

## KJB idioms

The 257 items in this list are taken from the Appendix to my *Begat: The King James Bible and the English Language* (2011), where a stylistic comparison is made with the other chief translations of the sixteenth century.

Adam and Eve (*Genesis* 2.19, 3.20)  
all these things must come to pass (*Matthew* 24.6)  
all things to all men (1 *Corinthians* 9.22)  
alpha and omega (*John the Divine* 1.8)  
and the word was made flesh (*John* 1.14)  
apple of his eye (*Deuteronomy* 32.10)  
Armageddon (*John the Divine* 16.16)  
as you sow, so shall you reap (*Galatians* 6.7)  
at their wit's end (*Psalms* 107.27)  
babel (*Genesis* 11.9)  
baptism of fire (*Matthew* 3.11)  
be fruitful and multiply (*Genesis* 1.22, 28)  
be horribly afraid (*Jeremiah* 2.12)  
be of good cheer (*Matthew* 9.2)  
bear his own burden (*Galatians* 6.5)  
beat their swords into plowshares (*Isaiah* 2.4)  
begat (*Genesis* 5.6)  
behold the man (*John* 19.5)  
blessed are the... (*Matthew* 5.3)  
blind lead the blind, the (*Matthew* 15.14)  
blood shall be upon thine own head (1 *Kings* 2.37)  
born again (*John* 3.3)  
bottomless pit (*John the Divine* 9.1)  
bread alone (*Matthew* 4.4, *Luke* 4.4)  
built his house upon the sand (*Matthew* 7.24)  
burning bush (*Exodus* 3.2)  
by their fruits ye/you shall know them (*Matthew* 7.20)  
can anything good come out of Nazareth? (*John* 1.46)  
cast the first stone (*John* 8.7)  
cast thy bread upon the waters (*Ecclesiastes* 11.1)  
charity covers a multitude of sins (1 *Peter* 4.8)  
coals of fire on his head (*Romans* 12.20)  
coat of many colours, a (*Genesis* 37.3)  
covet (*Exodus* 20.17)  
cross to bear (*Luke* 14.27)  
crumbs which fall from ... table (*Matthew* 15.27)  
David and Goliath (1 *Kings* 17.4)  
death, where is thy sting (1 *Corinthians* 15.55)  
deep waters (*Psalms* 69.2)  
den of lions (*Daniel* 6.12)  
den of thieves (*Matthew* 21.13)  
divide / separate the sheep from the goats (*Matthew* 25.32)  
do unto others (*Luke* 6.31)  
dreamer of dreams (*Deuteronomy* 13.1)  
drop of a bucket (*Isaiah* 40.15)  
dust thou art (*Genesis* 3.19)  
east of Eden (*Genesis* 4.16)  
eat, drink and be merry (*Luke* 12.19)  
eating one's words (*Jeremiah* 15.16)

eye for an eye (*Matthew* 5.38)  
eye hath not seen (1 *Corinthians* 2.9)  
eye to eye (*Isaiah* 52.8)  
faith can move mountains (*Matthew* 21.21)  
fallen from grace (*Galatians* 5.4)  
fatted calf (*Luke* 15.23)  
feet of clay (*Daniel* 2.33)  
fell by the way side (*Matthew* 13.4)  
fell flat on his face (*Numbers* 22.31)  
fell on/upon stony ground (*Mark* 4.5)  
fight the good fight (1 *Timothy* 6.12)  
filthy lucre (1 *Timothy* 3.8)  
fire and brimstone (*Genesis* 19.24)  
firstfruits (*Exodus* 23.16)  
flesh and blood (*Matthew* 16.17)  
fleshpots (*Exodus* 16.3)  
fly in the ointment (*Ecclesiastes* 10.1)  
forty days and forty nights (*Genesis* 7.4)  
from strength to strength (*Psalms* 84.7)  
from the cradle to the grave (*Job* 10.19)  
from the housetops (*Matthew* 10.27)  
fuel to the fire (*Ezekiel* 21.32)  
get thee behind me (*Luke* 4.8)  
girded loins (*Exodus* 12.11)  
give up the ghost (*Job* 3.11)  
go the second mile (*Matthew* 5.41)  
go through the eye of a needle (*Matthew* 19.24)  
go, and do thou likewise (*Luke* 10.37)  
God forbid (1 *Samuel* 14.45)  
God loves a cheerful giver (2 *Corinthians* 9.7)  
God save the king (1 *Samuel* 10.24)  
golden calf (*Exodus* 32.4)  
good Samaritan (*Luke* 10.33)  
grave, where is thy victory (1 *Corinthians* 15.55)  
graven image (*Exodus* 20.4)  
great whore (*John the Divine* 17.1)  
greater love (*John* 15.13)  
greatest in the kingdom, the (*Matthew* 18.1)  
hair of your head (*Luke* 21.18)  
harden his heart (*Exodus* 4.21)  
harvest ... is great, but the labourers are few, the (*Luke* 10.2)  
he that is not with me is against me (*Matthew* 12.30)  
heap mischiefs upon (*Deuteronomy* 32.23)  
holier than thou (*Isaiah* 65.5)  
honour thy father and thy mother (*Exodus* 20.12)  
house of bondage (*Exodus* 20.2)  
how are the mighty fallen (2 *Samuel* 1.19)  
I am that I am (*Exodus* 3.14)  
I am the least in my father's house (*Judges* 6.15)  
if [one] had never been born (*Mark* 14.21)  
in our image (*Genesis* 1.26)  
in the beginning was the word (*John* 1.1)  
in the twinkling of an eye (1 *Corinthians* 15.52)  
itching + ears (2 *Timothy* 4.3)  
Jesus wept (*John* 11.35)

