

Sunday, October 29, 2023—Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*
 Lesson 214 The AV 1611: Examining The Marginal Notes (Complete & Partial Verse Rewrites)

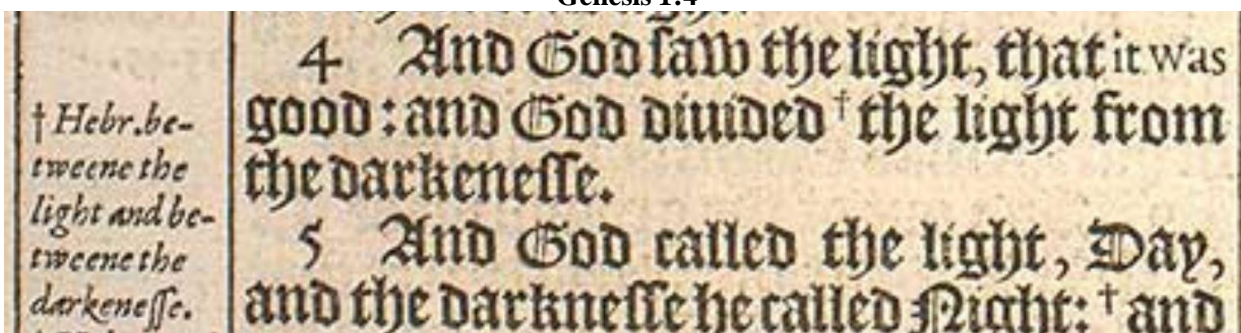
Introduction

- In [Lesson 212](#) we surveyed a couple different approaches or understandings of the marginal notes found in the AV of 1611. After reviewing the content of previous Lessons regarding the marginal notes, we discussed new material under the heading “Types of Marginal Notes.” Using the report that translator Samuel Ward gave to the Synod of Dort in 1618, we presented the following breakdown:
 - † = literal translations
 - “Fourthly, the more difficult Hebraisms and Graecisms were consigned to the margin.” (Pollard, 339)
 - || = alternative English renderings
 - “Thirdly, where a Hebrew or Greek word admits two meanings of a suitable kind, the one was to be expressed in the text, the other in the margin. The same to be done where a different reading was found in good copies [Caution needs to be exercised when it comes to this second category identified by Samuel Ward. First, the number of marginal notes that fit this category is very small. Second, the King James translators noting variant readings in their Reformation Era source texts is not the same thing as the modern practice of Textual Criticism.]” (Pollard, 339)
 - * = cross references
 - “Secondly, no notes were to be placed in the margin, but only parallel passages to be noted.” (Pollard, 339)
- In this Lesson we want to consider examples of the footnotes found in the AV. I would like to begin by surveying two chapters, one from each Testament, in which the marginal notes are particularly dense. I have chosen Genesis 1 and Romans 1 for the purposes of this exercise. Secondly, we want to look at verses that are completely rewritten in the marginal notes. Thirdly (in the next Lesson), we will look at marginal notes that could be indicative of textual variants in the source texts used by the King James translators. Lastly, we will consider random marginal notes of interest. For each example, I have included a screenshot from the 1611 along with a modern spelling transcription underneath each image. All told, we will consider the following categories:
 - Old Testament Sample Chapter: Genesis 1
 - New Testament Sample Chapter: Romans 1
 - Marginal Verse Rewrites
 - Complete Verse Rewrites

- Partial Verse Rewrites
 - Textual Variants/Alternative Textual Readings
 - Other Notes of Interest
- Please note that for the purposes of this study we are not looking at any of the “cross references” marked with an *.

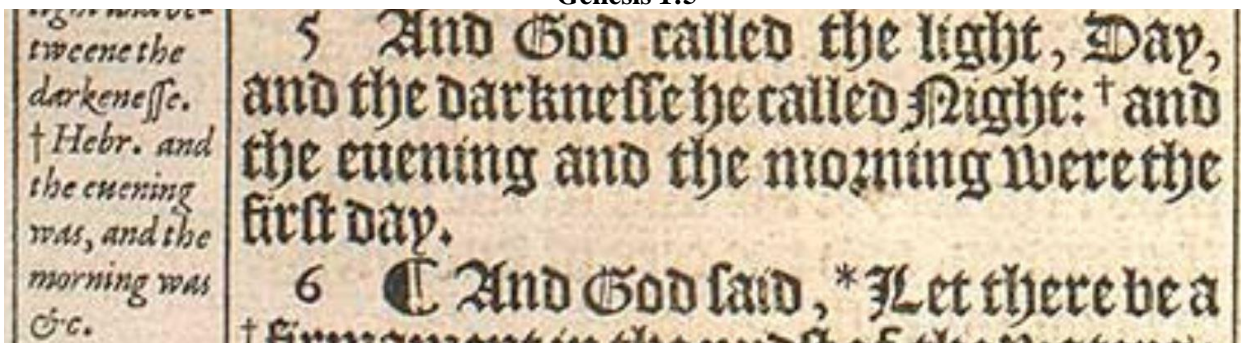
Old Testament Sample Chapter: Genesis 1

Genesis 1:4



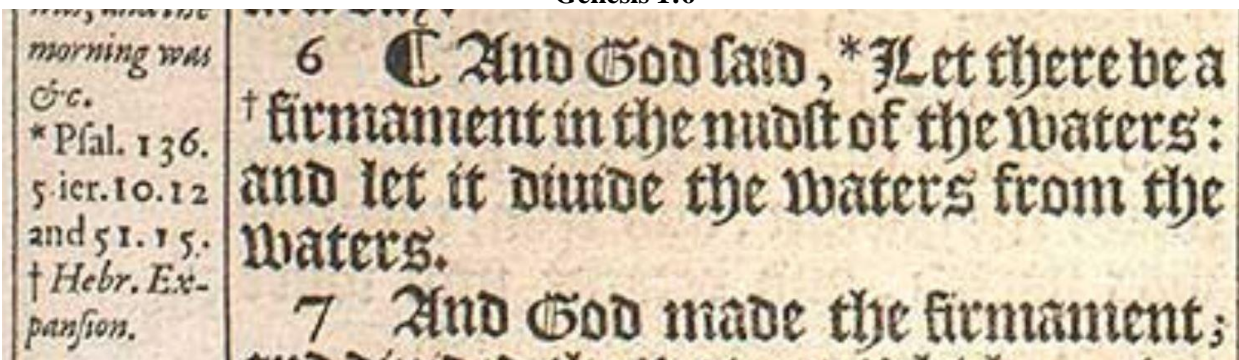
- Genesis 1:4—divided † the light from the darkness: † Heb. between the light and between the darkness.

Genesis 1:5



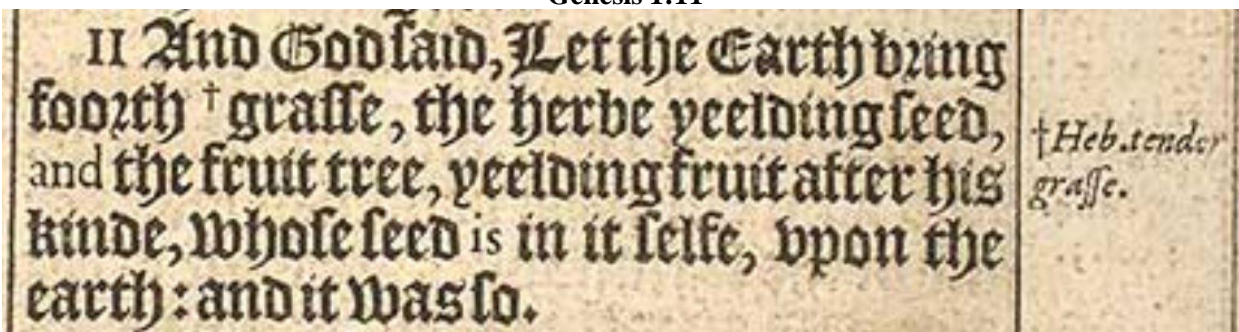
- Genesis 1:5—† and the evening and the morning were the first day: † Heb. And the evening was, and the morning was etc.

Genesis 1:6



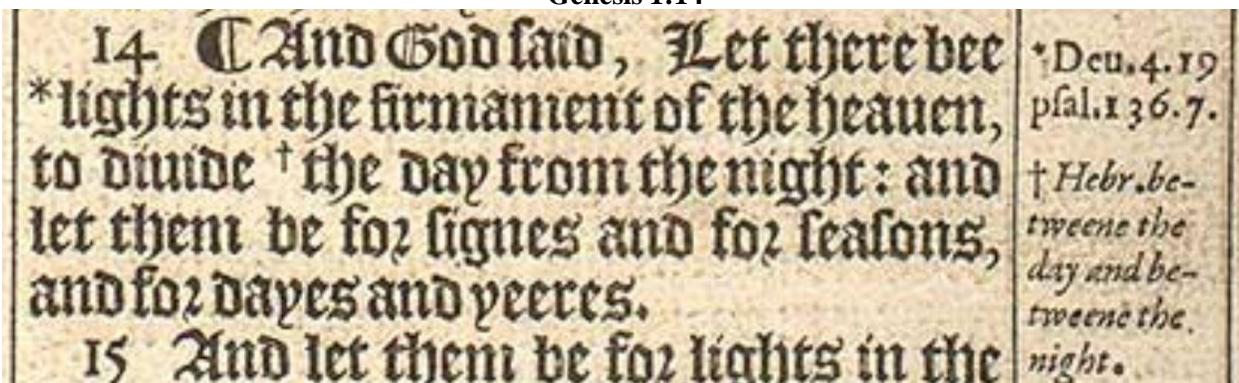
- Genesis 1:6—† firmament: † Heb. Expansion.

