

Lesson: 0 **The Bible – Part 1** Volume: 0

The Bible in Native Tongues

And why should they not have it in their own tongue? they reasoned. Moses wrote in the language of the people of his time; the prophets spoke in the tongue familiar to the men whom they addressed; and the New Testament was written in the language then current throughout the Roman world.

The translation of the Bible into English by John Wycliffe, in 1380, was the chief event in the beginning of the Reformation. It also prepared the way for the revival of Christianity in England, and the multiplying there of the Word by the millions, for all the world, that has followed.

To make such a translation at that time, says Neander, "required a bold spirit which no danger could appall." For making it Wycliffe was attacked from various quarters, because, it was claimed, "he was introducing among the multitude a book reserved exclusively for the use of the priests." In the general denunciation it was declared that "thus was the gospel by him laid more open to the laity, and to women who could read, than it had formerly been to the most learned of the clergy; and in this way the gospel pearl is cast abroad, and trodden underfoot of swine." In the preface to his translation, Wycliffe exhorted all the people to read the Scriptures.

A sense of awe and a thrill of joy filled the heart of the great German Reformer, when, at the age of twenty, while examining the volumes in the library of the university of Erfurt, he held in his hands, for the first time in his life, a complete copy of the Bible. "O God," he murmured, "could I but have one of these books, I would ask no other treasure." A little later he found in a convent a chained Bible. To this he had constant recourse.

But all these Bibles here, as elsewhere, save in England, were in an ancient tongue, and could be read only by the educated. Why, thought Luther, should the living Word be confined to dead languages? Like Wycliffe, therefore, he resolved to give his countrymen the Bible in their own tongue. This he did, the New Testament in 1522, and the Bible complete, the crowning work of his life, in 1534.

The Foundation Bible Lessons

THE BIBLE; ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, AND PLACE IN THE WORLD

Introduction: The Bible

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MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental, Physical, Spiritual and Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)."
Luke 2:52

WEBSITE

www.fpsam.org

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The Bible: Origin, History & Place in the World

THE Bible contains proof in itself of its divine origin. No other book can answer the questionings of the mind or satisfy the longings of the heart, as does the Bible. It is adapted to every age and condition of life, and is full of that knowledge which enlightens the mind and sanctifies the soul.

In the Bible we have a revelation of the living God. Received by faith, it has power to transform the life. During all its history a divine watch-care has been over it; and preserved it for the world.

How, When, and Why Written

After the flood, as men became numerous, and darkness was again settling over the world, holy men wrote as they were moved by the Spirit of God. Thus God spoke to His people, and through them to the world, that a knowledge of God and of His will might not perish from the earth.

For centuries this work went on, until Christ, the promised Seed, came. With Him, and the blessed message of light and salvation proclaimed by Him and by His apostles, the Scripture record closed, and the Word of God was complete.

Original Writings and Translations

The Old Testament Scriptures were first written in Hebrew, upon scrolls, or rolls of parchment, linen, or papyrus. These were later translated into Greek, the oldest translation being known as the Septuagint. Or "Version of the Seventy," made at Alexandria, for the Alexandrian Library, by a company of seventy learned Jews, under the patronage of Ptolemy Philadelphus, about 285 B. C. The original order for this translation is said to have been given by Alexander the Great, who previously, upon visiting Jerusalem in **332 B. C.**, had learned from the prophecy of Daniel that Grecia was to overthrow the Persian kingdom. See Josephus's "Antiquities of the Jews," book 11, chap. 8, par. 5. This was the version in common use in the time of Christ.

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Original Writings and Translations

The New Testament was all originally written in Greek, except Matthew, which was first written in Hebrew, and later translated into Greek.

At an early date, different individuals made Latin translations, both of the Septuagint and of the Greek New Testament, and the more carefully prepared Latin Vulgate of Jerome, the Bible complete, was made **A. D. 383-405.**

Printing and the Bible

Printing, however, being yet unknown, copies of the Bible could be produced only by the slow, laborious, and expensive process of handwriting. This necessarily greatly limited its circulation. Worse still, its illuminating and saving truths were largely hidden for centuries by the errors, superstitions, and apostasy of the dark ages. During this time the common people knew little of its contents.

But with the invention of the art of printing about the middle of the fifteenth century, and with the dawn of the great Reformation in the century following, the Bible entered upon a new era, preparatory to the final proclamation of the gospel throughout the world.

Not a little significant is the fact that the first book printed from movable type was the Bible in Latin, which came from the press of John Gutenberg, at Mentz, Germany, in 1456, a copy of which, in 1911, was sold in New York City for fifty thousand dollars, the highest price ever paid for a single book.

The Bible in Native Tongues

Thus far, however, the Bible had been published only in ancient tongues, now little understood by the common people. Without the Word of God in their hands, the good seed sown among them was easily destroyed. "O," said the advocates of its pure teachings, "if the people only had the Word of God in their own language, this would not happen! Without this it will be impossible to establish the laity in the truth."