jot or tittle (*Matthew* 5.18)  
judge not (*John* 7.24)  
kick against the pricks (*Acts* 9.5)  
kingdom ... divided against itself ... cannot stand, a (*Mark* 3.24)  
know for a certainty (*Joshua* 23.13)  
land of Nod (*Genesis* 4.16)  
last shall be first, the (*Matthew* 20.16)  
laughed thee to scorn (*2 Kings* 19.21)  
law unto themselves, a (*Romans* 2.14)  
lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (*Matthew* 6.20)  
led as a sheep to the slaughter (*Acts* 8.32)  
left hand know what thy right hand doeth (*Matthew* 6.3)  
leopard [change] his spots, the (*Jeremiah* 13.23)  
lesser light (*Genesis* 1.16)  
let my people go (*Exodus* 5.1)  
let not the sun go down upon/on your wrath (*Ephesians* 4.26)  
let one's light shine (*Matthew* 5.16)  
let there be light (*Genesis* 1.3)  
let thy words be few (*Ecclesiastes* 5.2)  
let us now praise famous men (*Sirach* 44.1)  
let us play the men etc. (*2 Samuel* 10.12)  
lick the dust (*Psalms* 72.9)  
light a candle, and put it under a bushel (*Matthew* 5.15)  
lion's whelp (*Genesis* 49.9)  
live by the sword, die by the sword (*Matthew* 26.52)  
live, and move, and have our being (*Acts* 17.28)  
lost sheep, the (*Matthew* 10.6)  
love thy neighbour as thyself (*Leviticus* 19.18)  
man after his own heart, a (*1 Samuel* 13.14)  
many are called, but few are chosen (*Matthew* 22.14)  
many mansions (*John* 14.2)  
milk and honey (*Exodus* 3.8)  
millstone ... about his neck, a (*Matthew* 18.6)  
miserable comforters (*Job* 16.2)  
money is the root of all evil (*1 Timothy* 6.10)  
mote ... in thine own eye (*Matthew* 7.3)  
much study is a weariness of the flesh (*Ecclesiastes* 12.12)  
my brother's keeper (*Genesis* 4.9)  
my kingdom is not of this world (*John* 18.36)  
my name is legion (*Mark* 5.9)  
my words shall not pass away (*Matthew* 24.35)  
my yoke is easy, and my burden (is) light (*Matthew* 11.30)  
new wine into old bottles (*Matthew* 9.17)  
no man can serve two masters (*Matthew* 6.24)  
no new thing under the sun (*Ecclesiastes* 1.9)  
no peace for the wicked (*Isaiah* 48.22, 57.21)  
no room for them in the inn (*Luke* 2.7)  
no small stir (*Acts* 12.18, 19.23)  
O ye of little faith (*Matthew* 6.30)  
of making many books there is no end (*Ecclesiastes* 12.12)  
old as the hills (*Job* 15.7)  
old wives' tales (*1 Timothy* 4.7)  
out of the mouth of babes and sucklings (*Psalms* 8.2, *Matthew* 21.16)  
passeth all understanding (*Philippians* 4.7)  
patience of a saint, the (*John the Divine* 14.12)