Genesis 1:11



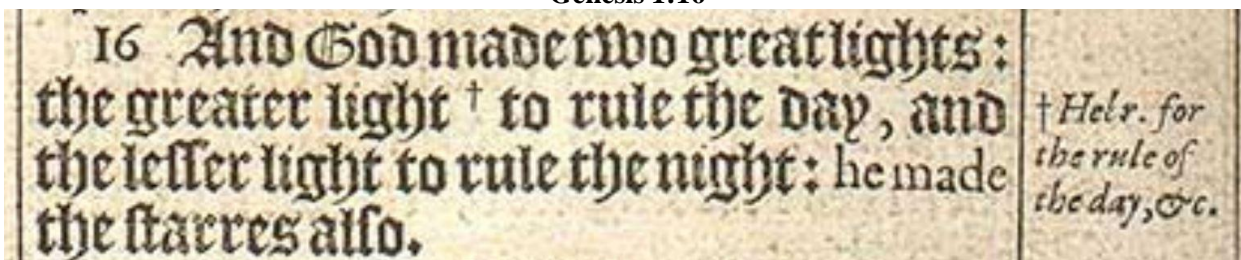
- Genesis 1:11—† grass: † Heb. tender grass.

Genesis 1:14



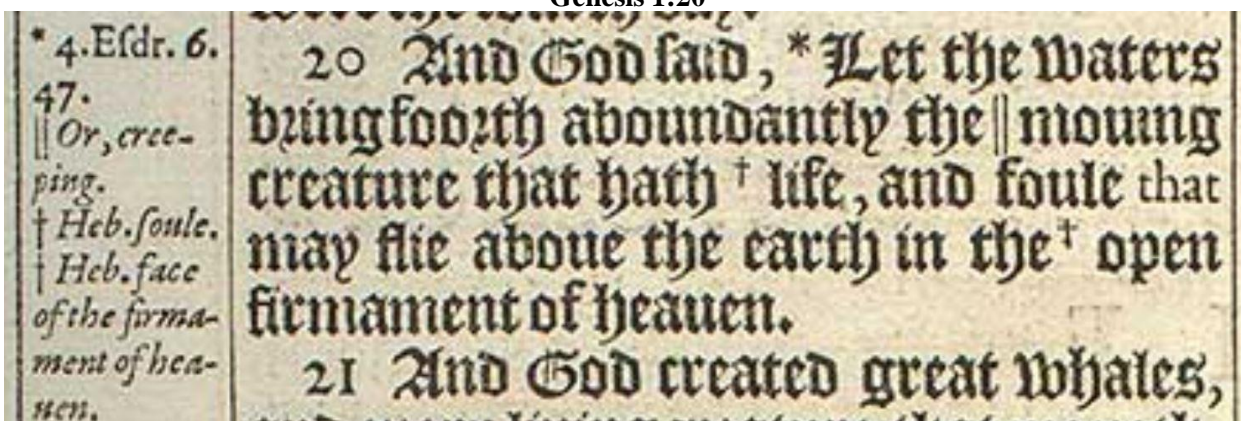
- Genesis 1:14—† the day from the night: † Heb. between the day and between the night.

Genesis 1:16



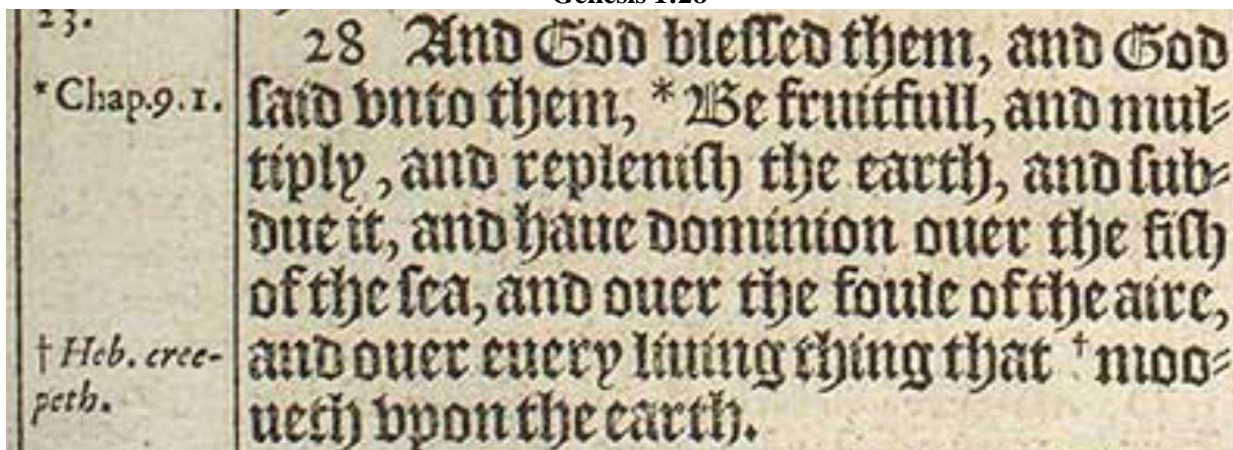
- Genesis 1:16—† to rule the day: † Heb. for the rule of the day, etc.

Genesis 1:20



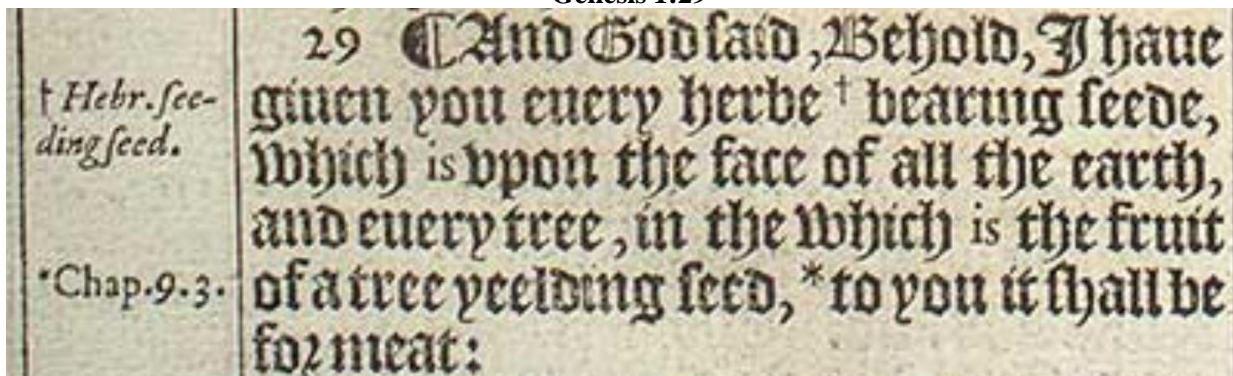
- Genesis 1:20—|| moving: || Or, creeping.
- Genesis 1:20—† life: † Heb. soul.
- Genesis 1:20—† open firmament of heaven: † face of the firmament of heaven.

Genesis 1:28



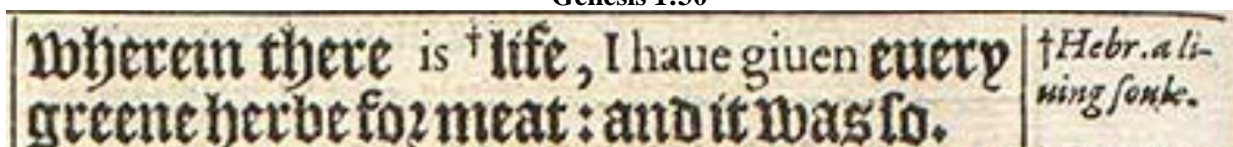
- Genesis 1:28—† moveth: † Heb. creepeth.

Genesis 1:29



- Genesis 1:29—† bearing seed: † Heb. seeding seed.

