

# KING JAMES BIBLE

## 400th anniversary 1611-2011

In the Queen's Christmas Message of Saturday 25 December 2010, televised on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Her Majesty, the Queen, spoke on a most important matter. The following excerpts are taken from the Queen's Christmas Message given at the Chapel Royal of Hampton Court Palace in London by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, *Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Defender of the Faith*; Queen of the United Kingdom; Queen of Australia, and elsewhere.

The Queen said: "Over 400 years ago King James the Sixth of Scotland inherited the throne of England at a time when the Christian Church was deeply divided. Here at Hampton Court in 1604 he convened a Conference of churchmen of all shades of opinion to discuss the future of Christianity in this country. The king agreed to commission a new translation of the Bible that was acceptable to all parties. This was to become the King James or Authorized Bible which next year will be exactly four centuries old. Acknowledged as a masterpiece of English prose and the most vivid translation of the Scriptures, the glorious language of this Bible has survived the turbulence of history, and given many of us the most widely recognized and beautiful descriptions of the birth of Jesus Christ which we celebrate today." Then after a succession of pictures on the TV screen first showing the title page of "The Holy Bible;" then the Dedicatory Preface page of this Bible "To ... James, by the grace of God, King ..., Defender of the Faith," etc.; then the first page of the third Gospel in the Authorized Version reading, "The Gospel according to S. Luke;" three successive students from St. Mary & St. Pancras *Church of England* Primary School, London, read, "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered" (Luke 2:6). "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:7,8). "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid ... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of ... heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:9,13,14). The Queen later said, "The King James Bible was a major co-operative endeavor that required the efforts of dozens of the day's leading scholars. The whole enterprise was guided by an interest in reaching agreement for the wider benefit of the Christian Church and to bring harmony to the Kingdoms of England and Scotland." Then quoting from Saint Matthew 7:12, the Queen said: "From the Scriptures in the Bible which bears" "King James" "name," "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

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