

THE BIBLE

King James Version
and
Joseph Smith's Revision

*Comparing Joseph Smith's
coalesced original manuscripts to the
Authorized King James Edition*

Edited by Dan Wees



INTRODUCTION

by DAN WEES

As a convert to the church, it takes a while to become acclimated to the wealth of information coming from the faith. It wasn't until I had been baptized for a short season that I discovered Joseph Smith, Jr. produced a corrected version of the Bible. By this time, I was becoming increasingly intrigued by all the ambitions the young prophet displayed. I can't say I was surprised that he did this, but since I was coming from a Protestant background, I also felt a twinge of hesitancy. The stark warning from this famous verse came to mind:

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Newly baptized, with zeal in my wings, I decided to tuck this information away, particularly when being told that Joseph never finished his work on the Bible. Information I would later learn to be false.

The process of revising the Old Testament began shortly after the formation of the church in 1830. The first attempt (Genesis 1:1 through 24:42) is known as “Old Testament Revision 1” (OTR1) and is identified in normal-black text in the right-hand column. While coalescing the manuscripts, OTR1 is given first priority since it is the oldest known writing. The following year, a shorter rendition was penned (Genesis 1:1 through 5:32) known here as “Old Testament Revision, John Whitmer” (OTRJW). This text is given second priority and is identified in normal-orange text in the right-hand column. The few instances of OTRJW insertions are mainly due to missing words or corrections in OTR1. The final (and largest) manuscript was produced from 1831-1833 and addresses the entire Old Testament. It is known as “Old Testament Revision 2” (OTR2). This text is given third priority and is identified in normal-purple text in the right-hand column. Tracking three copies might seem confusing, but it is made much easier in this book due to coalescing. Just remember that OTR1 is utilized during the first 25 books of Genesis, and OTRJW and OTR2 are used (as 2nd and 3rd priority) to correct selective differences in these chapters. OTR2 is utilized exclusively during the last 25 books of Genesis, and it is the only text available for the remainder of the Old Testament.

As you study this volume, it will become apparent that producing a corrected manuscript of the AKJV in longhand is a daunting task, to say the least. Joseph Smith, Jr. began the Genesis modifications with introductory revelations that ultimately found their way into the *Book of Moses* in the LDS canon *Pearl of Great Price*. He then introduces us to a lengthy history of Enoch. By the time he reached Genesis 25, Joseph decided to discontinue doing the entire project in longhand and switched to a process where he dictated words selectively. From this point on, the work is sparser, with entire chapters (and sometimes entire books) of the Old Testament being identified as “correct” rather than requiring any modification.

In “*The Bible – King James Version and Joseph Smith’s Revision*” the words in the left column (in normal-black text), are from the Authorized King James Version (AKJV). Occasionally, the student will see ***italicized-bold-red text***. These words correspond to the *italicized* words found in the AKJV. In July of 2021, research led me to produce a short paper entitled “*Italics in Isaiah.*” This project highlights the Isaiah passages found in the Book of Mormon (BOM), with a focus on changes made to the italicized words from Isaiah found *within* the BOM; these are also in ***italicized-bold-red text***. The exercise determined that the AKJV was utilized during the production of the BOM, and that 37% of these instances were intentionally modified. If no change was made to the text, the corresponding BOM text is highlighted in **normal bold-black**. However, if the AKJV has been modified, the instance is indicated in **normal-bold-blue**. The same treatment is implemented in this project. It is not difficult to imagine Joseph Smith reflecting on the direct changes made to Isaiah (circa 1829) in his quest to modify the entire Bible. The results are unmistakably similar.

I have always longed for a comparative volume of the AKJV highlighting the Joseph Smith’s changes in this manner. I developed this book to satisfy that longing and hope it will also benefit you.