Genesis 1:30



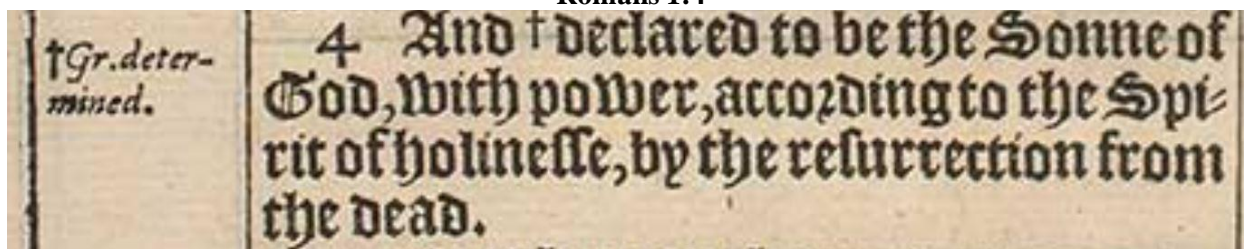
- Genesis 1:30—† life: † Heb. a living soul.

Analysis

- All told there are 12 marginal notes found in Genesis 1. The breakdown is as follows:
 - 11 Literal Hebrew Translations (†)—Gen. 1:4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 16, 20(2x), 28, 29, & 30
 - 1 Alternative English Rendering (||)—Gen. 1:20

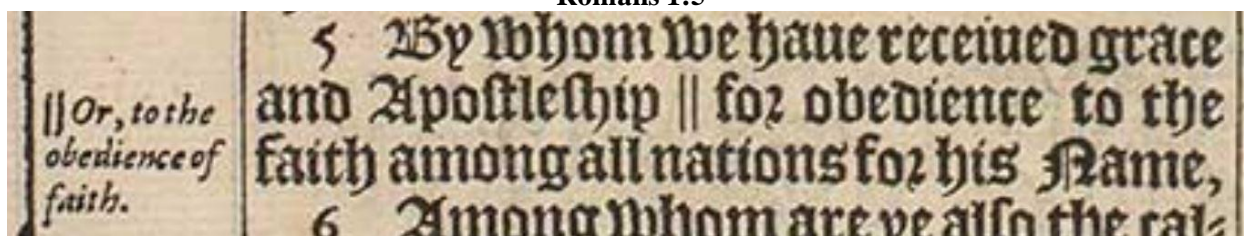
New Testament Sample Chapter: Romans 1

Romans 1:4



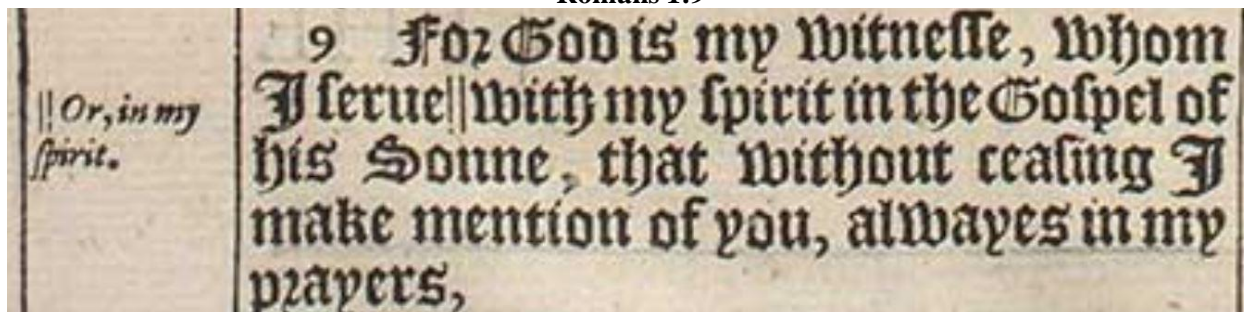
- Romans 1:4—† declared: † Gr. Determined.

Romans 1:5



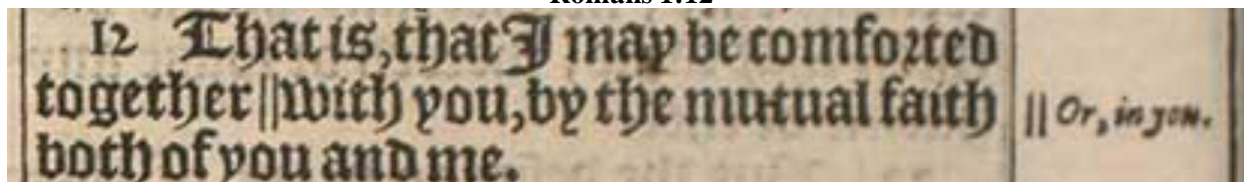
- Romans 1:5—|| for obedience to the faith: || Or, to the obedience of faith.

Romans 1:9



- Romans 1:9—|| with my spirit: || Or, in my spirit.

Romans 1:12



- Romans 1:12—|| with you: || Or, in you.

Romans 1:13

13 Now I would not haue you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come vnto you, (but was let hitherto) that I might haue some fruit || among you also, euen as among other Gentiles. || Or, in you.

- Romans 1:13—|| among you: || Or, in you.

Romans 1:19

19 Because that which may bee knowen of God, is manifest in || them, || Or, to them. for God hath shewed it vnto them.

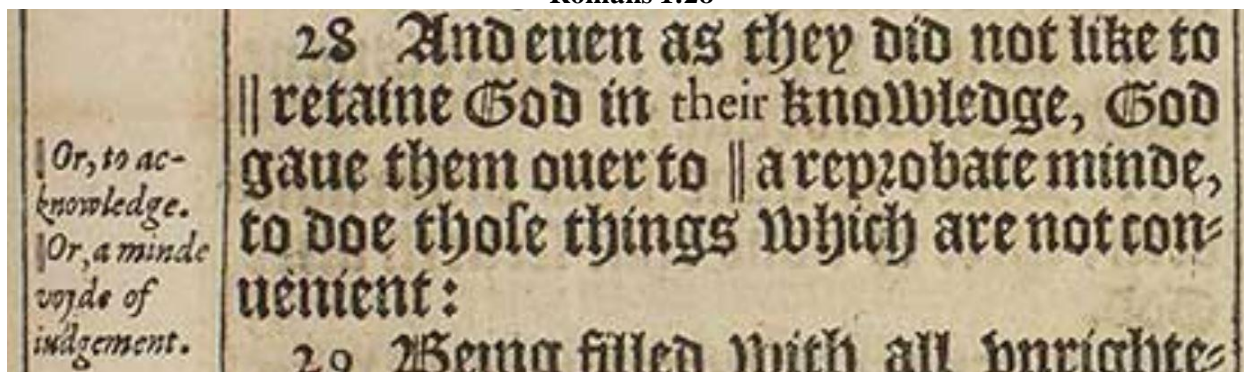
- Romans 1:19—|| in them: || Or, to them.

Romans 1:20

20 For the inuisible things of him from the Creation of the world, are clearely seene, being vnderstood by the things that are made, euen his eternall Power and Godhead, || so that they are Without excuse: || Or, that they may be.

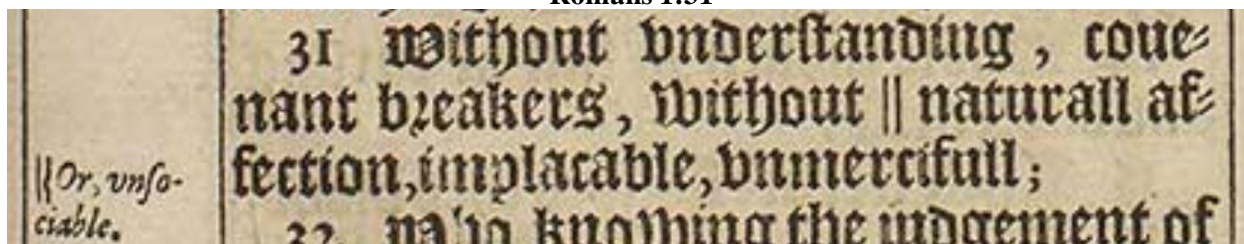
- Romans 1:20—|| so that they are: || Or, that they may be.

Romans 1:28



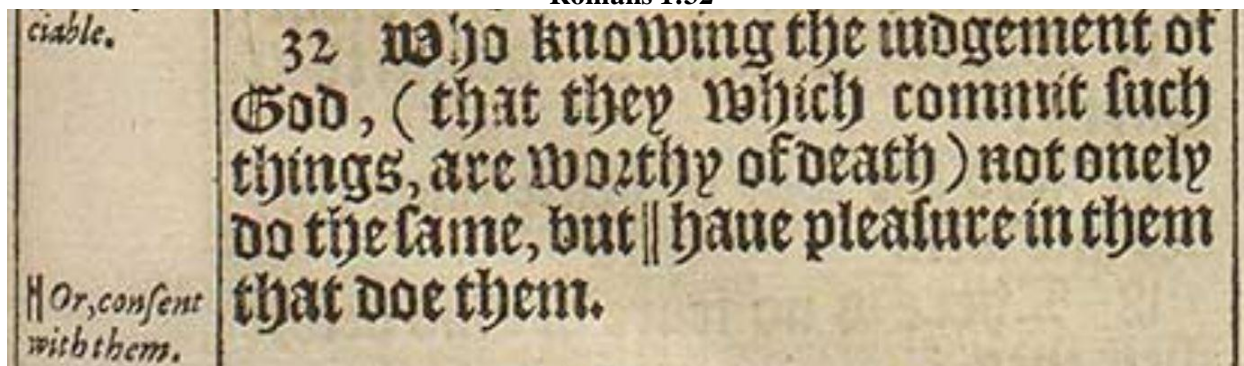
- Romans 1:28—|| to retain: || Or, to acknowledge.
- Romans 1:28—|| a reprobate mind: || Or, a mind void of judgment.

