

## Shakespeare and the Authorized Version

I would like to thank Al Maxey for his stated willingness to stand and answer for anything that he has publicly preached or posted on his website. I have challenged him that his frequent attacks against the King James Version are ungrounded, and that this type of rabid prejudice only serves to blind him into making stupid mistakes and doctrinal errors.

Furthermore, I have stated that I will demonstrate this repeatedly by specific example until he admits that he has made a mistake. Thus this article is the first in a series, and each new letter will respond to a specific statement that Al has publicly posted on his website. The total amount of articles will depend on how quickly Al will honor his word in response to “responsible challenges.”

I can assure you, before these many witnesses, that if I *have* declared something as truth that is clearly contrary to God's holy Word, and you can demonstrate to me specifically what that is, **then I will renounce that teaching in public and never proclaim it again.**

Al Maxey, *Reflections*, Issue # 83, Al's response to Darin, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

As a means of warm-up, I am responding to Al's charge that the translators of the Authorized Version engaged in “Textual Manipulation” to alter God's Holy Word, allegedly in celebration of the upcoming birthday of William Shakespeare. This bizarre-sounding claim seems to be an urban legend of some sort, which Al has printed for his readers in his *Reflections* issue #88.

### TEXTUAL MANIPULATION

The scholars who worked on the KJV were also not above manipulating the text so as to include something of their own devising. One example which demonstrates this quite well is the manipulation of Psalm 46 to include a personal tribute to William Shakespeare (1564-1616), who turned 46 years of age just a few months before the publication date of the KJV. It was dedicated to him in honor of his influence upon the English language of his day.

Count *down* 46 words from the beginning of this psalm and you will find the word "*Shake*." Count *up* 46 words from the end of this psalm and you will find the word "*Spear*." Thus, 46 words down added to 46 words up in the 46th psalm will give the name "Shakespeare" in honor of his 46th birthday. Quite ingenious, but should men manipulate the text of God's holy Word to give tribute to a mere man?! Had the NIV translators, for example, so manipulated some passage in their version so as to give tribute to Elvis Presley, the ashes from the mass book burnings would still be blowing through the streets!!

Al Maxey, *Reflections*, Issue #88, November 26, 2003

## Initial Reaction

When I first read this, several things immediately caught my attention:

- The inflammatory and biased manner in which this was presented
- The failure to specifically name which translators engaged in this alleged “conspiracy”
- The failure to demonstrate that this pattern actually existed
- This is his only example of alleged “textual manipulation”

Proverbs 26:4

(4) Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

If we can ignore Al’s apparent bigotry against the King James translators for the moment, I will briefly touch on each of these other points.

## Who Is Being Accused?

Darin, you have done what men have done to me for many years -- **you have made unsubstantiated accusations.**

Al Maxey, *Reflections*, Issue # 83, Al’s response to Darin, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**First, there were forty-seven different translators** that worked on the King James translation. It is highly doubtful that any one person could have “manipulated the text” as Al has charged, if for no other reason than due to the way the translation process was carefully and reverently handled. The individuals of each company completely translated the passages before comparing them, and each company reviewed the work of every other company. Thus, Al’s alleged conspiracy could be very large indeed. **Which of these men are you accusing?**

1 Timothy 5:19-20

(19) Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

(20) Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

**Second, Al presents absolutely no proof for these charges.** What is his source? Did Edward Lively announce that he had altered Psalms in appreciation for the playwright? Did Lancelot Andrews provide a leak to the English press? Did John Bois make a deathbed confession? Al, where is your proof of this plot? **Please tell us the source of this amazing conspiracy theory!**

**This appears to be nothing more than irresponsible slander.** Even if the rest of this information is accurate (which we will examine in a moment) Al has provided **no evidence** of conspiratorial “textual manipulation.”

## Behold, the Pattern?

Al has assured us that Psalm 46 contains a secret pattern, containing the name of the English playwright William Shakespeare. However, does it not seem a little strange that he fails to demonstrate that his method works? He makes it sound so simple, but does it really work like that?

