The King James Version at 400: Assessing Its Genius as Bible Translation and Its Literary Influence

Edited by David G. Burke, John F. Kutsko, and Philip H. Towner

In this collection of essays, thirty scholars from diverse disciplines offer their unique perspectives on the genius of the King James Version, a translation whose 400th anniversary was recently celebrated throughout the English-speaking world. While avoiding nostalgia and hagiography, each author clearly appreciates the monumental, formative role the KJV has had on religious and civil life on both sides of the Atlantic (and beyond) as well as on the English language itself. In part 1 the essayists look at the KJV in its historical contexts. Part 2 takes a closer look at the KJV as a translation and the powerful precedents it set for all translations to follow. Part 3 looks at the various ways the KJV has impacted the English language and literature, the practice of religion, and the broader culture.


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