

## Authorized Version of 1611

In the fall of 1980, I was in the US navy on a ship in the Indian Ocean theater. Specifically, the north Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. Also known as Gonzo and Kermit station.

I knew all but nothing about what the bible had to say about anything except for what I memorized in the Nicene Creed. So, with things heating up in Southwest Asia and Iranian “students” holding our embassy hostage in Tehran, I was more than a bit unnerved when I finished reading the book my mother had sent me, *The Late Great Planet Earth*. I borrowed a shipmate’s bible (Scofield. AV) and looked up some of the verses that were in the book.

Since Hal (shipmate with the Scofield bible) used his on a regular basis I decided to see if the chapel library had a bible I could check out. Although it was better than nothing, I wanted one that I could make notes in. So, I went to the ship’s store. By this time, we had been away from a port for a few months and the shelves were all but empty. As I was heading for the exit, I noticed a black object on a middle shelf (knee high) in shrink wrap. I grabbed it and lo, it was a bible. I bought it.

I had never seen a bible for sale in any of the ship’s stores before and after another four years stationed on the ship, I never saw another one.

It turned out to be what most would call the King James Version (KJV). My mom had given me a copy of “Good News for Modern Man”. I never did like reading it; I guess I just don’t get modern English.

By the time I had transferred to shore duty the bible was falling apart; a duct taped cover and a big rubber band to hold it all in place. So, I went looking for a new one. On several occasion I would be in a bible bookstore looking at all the versions available intent upon buying a newer version and then finding myself walking out empty handed. It was almost as if somebody pushed me out of the store.

My 1<sup>st</sup> wife had an old bible (KJV) that had belonged to her late father. Since he was not using it, I decided to. It was a large print, with lots of space in the margins and no notes from editors/publishers. She also had a Strong’s Concordance which included a Hebrew and Greek lexicon with references between the specific words and locations in the bible where they occur.

As with my Gonzo station bible, I quickly was filling it up with notes. When I reported to the next ship, I brought both with me whenever we deployed. One day a shipmate (Steve Lamb; I want it back!) who, in the past, reported to me asked if I had a bible he could use. Begrudgingly I handed him my Gonzo bible. Eventually he was transferred, and I never saw him or my bible again.