Romans 1:31



- Romans 1:31—|| without natural: || Or, unsociable.

Romans 1:32



- Romans 1:32—|| have pleasure in them: || Or, consent with them.

Analysis

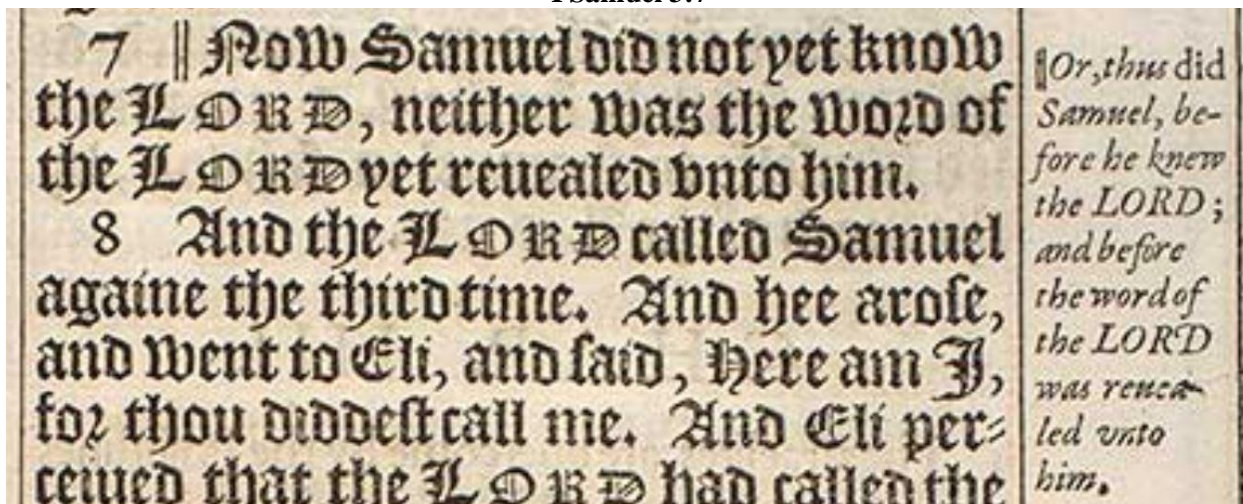
- All told there are 12 marginal notes found in Romans 1. The breakdown is as follows:
 - 1 Literal Greek Translation (†)—Rom. 1:4
 - 10 Alternative English Renderings (||)—Rom. 1:5, 9, 12, 13, 19, 20, 28 (2x), 31, 32

Marginal Verse Rewrites

- Calvin George’s article “[An Exhaustive Listing Of The Marginal Notes Of The 1611 Edition Of The King James Bible](#)” on the *Literatura Bautista* website notes that, “at least 9 entire verses were rewritten in marginal notes,” while failing to provide a list of examples. Our friend and fellow researcher Alex Hanna provided me with a list of examples in two categories: 1) complete verse rewrites and 2) partial verse rewrites i.e., verses with a large portion rewritten in the margin. In working with Brother Hanna, we have determined that there are 12 entire verses that were rewritten in the marginal notes of the 1611. In addition, there are 8 verses for which a significant portion of the verse was rewritten in the margin. Please consider the following two categories of examples along with some accompanying analysis:
 - Complete Verse Rewrites
 - Partial Verse Rewrites

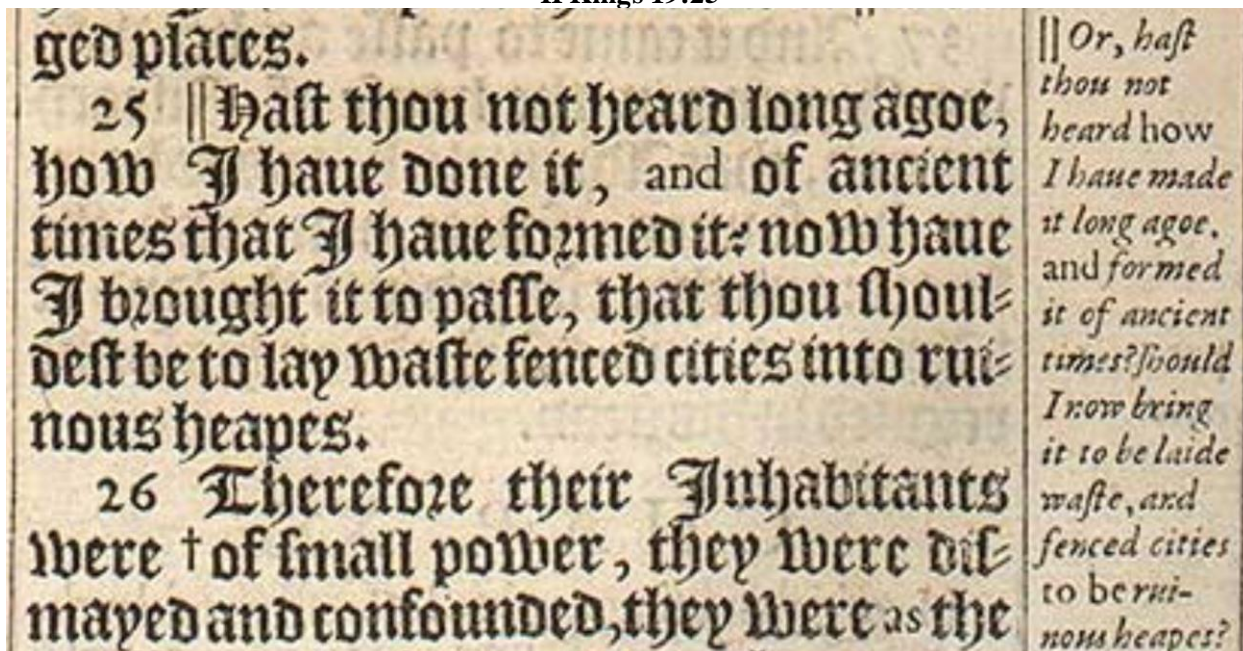
Complete Verse Rewrites

I Samuel 3:7



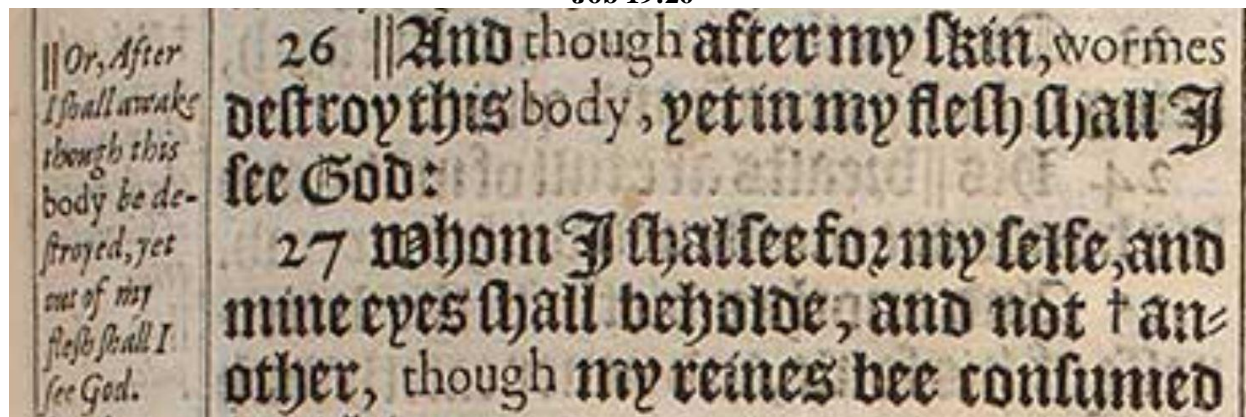
- 1 Samuel 3:7—|| Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him: || Or, thus did Samuel, before he knew the LORD; and before the word of the LORD was revealed unto him.
 - Geneva Reading— Thus did Samuel, before he knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed unto him.

II Kings 19:25



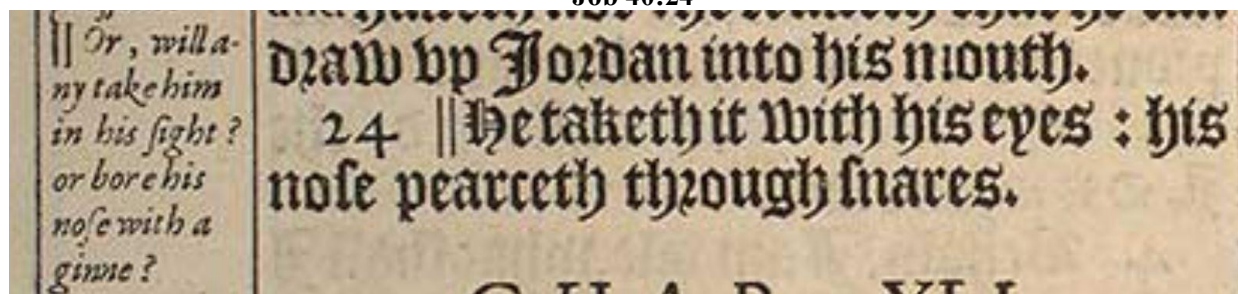
- 2 Kings 19:25—|| Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps: || Or, Hast thou not heard how I have made it long ago, and formed it of ancient times? Should I now bring it to be laid waste, and fenced cities to be ruinous heaps?