Symbols & Explanations

Normal-black type	<p>In the left-hand column of the page, normal-black type is used to identify words in the AKJV. The only exception to this is when italicized words are highlighted in <i>bold-red</i> type.</p> <p>In the right-hand column of the page, normal-black type is used to identify words from OTR1 (priority #1). Misspellings or other errors in OTR1 usually remain “as is” (to maintain integrity) unless a clarification is required. This normal-black type stops after Genesis 24:42, when the dictation of OTR1 ends.</p>
Normal-orange type	<p>In the right-hand column of the page, <i>normal-orange</i> type is used to identify words from OTRJW (priority #2). This type stops after Genesis 5:32, when the dictation of OTRJW ends.</p>
Normal-purple type	<p>In the right-hand column of the page, <i>normal-purple</i> type is used to identify words from OTR2 (priority #3). This purple type is present throughout and is exclusive after Genesis 24:42.</p>
<i>Bold italic-red type</i>	<p>Every instance of <i>italicized</i> words in the AKJV are highlighted in the left-hand column of the page.</p>
Bold black type	<p>The right-hand column companion to <i>bold italic-red</i> type is bold-black type; indicating the words remained identical.</p>
Bold blue type	<p>The right-hand column companion to <i>bold italic-red</i> type is bold-blue type; indicating the words are different.</p>
Light Gray type	<p>When the modification is only a few words (and not a full verse written in longhand), the verse in the right-hand column will be displayed in light gray type. The changed word(s) will appear in purple.</p>
<u>Underlined type</u>	<p>Every difference between words, letters, or punctuation in the left & right-hand columns are <u>underlined</u>. Text in bold type is excluded from this rule.</p>
Superscript type	<p>In the right-hand column of the page, word insertions above the original manuscript text are displayed in ^{superscript} type, and may be ^{black, orange, or purple}.</p>

Forward slash “/”

When a word or letter requires attention because it was erased, damaged, or incorrect, the forward slash is used to explain the change. For example, if the word “has” was used in OTR1, but was spelled “hath” in OTR2, then the rendition will be “has/hath.” Additionally, if the word “plead” is misspelled as “pledd” in OTR1, but is spelled as “pleaded” in OTRJW, the word will be displayed as “pledd/aded”. In this instance (from Genesis 7:44) the word was intended to be “plead” in OTR1, but the scribe began the spelling as “pled.” Realizing he misspelled, he attempted to correct the error by covering up the “d” with an “a”, and then added a new “d” at the end of the word. It is sometimes difficult to determine if certain words were changed immediately by the scribe or were realized later. To combat this, the “a” from OTRJW is shown following the forward slash. Interestingly, the OTRJW word “pleaded” is *not* used in the current version (JST or the “Inspired”) of Joseph’s revisions, though it is later spelled “pleaded” in OTR2. As a rule, the word (or letter) preceding the “/” was written prior to the one following it.

Strikethrough

A ~~strikethrough~~ occurs when right-hand column words, letters, or spaces are identified in the manuscripts as being ~~incorrect~~ or in ~~error~~ in some way.

◇

An illegible character is represented with a strikethrough diamond. Repeated diamonds represent the approximate number of illegible characters.

§ - XIV

This symbol separates chapters in the AKJV column. It is followed by the chapter number given in Roman Numerals.

Sample Page Below

The King James Bible & Joseph Smith's Revision

Authorized King James Bible

Genesis 5:28-29

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son; And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Genesis 5:30

And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters;

Genesis 5:31

And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years; and he died.

Genesis 5:32

And Noah was five hundred years old; and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Joseph Smith's Revision

Genesis 7:83

and Lamach lived an Hundred eighty and two years and begat a son and he called his N name Noah saying this son shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed

Genesis 7:84

and Lamach lived after he begat Noah five Hundred & ninety and five years and begat sons and daughters

and all the days of Lamach were seven Hundred seventy and seven years and he died

Genesis 7:85

And Noah was four Hundred and fifty years old and begat Japheth and forty two years afterward he begat shem of from her who was the Mother of Japheth and when he was five hundred years old he begat Ham

And Noah was five Hundred years old and Noah begat shem Ham and Japheth

*This marks the end of
"Old Testament Revision J. Whitmer 1st Copy"
manuscript. Remaining revisions are from
"Old Testament Revision 1" (first priority)
and
"Old Testament Revision 2" (second priority).*