Count *down* 46 words from the beginning of this psalm and you will find the word "Shake." Count *up* 46 words from the end of this psalm and you will find the word "Spear."

When I tried to implement Al's technique, it did not work as advertised. Starting at the beginning of the psalm, I dutifully counted down 46 words. This didn't even seem close. So I tried starting at the end of the psalm, and I counted up 46 words. The 46<sup>th</sup> word was "in" but the 47<sup>th</sup> word did happen to be "speare."

From the start of Psalm 46, KJV 1611 printing										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	To	the	Chiefe	Musician	for	the	sonnes	of	Korah	a
1	song	vpon	Alamoth	God	is	our	refuge	and	strength	a
2	very	present	Helpe	in	trouble	Therefore	will	not	we	feare
3	though	the	Earth	be	remoued	and	though	the	mountaines	be
4	caried	into	The	midst	of	the	sea			

Backwards from the end of Psalm 46, KJV 1611 printing										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	Selah	refuge	Our	is	Iacob	of	God	the	vs	with
1	is	hosts	Of	Lord	The	earth	the	in	exalted	be
2	will	I	heathen	the	among	exalted	bee	will	I	God
3	am	I	That	know	and	stil	Be	fire	the	in
4	chariot	the	burneth	he	sunder	in	speare			

## Required "Textual Manipulation" to Find the Pattern

Through trial and error, I eventually discovered that if the first sentence "[To the chiefe Musician for the sonnes of Korah, a song vpon Alamoth]" was removed, then "shake" could now be counted as the 46<sup>th</sup> word. **This still left a problem**, because "speare" had 46 buffer words before the end, meaning it was actually the 47<sup>th</sup> word counting backwards. However, I had a plan: I would delete any words that got in the way of this special number. Delete the word "Selah" and you can force the text to say "shake speare" on word 46. **Behold the pattern!**

However, most objective readers would probably admit that this is beginning to seem a little **contrived**. Al, why did you not tell us what we had to do before we could see this for ourselves? Did you actually check this out for yourself, or were you just repeating what someone else said?

## Where are these other examples?

Let us not forget that Al said that this was “[One example which demonstrates this \[textual manipulation\] quite well.](#)” **Yet, this was the only proof** of this sort that he provided, and it seems that it was not even well researched. Al, if you feel that this is an example that demonstrates “textual manipulation” by the King James translators “quite well” then you are quickly losing credibility.

## Additional Errors of Al’s Argument

...a personal tribute to William Shakespeare (1564-1616), **who turned 46 years of age just a few months before the publication date of the KJV.**

Thus, 46 words down added to 46 words up in the 46th psalm will give the name "Shakespeare" **in honor of his 46th birthday.** Quite ingenious, but should men manipulate the text of God's holy Word to give tribute to a mere man?!!

**This new math does not add up.** If Shakespeare was born in 1564, his 46<sup>th</sup> birthday could not coincide with the printing date of the 1611 Authorized King James Bible! To be fair to Al, I even found a student’s dictionary with a multiple-page entry on William Shakespeare, **which confirmed that he was born in April of 1564.** So, assuming that this year of birth is correct:

- **His 1<sup>st</sup> birthday was in ..... 1565**
- His 11<sup>th</sup> birthday was in ..... 1575
- His 21<sup>st</sup> birthday was in ..... 1585
- His 31<sup>st</sup> birthday was in ..... 1595
- His 41<sup>st</sup> birthday was in ..... 1605
- His 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday was in .....1606
- His 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday was in ..... 1607
- His 44<sup>th</sup> birthday was in ..... 1608
- His 45<sup>th</sup> birthday was in ..... 1609
- His 46<sup>th</sup> birthday was in ..... 1610
- **His 47<sup>th</sup> birthday was in .....1611**

**Honestly Al, where are you getting your information?** You have leveled serious charges at honest men on circumstantial evidence (at best) and it is obvious that **you did not even show due diligence** to examine what you posted for untold numbers of other people to read, many of whom might accept what you say as unquestioned fact!

