

The Christian Scriptures

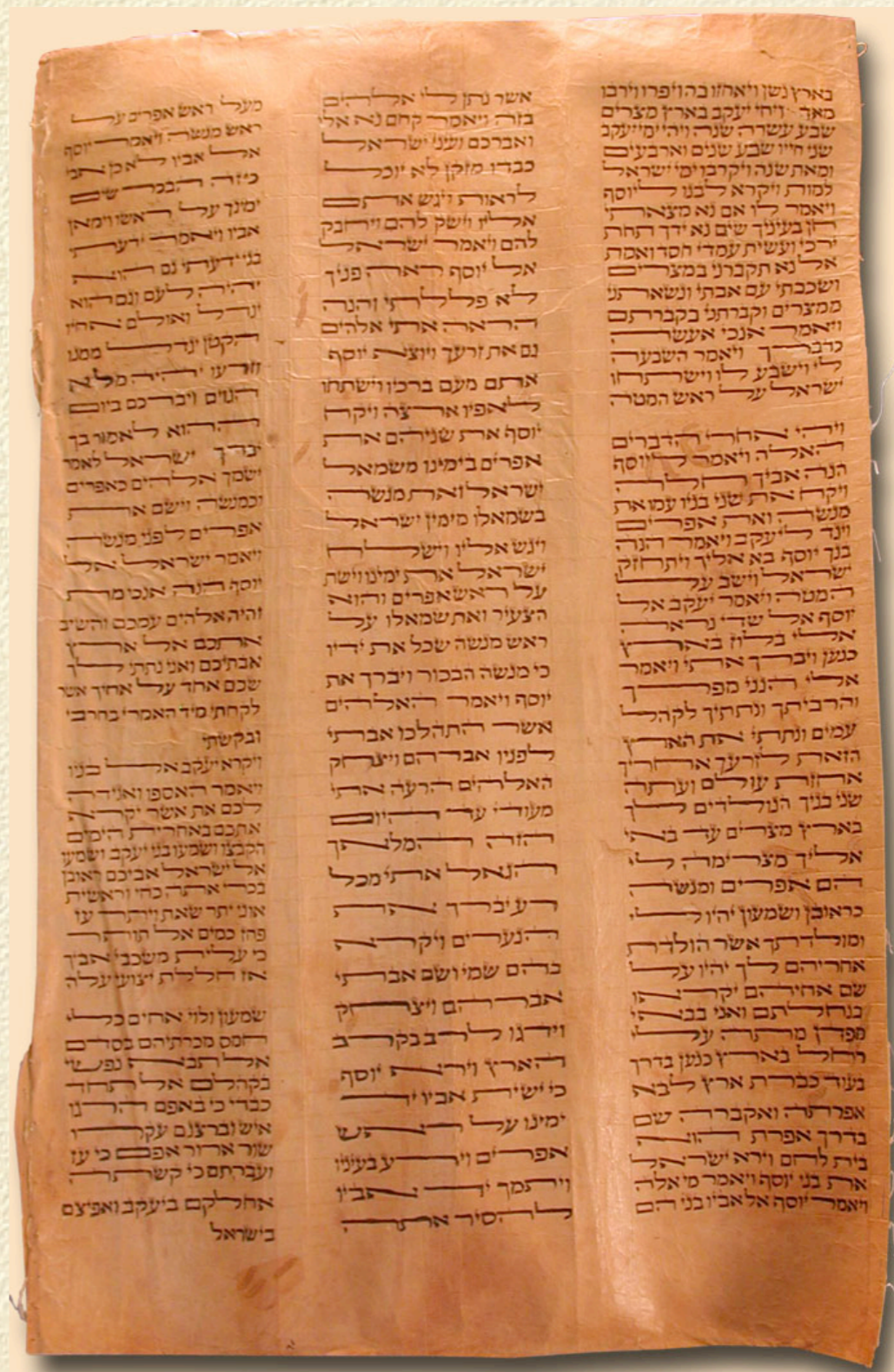
*A Visual Presentation of the History
of the Christian Scriptures.*

©2004 by James A. Fowler

Hebrew Torah Scroll

*A leather (calf or camel) panel
from a Hebrew Torah Scroll.
Handwritten manuscript from a
scriptorium in South Yemen.
Text is from Genesis 34-37.*

Original leather panel in exhibit



The Leningrad Codex

Oldest complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament scriptures.



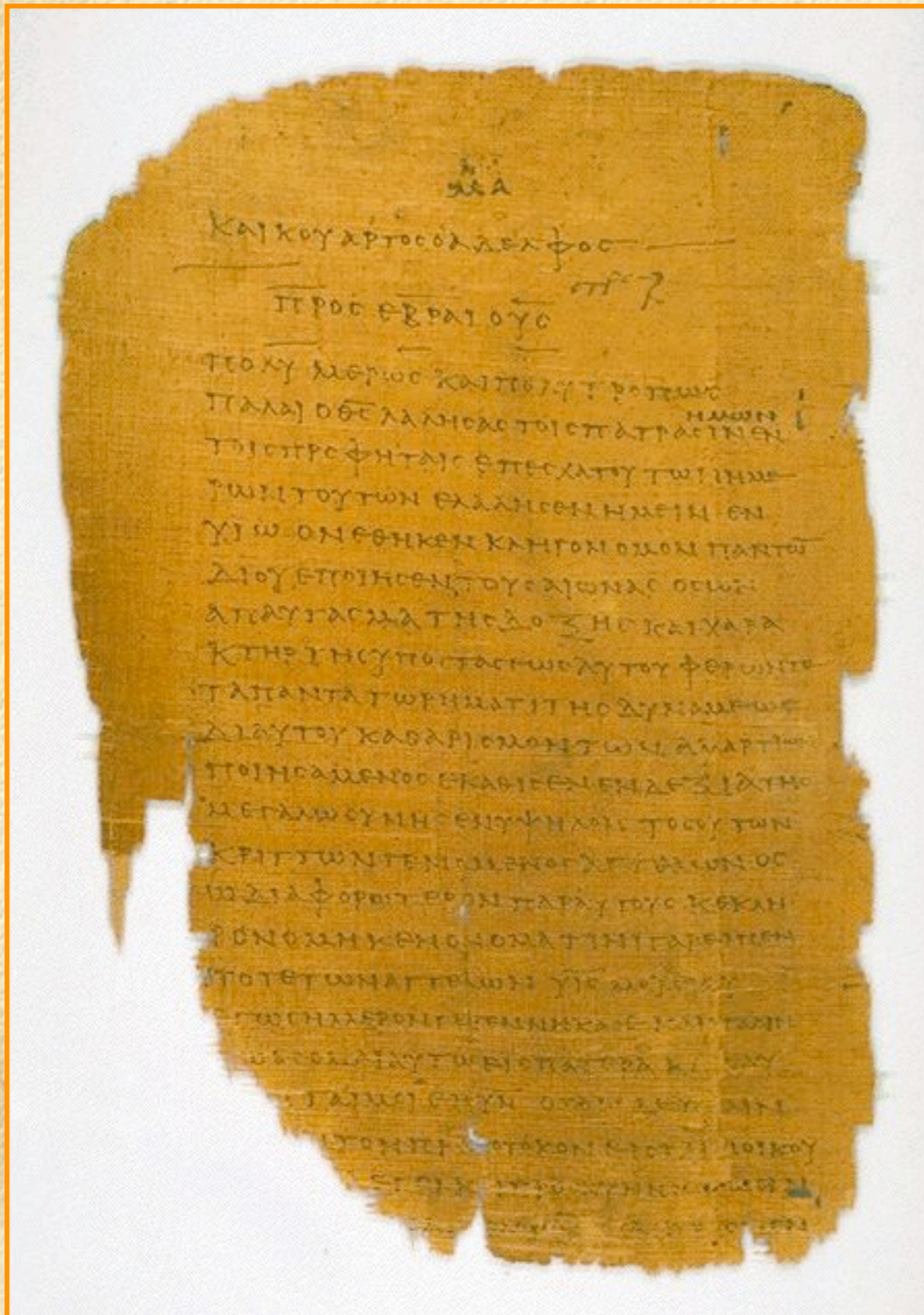
■ A “codex” is a hand-written manuscript in book form.

