

## POPULAR BIBLE NAMES

Despite how hard we try, there is almost no way to eliminate nick-names--even for Bibles. It is inevitable that popular names will become attached despite our efforts to prevent it.

The nick-name for the venerable Authorized Version is the "King James Version." The nick-name for the Roman Catholic translation of the sixteenth century was called "The Douai-Rheims Version.

Sometimes the popular names are derived from the names of early translators or editors: for example, John Wycliff gives his name to the "Wyclif Version" and Miles Coverdale to the "Coverdale Translation."

From the 1500s there were also other names too, like "The Great Bible" --meaning it was very large-- and "The Bishop's Bible" --one the Bishops approved.

Among the interesting popular names is a rather famous one-- it is the "Breeches Bible," otherwise known as the Geneva Version of 1560. It was translated by the English Protestants who retreated to Geneva during the persecution of Queen Mary. The name is derived from the passage in Genesis where the translator says that "Adam and Eve sewed together fig leaves to make "breeches" rather than "aprons".

A peculiar turn of phrase in a passage from the Psalms gives the "Bug-Bible" its name. In this 1551 translation, the translator calls the "terrors of night" the "Bugs of the night."

About the same time that the "Bug-Bible" appeared, the "Treacle Bible" made its entrance. ("Treacle" is that other English word for "molasses.") Instead of the Prophet Jeremiah lamenting that there is "no balm in Gilead," the translator has him say "there is no more Triacle" there (Jer. 8.22).

Bible nick-names are also born of typographical errors. We are, however, used to generally very accurate printings. But in the days of hand-set type it was another story.

The first printing of the King James Version had a number of errors. But one is used to distinguish between the first and second edition. In Ruth 3.15 the first printing reads "he went into the city" instead of "She." So the first edition is called the "He" Bible to distinguish it from the second edition which is called the "She" Bible.

And like some "nicknames" they may be none to complementary.

Howling errors have too often been discovered after the book was in the bookshop--too late to correct. The errors often provide the occasion for a popular name which unfortunately sticks.

The "Unrighteous Bible" of 1653 got its name from the error at I Cor. vi. 9 where it says "the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God."

In 1631 the "Adulterer's Bible" was so named because it omitted the "not" in the Seventh Commandment.

The "Vinegar Bible" printed by John Baskett in 1717 gets its name from the misprint "Vinegar" for "Vineyard" in Luke 20. Baskett's Bibles were so full of errors that almost all he produced were dubbed "Baskett-full of Errors."

There are popular names used for translations today, like the "Cotton Patch Version"; the "Plain English Version"; or "Today's English Version" but these names point to the continuing desire to make the old new and the difficult understandable.

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