**I assume that none of your readers** have challenged you on this in the five and one-half years since this was originally posted?

## Examining the Circumstantial Evidence

Proverbs 26:5

(5) Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

**In the interests of truth and fairness**, I will attempt to examine Al's argument in a positive light, and even grant him the benefit of the doubt to see if there is any validity to **his amazing discovery**. Let us examine the facts that we have so far that are not in dispute:

Job 41:29

(29) Darts are counted as stubble: **he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.**

**William Shakespeare** is a well known English playwright, and is often referred to simply as "**Shakespeare**." This name is indeed a compound word, consisting of the elements "**shake**" and "**speare**." "Speare" is an archaic spelling of the same word which we now days have simply shortened to "spear." His name would have been **well recognized** even in 1611.

**William Shakespeare was born in April of 1564.** Although Al's theory missed William's birthday by a full year, it might be argued that the significance of the number **46** might be **in relation to Shakespeare's age**, not his upcoming birthday. Assuming the rest of Al's facts are not in error, Shakespeare would have been 46 years old at the start of 1611, when translation was completed.

**Finally, we must examine the charge** of whether dropping words from the front and back of the psalm in order to detect this pattern of "shake" and "speare" at intervals of 46 words is unnecessarily contrived. Was Al "manipulating the text" or **was this a legitimate observation?**

**(Psalms 46:1-11) [To the chiefe Musician for the sonnes of Korah, a song vpon Alamothe.]** God is our refuge and strength: a very present helpe in trouble. Therefore will not we feare, though the earth be remoued: and though the mountaines be caried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof roare, and be troubled, though the mountaines **shake** with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a riuer, the streames wherof shall make glad the citie of God: the holy place of the Tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her: she shal not be moued; God shall helpe her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdomes were moued: he vttered his voyce, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge. Selah. Come, behold the workes of the Lord, what desolations hee hath made in the earth. He maketh warres to cease vnto the end of the earth: hee breaketh the bow, and cutteth the **speare** in sunder, he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be stil, and know that I am God: I will bee exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge. **Selah.**

## Rationale for Excluding the First Phrase

[To the chiefe Musician for the sonnes of Korah, a song vpon Alamoeth.]

**One might observe that these Psalms were meant to be sung.** Although this first phrase is indeed an accurate translation from the Hebrew Masoretic source text, it does not seem as if this portion would typically be vocalized as part of the song. **Thus, the vocalist would begin singing at “God is our refuge and strength.”**

**In search of evidence in support of this argument,** I consulted “The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration” by Word Music. The title page notes that it is “Containing Scriptures from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.” I used the index in the back to check for any hymns that referenced the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The only match was “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” with the original text and music by Martin Luther.

HIS MAJESTY AND POWER

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 26**

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge. Ps. 46:7*

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,  
3. And tho this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,  
4. That word a-bove all earth-ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;

The image shows a page from a hymnal. At the top right, it says 'HIS MAJESTY AND POWER'. The title is 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 26'. Below the title is a subtitle: 'The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge. Ps. 46:7'. The page contains musical notation for a hymn, with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The lyrics are printed below the musical notation, with four verses. The first verse is: '1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;'. The second verse is: '2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,'. The third verse is: '3. And tho this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,'. The fourth verse is: '4. That word a-bove all earth-ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;'. The musical notation includes notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the piece.

**I realize that this may not be a very strong support,** but I noted that not one portion of this song made any reference to a “chief musician” or the “sons of Korah” or even a “song upon Alamoeth.” Yet I think it is **obvious**, and a **common-sense safe assumption** that this first phrase was an introduction, and that this text **would not normally be heard by the ear.**

## Rationale for Excluding the Last Phrase

Selah.

**The same reasoning applies here.** This is a rest, or a pause, that is, a silence. Although it could be argued that even rests and breath marks are legitimate parts

of a musical composition, this “Selah” is at the end of the piece, and is not even used to punctuate other verses of the text. In other words, this final “Selah” is in fact a silent invisible rest, and **it would not be noticed** by someone listening to the Psalm.