Job 19:26



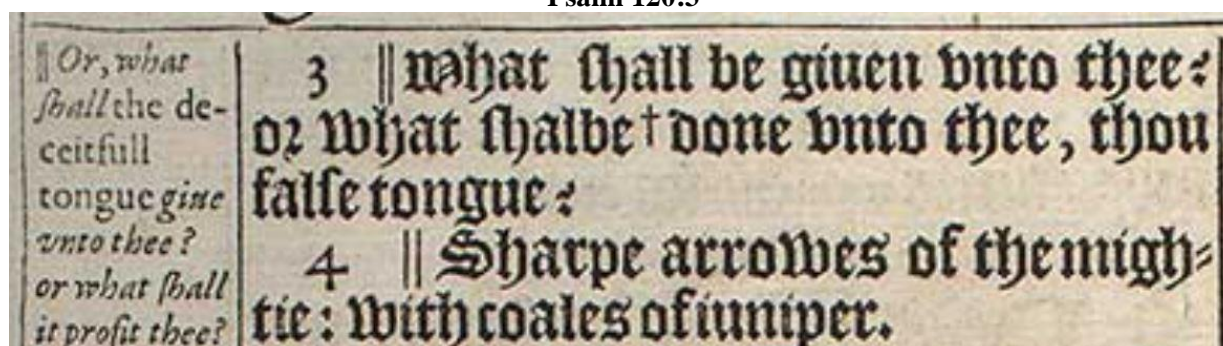
- Job 19:26—|| And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: || Or, After I shall awake though this body be destroyed, yet out of my flesh shall I see God.

Job 40:24



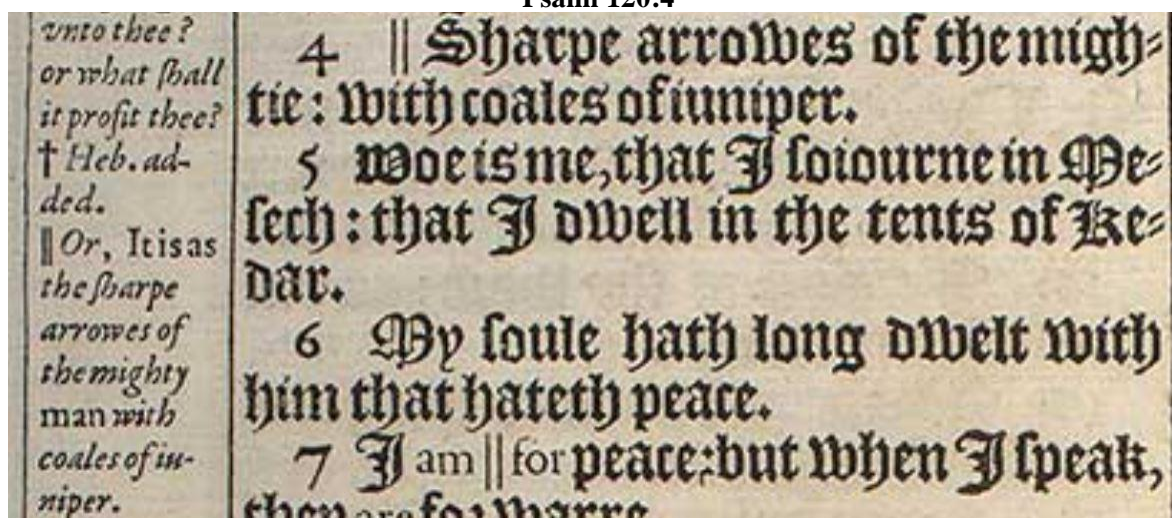
- Job 40:24—|| He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares: || Or, will any take him in his sight? Or bore his nose with a ginne?

Psalm 120:3



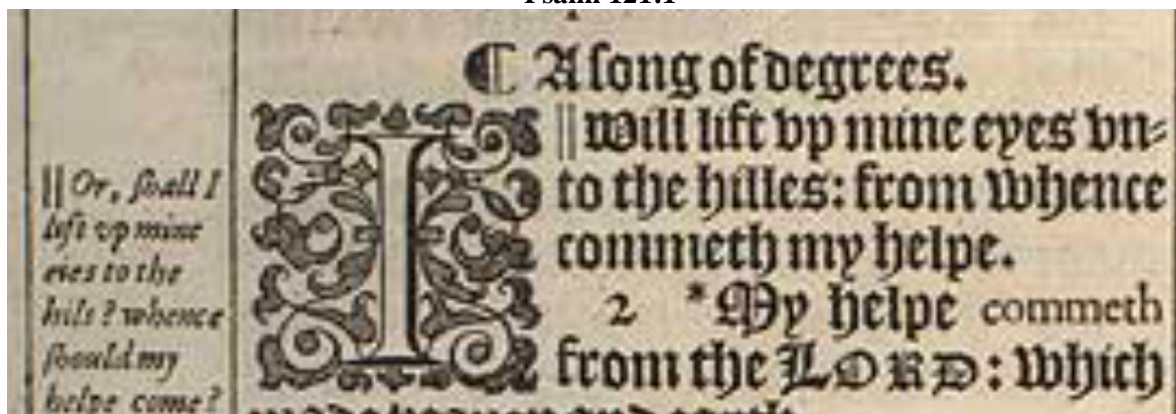
- Psalm 120:3—|| What shall be given unto thee? Or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue: || Or, what shall the deceitful tongue give unto thee? or what shall it profit thee?

Psalm 120:4



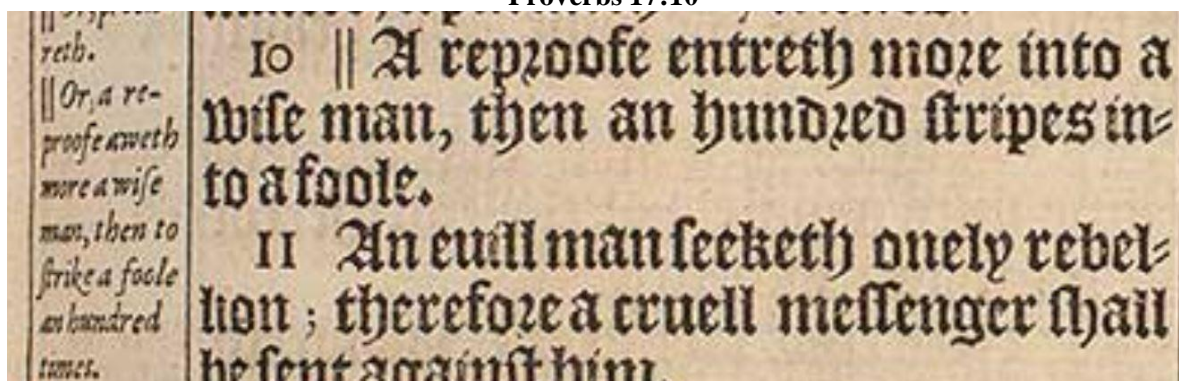
- Psalm 120:4—|| Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper: || Or, It is as the sharp arrows of the mighty man with coals of juniper.

Psalm 121:1



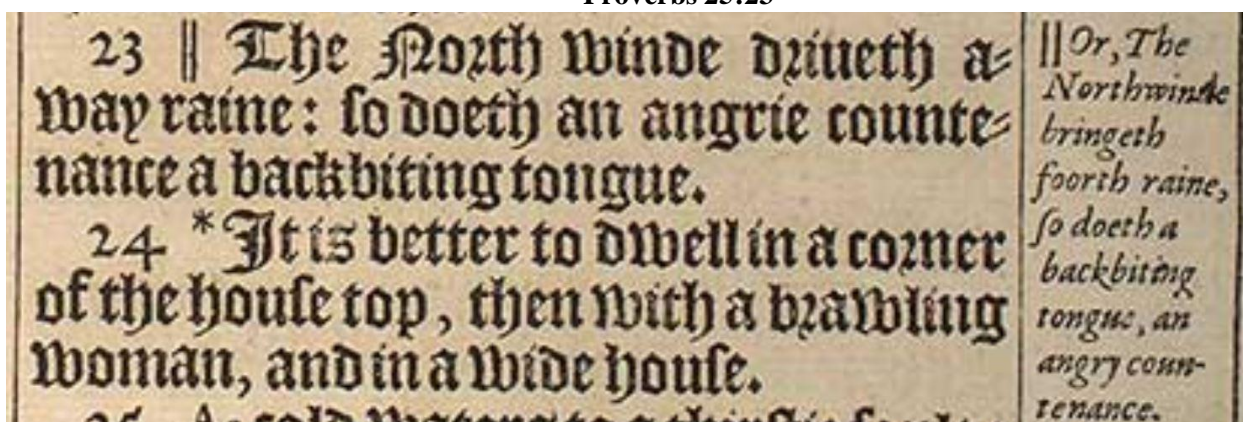
- Psalm 121:1—|| I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help: || Or, shall I lift up mine eyes to the hills? whence should my help come?