■ Original manuscript likely produced in Egypt in A.D. 1009.

■ Placed in Russian National Library in Leningrad in mid-nineteenth century.

Photographic facsimile of Codex in exhibit

Early Greek Manuscripts



- Papyrus fragments of Greek manuscripts
- P46 - The P. Chester Beatty II papyrii
- Pauline epistles including Hebrews
- Date: c. A.D. 150-180

Not in exhibit.

Codex Vaticanus B

- Handwritten Greek book manuscript in uncial lettering (all capitals & no spacing).
- Probably produced in Egypt.
- Approx. date: A.D. 325
- Original located in Vatican archives since fifteenth century.



Facsimile of Codex in exhibit.

Bible Leaves from Disbound Bibles



Leaves or pages from an antiquarian Bible are made available for purchase when the book has become disbound and part of the volume is missing. It is not standard practice among Bible collectors to vandalize an intact Bible.

Jerome

Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius – 347-420

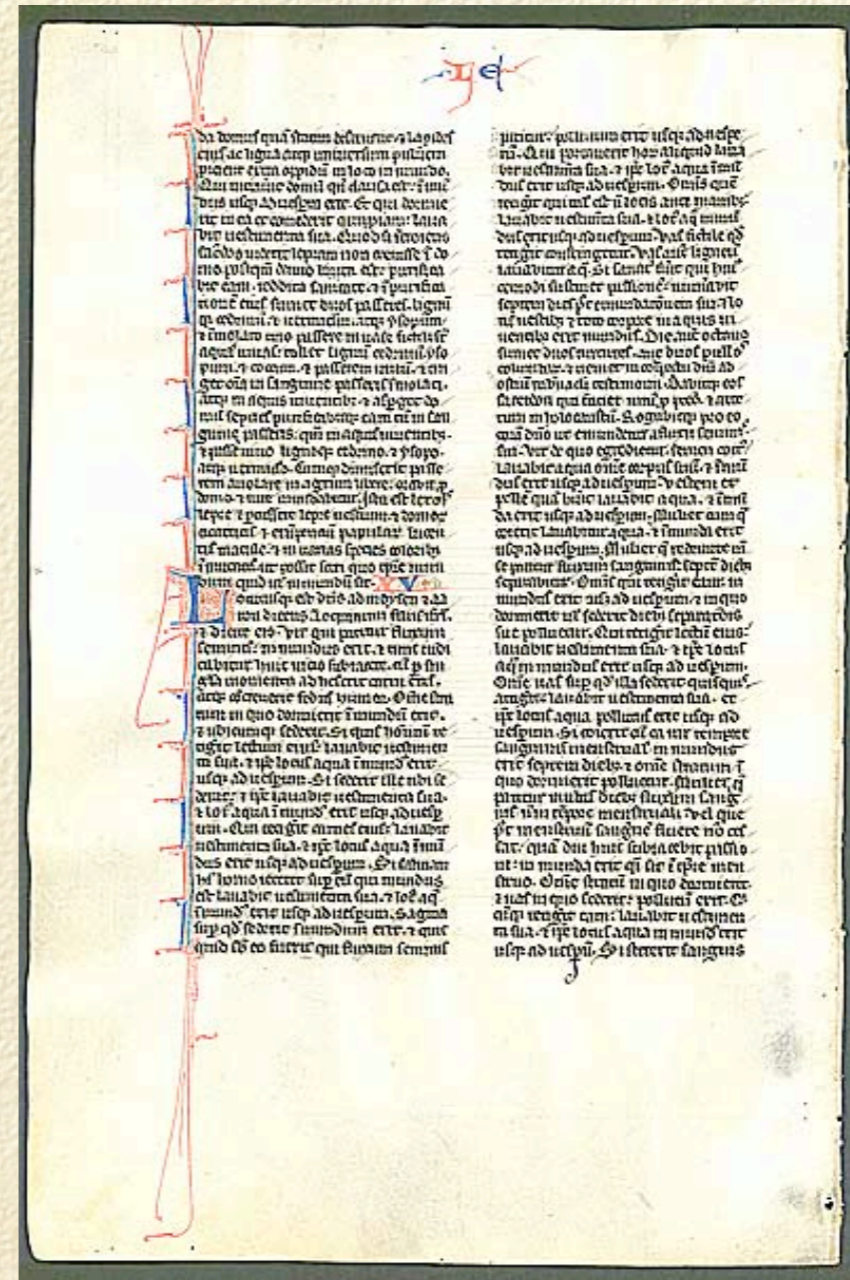
- There were numerous Latin versions prior to Jerome.
- Jerome was commissioned by Pope Damasus to make another Latin translation.
- From the ninth century onwards the Latin “Vulgate” translation of Jerome became the standard, authorized Bible in the Roman Catholic Church.



Latin Vulgate Manuscripts

- Handwritten manuscripts of Jerome's Latin Vulgate were the "authorized" version of the Bible for the Roman Catholic Church from the 9th century to the 16th cent.
- This manuscript leaf written on animal skin (vellum or parchment) dates to A.D. 1247.

Original leaf in exhibit.

