

the average reader.

The preparation of the King James Version was not an isolated event. About 80 years had passed since Tyndale prepared his epoch-making translation and since that time many versions had appeared, some prepared by talented individuals, others by groups of Christians. Each of these versions had its particular merits and all were available for consideration by the committee that prepared the King James Version.

Many qualities are necessary for effective translation work. Not only must the translator know the original language thoroughly, but he must also have a sympathetic feeling for the material to be translated. A translation made by a man or a committee who consider the ideas of the original to be complete nonsense is quite certain to hide rather than to present what was in the mind of the original author. This is the reason why a translation of the Bible by Modernists is very unlikely to give a true picture of its teaching.

The above qualities were possessed by the translators of the King James Version. They belonged to different groups of Christians but all of them believed the Bible to be true and Jesus Christ to be God's Son who existed from all eternity. Some of them had spent years in studying the original languages of scripture and were intimately acquainted with the Latin and Jewish commentaries. It is safe to say that no group of men living today could equal the linguistic and theological scholarship of the men who prepared the King James Version. Yet all of these qualifications put together would not account for its excellences.