Proverbs 17:10



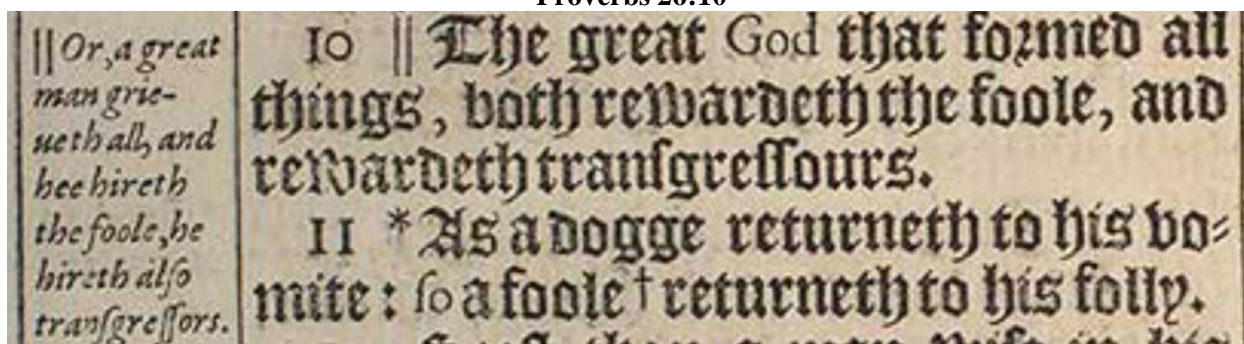
- Proverbs 17:10—|| A reproof entereth more into a wise man, than an hundred stripes into a fool: || Or, a reproof aweth more a wise man, then to strike a fool an hundred times.

Proverbs 25:23



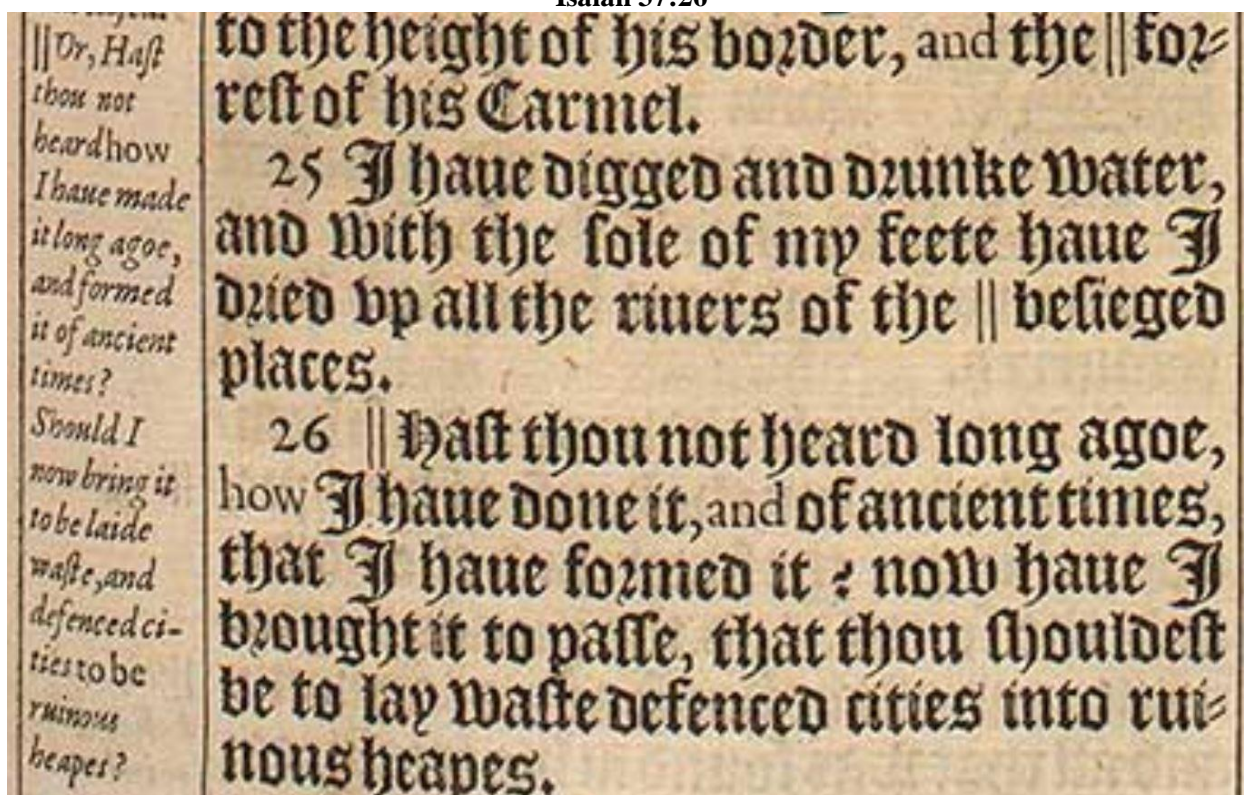
- Proverbs 25:23—|| The North wind driveth away rain, so doeth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue: || Or, The North wind bringeth forth rain, so doeth a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.

Proverbs 26:10



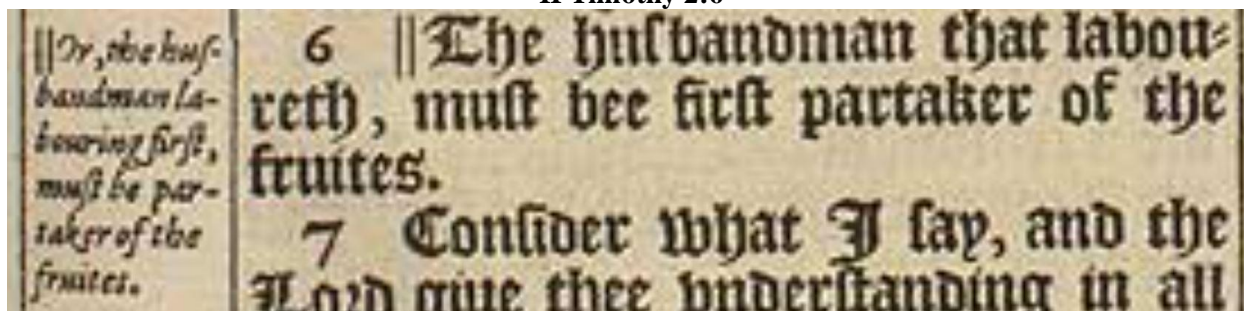
- Proverbs 26:10—|| The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors: || Or, a great man grieveth all, and he hireth the fool, he hireth also transgressors.

Isaiah 37:26



- Isaiah 37:26—|| Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps: || Or, Hast thou not heard how I have made it long ago, and formed it of ancient times? Should I now bring it to be laid waste, and defenced cities to be ruinous heaps?

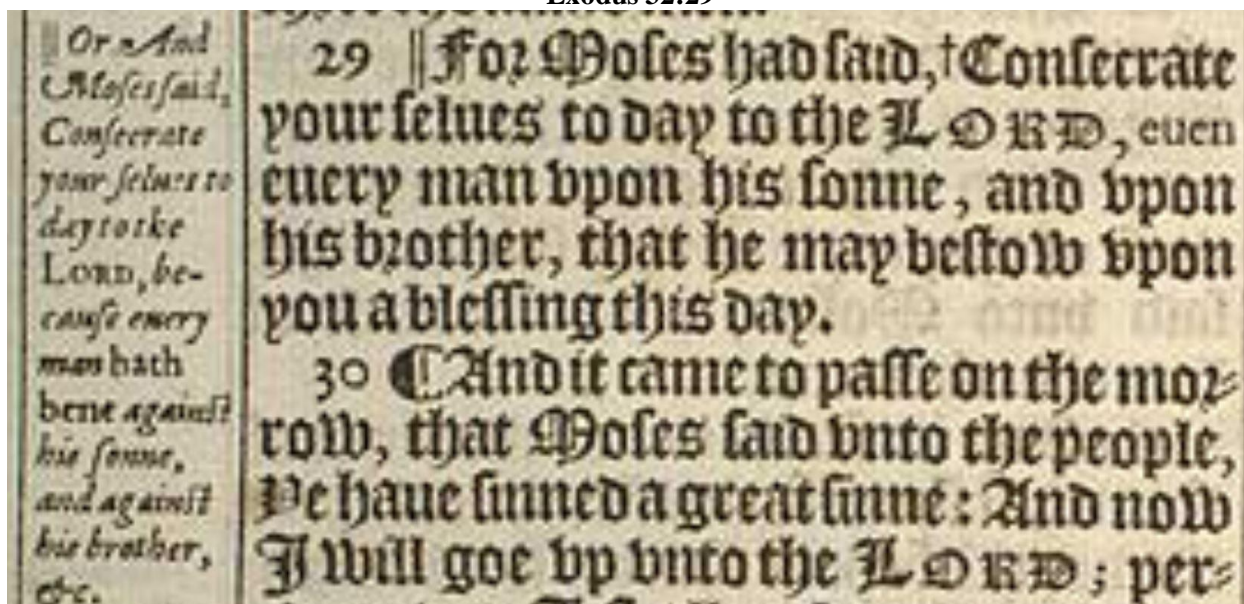
II Timothy 2:6



- II Timothy 2:6—|| The husbandman that laboureth, must be first partaker of the fruits: || Or, the husbandman laboring first must be partaker of the fruits.