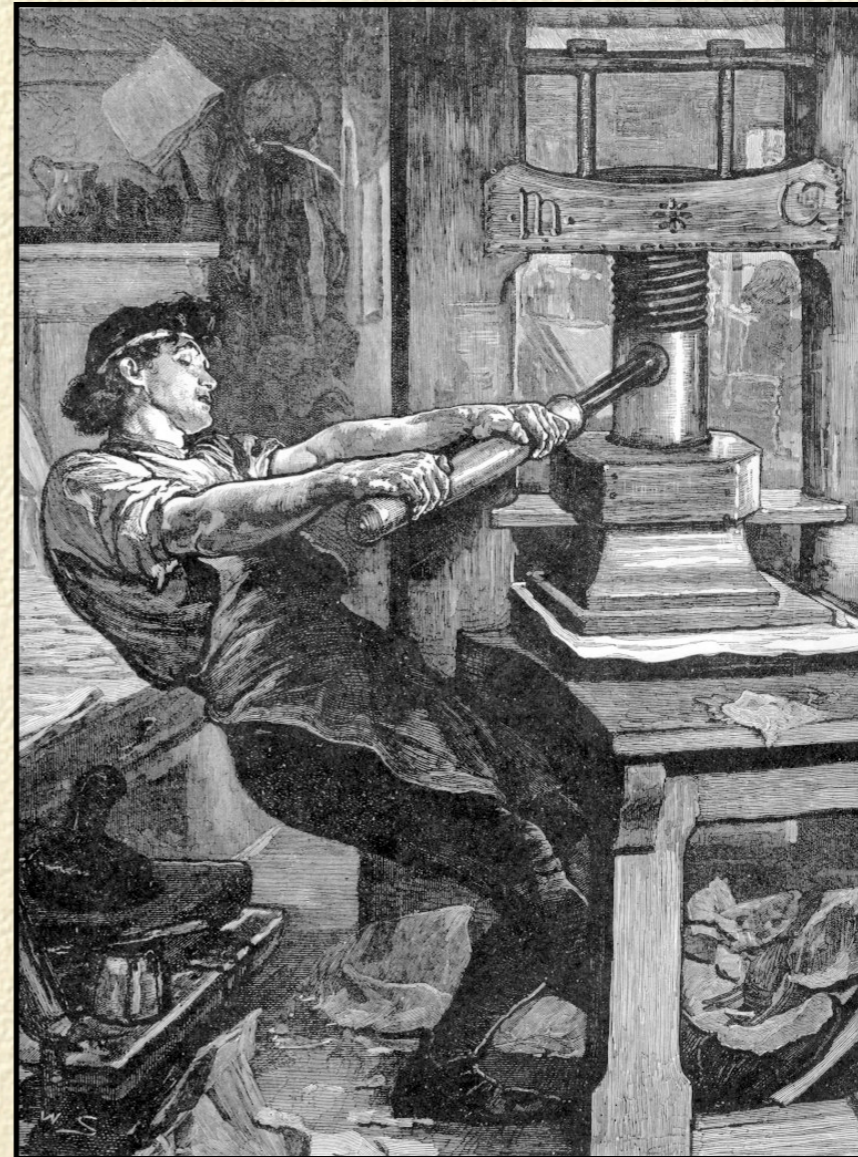


Johannes Gutenberg

Credited with invention of printing press



- Gutenberg developed the process of movable metal type and an oil-based ink. His creditor, Johann Fust, confiscated his printing equipment, and hired Peter Schoeffer to print the first Bible (Latin Vulgate) in Mainz, Germany in 1455.



Gutenberg Bible

First Book ever Printed – 1455



Three volume facsimile of Gutenberg Bible in exhibit.
Also facsimile page of illuminated Gutenberg.

1479 Bible Leaf

Latin Vulgate



Original leaf in exhibit.

Not an original Gutenberg leaf, but just 24 years after the first printed Gutenberg Bible (and 13 years before Columbus discovered America), this leaf of a Latin Vulgate Bible was printed in Nuremberg, Germany using similar press and paper.

1514-1517 Complutensian Polyglot Bible

Cardinal Francisco Jimenez, Archbishop of Toledo, Spain, was an advocate of classical learning. He sponsored the printing of a parallel polyglot Bible with Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. It was printed in 6 volumes between 1514 and 1517 in Acala, Spain. Hearing of this endeavor, Erasmus rushed his error-filled Greek New Testament into print in 1516.



Original leaf in exhibit.

Desiderius Erasmus

First printed Greek New Testament – 1516



Erasmus ignited an intellectual revolution that sought to find and study original language manuscripts of the scriptures.

Original language texts were difficult to find. *Textus Receptus* texts of sixteenth century are translated from Greek manuscripts that are from twelfth century or later.



Several leaves in exhibit have parallel columns of Latin, German, French and English alongside of Hebrew and Greek text.

