

## YE OLDE KING JAMES BIBLE: DOST THOU KNOW IT?

Forsooth, it's the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. No single work has done more to set the cultural and linguistic standard for the English-speaking world than this magnificent volume. Though many reasons have compelled me to use more current translations in my devotional life and preaching, I am grateful that my first Bible was a KJV. My dad gave it to me on my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is the Bible where my first memory work was done. Still today when I quote the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, it is the words of the KJV that flow like high-octane honey from my lips.

A recent edition of *Christianity Today*<sup>1</sup> included the following quiz. Not only will it test your knowledge of the Bible but it may reveal how much (or how little) you know about Western culture. Which of the following quotations are from the King James Version? And if not, can you name the author (Shakespeare, Aesop, Lincoln, etc.)? Answers are on the back of the Worship Guide. Methinks those who do well shall be few. Peradventure I may be wrong.

1. There is method to my madness.
2. Love is strong as death.
3. In the twinkling of an eye.
4. A plague on both your houses.
5. Gave up the ghost.
6. We turn not older with years, but newer every day.
7. The wisdom of Solomon.
8. As pure as the driven snow.
9. Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.
10. O ye of little faith.
11. A cloud of witnesses.
12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
13. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
14. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
15. When a thing is funny, search it carefully for a hidden truth.
16. Seek, and ye shall find.
17. Go, and do thou likewise.
18. God helps those who help themselves.
19. No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.
20. Train up a fig tree in the way it should go, and when you are old sit under the shade of it.
21. What goes around, comes around.
22. The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.
23. It is easy to despise what you cannot get. (The origin of the idiom "sour grapes.")
24. There is no new thing under the sun.
25. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

<sup>1</sup>*Christianity Today*. May 2011. Page 33. The questions and the answers CT obtained from *Verily, Verily: The KJV - 400 Years of Influence and Beauty* by John Sweeney. Zondervan, 2011.