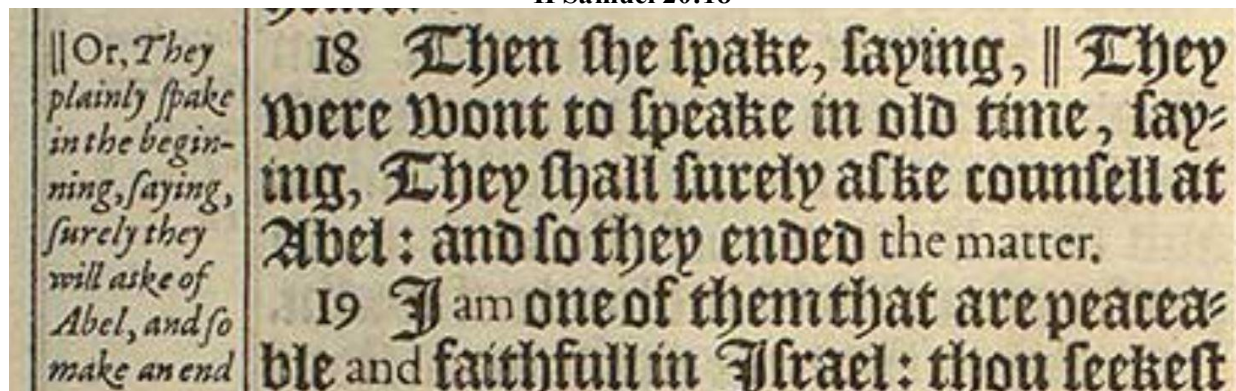
Partial Verse Rewrites

Exodus 32:29



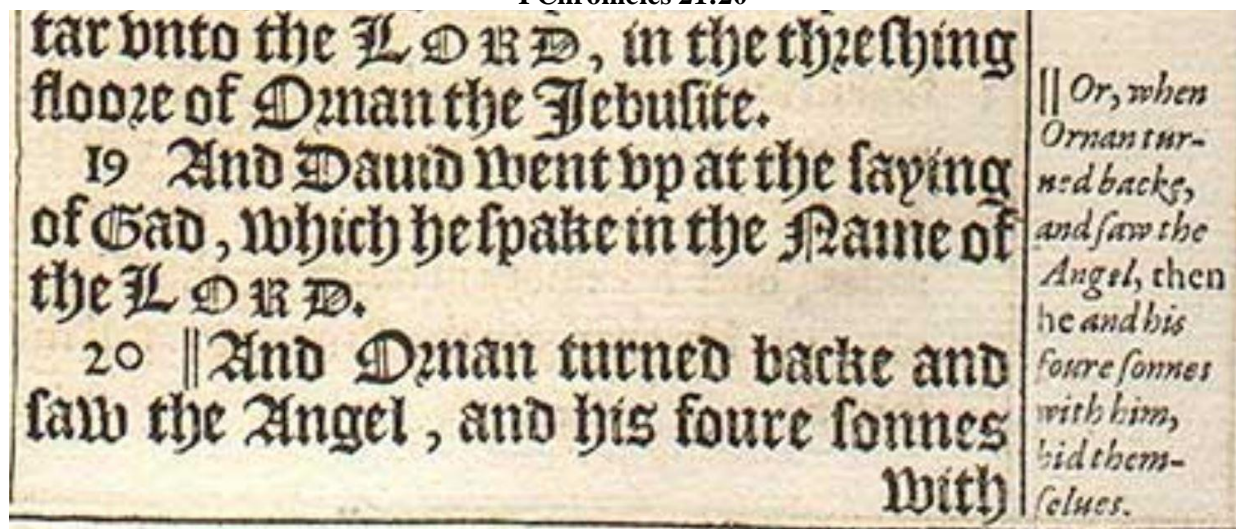
- Exodus 32:29—|| For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother: || Or, And Moses said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, because every man hath been against his son, and against his brother, etc.

II Samuel 20:18



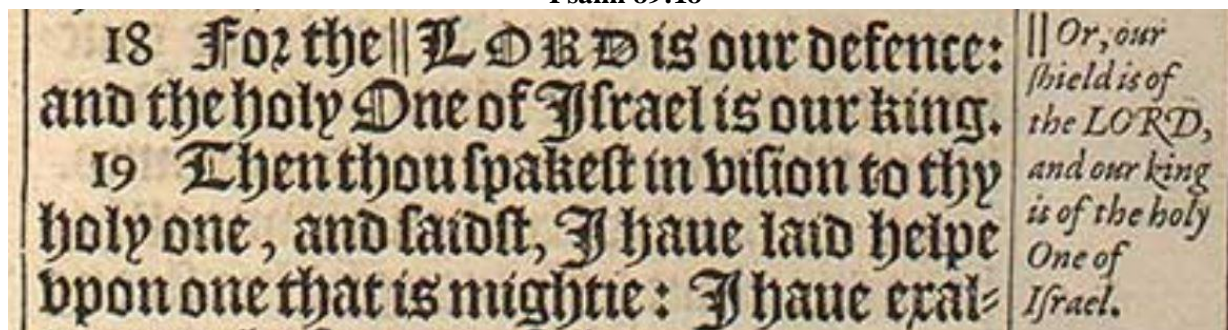
- II Samuel 20:18—|| They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter: || Or, they plainly spake in the beginning, saying, surely they will ask of Abel; and so make an end.

I Chronicles 21:20



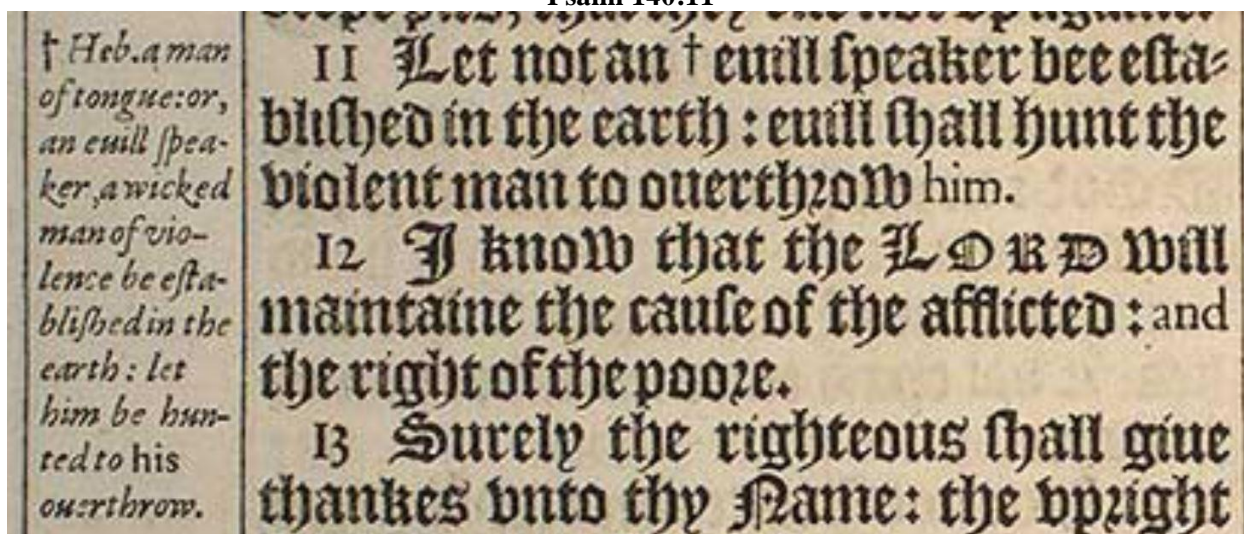
- 1 Chronicles 21:20—|| And Ornan turned back and saw the Angel, and his four sons with him hid themselves: || Or, When Ornan turned back, and saw the Angel, then he and his four sons with him, hid themselves.