patience of Job, the (*James* 5.11)  
pearl of great price (*Matthew* 13.46)  
pearls before swine (*Matthew* 7.6)  
physician, heal thyself (*Luke* 4.23)  
pillar of salt, a (*Genesis* 19.26)  
powers that be, the (*Romans* 12.19)  
pride goes before a fall (*Proverbs* 16.18)  
prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, a (*Matthew* 13.57)  
put the words in her mouth (*2 Samuel* 14.3)  
race is not to the swift, the (*Ecclesiastes* 9.11)  
rain bread from heaven ... manna (*Exodus* 16.4,15)  
reap the whirlwind (*Hosea* 8.7)  
render ...( un)to Caesar the things which are Caesar's (*Matthew* 22.21)  
riotous living (*Luke* 15.13)  
rod for one's own back, a (*Proverbs* 10.13)  
rod of iron (*Psalms* 2.9)  
root and branch (*Malachi* 4.1)  
root of the matter, the (*Job* 19.28)  
sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath, the (*Mark* 2.27)  
salt of the earth (*Matthew* 5.13)  
scales fell from his eyes (*Acts* 9.18)  
scapegoat (*Leviticus* 16.8)  
see through a glass darkly (*1 Corinthians* 13.12)  
seek, and ye/you shall find (*Matthew* 7.7)  
set one's teeth on edge (*Jeremiah* 31.29)  
set thine [your] house in order (*Isaiah* 20.1)  
shake off the dust from / under your feet (*Mark* 6.11)  
sheep's clothing (*Matthew* 7.15)  
shibboleth [in this spelling] (*Judges* 12.6)  
shining light, a (*John* 5.35)  
sick of the palsy (*Matthew* 8.6)  
signs and wonders (*John* 4.48)  
signs of the times, the (*Matthew* 16.3)  
skin of my teeth, the (*Job* 19.20)  
spare the rod (*Proverbs* 13.24)  
speak in tongues (*Acts* 2.4)  
spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak, the (*Matthew* 26.41)  
stiff-necked (*Exodus* 32.9)  
still as a stone (*Exodus* 15.16)  
still small voice, a (*1 Kings* 19.12)  
stumbling block, a (*Leviticus* 19.14)  
suffer fools gladly (*2 Corinthians* 11.19)  
suffer little children (*Luke* 18.16)  
sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof (*Matthew* 6.34)  
tables of stone (*Exodus* 31.18)  
take root (*2 Kings* 19.30)  
take the name of the Lord thy God in vain (*Exodus* 20.7)  
tell it not ... publish it not ... (*2 Samuel* 1.20)  
ten commandments (*Exodus* 34.28)  
that old serpent (*John the Divine* 12.9)  
there were giants in the earth in those days (*Genesis* 6.4)  
they know not what they do (*Luke* 23.34)  
thief in the night, a (*1 Thessalonians* 5.2)  
thirty pieces of silver (*Matthew* 26.15)  
thorn in the flesh, a (*2 Corinthians* 12.7)

thou good and faithful servant (*Matthew* 25.21)  
thou shalt not (varying verses in *Exodus* 20)  
thou shalt not bear false witness (*Exodus* 20.16)  
thy servant heareth (1 *Samuel* 3.9)  
time to ..., a (*Ecclesiastes* 3.1)  
times or the seasons, the (*Acts* 1.7)  
to every thing there is a season (*Ecclesiastes* 3.1)  
to give than to receive (*Acts* 20.35)  
tomorrow will take care of itself (*Matthew* 6.34)  
touch the hem of his garment (*Matthew* 14.36)  
turn to him the other [cheek] (*Matthew* 5.39)  
turned the world upside down (*Acts* 17.6)  
two are better than one (*Ecclesiastes* 4.9)  
two by two (*Genesis* 7.9)  
two mites (*Mark* 12.42)  
two-edged sword (*Proverbs* 5.4, *Hebrews* 4.12)  
unclean, unclean (*Leviticus* 13.45)  
unto the pure all things are pure (*Titus* 1.15)  
unto us a child is born (*Isaiah* 9.6)  
upon this rock I will build my church (*Matthew* 16.18)  
vanity of vanities (*Ecclesiastes* 1.2)  
vengeance is mine ... saith the Lord (*Romans* 12.19)  
vile body (*Philippians* 3.21)  
voice crying in the wilderness, a (e.g. *Luke* 3.4)  
wages of sin is death (*Romans* 6.23)  
wandering stars (*Jude* 1.13)  
washed his hands (*Matthew* 27.24)  
way of all flesh, the (1 *Kings* 2.2)  
way, the truth, and the life, the (*John* 14.6)  
weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth (*Matthew* 8.12, 13.42, 13.50, 22.13)  
what ... God hath joined together, let no man put asunder (*Matthew* 19.6)  
what hath God wrought (*Leviticus* 23.23)  
what I have written, I have written (*John* 19.22)  
what shall it profit a man (*Mark* 8.36)  
wheels within wheels (*Ezekiel* 10.10)  
where two or three are gathered together (*Matthew* 18.20)  
whips ... scorpions (1 *Kings* 12.11)  
white as snow (*Numbers* 12.10)  
whited sepulchres (*Matthew* 23.27)  
woe is me (*Psalms* 120.5)  
writing is on the wall, the (*Daniel* 5.5)  
you can't take it with you (*Ecclesiastes* 5.15)  
you cannot serve God and mammon (*Matthew* 6.24)