#### H5542

סלה

selâh

*seh'-law*

From H5541; *suspension* (of music), that is, *pause*: - Selah.

**One might observe** that due to the nature of birthdates, almost everyone has two different ages for every given year. William Shakespeare was born in April, so he was both 46 years old and 47 years old in 1611. I suppose that the final silent “Selah” could also be interpreted as “going on 47” for purposes of this construction.

#### A Legitimate Observation

**It is my conclusion** that in spite of Al’s argument being clumsily presented, there may indeed be some significance to this pattern. The equidistant word sequencing of 46 does spell out the name of “Shakespeare” in the manner he predicted, if the silent portions at the beginning and end of the Psalm are excluded. Shakespeare would have been 46 years old in 1611, and all this happens in the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

#### Could this Pattern Have Originated by Chance?

**In theory**, it is possible that even a monkey could type the complete works of Shakespeare on a typewriter. Is it possible that this pattern is simply coincidental? Yes, this is possible, but how likely is this possibility?

**I will not attempt** to calculate the odds of this being a random occurrence. To do this I also would need to know the number of words within the Authorized Version, and the statistical probability of how often the words “shake” and “speare” were used between 1568, 1587, and 1611. I have chosen these dates because the Bishop’s Bible and the Geneva Bible also interpret this same Psalm using the same “shake” and “speare.” **If Al feels confident in his abilities**, I would like to hear his estimation of the **statistical odds** against this being simply **a random occurrence**.

**In the meantime, I will examine this claim** a little further, reserving the possibility that this pattern may have happened **not by chance, but by design**. **Since Al strongly believed** that this pattern was a deliberate act, evidence of intelligent design if you will, **let us consider this angle fully**.

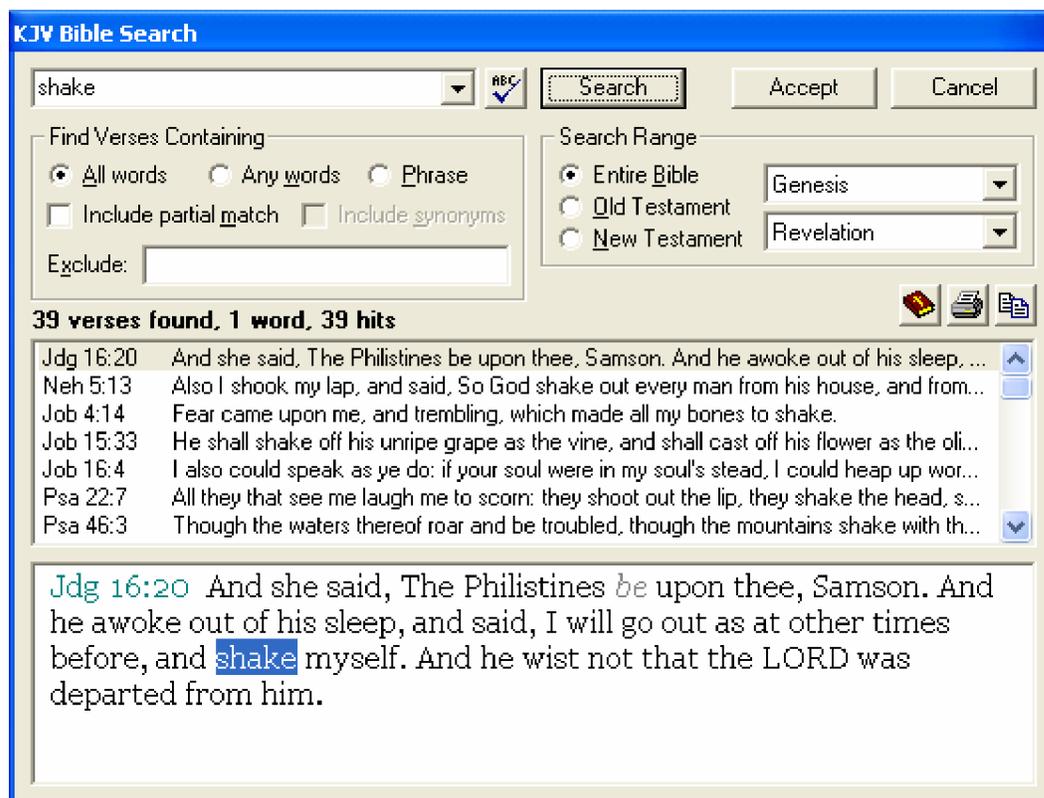
## Shake and Speare in the King James Text

