Understanding Our King James Bible: Personal Pronouns

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2. What We’ll Learn Today

• What exactly is a pronoun?

• Why pronouns are so important

• The precise meaning of each KJV pronoun

... And we’ll practice using what we’ll learn.
3. What’s a Pronoun, Anyway?

Personal pronouns (such as I, you, ye, thou, thee) refer to a person or a group of people.

Source: https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/personal%20pronoun
4. Why The KJV Pronouns Matter

**Matthew 4:3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written (Deut. 8:3), *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
5. Why The KJV Pronouns Matter

• The English of our King James Bible (New Testament) is translated from Greek – which uses a more precise system of personal pronouns than we use in today’s modern English;

• The King James translators used the so-called Elizabethan pronoun system to reflect the same pronoun distinctions that are used in the biblical Greek;

• Modern English Bibles that do not use the Elizabethan pronoun system fail to achieve the precision of our King James Bible.
6. How Important Is This Distinction?

(KJV) John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

(NIV) John 3:7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’
7. All KJV Pronouns Are Either **Singular** or **Plural**

All the “**T**” pronouns are **singular**.

*thou, thee, thy, thine*

always refer to one person or thing.

All the “**Y**” pronouns are **plural**.

*You, Ye, Your, Yours*

always refer to more than one person or thing.
8. All Pronouns Reflect a Point of View

“Me”  
First-person

“You”  
Second-person

“Them”  
Third-person

Thou, thee, thy, thine, ye and you are all second-person pronouns.
9. Pronouns Have **Subject** and **Object** Forms

**He** is teaching **him**.

**Subjects**  
perform action.

**Objects**  
receive action.
10. Pronouns have **subject** and **object** forms

She is feeding her.
11. Pronouns have subject and object forms

**Ye & You**

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Subject form. We are called to act holy.

Object form. We have received the call of God.
12. An Exercise: John 14:15-16

**John 14:15** If *ye* love me, keep my commandments. **16**
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give *you* another Comforter, that he may abide with *you* for ever;
13. Pronouns have subject and object forms

Thou & thee

The Lord’s statement to the Serpent in the Garden

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between *thee* and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
14. Pronouns May Also Show Ownership (Possession) – My & Mine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person</td>
<td>Thou</td>
<td>Thee</td>
<td>Thy, Thine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Person</td>
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“My” and “mine” are both used to show ownership (in the first person point of view). The difference between these words is similar to the difference between how we use “a” and “an.” We write “an” before a word that begins with vowel (a, e, i, o, u). Similarly, “mine” is generally used before a word that begins with a vowel. Otherwise, “my” is used. For example:

Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.
15. Pronouns May Also Show **Ownership** (Possession) – **Thy & Thine**

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“**Thy**” and “thine” are both used to show ownership (in the second person point of view). The difference between these words is similar to the difference between how we use “a” and “an.” We write “an” before a word that begins with vowel (a, e, i, o, u). Similarly, “thine” is used before a word that begins with a vowel. Otherwise, “thy” is used. For example:

**Psalm 21:13** Be thou exalted, LORD, in **thine own** strength: so will we sing and praise **thy** power.
# 16. Elizabethan Personal Pronoun Chart

## Singular Forms:

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## Plural Forms:

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Exodus 4:15 And **thou** shalt speak unto him, and put words in **his** mouth: and I will be with **thy** mouth, and with **his** mouth, and will teach **you** what **ye** shall do.
18. An Exercise: Nehemiah’s Prayer

Nehemiah 1:8-10 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses (De 28:63-67; 30:1-5), saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: 9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. 10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.
For more information:

• **Mind Your T’s & Y’s: Understanding King James Pronouns**
  *Pastor Robert Hammond*
  https://goo.gl/KCJiQk