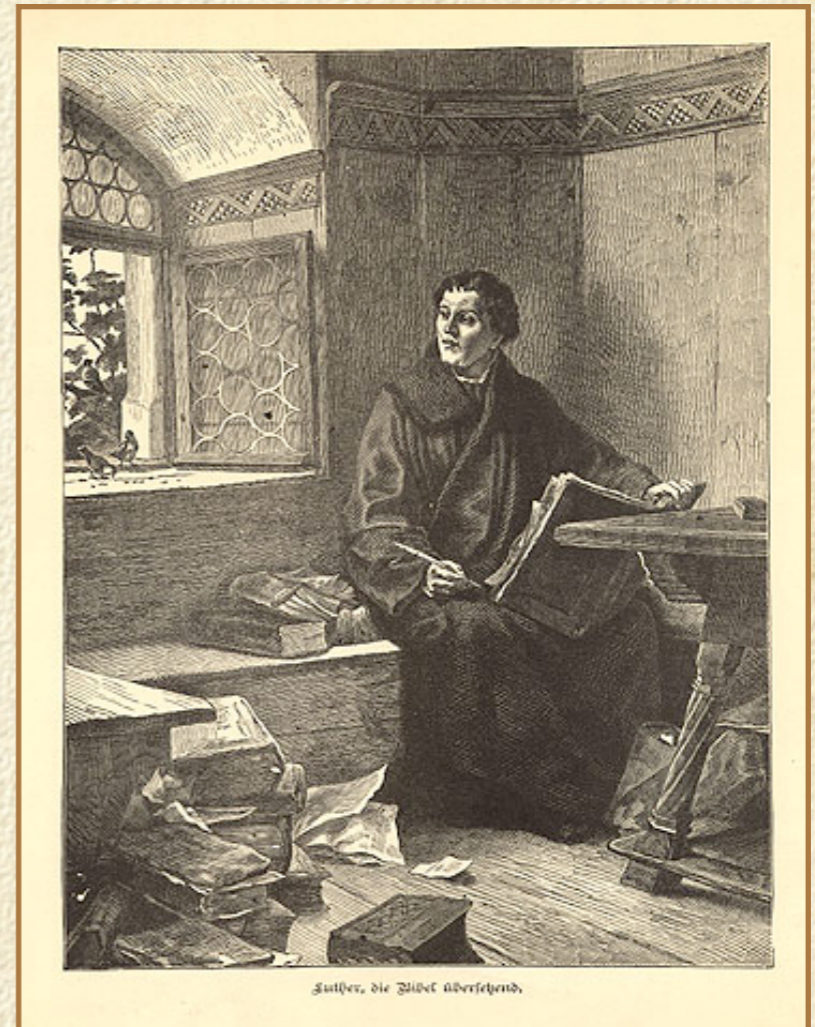
Martin Luther

1483 – 1546



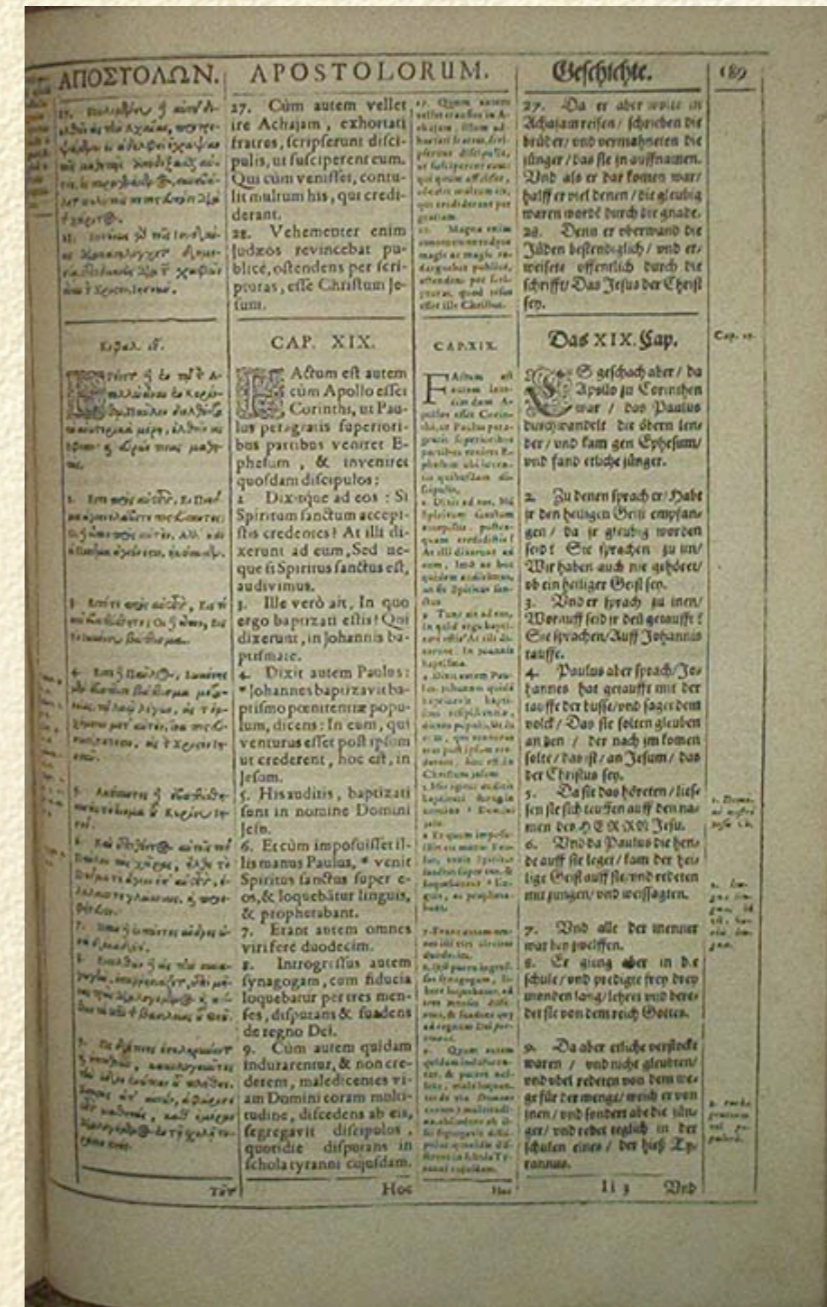
Luther attached 95 Theses to church door at Wittenberg on Halloween of 1517.

Luther translated the New Testament into German in 1522, and his entire German Bible was printed in 1534.



Luther was declared an outlaw, and went into exile at the Wartburg Castle.

Bible in German Language



- Two volume facsimile of 1534 Luther Bible in exhibit.*
- 1523 Luther Pentateuch leaf in exhibit.*
- 1534 non-Luther German leaf in exhibit.*
- 1596 Greek/Latin/German leaf in exhibit.*

John Wycliffe

1324 - 1384



Wycliffe was the first to translate the Bible into English in handwritten manuscripts translated from the Latin Vulgate.



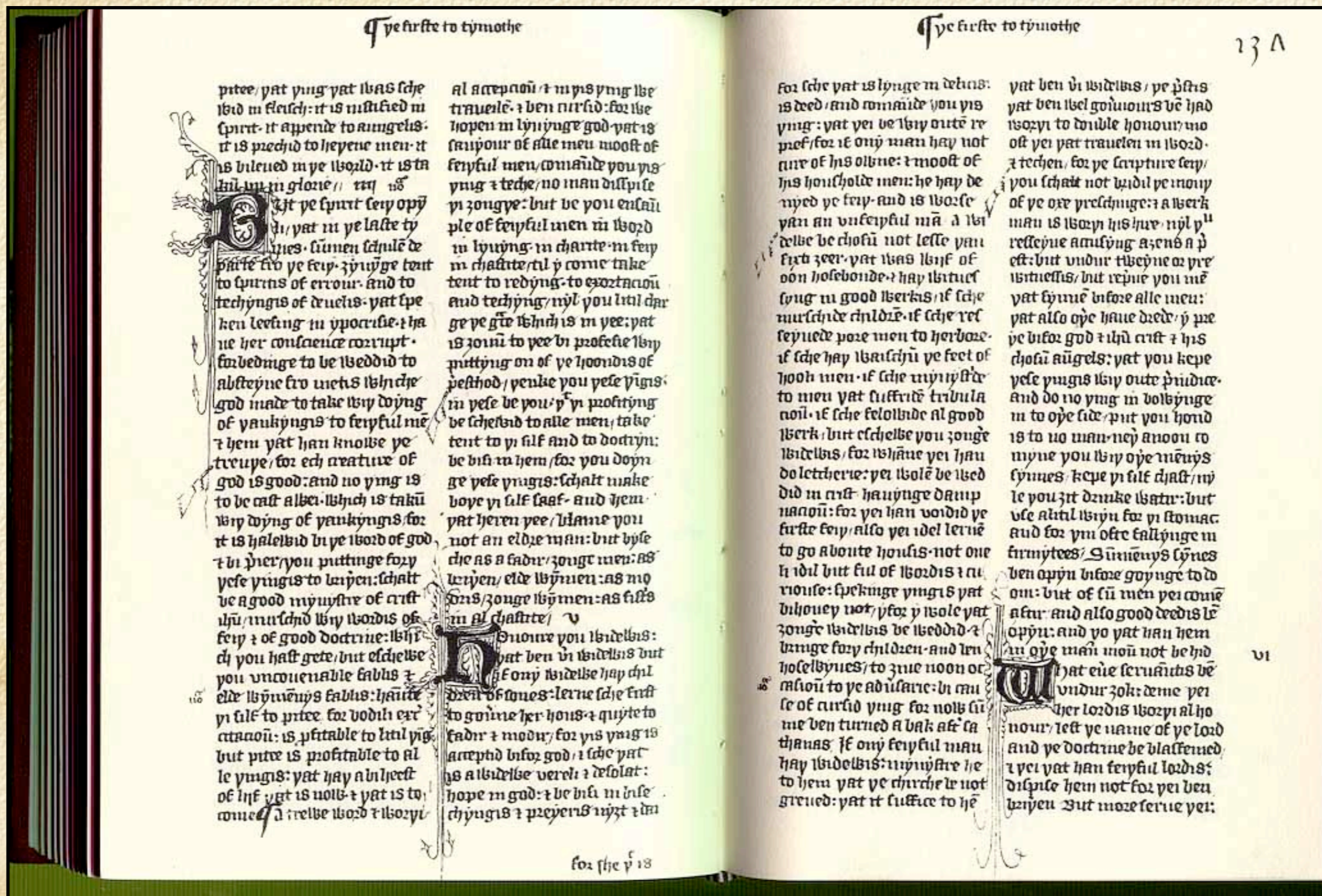
He trained lay-preachers who were known as Lollards.