When I first started writing this letter, I was irritated with the careless manner behind his accusation. For example, he proposed:

Had the NIV translators, for example, so manipulated some passage in their version so as to give tribute to Elvis Presley, the ashes from the mass book burnings would still be blowing through the streets!!

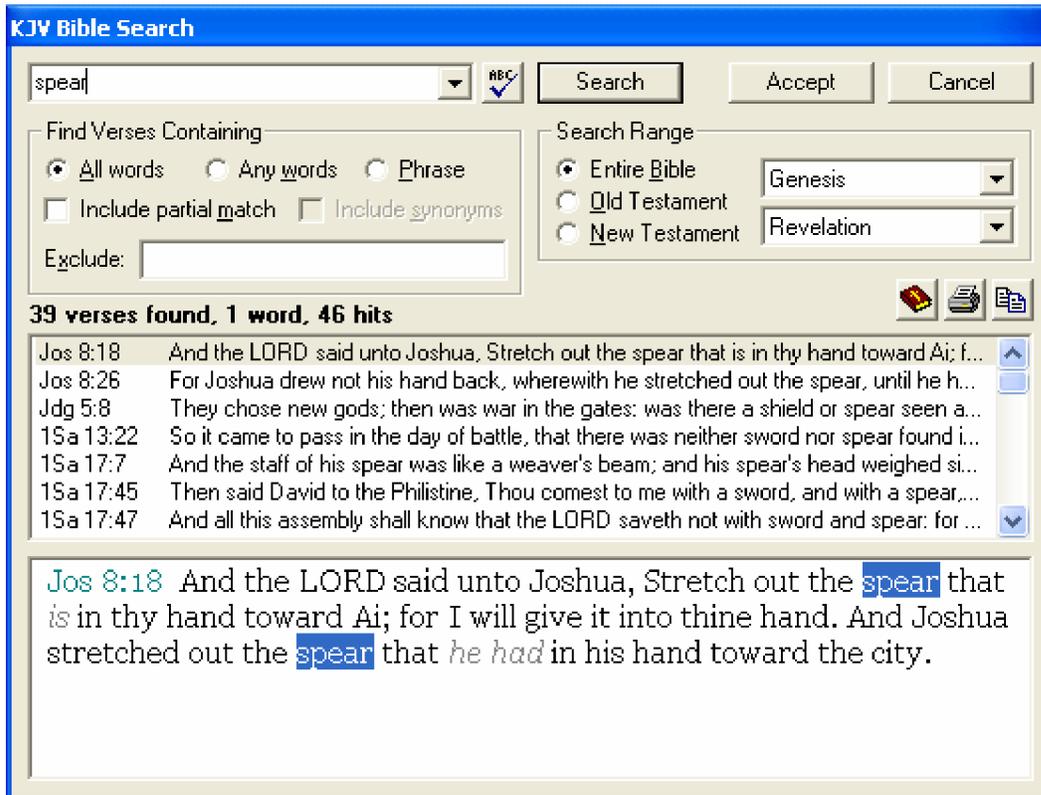
**For Al's benefit**, I will inform him that perhaps Elvis Presley already made his mark upon the King James Version, because I found the phrase "The King" in 1273 separate verses! Further amused at my own joke, I next located 52 separate instances of "The Doors." Does this really prove anything? Not really, because I was just being silly. "Answer a fool according to his folly" was my thought.

