

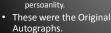
Introduction

- · Since we are talking about the Word of God, it is good to know something about the Bible you use.
 - Bible was not inspired in English.
 - It was translated.

 - Can you trust it?
 - Does God prefer one translation over another?
- Every Bible reference I will give is from English translations. So this is an important subject to
 - Though it is not technically part of Systematic Theology. That is why it is an appendix here.

How We Got the Bible

- Old Testament
 - God inspired the prophets to write down exactly what He wanted written down, but through their own style and personality.
- New Testament
 - God inspired the Apostles and some close associates (Mark, Luke, Jude, author of Hebrews) to write down what He wanted written down, but through their own style and persoanlity.



They were perfect and without flaw.

Manuscripts

- The original autographs were copied hundreds of thousands of times and dispersed throughout the world (in both OT times and NT times).
 - These copies are called manuscripts.
- The original autographs have been lost to history, but we have so many thousands of manuscripts that it is possible to reconstruct the original with 99% certainty.



Manuscripts

- Old Testament Manuscripts
 - Greek LXX (3rd Century BC.) full Greek translation of the

 - Dead Sea Scrolls (2nd Century BC.) Every book of the OT, except Esther. Written in Hebrew.
 Masoretic Text (AD 1000) Preserved text tradition of the Jews. Very accurate. Written in Hebrew.
- New Testament Manuscripts
 - Alexandrian Family (minority)
 - Byzantine Family (majority)
- Although there are many other types of manuscripts that are used, these are the main manuscripts used for Bible translation.

Translation is an Ancient Process

- Greek LXX
 - In the midst of the Greek era, with many Jews dispersed throughout the Greek world, Hebrew was less and less used.
 - Translating the OT into Greek allowed dispersed Jews to still read the Scriptures of their fathers and understand them.
- Latin Vulgate
- By the 5th Century AD, the Western Roman Empire spoke primarily Latin. They could not understand Greek. To make the Bible understandable to the common people, this translation was made
- These highlight the purpose of translation.



How Did We Get the English Language?

- As the Bible was being written, English didn't even exist.
- It began with invasions from continental Europe beginning in the 5th century.
 - Angles German tribe. This is where we get the word "English."

 - Jutes Germans (Jutland Denmark)
 Saxons Germans (around Denmark)
 Their conquest of Britannia and their mixing of dialects created Anglo-Saxon. This is Old
- In the 11th Century, the Normans conquered England.
 - The mixture of French, Ecclesiastical Latin, and Anglo-Saxon created Middle English. We can understand this.



Before English Bibles

- · The only Bible was the Latin Vulgate.
 - By this time in history, most Europeans no longer knew Latin. Especially in England.
- Artwork of the Church (windows, statues, paintings)
 - This was the only means for a non-literate people to interact with Biblical material.
- · Anglo-Saxon Biblical Material
 - Caedmon (7th century) translated Bible stories and songs into Anglo-Saxon (Old English)
 - Aldhelm (d. 709) translated Psalms, 10 Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer into Anglo-Saxon.
- Venerable Bede (d. 735) All Four Gospels were translated into Anglo-Saxon.

Middle English Bibles

- John Wycliffe (1330-1384)
- Wanted to get the Bible out to the

 - He did not know Greek or Hebrew, so he translated the Vulgate into English.
 Spread the English Bible to the people (Lollards).
- Pre-Reformer rejected much RCC doctrine, and biblical truth led to the spread of this.
 - People started to criticize the church for teaching wrongly, and the political rulers for not living according to the Bible.
- Both church and state realized the threat, and in 1414 made having an English Bible a capital offense. In 1428, the bug up his body and burned it.

