

"GREAT BIBLE THEMES"  
LESSON I - THE BIBLE

I. ANCIENT VERSIONS

- A. The Septuagint (LXX) "Version of the Seventy" approx. 285 B.C.
  - 1. Greek translation of Old Testament from Hebrew.
    - a. the tradition
    - b. the facts
  - 2. This translation used by writers of New Testament.
  - 3. Was highly instrumental in acquainting the Greek-speaking world with the Old Testament.
- B. Syriac or Peshitta
  - 1. From 70-180 A.D. almost all Christians were Greek speaking subjects of Roman empire.
  - 2. With spread of Christianity to Africa and beyond Euphrates River into Edessa this version appeared along with several latin versions. Appeared about middle of 2nd century in Edessa of Mesopotamia.
  - 3. From Hebrew into Syriac. The several Arabic translations from this Syriac translation.
- C. Latin Vulgate
  - 1. Jerome asked to revise Latin translation by Damascus, bishop of Rome. Living at Bethlehem, he revised all of New Testament in Latin and all of Old Testament from Hebrew except Psalms. He completed the New Testament in 385 A.D.
  - 2. By 604, time of Gregory the Great, this translation in wide use.
  - 3. Served as standard Bible for Catholic church until the Council of Trent in 1545-63
  - 4. In 1592 Clement III issued the present standard Roman Catholic edition, a revision of the Latin Vulgate.

II. EARLY MANUSCRIPTS

- A. Uncials
  - 1. Oldest, captical letters, words running together.
  - 2. 212 total number of uncials available today.
- B. Cursives
  - 1. Similar to our present writing.
  - 2. Later date than uncials.
  - 3. 2429 total number of cursives available today.
- C. Three oldest manuscripts: Vatican, Alexandrian, Sinaitic.
  - 1. All have been made available since King James translation of 1611.
  - 2. These date from approx. 300-450 A.D.
- D. Vatican:
  - 1. Probably oldest, now in Vatican library, Rome, since 1450.
  - 2. An Uncial, about 700 pages, Greek.
  - 3. Contains all of Old Testament except Gen. 1-46 and Psalms 105-137.
  - 4. Contains all of New Testament as far as Hebrews 9:14.
- E. Alexandrian
  - 1. Dates from the first half of the 5th century.
  - 2. Contains the Old Testament (10 leaves are missing).
  - 3. Lacks Matthew 1-25; John 6:50-8:52 and II Cor. 4:13-12:6.
  - 4. Given to Charles I in 1628 by Cyril Luca, Patriarch of Constantinople, now in British museum.
  - 5. Came into English hands 17 years too late to be available to the King James Version translators.

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F. Sinaitic

1. Belongs to the 4th century.
2. Discovered in 1859 by Tischendorf.
3. In 1844, while visiting the library in the convent of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, he found some old parchments in the waste basket. He found others had been used to start fires. Some were leaves from the Septuagint; others were apparently earlier.
4. The monks became suspicious--Not until 15 years later was he able to obtain the balance of the manuscript, with the assistance of Emperor of Russia. Also, some of the Apocryphal books were obtained.
5. Was sold by Russia to British in 1933 for about \$500,000.00. The Sinaitic manuscript is now in the British museum.