*Facsimile volume of Wycliffe
New Testament in exhibit.*

Wycliffe's Manuscript Bibles

First Bibles in English Language



prtee / yat yng yat was sche
 ibid in fleisch: it is iustified in
 spirit: it appende to angelis:
 it is prechid to hevene men: it
 is beleued in ye world: it is ta
 kil in glozie // 117 15

Dit ye spirit sey opy
 di / yat in ye laste ty
 mes. sūnen schule de
 pite fro ye fey. zynge tent
 to spūns of errour. and to
 techyngis of deuelis: yat spe
 ken leefing in ypocryse: ha
 ue her consaunce corrupt.
 forbedinge to be weddid to
 absteyne fro uicis whiche
 god made to take wy doying
 of vaukyngis to feyful me
 z hem yat han knowe ye
 trewe / for ech creature of
 god is good: and no yng is
 to be cast albei. whiche is takū
 wy doying of vaukyngis for
 it is halebid bi ye word of god
 z bi pter / you puttinge fory
 yese yngis to lēpen: schalt
 be a good mynstre of crist
 ihu / mūschid wy wordis of
 fey z of good doctrine: whi
 ch you halt gete / but eschewe
 you unconuenable fablis z
 elde lēymēys fablis: haūte
 yi sūlf to price for bodili ex
 ctaoū: is pfitable to lēl yig
 but pite is profitabile to al
 le yngis: yat hay a biheest
 of ihu yat is uolē: z yat is to
 come of d: relbe word z bozvi

al acceptoū / z in yis yng lē
 trauele. z ben cursid: for the
 hopen in lēnyngē god: yat is
 sauyour of alle men moost of
 feyful men: comaūde you yis
 yng z teche / no man dispise
 yi zongye: but be you encaū
 ple of feyful men in word
 in lēyng: in charite: in fey
 m charite: til y come take
 tent to redyng: to exortacioū
 and techyng: nyl you lēl dā
 ge ye gte whiche is in yee: yat
 is zoinū to yee bi profesie lēy
 puttyng on of ye hoondis of
 pesthod / venke you yese yigis:
 in yese be you: p y profityng
 be schesid to alle men: take
 tent to yi sūlf and to doctryn:
 be bih in hem / for you doyn
 ge yese yngis: schalt make
 bove yi sūlf laaf: and hem
 yat heren yee / blame you
 not an eldye man: but byle
 che as a fadir / zongt men: as
 lēyē / elde lēymēn: as mo
 dōns / zonge lēymēn: as fūls
 in al charite // v

Donour you whidlis:
 yat ben bi whidlis but
 of ony whidle hay chil
 dren of stōnes: lēne sche first
 to goīne her hous: z quyte to
 fadir z modur / for yis yng is
 acceptid bifor god: z sche yat
 is a whidle vereli: z desolat:
 hope in god: z be bih in bise
 ch yngis z preyers nyzt z dā

for sche yat is lōnge in delis:
 is deed / and comaūde you yis
 yng: yat yei be lēy oute re
 pte / for if ony man hay not
 cure of his olue: z moost of
 his houcholde men: he hay de
 nyed ye fey: and is worse
 yan an unfeyful mā a whi
 delbe be chofū not lesse yan
 fūth zee: yat was lēyf of
 oon hōsebonde: z hay lētuēl
 syng in good lērkis: if sche
 mūschide chldre: if sche rel
 seyneē pore men to herboze:
 if sche hay lēlchū ye feet of
 hōoh men: if sche mūschid
 to men yat suffrid tribula
 tioū: if sche felolhde al good
 lērk: but eschewe you zonge
 whidlis / for whāne yei hau
 do lētherie: yei wholē be lēd
 did in crist: haūnge damp
 naoū: for yei han voidid ye
 fūth fey / also yei idel lēne
 to go aboute hōulis: not one
 h idil but ful of lōrdis z au
 rious: spekinge yngis yat
 dihouey not / yfor y wholē yat
 zonge whidlis be lēddid: z
 lēunge fory children: and lēn
 hōselbyues: to zme noon oc
 casioū to ye adūlarie: bi cau
 se of cursid yng for nolē sū
 me ben turned a bak aft sa
 thanas: if ony feyful mā
 hay whidlis: mūnstre he
 to hem yat ye churche is not
 greued: yat it suffice to hē

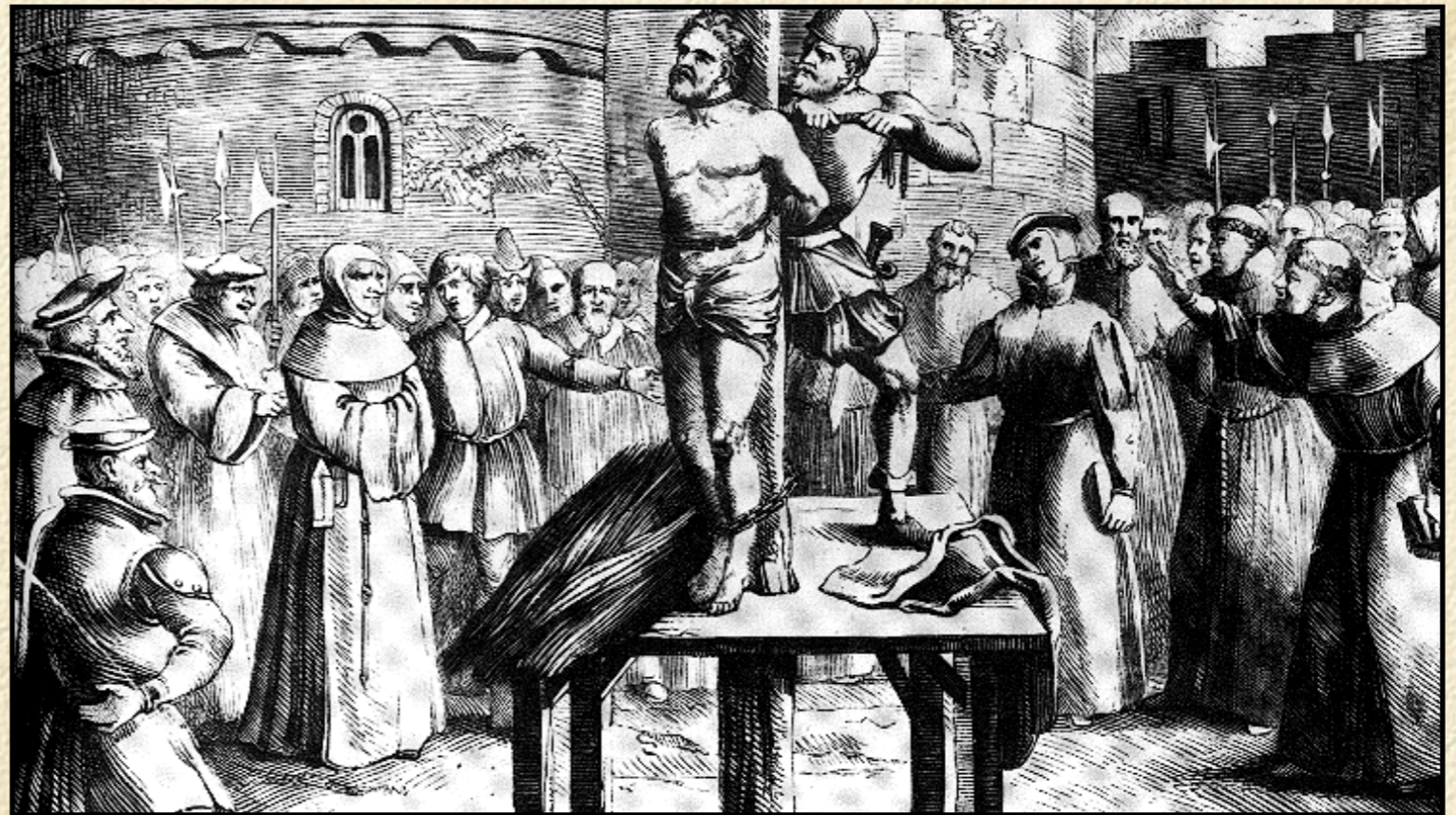
yat ben bi whidlis / ye pter
 yat ben lēl goūuours vē had
 sozri to double honour: mo
 ost yei yat trauele in word:
 z techen / for ye scripture sey
 you schalt not wādil ye moūy
 of ye oze preschunge: z a lērk
 mā is lēzri his hūe: nyl y
 relseyne amūyng: a zēd a p
 est: but vndur tēpne or pre
 whidlis: but repue you mē
 yat lēme bifore alle men:
 yat also ope haue dēd: y pre
 ye bifor god z ihu crist z his
 chofū aūgels: yat you kepe
 yese yngis lēy oute pūidice:
 and do no yng in bolsyngē
 in to ope sūde: put you hōid
 is to no mā: ney anoou to
 myne you lēy ope mēys
 sūmes: kepe yi sūlf chalt / m
 le you zt drinke whate: but
 use altil lēyū for yi stomac:
 and for ym ofte fallyngē in
 firmytes: Sūmēys lēnes
 ben opū bifore goyngē to d
 om: but of sū mē yei come
 a fū: and also good dēdis lē
 opū: and yo yat han hem
 in ope mā moū not be hid
 whidlis: yat eue seruāntis bē
 vndur zok: deme yei
 her lordis bozri al hō
 nou: lest ye name of ye lord
 and ye doctrine be blaffened:
 z yei yat han feyful lordis:
 dispise hem not for yei ben
 lēyē: But more serue yei:

William Tyndale

1494 – 1536

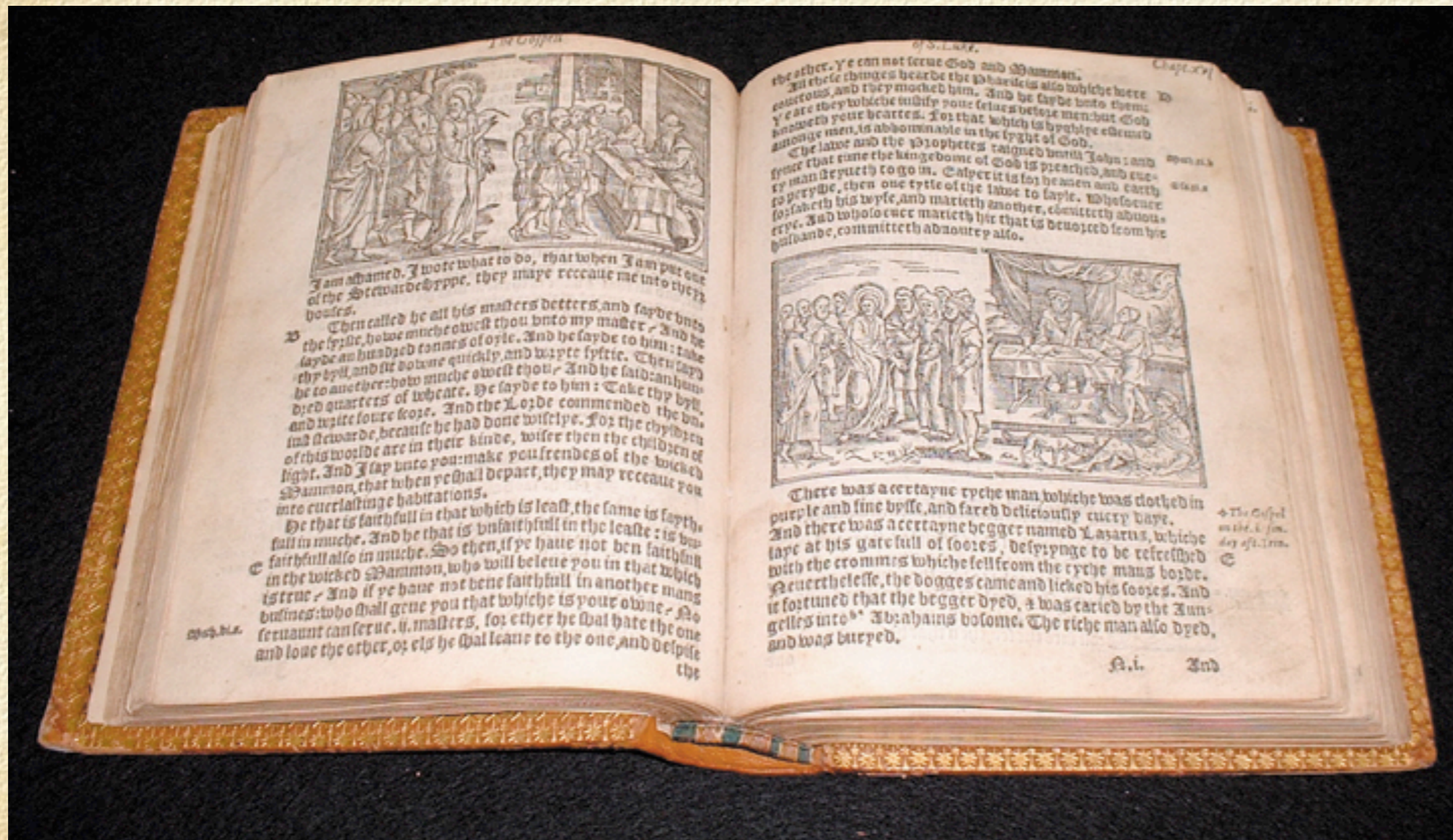


Tyndale visited Martin Luther and used Erasmus' Greek text to translate the New Testament into English. First printed in 1525 in Germany. Martyred by strangulation and burning at the stake at Vilvoorden, Holland in 1536, at the instigation of King Henry VIII and Roman Church authorities.