**However, it was time to get back on task** and get back to being serious. I was already on a roll, and it was a simple matter to ask my computer to check for all instances of "shake" and "speare." So I did:



**I did not see any sort of super secret pattern yet.** Thirty-nine different verses contained the word shake, so I suppose it is a common word, and one would expect it to occur fairly often. For the sake of completeness, I also scanned for occurrences of the word "speare."

## Could This Also Be Coincidence?



**Now I was paying attention.** Yes, that could also have happened by random chance, but coincidence piled on top of coincidence starts to make this seem less and less likely.

- There was that number 46 again, located because of my specific examination of Al's "Shakespeare" challenge,
- And although 46 occurred only once, the number 39 occurred in all other instances, that is, three separate times, and linked to the previous 46. Was there something significant about the number 39 that I had missed?

I am not going to post all of these verses here. Anyone with a computer and access to the free E-sword Bible software program can confirm these numbers. I then remembered that I was using my default 1769 Authorized text for these searches, and I tried performing the equivalent search on my 1611 Authorized Bible.

The results were practically identical. Shake still occurred 39 times, in 39 separate verses. However, my software only found "speare" 44 times in 38 separate locations. Since these Bibles were not separate translations, I thought this unusual, so I decided to compare the "conflicting" verses.

### Comparison One: 1 Samuel 17:7

#### KJV-1611

7 And the staffe of his **speare** was like a weauers beame, and his **speares** head weighed sixe hundred shekels of yron: and one bearing a shield, went before him.

#### KJV-1769

7 And the staff of his **spear** *was* like a weaver's beam; and his **spear's** head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

### Comparison Two: 1 Chronicles 20:5

#### KJV-1611

5 And there was warre againe with the Philistines, and Elhanan the sonne of Iair, slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose **spearestaffe** was like a weauers beame.

#### KJV-1769

5 And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose **spear** staff *was* like a weaver's beam.

**It appears that the only reason** my E-sword software did not detect “speare” in these two instances was because the 1611 Bible was printed before the English language established standards for fixed spelling and grammar. Both instances refer to a single spear (as opposed to multiple spears.) There is no discrepancy between these two printings in this regard, but there were different ways to spell the word that refers to a singular spear.

### What Might This Thirty-Nine Mean?

**I decided to apply the same criteria** that Al had established to determine the significance of the number 46. Al's (adjusted) theory was that Shakespeare was 46 years old at the beginning of 1611, and that this explained the pattern that he located. So, by the same measure, what happened in the year William Shakespeare was 39 years old?

“That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England, in time of Divine service.”

**The Authorized Bible was officially sanctioned** by King James at Hampton Court, in January of 1604, seven years prior to its first publication.

Within mere months James had publicized his personal selection of 54 translators (the list was later reduced by seven.) Anyone who is familiar with the history of the King James Bible recognizes the significance of Hampton Court! Shakespeare was 39 years old at Hampton Court, and 46 years old when translation was completed.

**Therefore, if we are expected to take Al's contention seriously** that the three instances of 46 (Psalm 46, 46 words from the start, and 46 words from the end) are indeed representative of the age of Shakespeare at the time of the completion of the 1611 King James Version, then likewise we should note that there are three related instances of 39 (39 instances of "shake", 39 verses containing "shake", and 39 verses containing "spear") that deserve attention as well!

**This is a valid comparison**, because this was found by noting the total occurrences of the word "spear" in connection to that same 46. "Shake" might indicate the starting of the King James Bible if "spear" symbolizes its completion.

### **A Question for Al**

What are the odds of two such coincidences occurring together? Do you think that this also is evidence of "textual manipulation" by the King James translators? Do you realize how big this conspiracy would have to be to span the results of every single translation team?

Additionally, I do not believe that any of these teams had access to computerized word counting programs that could detect this type of pattern. It could be done, but it would certainly take some effort. Who do you suppose was behind this? Weren't these words translated first from Hebrew and Greek source text?

