

Struck Dumb

**"And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak,...
because thou believest not my words,..."Luke 1:20**

The following is from *New Age Bible Versions*, G.A. Riplinger, pp. 446-449.

For more information on *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Riplinger and other material contact:

A.V. PUBLICATIONS, P.O. Box 280, Ararat, VA 24053 * 1-800-435-4535

A peculiar phenomenon kept surfacing during my research into the life of these 'scribes'. God apparently 'cut off' their power to speak.

Regression: A third symptom which accompanies spirit possession in the bible is the inability to speak. It is called a 'dumb spirit' in Mark 9:17, 25 and Matthew 9:32,33, 12:22, 15:30,31. Those verses disclose the corresponding "frog" in the throat (Revelation 16:13) that accompanies unclean spirits of this kind.

[H]e was casting out a devil and it was dumb. . .when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake. Luke 11:14

The Living Bible: Taylor

The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things. Psalms 12:3.

The popular press has made note of author, Kenneth Taylor's, loss of ability to talk. *Time* magazine, July 1972, states: "Mysteriously half way through the paraphrase Taylor lost his voice and still speaks in a hoarse whisper. A psychiatrist who examined him suggested that the voice failure was Taylor's psychological self-punishment **for tampering with what he believed to be the Word of God.**"

New American Standard Version

Let the lying lips be put to silence. Psalm 31:18

Also silenced was Philip Schaff, collaborator on the New Greek Committee and director of the *American Standard Version*, which formed the foundation of the *New American Standard* and *The Living Bible*. Paralleling Taylor's pathology, Schaff's son finds the same "frog" in Philip Schaff's throat. Even as early as 1854, the warning was given, "his voice so affected that he could not speak in public so as to be heard." Finally by 1892. . . the power of articulated speech gone. (David S. Schaff, *The Life of Phillip Schaff* (New York: Charles Scribner's Son's, 1897), pp.171, 446)

A friend corresponds to Schaff, "It is with great sorrow that I have learned of the affliction which has befallen you." This malady followed his activity with Westcott and Hort on the RV committee and his American Standard Version. Still in 1893 his pathoses "deprived him of the power of speech." (Ibid., p.492)

'New' Greek Text: Tregelles

Schaff himself writes of S.P. Tregelles, author of a 'New' Greek Text which preceded and strongly influenced the Westcott and Hort revision. Of Tregelles Schaff writes, he was "scarcely able to speak audibly." (Ibid., p.246)

Westcott and Hort Greek Text:

(RV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, CEV, *New Century Version*, *Good News for Modern Man*, Jehovah Witness bible, *The Book*, *The Everyday Bible*, All Catholic bibles et al.)

Westcott's biographer cites that in 1858 "he was quite inaudible" (*Life of Westcott*, Vol. I, p. 198) and by 1870 "His voice reached few and was understood by still fewer." (Ibid., p. 272)

The New Testament in Modern English: J.B. Phillips

[T]he forward tongue shall be cut off. Proverbs 10:31

J.B. Phillips tells in his own autobiography, "I was still doing a fair measure of speaking in schools and churches until the late summer of 1961. And then quite suddenly my speaking, writing and communication powers stopped. I was not in panic but I was certainly alarmed, and when a few weeks rest brought no improvement I cancelled all speaking engagements for the rest of the year (age 55)." *The Price of Success*, the title of his autobiography, is *apropos*. (J.B Phillips, *The Price of Success* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1984), see pp. 163-196)

The speechless sphinx syndrome can even happen to a believer, as is did to Zacharias, because ". . . **thou believest not my words" (Luke 1:20).**

You can call it pure justice, a sign from God, or whatever you want, but eyebrows were sure raised recently [1999] during the tapings for Christian TV's The John Ankerberg Show. Ankerberg, a bitter opponent of the King James Bible, had wanted to do a series of TV programs in which the heads of the new version translation committees — the NIV, RSV, NASV, NKJV, etc. — would debate King James Bible advocates.

