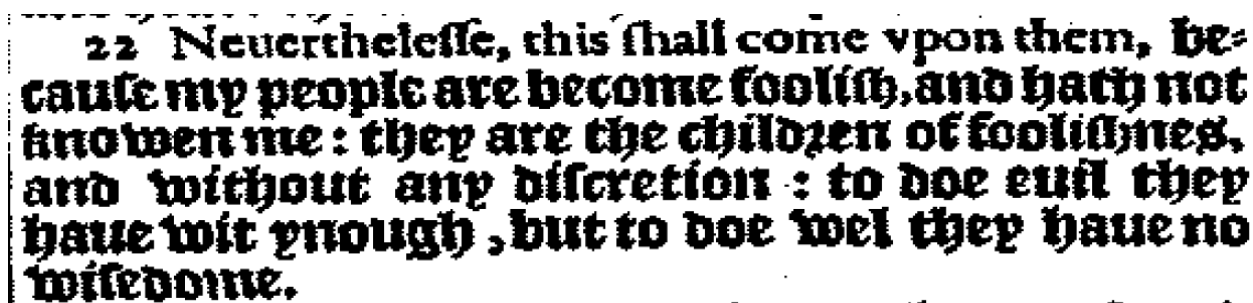
- The 1611 AV reads as follows at Song of Solomon 3:2.



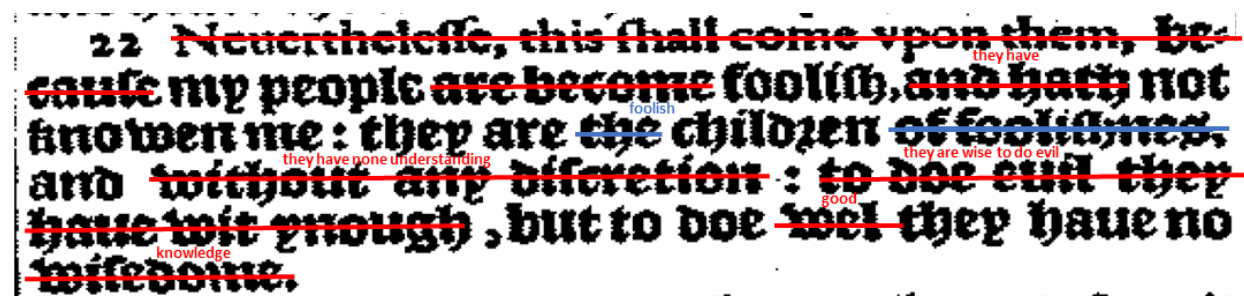
- Careful comparison reveals that the AV accepts all the emendations noted in Bod 1602 with one noticeable addition. The Final Review Committee added the phrase “in the streets” as part of its final revision work.

#### Jeremiah 4:22

- The following is an image of the reading found in the 1602 Bishops' Bible.



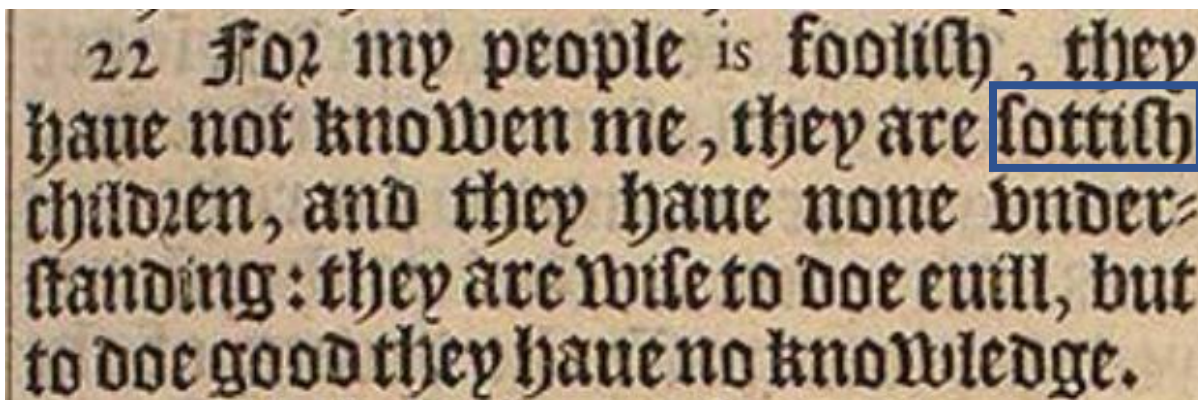
- 1602 Bishops' reads as follows. The red and blue markings are consistent with the comments made above in the previous two examples. Dr. Jacobs only commented on the emendations noted in blue.



