

WHICH BIBLE?

With the plethora of English versions of the Bible available today, it is remarkably simple to determine which is God's. Mark 1:2-3 indicates an undoubtable error in many of today's "Bibles".

Either the quoted material can be sourced in the unspecified but plural "prophets":

2 As <5613> it is written <1125> (5769) in <1722> the prophets <4396>, Behold <2400> (5628), I <1473> send <649> (5719) my <3450> messenger <32> before <4253> thy <4675> face <4383>, which <3739> shall prepare <2680> (5692) thy <4675> way <3598> before <1715> thee <4675>.

3 The voice <5456> of one crying <994> (5723) in <1722> the wilderness <2048>, Prepare ye <2090> (5657) the way <3598> of the Lord <2962>, make <4160> (5720) his <846> paths <5147> straight <2117>. (Mar 1:2-3 KJV)

Or in the specified yet singular "Isaiah the prophet":

2 As it is written <1125> in Isaiah <2268> the prophet <4396>, "Behold <2400>, I send <649> My messenger <32a> before <4253> Your face <4383>, Who <3739> will prepare <2680> Your way <3598>;

3 The voice <5456> of one crying <994> in the wilderness <2048>, 'Make <2090> ready <2090> the way <3598> of the Lord <2962>, Make <4160> His paths <5147> straight <2117>.'" (Mar 1:2-3 NAS)

Clearly, the verse quoted in Mark 1:2 is Malachi 3:1:

1 Behold, I will send <07971> (08802) my messenger <04397>, and he shall prepare <06437> (08765) the way <01870> before <06440> me: (Mal 3:1 KJV)

And, nothing similar can be found in Isaiah. This solidifies the error in any version which credits Isaiah with the quote. Unfortunately, this error remains in at least 95% of the "bible" versions currently available in Christian bookstores and church pews today. If your "bible" cites Isaiah in Mark 1:2, it is in error and is therefore not the Word of God.

A correct version will state that the quote is attributable only to unspecified "prophets". This would include any of the so-called King James versions in current production today.

A secondary test is whether a version uses the pronouns thee, thou, thy, thine, and ye. As shown in my article, *A Five-Minute Complete Guide to King James Grammar*, these forms were obsolete even in 1611 and were included to differentiate the plural forms from the singular. Modern English is one of the few languages which uses but one form for you and your, making it impossible to discern the writer's intent as to whether he is speaking in the plural versus the singular. The NKJV completely eliminates these ancient forms, making it impossible to discern the writers' intent and can therefore be eliminated as a choice for God's Word.

The other modern versions of the KJV (the TMB, KJ21, and the DNKJV) while distinguishing themselves with the inclusion or rejection of the apocrypha and the use of the name Yahweh, are so rarely found in bookstores that they can be eliminated on their scarcity.

Thus, we are left with only the KJV as a viable choice for God's Word in English.

Fortunately, the KJV is still the personal favorite of the majority of today's English-speaking believers. The NKJV is a distant second choice at about 25%. And the NIV runs a distant third, with only about 5%. Unfortunately, Christian booksellers seem intent on selling any type of "bible," without realizing nor caring that they are selling corrupted versions.