Tyndale New Testaments

The first printed scriptures in the English language – 1525



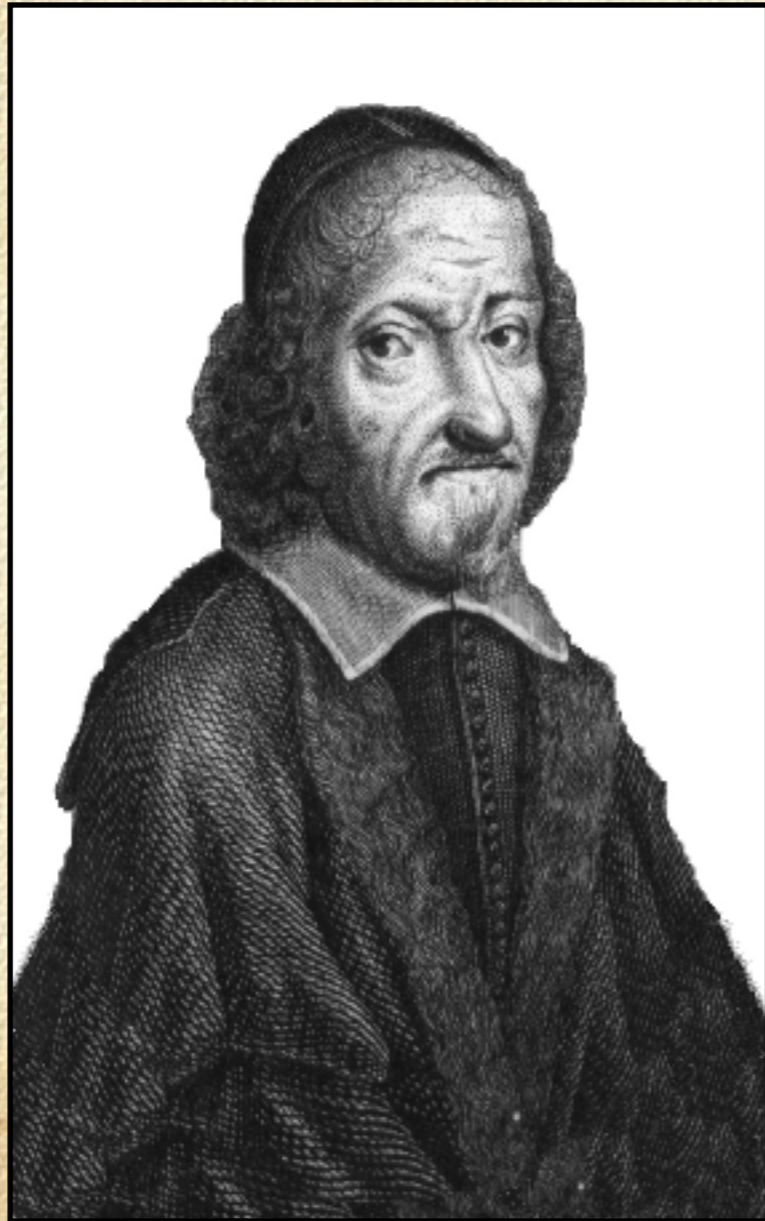
Facsimile volume of Tyndale New Testament in exhibit.

1536 original Tyndale leaf in exhibit.

1552 original Tyndale New Testament leaf in exhibit.

Myles Coverdale

1488 – 1568



Friend and colleague of William Tyndale.

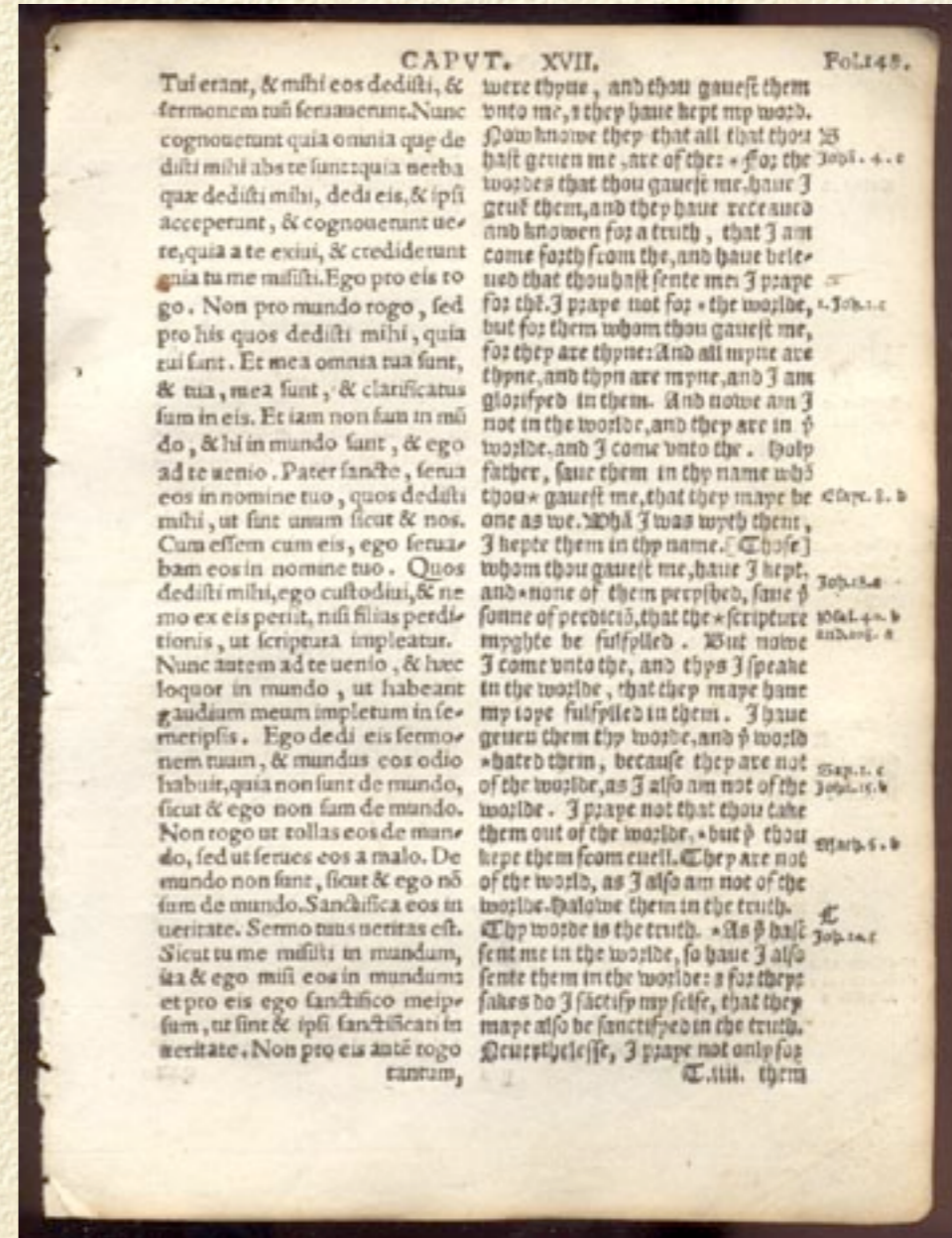
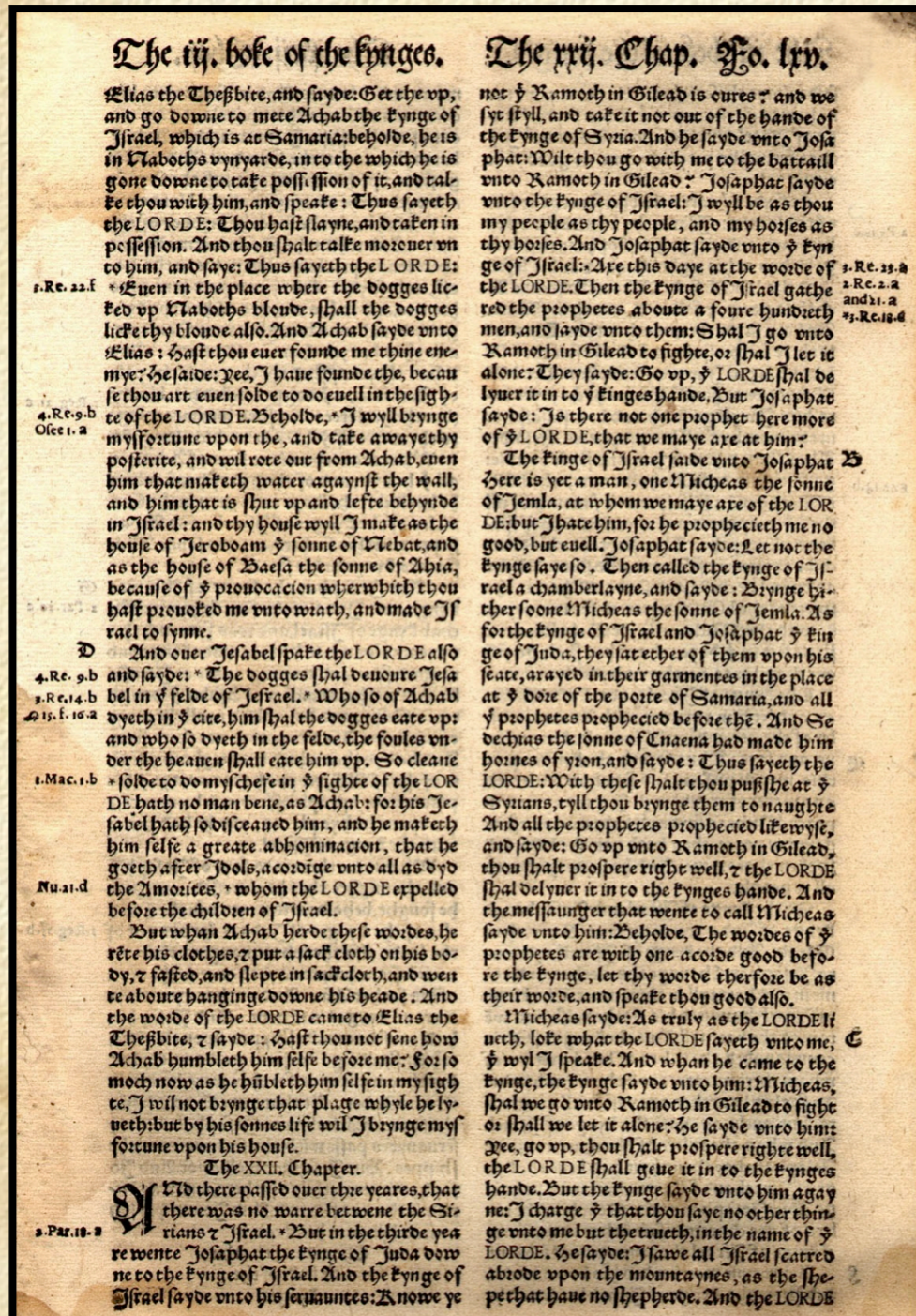
First to print entire Bible in English language in 1535.

