

Easter in the KJV

By Mitch Allman

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also, (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, delivered *him* to four quarternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Acts 12:1-4

This is a passage from the King James Version that many today scoff at. Their contention is that the word *Easter* should really read *Passover* in verse 3. They claim this to be "another unfortunate error of translation" in the KJV. Some also go so far as to say that the KJV translators deliberately inserted the word Easter in the text because they observed the pagan holiday and wanted the Bible they were translating to represent their personal beliefs. What a charge! Naturally, these things are intended to cast doubt on the integrity of the KJV translators as well as the Bible they produced. But before we trade in our Authorised Version for the latest perVersion, let's take a look at what history has to say about the matter:

The chart* below shows how many times and in what places the early English Bibles translated the Greek word *pascha* to *Easter*.

VERSES WITH "EASTER"	Wycliffe Bible** [1382]	Tyndale Bible [1534]	Great Bible [1539]	Geneva Bible [1560]	Bishop's Bible [1568]	Authorised Version [1611]
Matt. 26:2	X	X	X			
26:17	X					
26:18	X	X	X			
26:19	X	X				
Mark 14:1	X	X	X			
14:12	X	X				
14:14	X	X				
14:16	X	X				
Luke 2:41	X	X	X			
22:1	X	X	X			
22:7	X	X				
22:8	X	X				
22:11	X	X				
22:13	X	X				
John 2:13	X	X	X			

2:23	X	X	X			
6:4	X	X	X			
11:55	X	X	X		X	
12:1	X	X	X			
13:1	X	X	X			
18:28	X					
18:39	X	X	X			
19:14	X	X	X			
Acts 12:4	X	X	X		X	X
I Cor. 5:7	X	X				
Hebrews 11:28	X	X				

This proves that the word Easter in our King James Version was not an accidental blunder or incorrectly inserted into the KJV text as some would have us believe. To the contrary, the course of history proves a continual *purification* of the text of the English Bible. We can see that the translators made a careful -not idle- decision to retain the one reference in Acts 12:4. They were well aware of what they were doing and they had access to all the older translations listed above and could have kept every reference to the word Easter if they had so chosen.

Their purpose was due to the wording of the passage in verse 3 which reads: "*then were the days of unleavened bread*". This passage clearly refers to the days that follow the Passover and not the Passover itself. (Exodus 12:6, 15, 17, Numbers 33:3)

So once again, as in the past, the Authorised Version remains vindicated in spite of the attacks of modern-day scholarship and their corrupt bibles.

**This chart was used by permission from Terry Lloyd. His website, with this chart and other Bible centered material may be found at <http://www.angelfire.com/la/prophet1/easter.html>
**Wycliffe's Bible was translated from Latin*

-OTHER ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE CHART-
Coverdale Bible used "Easter" in Acts 12:4 -other verses not yet examined
Matthews Bible -not yet examined
Cranmer Bible is the 2nd edition of Great Bible which is shown in the chart

Bro. Mitch Allman is the Song Leader at Grace Baptist Church in Savannah, GA and is the author of the book Our Hymns and their Heritage.