

THE CREATION OF THE KJB

PREPARATION - (1604)

- Monday, 16 Jan. 1604 - James I commissioned a revision of the Bible.
- Richard Bancroft, bishop of London, appointed to supervise.
- Three directors chosen at Westminster, Cambridge, and Oxford.
- 54 translators appointed by 22 July 1604.
- 6 companies organized (Hebrew and Greek teams at each location).
- Rules crafted by Bancroft and James I to guide the process.

STAGE ONE - COMPANY DRAFTWORK (1604-1609)

Each of six companies revise an allotted portion of the Bible.

ELABORATE PROCESS ENVISIONED

- 10, May, 1605 - 40 unbound Bishops' Bibles purchased for translators.
- Translators to bring their own proposed revisions to meetings.
- Companies of 8-9 men met, probably weekly, to go over their texts.
- Some companies sub-divided their work into smaller groups.
- Revisions sent for review, with response from original group.
- Advice sometimes sought from outside consultants.
- Input invited from learned clergymen.
- Several overseers assigned to review the work.
- Companies finished at different times.
- Completed work passed to the General Meeting.

STAGE TWO - GENERAL MEETING (1610)

Twelve men revise the entire Bible at Stationers' Hall.

NINE MONTHS OF FINAL REVISIONS

- Two representatives from each company sent with drafts to Stationers' Hall.
- Three names known - John Harmer, Andrew Downes, & John Bois.
- For nine months in 1610, these 12 revisers worked over the whole Bible.
- John Bois took the only notes (per Anthony Walker) during proceedings.

STAGE THREE - FINISHING TOUCHES (1610-1611)

Several final editors provide finishing touches to the whole text.

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Archbishop Bancroft probably oversaw till before his death in Nov. 1610.
- Miles Smith crafted prefatory material (dedication, preface, etc.).
- Thomas Bilson crafted paratextual material (chapter headings, page headings, etc.).
- The liturgical calendar of Richard Bancroft's new 1604 BCP included.
- Cartographer John Speed licensed to include his genealogies and map of Canaan, 30 Oct. 1610.
- Cornelius Boel crafted a copper engraving for the title page.
- Robert Barker, holding the royal patent, ran the work through his press.
- The text was published sometime before 20 May 1611.