Psalm 89:18



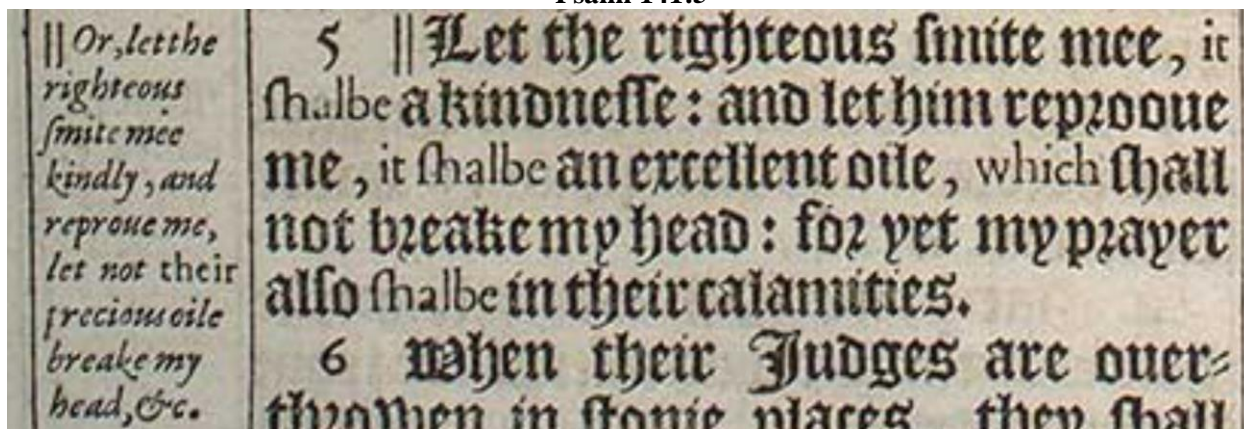
- Psalm 89:18—|| the LORD is our defense, and the holy One of Israel is our king: || Or, our shield is of the LORD, and our king is of the holy One of Israel.

Psalm 140:11



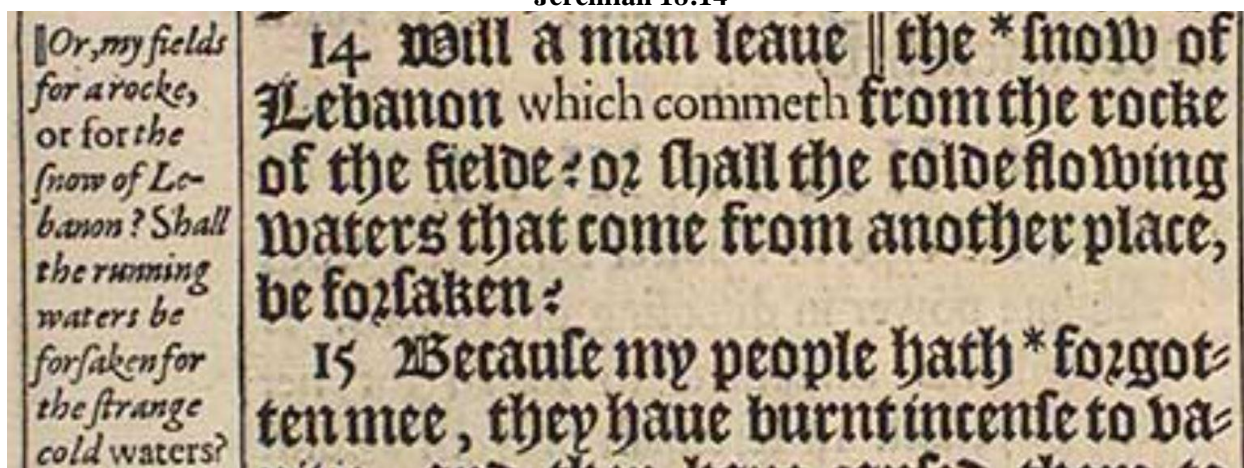
- Psalm 140:11—† evil speaker be established in the earth, evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him: † Heb. a man of tongue, or, an evil speaker, a wicked man of violence be established in the earth, let him be hunted to his overthrow.

Psalm 141:5



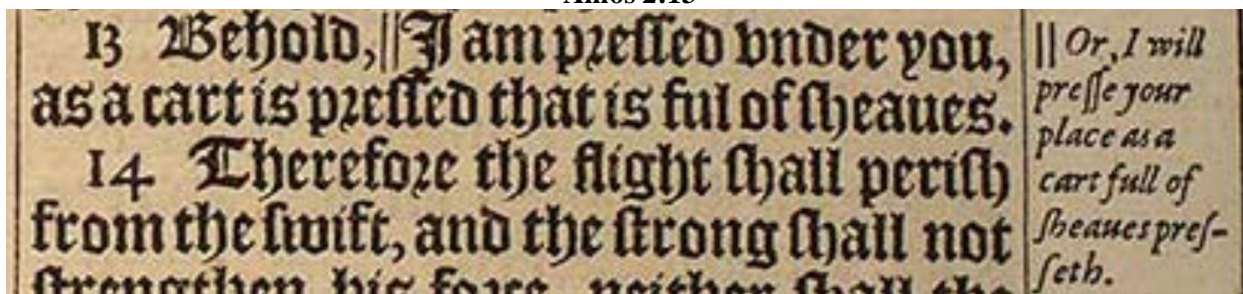
- Psalm 141:5—|| Let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: || Or, let the righteous smite me kindly, and reprove me, let not their precious oil break my head, etc.

Jeremiah 18:14



- Jeremiah 18:14—|| the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? Or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken: || Or, my fields for a rock, or for the snow of Lebanon? Shall the running waters be forsaken for the strange cold waters?

Amos 2:13



- Amos 2:13—|| I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves: || Or, I will press your place as a cart full of sheaves presseth.

Analysis:

- The above subsections surveyed 20 verses for which there was a complete or partial alternative English phrasing provided in the margin of the 1611 by the King James translators. Consider the following statistics regarding these findings:

	# Of Verses	
OT	23,145	
NT	7,957	
Total	31,102	
		% Of Total Verses
Total Marginal Rewrites	12	0.039%
Partial Marginal Rewrites	8	0.026%
Total + Partial	20	0.064%
		% Of OT Verses
OT Total Marginal Rewrites	11	0.05%
OT Partial Marginal Rewrites	8	0.03%
		% Of NT Verses
NT Total Marginal Rewrites	1	0.01%
NT Partial Marginal Rewrites	0	0.00%

- Many thanks to Alex Hanna for providing the totals recorded in the table above. In summation, there are a total of 20 verses out of a total of 31,102 in the canonical text for which there are total or partial rewrites in the margins of the AV. This equates to only 0.064% of the text.
- While not possessing *verbatim identity of wording* the vast majority of the alternative English phrasings found in the margins of the AV rarely contain meaningful substantive differences with the main body of the text. A few examples are not as clear-cut and require further study to make a definitive determination.
- In the case of I Samuel 3:7 the alternative English translation provided in the margin of the 1611 is an identical match with the Geneva Bible. After checking all 20 of the verses presented above against prior English Bibles, I Samuel 3:7 was the only one that was an identical match. That said, some were very similar in sense and structure to the Geneva Bible (Ps. 120:3, 4) while

possessing synonymous word changes. Our friend and fellow researcher Christopher Yetzer checked some of the 20 marginal notes identified above against a range of other potential sources and uncovered possible influences upon the King James translators from the Italian, French, Syriac, and LXX translations as well as the Book of Common Prayer which included Coverdale's rendering of the Psalms. While more work needs to be done to corroborate Brother Yetzer's preliminary findings, their ultimate veracity would not be surprising given the following statement from Myles Smith in the Preface:

- “Neither did we think much to consult the Translators or Commentators, Chaldee, Hebrew, Syrian, Greek or Latin, no nor the Spanish, French, Italian, or Dutch; neither did we disdain to revise that which we had done, and to bring back to the anvil that which we had hammered: but having and using as great helps as were needful, and fearing no reproach for slowness, nor coveting praise for expedition, we have at length, through the good hand of the Lord upon us, brought the work to that pass that you see.”
- In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, it is best to view the main text of the AV as containing the correct reading of choice in the minds of the translators. Put another way, the marginal readings are reflective of the translator's intellectual honesty in noting plausible alternative English translations.
- Given the fact that this only occurs for 20 verses in the entire canonical text, it could reflect verses for which there was some disagreement among the translators as to how the text should read in English. If this is the case, the main text would reflect the consensus of the translators while the margin captures an alternative translation advocated for by the minority. Moreover, in these cases, it seems that marginal readings tend to be more literal translations of the Hebrew and Greek than what is in the main body of the text.
- While there is admittedly a certain amount of speculation in this analysis, what is clear is that the translators used the margin to “show their work” so to speak.

Conclusion

- In the next Lesson we will look at another of the remaining two categories of marginal notes that we did not have time or space to cover in this Lesson.
 - Textual Variants/Alternative Textual Readings

Works Cited

Pollard, Alfred W. *Records of the English Bible: The Documents Relating to the Translation and Publication of the Bible In English, 1525-1611*. Oxford University Press, 1911.