Bishops Bible, emended through annotations to read:

22) . . . they are foolish children, . . .

- Here is the 1611 AV reading.



- The final revisers at the General Meeting changed “foolish” in Bod 1602 to “sottish” in the A.V. No other pre-1611 English Bible reads “sottish” in this verse.

#### *Summary Statements of Jacobs*

- After discussing this class or category of emendations, Dr. Jacobs offers the following summary statements:
  - “The first observation evident for a study of these collated verses in Class II is that the emended and the A.V. readings do not agree with each other. Neither do the first two of the emended readings agree with any earlier readings of this verse. The emended readings do not then represent a collation effort between the Bishops’ Bible and the A.V. or between the Bishops’ Bible and an earlier English Bible.” (Jacobs, 13)
- This class of emendations is discussed in more detail in Dr. Jacobs unpublished doctoral dissertation.
  - “The second class of emended readings found within the annotated portions of the Old Testament of this Bishops' Bible, 1602, consists of those annotated or unannotated verses that are not completely accepted by the A. V. text, 1611. There is some variation between these emended readings and the corresponding A. V. readings which suggests that later translation work was performed after the work evident in the annotated portions of the Old Testament. Because these variations, however, amount to probably no more than five to ten percent of all the emended verses, it is quite possible to account for these differences as the work of the Committee of Final Review in London, who, upon receiving the work here recorded in the Old Testament, checked it carefully, and found it wanting in some five to ten percent of its revisions. Upon the nature and validity of the readings in this class rests the thesis that these annotations reveal the King James translators at work in a late stage of their translation efforts.” (Jacobs, *Bodliean*, 63-64)
- In addition to the two classes of annotations discussed in this Lesson and Lesson 172, Dr. Jacobs mentions three additional “subclasses within Class II” at the end of his essay. The number of emendations found in Bod 1602 for each of these three classifications is very small—probably less

than 5%. Consequently, we will pass over them in favor of noting Professor Jacobs' closing and summative remarks.

- “. . .The sheer bulk of the annotated portions of this Old Testament, their relationship to the A.V., and the historical fact that four companies of translators labored on the Old Testament and Apocrypha lead to the conclusion that the Old Testament annotator has recorded the nearly final results of many men's labor. These Old Testament annotations might well have served, I think, as one of the master copies of the completed translation work which the translators sent to London and from which the Committee of Final Review made the final corrections. But whether or not I am correct on this last point, this annotated Bishops' Bible is a record of the King James translators' work at some late stage just before it was forwarded to the Committee.” (Jacobs, 15)
- In 1980, Dr. Jacobs published a second essay for *The Library* titled “Two Stages of Old Testament Translation for the King James Bible” in which he expanded on his arguments from his 1975 publication. Regarding his earlier work Jacobs stated:
  - “This Bible has copious handwritten annotations throughout much of the Old and New Testaments. Scholars had long considered these annotations of little value, but Professor Allen thought otherwise. Under his direction, I studied the Old Testament while he studied the New Testament. My published conclusions argue that the Old Testament annotations represent a valid record of a large portion of the work of the Old Testament translators as it existed in its finished state before it was sent to the General Meeting for final review. I based such conclusions on three sorts of evidence: the bibliographical state of the Bible; the annotator's hand and method; and textual collation of the annotations with the King James Bible and earlier English translations.” (Jacobs, “Two Stages,” 17)
- In summation, there is a direct and strong linkage between Bod 1602 and the King James Bible. Ninety percent of the annotated and unannotated verses found in Bod 1602 cohere exactly with a 1611 King James Bible. A remaining five to ten percent of the readings amended in Bod 1602 exhibit further revision in the A.V. In these cases, the emendations exhibit the choices of the General Meeting during the final stage of the work.
- In the next Lesson we will consider the additional findings of Dr. Jacobs as published in his 1980 essay.

### Works Cited

Jacobs, Edward C. *A Bodleian Bishops' Bible, 1602 (Bib. Eng. 1602 b.1): A Preliminary Study of the Old Testament Annotations And Their Relationship to the Authorized Version, 1611*. Auburn University, 1972.

Jacobs, Edward C. "An Old Testament Copytext for the 1611 Bible" in *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*. Vol. 69 No. 1, 1975.

Jacobs, Edward C. "Two Stages of Old Testament Translation for the King James Bible" in *The Library* Vol. s6-11, Issue 1, March 1980.