### **Follow the Path to Completion**

**Initially, Al contented** that the number 46 had significance in relation to Psalm 46 and the age of Shakespeare at the time of the completion of the 1611 King James Bible. Following up on this claim, I discovered that this 46 also linked to the number 39, which I have proposed seems to match the age of the very same Shakespeare to the date of conception of that same 1611 King James Bible.

**I strive to keep an open mind** even while reserving some measure of skepticism. It occurred to me that if significant dates concerning the publication of the King James Bible were woven into the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, that there might be a third significant date concealed as well. From the standpoint of the history of the King James Bible, there are **three significant dates** that bear notice:

- **1604** - official translation sanctioned at Hampton Court
- **1611** - King James Version translation completed
- **1769** - King James Version standardization complete

## The Only Possible Options

**Logically considering the data**, we need to consider all angles. We should construct hypotheses and test our theories. So far, I figure we could arrive at any three of these following conclusions.

1. These patterns are works of coincidence and random chance
2. These patterns are works of men, who manipulated the text
3. These patterns are works of God, who inspired the translation process

**I decided to test theory three.** Given that there are three major significant dates in the history of the Authorized Version, namely 1604, 1611, and 1769, I decided to see if perhaps I could find the printing year of the 1769 Authorized Bible within the 1611 King James Version.

### Judges 6:36-40

- (36) And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,
- (37) Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew be on the fleece only, and *it be* dry upon all the earth *beside*, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.
- (38) And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.
- (39) And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.
- (40) And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.**

**So how was I to test this theory?** Thanks to Al, we had found the date of 1611 by comparing it to another known benchmark, namely the age of Shakespeare. Likewise, occurrences of the number 39 also seemed to link Hampton Court to the same benchmark of the age of Shakespeare. But if Shakespeare was already dead and buried by 1769, what would be the next logical link?

$$1769 - 1611 = 158$$

**“Let not thine anger be hot against me”**

It occurred to me that perhaps the age of the King James Bible might be the obvious key, if, of course, such a pattern really existed. I decided to go back to that same Psalm 46, and use the same word counting techniques that Al had already insisted upon as a test. I was looking for any similar occurrences of the number 158. So I walked inside to my computer, and took another look.

**First, I counted the total number of words** within the Psalm. It contains 217 words total, but if I was using Al's method of excluding the silent portions at the beginning and end, and started at "God" and ended at "refuge" then the playing field had only 203 words. Neither 217 nor 203 was equal to 158.

**Then I realized** that I had not yet properly applied Al's method. In order to discover "Shakespeare" to begin with, there were three important rules:

- Ignore the silent portions at the beginning and end, and
- Count down 46 words from the beginning of the psalm, and
- Count up 46 words from the end of the psalm.

Count *down* 46 words from the beginning of this psalm and you will find the word "Shake." Count *up* 46 words from the end of this psalm and you will find the word "Spear."

**So, I decided to try the simplest variation on this method possible.** I would start at the same location as Al, but this time I would count forward until I reached the word "**speare**" and I would also count backwards from "refuge" until I reached the word "**shake**." I highlighted the text with the mouse cursor, and let Word report the amount of text:

God is our refuge and strength: a very present helpe in trouble. Therefore will not we feare, though the earth be remoued: and though the mountaines be caried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof roare, and be troubled, though the mountaines **shake** with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a riuer, the streames wherof shall make glad the citie of God: the holy place of the Tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her: she shal not be moued; God shall helpe her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdomes were moued: he vttered his voyce, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge. Selah. Come, behold the workes of the Lord, what desolations hee hath made in the earth. He maketh warres to cease vnto the end of the earth: hee breaketh the bow, and cutteth the **speare** in sunder, he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be stil, and know that I am God: I will bee exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge.

