

The Mistake
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Tinted pages, faded ink, and crinkled edges reveal the most read text in the world. Old words, yet each resound new in the life of the individual. However, something was strange

Queen's Printer in 1583. This appointment meant that Christopher would be the only one to print official documents, bibles, and other sacred papers in London.¹

Robert Barker eventually took over his father's practice and title in the early 1600s after his father's death. He had already been working as a printer for a while. Robert Barker's partner at the time of the printing of the "Wicked" Bible is not really discussed in many places. He was just one of Barker's "associates".² Although Martin Lucas may have been just a worker, he must have done work like this before, or he most likely would not have been asked to produce and distribute these bibles. Inexperience is not likely to have been the cause for the mistake in printing.

In light of the rivalry between Norton and Barker, there is a question that can be asked. Could the “vexatious” Norton have sabotaged the bible printing?⁴ What else could explain the absence of the word “not” with a man so experienced as Barker? This would have been a perfect way to affect Barker in all aspects. Barker’s publishing consistency and reliability would be questioned for years to come. Norton would then have a chance to become the King’s Printer with Barker out of the way. It was the perfect plan to undo Barker. It is also logical since not just one letter was missing, which was how printing presses worked—letter by letter, but a whole word was less likely. A more typical printing mistake would be for the word to have been switched “nto” instead of “not.”

There is also speculation that the “Wicked Bible” was actually one that Robert Barker was supposed to destroy since it was on the black market. This theory could be true. However, since there was no real motivation for Barker to do such a thing, this seems to be a less likely explanation. A more obvious historical trivia is that the “Wicked Bible” is not the only one of its kind. There were many error filled sacred scriptures that were published and recalled. Ray Russell recollects a large amount of misprinted bibles and their various names and errors in *The “Wicked” Bibles*.

The printing press allows for exact copies of various writings, but it does not eliminate initial human error. This small fact points to a truth that must be realized. Our Lord is great and will always make himself known even with human error in the world. Since God has sent us the Holy Spirit through Jesus, the living God within us works with the living word and reveals His true character. The beauty of this fact is that the Holy Spirit also reveals when something is not of God. Errors in the bibles printed are made obvious, when someone knows the true character of

