

2-3-26

****WHY ARE SOME VERSES “MISSING”?**

Understanding Bible Translations Without Fear**

Opening Prayer

**Father God,
We come before You in the name of
Jesus Christ. We thank You for Your
living and active Word. Lord, You have
promised that Your Word is truth, and
that it will never return void. Today, as
we open the Scriptures, give us
understanding. Remove confusion, fear,
and doubt. Strengthen our faith and
deepen our trust in You. Help us to see
not what men have taken away, but how
faithfully You have preserved Your truth
through the ages. We ask that the Holy
Spirit be our teacher. In Jesus' mighty
name, Amen.**

Introduction: A Question That Shakes Many Believers

One of the most common...and troubling...questions Christians ask today is this:

“Why are some verses missing from my Bible compared to the King James Version?”

Many believers discover this when they read the KJV and then open the NIV, ESV, or NASB and notice footnotes that say things like:

- *“Some manuscripts do not include this verse.”*
- *“The earliest manuscripts do not have these words.”*

For some, this raises fear:

- *Has Scripture been changed?*
- *Has something been removed?*
- *Can I trust my Bible?*

Today's message is meant to **bring clarity, not confusion, faith, not fear, and confidence, not doubt.**

1. God Promised to Preserve His Word

Before we talk about manuscripts, translations, or verses, we must begin with **God's promise.**

***Psalm 119:89 (NIV) ⁸⁹ Your word, LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.***

***Isaiah 40:8 (NIV) ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."***

Matthew 24:35 (NIV) ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

God has never failed to preserve His Word. The issue is **not whether God preserved Scripture**, but **how He did it**.

2. The Bible Was Not Written in English

This is critical for understanding the issue.

The Bible was originally written in:

- **Hebrew** (most of the Old Testament)
- **Aramaic** (small portions)
- **Greek** (the New Testament)

There were **no printing presses**, **no bound books**, and **no chapter or verse numbers**. Scripture was copied **by hand**, letter by letter, over centuries.

This means:

- There were **thousands of handwritten manuscripts**
- Some were copied **earlier**
- Some were copied **later**
- Some included **notes or clarifications**

3. What Is the King James Version Based On?

The **King James Version (1611)** was translated using the **best manuscripts available at the time**, primarily from a collection called the **Textus Receptus**.

These manuscripts:

- Were **good and faithful**
- Were mostly from **later centuries (9th–15th century)**
- Sometimes included **scribal additions**, often made with **good intentions**

The translators of the KJV were not dishonest....they worked faithfully with what they had.

4. What Changed With Modern Translations?

Since 1611, archaeologists have discovered **much earlier manuscripts**, some dating back to the **2nd and 3rd centuries**, much closer to the original writings.

Modern translations like the NIV compare:

- **Thousands of manuscripts**
- From **different regions**
- From **different centuries**

This process is called **textual criticism**, and its goal is simple:

To determine what the original authors actually wrote.

5. Were Verses “Removed”? Or Were Later Additions Identified?

This is the heart of the issue.

Nothing essential has been removed from the Bible.

Rather, **some verses found in later manuscripts were identified as additions**, often added to clarify or emphasize doctrine that already existed elsewhere.

Let's look at examples.

6. Example One: Mark 16:9–20

In the KJV, Mark ends with verses describing appearances of Jesus and signs following believers.

Mark 16:9-20

Authorized (King James) Version

⁹ Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. ¹⁰ And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

¹² After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. ¹³ And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye

into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

In the NIV, you will see a note stating that **the earliest manuscripts do not include these verses.**

Important points:

- The resurrection **is clearly taught elsewhere**
- Jesus' appearances are recorded in **Matthew, Luke, John, and Acts**
- No doctrine is lost

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NIV) ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

7. Example Two: John 7:53–8:11 (The Woman Caught in Adultery)

[The earliest manuscripts and many other ancient witnesses do not have John 7:53-8:11. A few manuscripts include these verses, wholly or in part, after John 7:36, John 21:25, Luke 21:38 or Luke 24:53.]

John 7:53–8:11 KJV

⁵³ And every man went unto his own house.

8 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. ² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. ³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ they say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest

thou? ⁶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. ⁷ So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. ⁸ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. ⁹ And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. ¹⁰ When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? ¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

This beloved story appears in the KJV but is footnoted in the NIV.

Key facts:

- The account is **consistent with Jesus' character**
- Early manuscripts place it in **different locations**
- The teaching matches Scripture elsewhere

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus' grace and truth are taught **throughout Scripture**, whether or not this passage is original to John.

8. Example Three: Acts 8:37

KJV includes a confession of faith before baptism.

Acts 8:37 KJV ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

NIV places it in a footnote.

[37] [a]

Footnotes

- a. Acts 8:37 Some manuscripts include here Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”**

Why?

- Early manuscripts do not include the verse
- The truth it teaches is **found everywhere else**

Romans 10:9 (NIV) ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

9. No Doctrine Is Lost

This is crucial.

Every major Christian doctrine is taught **clearly and repeatedly:**

- The deity of Christ
- The Trinity
- Salvation by grace
- The resurrection

- . The blood of Christ
- . Eternal life

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Even verses that are footnoted **do not remove truth**, they only avoid adding words not in the earliest manuscripts.

10. Footnotes Are a Sign of Honesty, Not Corruption

Modern Bibles are **transparent**.

They tell you:

- . What manuscripts say

- . Where variations exist
- . Why decisions were made

That is not deception...it is integrity.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV) ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

11. God Used Many Copies, Not Just One

If God preserved His Word through **thousands of manuscripts**, no single copy could corrupt it.

Psalm 12:6–7 (NIV) ⁶ And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times. ⁷ You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked,

12. The Real Danger Is Not Missing Verses...It's Missing Christ

The enemy wants believers distracted, confused, and doubting.

But Scripture's purpose is not to win translation arguments...it is to **reveal Jesus Christ.**

John 5:39 (NIV) ³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,

13. Confidence for New and Mature Believers

To the new believer:

- . You can trust your Bible
- . God has not failed you
- . Jesus is clearly revealed

To the mature believer:

- . Study deeply
- . Teach patiently
- . Guard unity

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Conclusion: God's Word Stands Firm

No verse has been lost.

No truth has been removed.

No gospel has been weakened.

God has preserved His Word **faithfully**, **accurately**, and **powerfully**.

And the greatest truth still stands:

John 3:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Closing Prayer:

**Father God,
Thank You for Your Word. Thank You
that You are faithful, even when we do
not fully understand. Thank You for
preserving Scripture and revealing
Jesus Christ through it. Strengthen our
faith, remove fear, and help us to love
Your truth. May we be people of the
Word, people of grace, and people who
proclaim Jesus boldly. We trust You
completely. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.**