## 158 Words

**I double-checked the count a second time.** Then I went and checked, starting at "refuge" and counting backwards until reaching the word "shake!" Again it reported 158 words. I even counted by hand. These used **the same**

**type of methods** that found the original pattern that started this investigation! I also checked same text in the 1769 Authorized Bible, and **it still matched!**

**I want to emphasize** that I did not first count the words in between, and then try to figure out some application to make them fit. Rather, while feeding my dogs, I realized that besides 1611, 1769 also seemed to be a very significant date. I did the subtraction in my head, walked inside, and there it was.

**Rather, it was always there**, but I never would have noticed except that I started writing a critique of Al's unsubstantiated attack on the King James translators! Again, I ask Al, do you believe that this also represents "textual manipulation" by the King James translators? How could they possibly have known in advance that 1769 would be such an important year for the Authorized Version?

1 Samuel 6:8-9

- (8) And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him *for* a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.
- (9) **And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, *then he hath done us this great evil:*** but if not, then we shall know that *it is* not his hand *that* smote us: it *was* a chance *that* happened to us.

## Conclusions

**Initially, Al launched unfounded accusations** against the translators of the King James Bible, claiming that they had manipulated the text to spell out the name of William Shakespeare, in honor of a mere man.

Quite ingenious, but should men manipulate the text of God's holy Word to give tribute to a mere man?!!

**Al discounted any possibility** that this pattern might have occurred by mere chance. I wonder, will Al quickly backpedal and declare that these other two patterns involving Psalm 46 and "Shakespeare" only represent random happenstance? One pattern might be coincidence. A pattern within a pattern is hard to ignore. Yet the **odds against** one pattern, within another pattern, yet wrapped up within a third interrelated pattern being nothing more than **an Act of Random** must be **astronomical**.

Proverbs 25:2

- (2) *It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings *is* to search out a matter.

**If we discard random chance**, the only viable explanation that remains for these recurring patterns from Psalm 46 and Shakespeare is that this was placed

within the English text of the Authorized Bible by the hand of God. Men might have formed the first two patterns, but the third would have been **impossible**.

Matthew 19:26

(26) But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

**To directly answer Al's question**, no, men should not manipulate the text of God's Holy Word to give tribute to a mere man. These are God's words, and from what you've now shown me, you have provided **some new evidence** in favor of:

- The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon the Authorized Bible
- Divine Recognition and Sanction of the 1611 King James translation
- Divine Recognition and Sanction of the 1769 King James translation
- Additional evidence that the words in italics were inserted by inspiration
- God's plan to preserve the scriptures in English from the days of David

**If your plan was to discredit** the King James translators and mock those who had faith in the Preservation and Inerrancy of Holy scripture, **you failed**. It seems that you actually damaged your cause. Why didn't you examine this charge before you posted it on the internet? If fully examined, **the evidence seems to embarrass your position!**

I can assure you, before these many witnesses, that if I *have* declared something as truth that is clearly contrary to God's holy Word, and you can demonstrate to me specifically what that is, **then I will renounce that teaching in public and never proclaim it again.**

Al Maxey, *Reflections*, Issue # 83, Al's response to Darin, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**I hope that you will honor your word**, and issue a retraction concerning your accusation against the integrity of the King James translators. Your accusation was based on nothing more than mere speculation to begin with. I think that you are too trusting of people that claim to be "scholars" - don't trust everything they say: keep an open mind and approach topics with fairness.

Hebrews 12:6-7

- (6) **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- (7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Sincerely and with Christian Love,

*-Andrew*

**Psalm 46**, omitting the silent phrases at the beginning and end

God is our refuge and strength: a very present helpe in trouble. Therefore will not we feare, though the earth be remoued: and though the mountaines be caried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof roare, and be troubled, though the mountaines **shake** with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a riuer, the streames wherof shall make glad the citie of God: the holy place of the Tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her: she shal not be moued; God shall helpe her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdomes were moued: he vttered his voyce, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge. Selah. Come, behold the workes of the Lord, what desolations hee hath made in the earth. He maketh warres to cease vnto the end of the earth: hee breaketh the bow, and cutteth the **speare** in sunder, he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be stil, and know that I am God: I will bee exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with vs; the God of Iacob is our refuge.

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