

# *Lively Oracles*

*The Inspired Bible  
In The Hearts  
Of Believers*

*James H. Sightler, M.D.*

***First Edition***

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## *The Inspired Bible In The Hearts Of Believers*

*Acts 7:38*

*This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with  
the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina,  
and with our fathers:  
who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*

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*Dedicated to the Memory of my Mother  
Helen Grace Vaughn Sightler*

*December 12, 1914-October 11, 2001*

*And to my Sister  
Elizabeth Ann Sightler Carper*

*So much like her mother  
Who has watched the home place  
Since mother has gone  
And has tended that dear space of my mother's heart*

*My mother was a loving comfort and instructor to us  
And to her husband's life and work  
She led us to the Lord  
When we did wrong she never failed to quote to us  
The verse which she herself kept to the end*

*Proverbs 22:1  
A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,  
and loving favour rather than silver and gold.*

## *Preface*

May we call the King James Bible inspired, or merely the best translation of the inspired originals or inspired copies of them? I believe and I hope this book will help to show that the King James Bible and those faithful vernacular translations which preceded it have not lost any inspiration or authority in translation. Many have believed this same thing, David Otis Fuller, H. O. Van Gilder, Lloyd Streeter, Bob Steward, Walter Beebe, Ian Paisley, Jack Hyles, Gail Riplinger, and John William Burgon. Countless pastors and church members “in the trenches” have believed and lived it as well. Few pastors would be unwise enough to stand in their pulpits and openly say that the King James Bible in the hands of the congregation is a good translation but somehow not equal to the manuscripts. Where then is the authority for what they preach?

Ian Paisley in his book, *My Plea for the Old Sword*, quotes from a sermon by Burgon:

I am asked whether I believe the words of the Bible to be inspired, I answer, to be sure I do, every one of them: and every syllable likewise. Do not you? ...where do you, in your wisdom, stop? The book you allow is inspired. How about the chapters? How about the verses? Do you stop at the verses, and not go on to the words?...No Sirs!...The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne! Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every syllable of it, (Where are we to stop?) every letter of it is the direct utterance of the Most High!

Burgon knew well that the ancient New Testament manuscripts did not have verse divisions and, in the uncials, no punctuation or separation of the words. He knew that Old Testament chapter divisions probably began with Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher in 1244 and those of the New Testament with Stephen Langton in the 13th century. He knew that verse divisions in the New Testament began with Stephanus' Greek *Textus Receptus* of 1551. Tyndale's New Testament of 1537 has book and chapter divisions and paragraphs but no verse divisions. Therefore Burgon was speaking of the King

James Bible in his sermon, and Paisley, when the quote was given, knew that Burgon knew these things.

The King James Bible did not lose inspiration or authority because the translators purposely rendered it into an elevated, eloquent, Biblical form of English, cast in a mold slowly shaped by the Biblical Koine Greek and Hebrew as they had been carried over into other languages for centuries before English came about from them and took its best form in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The praise and honour given to God by the King James Bible is the primary reason English has become a world language. The Bible versions in use throughout history in the true churches outside the Catholic church have all been inspired. That our Bible has surpassed them in beauty and soul stirring pathos is something that is in the hands of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who gave Hebrew to Adam and guided the development of earlier tongues out of the integrity of His heart and with the skillfulness of His hands and who then by that same power shaped English itself to redeive the Hebrew and Greek expressions with a divine ease and grace.

I thank my son-in-law, Joel Logan, his brother Brent, and Joel's wife, Abby, my daughter, for their gracious help with the scriptures cited in this book. Their knowledge of the Bible has been a blessing and inspiration to me. My wife, Jean, keeper at home, has made it possible for me to write. By example, she taught her daughters to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their husbands. In the same way she taught her sons likewise to be sober minded, showing a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, of sound speech, that cannot be condemned.

**James H. Sightler**  
**May 15, 2002**