Afraid that the King James people would get the upper hand and win the debate, Ankerberg attempted to "stack the deck." He invited **five** new version scholars but only **three** King James advocates. Since Ankerberg is himself a fervent promoter of the NIV and other false versions, that made the odds **six to three**. But the three King James men — Dr. Joseph Chambers, Dr. Samuel Gipp, and Dr. Thomas Strouse, weren't deterred by the odds. They accepted John Ankerberg's invitation anyway so that they could get out their vital and important message — **that the King James Bible is the only trustworthy, accurate, scholarly, and whole Bible available in the world!**

The John Ankerberg programs are taped in advance in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and then shown later to a national TV audience. For the Bible version debate, eight shows were taped. However, on one of these shows, *Ankerberg and the new Bible version people were forced to call an abrupt halt right in the midst of the taping.*

It happened when Ankerberg asked Dr. Don Wilkins, of the *New American Standard Version* translation committee, a key question. Is it true, asked Ankerberg, as Gail Riplinger reported in her bestselling book, *New Age Bible Versions*, that a number of the scholars who worked on the new translation committees **lost their voice** as punishment by God?

As the TV cameras captured the moment, Dr. Wilkins opened his mouth to answer — **and nothing came out! No sound!** Wilkins kept trying to clear his throat, but he couldn't respond. Ankerberg and the other new version scholars were visibly startled. Finally, an embarrassed and frightened Wilkins was able to screech out in a cracking, almost inaudible manner, **"I... I've... lost... my voice!"**

A shocked John Ankerberg ordered the cameras to stop and back up, whereupon Dr. Joseph Chambers, a King James only advocate, politely protested. *"The cameras should record exactly what happened here,"* Chambers insisted.

But Ankerberg was hearing none of it. After a brief delay, the TV cameras began to roll again, ***after the amazing segment of Dr. Wilkins losing his voice had conveniently been excised!***

But our miraculous God wasn't through yet. Ankerberg had taped ***eight*** programs in all, but after broadcasting only ***two*** of them, he pulled the others off the air and refused to continue the series. When we called his office to ask why, we were pointedly told that it was because the series was *a financial flop*. When the first two of the eight programs aired, people did not send in enough contributions. *In other words, Ankerberg claims that the series wasn't making enough money!*

I watched one of the two programs that did air, however, and I believe there is another, quite different reason why Ankerberg and the false new version folks decided to pull the remainder. At one point, the new version "scholars" were clearly frustrated when Dr. Chambers asked them why, ***an astounding 46 times in the NIV, the title of "Master" for our Lord Jesus had been changed to "teacher!"*** Obviously, there is a vast difference between one who is our Master and one who is a mere "teacher."

Such poignant episodes as this make me doubt Ankerberg's rationale as to why he quickly jerked the remaining programs from the broadcast schedule. If, as he claims, Ankerberg pulled the series because he wasn't bringing in enough money, what does that tell us about his "ministry?" Is John Ankerberg in it ***only*** for the money? Is filthy lucre the sole measure for the programs he airs — or doesn't air?

Here is an account shared by David Daniels, a Bible Version researcher: "And how about The Living Bible? Well, it's been called The Catholic Living Bible. It's been out since the 1970s. But let me break for a second. And I want to tell you something about the Living Bible a good friend told me. And I'm going to quote it right off the recording. Okay? He said, "I was in a CBA (Christian Booksellers Association) convention in the 1970s, attending the keynote session. The auditorium was filled with many, perhaps a thousand or more, Christian booksellers. They served their communities with Christian books. And [Kenneth] Taylor, [author of the Living Bible], had been invited as their keynote speaker.

"Kenneth Taylor stepped up to the podium. He turned and looked up at the big banner across the top of the stage that said, "People Serving People." "The CBA certainly felt that was laudable. After all, that's what their members do: serve their communities with Bibles and books, "people serving people."

"Taylor turned and looked at the banner, turned back to the microphone, and said --actually whispered-- 'I have a problem with that. I have a problem with that. Because when your goal is to serve people, you will ultimately make compromise.'

"He went on later to say, to whisper, how he had lost his voice following doing the Living Bible."

My friend tells me, "And with his own mouth And I heard him say, 'That may have been God's judgment for me tampering with God's words.'"

Messing with God's Word is a scary thing to do!