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Facebook Rebuttal # 3 Was William Shakespeare One of the Translators of the King James Bible?

In response to those that claim William Shakespeare was one of the translators of the King James Bible, I've taken a few minutes out my busy schedule to examine their claims.

Firstly, those that adamantly claim William Shakespeare was one of the translators of the King James Version of the Bible should have done a better job explaining why they believe he participated in the translating efforts. (I'm referring to the **"backyard Bible scholars"**) Since they didn't, for the sake of clarity, I will. As legend has it, and it is a legend, it didn't begin with the **"backyard Bible scholars"** as they'd probably like us to believe, the KJV translators consulted Shakespeare as they were doing their translation work.

Because it would have been scandalous to have a mere actor and author of stage plays participating in the important and sacred work of the Bible translation, they either translated or allowed him to translate Psalm 46 in a particular way as to autograph his work. According to the legend, if you turn to Psalm 46 in the KJV, you will find that the 46th word from the beginning of the Psalm is the word **"shake."** If you count from the end of the Psalm, the 46th word is the word **"spear,"** thereby allowing Shakespeare to autograph his work without saying he participated in the translation efforts.

The whole point of the number 46 is that Shakespeare was 46 years old at the time the KJV was finished. As usual, on the surface, this all sounds good and true, especially to those that don't read or do any research. After all, if you count forward and back like the legend suggests, you do come up with the words **"shake"** (verse 3) and **"spear"** (verse 9).

However, after doing some quick research, I came away with the following that sheds light on this legend. Consider the following:

1. William Shakespeare was born April 26, 1564. The translation of the King James Version of the Bible began in 1604 and was completed in 1611. Subtract 1564 from 1611 you get 47. The point is this, Shakespeare was 46 until his birthday on April 26, 1611. So technically, 1611 was his 47th year, not his 46th. Technically, 1610 would have been his 46th year. Therefore, the number "46" used to count backwards and forwards in the Psalm to get to **"shake"** and **"spear"** is shaky at best.

2. At the end of Psalm 46, the word **“Selah”** appears in the original manuscript and in all Bible translations that I have seen, and rightly so since it is in the original manuscript. Therefore, **“Selah”** is actually the last word in Psalm 46 and it is from **“Selah”** that we should begin counting backwards. When you count back from **“Selah,”** **“spear”** becomes the 47th word. So there is a serious flaw in counting backwards to get the word **“spear”** since the legend is based on counting back from **“46”**.
3. As history has it, there were 47 scholars, all of which were members of the Church of England, who translated the KJV of the Bible. There is not a shred of evidence to support the notion that William Shakespeare helped translate the KJV of the Bible. This fact alone should have caused the **“backyard Bible scholars” (B.Y.B.S.)** to abandon or at least question the notion that Shakespeare helped translate the KJV of the bible.
4. Strangely, the **Geneva Bible (1587)** and the **Bishops Bible (1568)**, just to name a couple, have the word **“shake”** in **Psalm 46:3** and the word **“spear”** in **verse 9**. That said, these words were there before the KJV was translated. In truth, they do not appear in exactly the same place as the KJV. The point is that these words were not added by William Shakespeare, they were already there.
5. Hypothetically speaking, even if Shakespeare did help the KJV translators, and let’s say he moved words around as a signature of his own, what does it prove? Any person that does their homework knows fully well that translations are not the word of God, the original manuscripts are. So the **“B.Y.B.S.”** have really said nothing. The exact positioning of **“shake”** and **“spear”** is pointless when it does not change the context or meaning of Psalm 46. So once again, the **“B.Y.B.S.”** have said a lot, but really nothing at all.

There are three (3) things that Christians who watch the videos posted on Facebook should be aware of, they are:

1. These videos are one-sided and they typically express the opinions/views of people that are anti-Christian. Therefore, there is nothing wholesome and/or spiritually beneficial in them for Christians.
2. Videos are purposely put on Facebook for those who do not do much reading. The whole idea is to get the unsuspecting and/or weak to buy into their views that are 99.9% error and/or distortions of truth. The people behind these videos know fully well that most of the people viewing their blasphemous videos either have no

knowledge on the subjects being discussed or that they won't do any research to verify or disprove what is said.

3. **God's word warns us:** In **I John 4:1-3** (NIV) we read, "¹*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ²*This is how you can recognize the spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,* ³*but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-Christ, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*"

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV) says, "*The spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*"

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NIV) says, "*Test everything.*"

We have already been told by God that in the last days (which we are in now), we should test the spirits to see if they are from God. We test them in light of what the Bible says, not videos. The spirit of the anti-Christ is really here; Christians need to be on guard now, more than ever before!!

The objective behind these videos is to cause the babe in Christ, or the weak Christians to abandon their faith. The author of these videos is not the people you see on them. **1 Timothy 4: 1** tells us this stuff is taught by "*demons.*"

So if you watch these videos, do your homework afterwards, otherwise, don't even bother with them, they're from the pit!!

God Bless,

Bishop-Elect D. M. Duncan

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