

History of the Received Text

The Latin Bible
Study Pak 5B

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"If you and I believe that the original writings of the Scriptures were verbally inspired by God, then of necessity they must have been _____."
_____."

~~ Dean John Burgon ~~

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN

From the time of Christ until the development of the European vernacular languages in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, _____. It only makes sense that God would use Latin to preserve His word during these centuries.

II. THE FIRST LATIN BIBLES

A. Old Latin.

A Latin Bible is clearly in place by 150 A.D. It is quoted by Tertullian by _____ and is used by Cyprian in 250 A.D. The translator is unknown. The translation is very different from the later translation of Jerome. It is often called the "Old Latin Bible." Cyprian quotes _____.

Miller refers to the "Old Latin" as the _____ of the whole Bible into any language (p. 236). The Old Latin was translated into the language of the _____.

B. By the Fourth Century, Latin was replacing Greek, even in Greece. A Latin translation, known as the _____, became common in these areas. According to H.S. Miller, ". . . It did not differ greatly from the Old Latin."

~~ *General Biblical Introduction*, p. 238 ~~

The Itala Bible ignored the Apocrypha, had I John 5:7 and differed greatly from Jerome's later work. The Itala is often called the Old or _____. Vulgate means _____. This refers to the fact that it was commonly received by the believers. "Jerome's Vulgate" receives that name because it was commonly received _____.

C. The Testimony of Augustine.

According to Augustine, there were many Latin Bibles. He complained that many of them were not translated by qualified translators. He wrote, "Among translations

the Itala is to be preferred to the others, for it keeps closer to the original words without prejudice to clearness of expression."

III. JEROME'S VULGATE

- A. Pope Damasus I (366 to 389 A.D.) authorized a new official Catholic Latin translation. This was designed to replace the Itala and several other Latin translations then in existence.
- B. Jerome (born 340 A.D) was chosen as the translator.
- C. Jerome was recognized as a Latin and Greek scholar and he began to further study Hebrew. He collected a large library. He traveled through Palestine. He eventually translated both the Old and New Testaments.
- D. He rejected the Septuagint and at first refused to translate the Apocrypha. However, since his translation was under _____, many of the Septuagint readings that he rejected were eventually placed in his translation. The Apocrypha that he rejected was eventually added to his translation. Jerome was a devoted follower of Origen.
- E. His work was at first rejected by both the independent churches and by the Roman Catholic leaders. He referred to his critics as "two-legged donkeys."
- F. His work went through _____ after his death.

IV. THE INDEPENDENT CHURCHES

- A. Jerome's Vulgate was routinely rejected by the _____.

"The old Latin versions were used longest by the western Christians who would not bow to the authority of Rome—e.g., the Donatists; the Irish in Ireland, Britain, and the Continent; the Albigenses, etc."

When Roman Catholic persecution caused the true churches to flee into the mountains and the wilderness, they carried the uncorrupted word of God in Latin with them.

- B. Benjamin Wilkinson writes:

"Since Italy, France, and Great Britain were once provinces of the Roman Empire, the first translations of the Bible by the early Christians in these parts were made into Latin. The early Latin translations were very dear to the hearts of those primitive churches, and as Rome did not send any missionaries toward the West before A.D.350, the early Latin Bibles were

well-established long before those churches came into conflict with Rome. Not only were such translations in existence and well-established long before the Vulgate was adopted by the Papacy, but the people for centuries refused to supplant their Old Latin Bibles with the Vulgate. God in His wisdom invested these Latin versions by His Providence with a charm that outweighed the learned artificiality of Jerome's Vulgate for 900 years, we are told, the Old Latin held its own after the Vulgate appeared. The critical version of Jerome never displaced it, and only replaced it when the Latin ceased to be a living language."

V. THE WALDENSES

- A. The Waldenses are a group of independent churches that existed in the mountains of northern Italy and southern France.
- B. They claim antiquity back to the time of Paul.
- C. They have always been conscious that their Bible was vastly different than the Catholic Bible, _____
Their liturgies used the Itala Bible.

VI. THE CELTIC CHRISTIANS

The independent Celtic churches refused the attempts of the Roman Catholic Church to absorb them. This is described in detail in Churchill's *Birth of Britain*. They disputed with the Catholic Church over the plan of salvation, the autonomy of the local church and the proper text of Scripture.

"Differences of _____ had something to do with the pitiful struggles which arose between the churches and ended in the devastation of the older one."

VII. DR. FREDERICK NOLAN

In the 1800s, Dr. Frederick Nolan traced the Received Text historically all the way back to the apostles. For centuries, the trail runs backwards through the Itala Bible. He documents this in his book, *The Integrity of the Greek Vulgate*.

VIII. THE INFLUENCE OF THE OLD LATIN ON THE KING JAMES BIBLE

- A. The King James translators had four Bibles in front of them as they translated that were heavily influenced by the Itala Bible. They were:

- Diodati (Italian)
- The Olivean (French)
- Luther's German Bible
- The English Geneva Bible

- B. Erasmus had worked to restore the Latin Received Text and make it available to the common man just as he had the Greek Received Text.
- C. The King James translators accepted _____ and _____ based upon the _____. The previous English translations had done the same. This had been the Bible of born-again Christians for centuries. Many thousands of copies of it existed (much more than the Greek New Testament).

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