Abstract King James Onlyism: A New Sect

by James D. Price

This book provides a history of how, in the latter decades of the twentieth century, many churches in Fundamental circles adopted a new sectarian doctrine of Scripture claiming that the King James Version of the Bible is the only authoritative translation. Three chapters trace the history of English translations of the Bible beginning with the works of John Wycliffe and William Tyndale and continuing with the other English versions that preceded the KJV. The KJV is presented as one of a series of revisions of Tyndale's translation. Several chapters deal with the changes that have been made in the KJV since the time of its original translation in 1611, and with differences between current editions of the KJV. The preservation of the Biblical text is affirmed and defended, citing ancient Bibles, translations, and patristic quotations as documentary support. A number of chapters describe and evaluate the various theories of textual criticism and the continuing debate over the critical, majority, and received texts of the Greek NT. A chapter presents numerous emendations the KJV translators made to the Received Text of the Old Testament. Modern English versions are evaluated for their orthodoxy based on seven core doctrines of the Christian faith and are demonstrated to be doctrinally sound contrary to popular criticism. The problem of textual uncertainties is discussed and shown to be of relative insignificance. The final chapter counsels readers to use any version of the Bible with discernment. The book closes with a series of appendices that address the more technical details of the discussion. A glossary of terms is provided together with a selected bibliography and an index of persons and topics.