

## MORE REFLECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY MENTOR BRUCE METZGER

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Two rather humorous stories connected with my work as the administrative assistant for the revision of the Revised Standard Version.

In that capacity I was, of course, present for the various deliberations of the committee. Among the many issues they discussed was what to call the new revision. Ultimately it stood in the tradition of the “Authorized Version” - the technical name of the King James Version. In 1881, the KJV underwent an “official” revision (i.e., authorized by the ecclesiastical authorities who owned the copyright) in the Revised Version. Its committee received a lot of flak for the changes it made. Even though it was an English revision, there were several Americans who were on the committee. As part of their terms of involvement, they agreed not to publish an American version of the translation (making changes as they saw fit and bringing spelling and punctuation into conformity with American usage) for 20 years; and so in 1901 was published the American Standard Version.

As I mentioned before, this version was revised to bring the language up to date and to make necessary changes based on advances in scholarship some 50 years later, with the publication of the Revised Standard Version. And now, about 30 years or so later, the revision was being revised again. This too was an “authorized” revision - in this case, authorized by the National Council of Churches in the USA, which held the copyright to the RSV.

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*Bruce Metzger is the author of several books including [The Early Versions of the New Testament](#) and [The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, And Restoration](#).*



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