

Lewis Foster wrote in his book, *Selecting a Translation of the Bible*, concerning the King James Version:

“Its beauty of language comes from the period of Shakespeare and Milton. Its heart-felt message breathes from a century when translators had given their lives through fire and sword to deliver the Bible to the people. Its faith is manifest in the proposition that these truths being transmitted were the very Word of God.”

Who can deny these words when reading or reciting the twenty-third Psalm?! Nothing compares to the reading of the KJV in beauty, poetry and truth.

Furthermore, the Elizabethan language is **more precise** than our modern English. The numbers and case are readily determined:

1. **“Thou”** is always “you” (nominative singular), while **“Thee”** is always “you” (objective singular).
2. **“Ye”** is plural “you” (nominative plural), while **“you”** is plural (objective plural).
3. Verb endings such as **-th, -eth, -st, or -est** indicate person, number and tense.

Such precision is lost in the newer versions in their effort to *simplify* the text. In doing so, they often have *downgraded* the inspired text from a twelfth-grade reading level to that of the eighth-grade or even lower! My advice would be that we need to teach brethren to **step up** a notch and learn to read on an adult reading level. Our children will learn the sacred text as well or better by studying the KJV.

If one is willing to study carefully the language of the KJV and become familiar with the meaning of its archaic words, word endings, etc., then he can have a much more accurate text than the others. Yes, there are some weaknesses in the KJV, but not as many as in some of the newer versions, and we need to remember that the first century Christians did not speak in Elizabethan English! But the KJV has taken so much abuse from brethren in recent years, that I thought it would be a “breath of fresh air” to defend it for a change.