A Textual History of the King James Bible

David Norton has recently re-edited the King James Bible for Cambridge, and this book arises from his intensive work on that project. Here he shows how the text of the most important Bible in the English language was made, and how, for better and for worse, it changed in the hands of printers and editors until, in 1769, it became the text we know today. Using evidence as diverse as the marginalia of the original translators in unique copies of early printings, and the results of extensive computer collation of electronically held texts, Norton has produced a scholarly edition of the King James Bible for the new century that will restore the authority of the 1611 translation. This book describes this fascinating background, explains Norton’s editorial principles and provides substantial lists and tables of variant readings. It will be indispensable to scholars of the English Bible, literature and publishing history.

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A Textual History of
The King James Bible

DAVID NORTON
For Ward Allen
Friend, inspiration and wonderful correspondent
And thy word was a perfect worke

(2 Esdras 6:38)
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Abbreviations

ABS  American Bible Society
Apoc.  Apocrypha
Bod 1602  1602 Bishops’ Bible with KJB translators’ annotations
BS  Bible Society Library (Cambridge)
CUL  Cambridge University Library
KJB  King James Bible
MS 98  Lambeth Palace Library MS 98
NT  New Testament
OED  *Oxford English Dictionary*
OT  Old Testament