Cranmer commissioned him to oversee the production of the “Great Bible” (1539).

Later participated in the translation of the Geneva Bible (1560).

Coverdale Bible

First Complete Bible printed in English



1535 Coverdale leaf in exhibit.

1538 Coverdale Diglot leaf in exhibit.

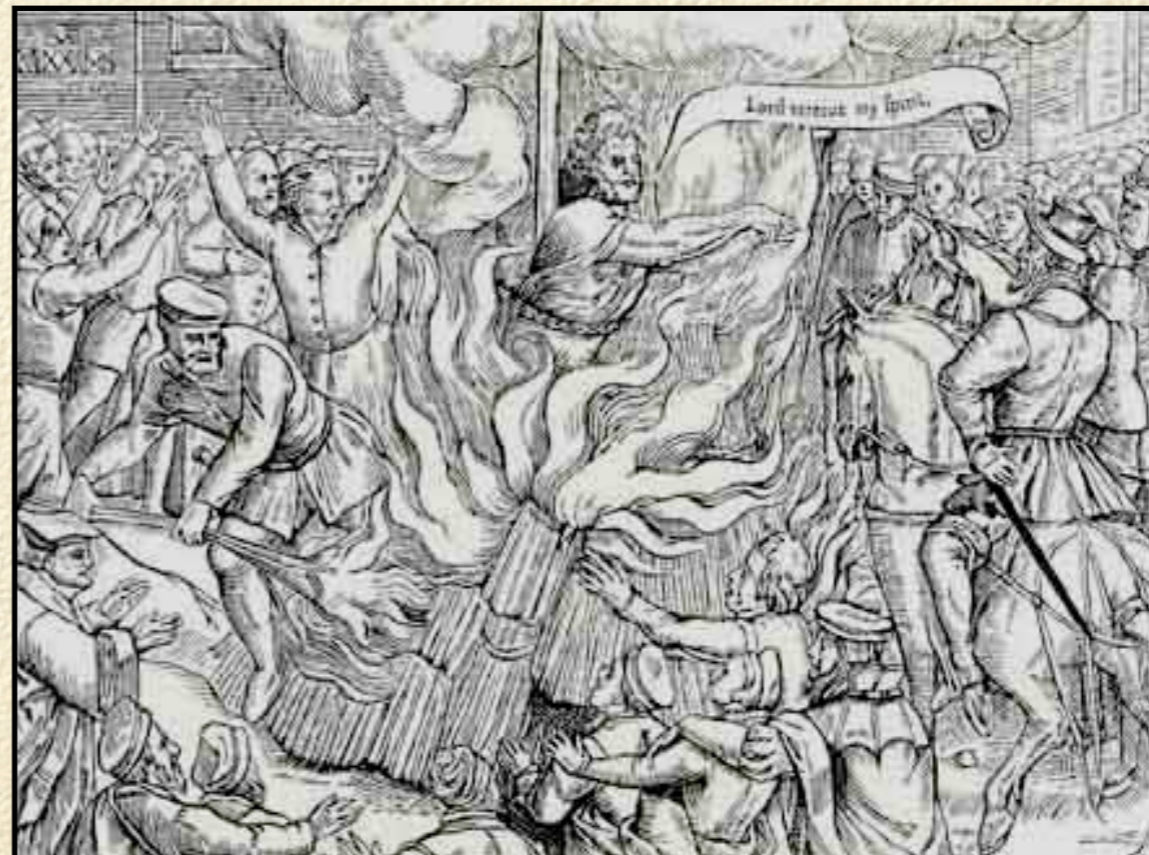
John Rogers

a.k.a. Thomas Matthew



Friend and colleague of William Tyndale, John Rogers used the pseudonym of “Thomas Matthew” to avoid persecution for making the Bible available in English.

John Rogers was the first person to be martyred under the murderous reign of Queen Mary I, aka “Bloody Mary.”

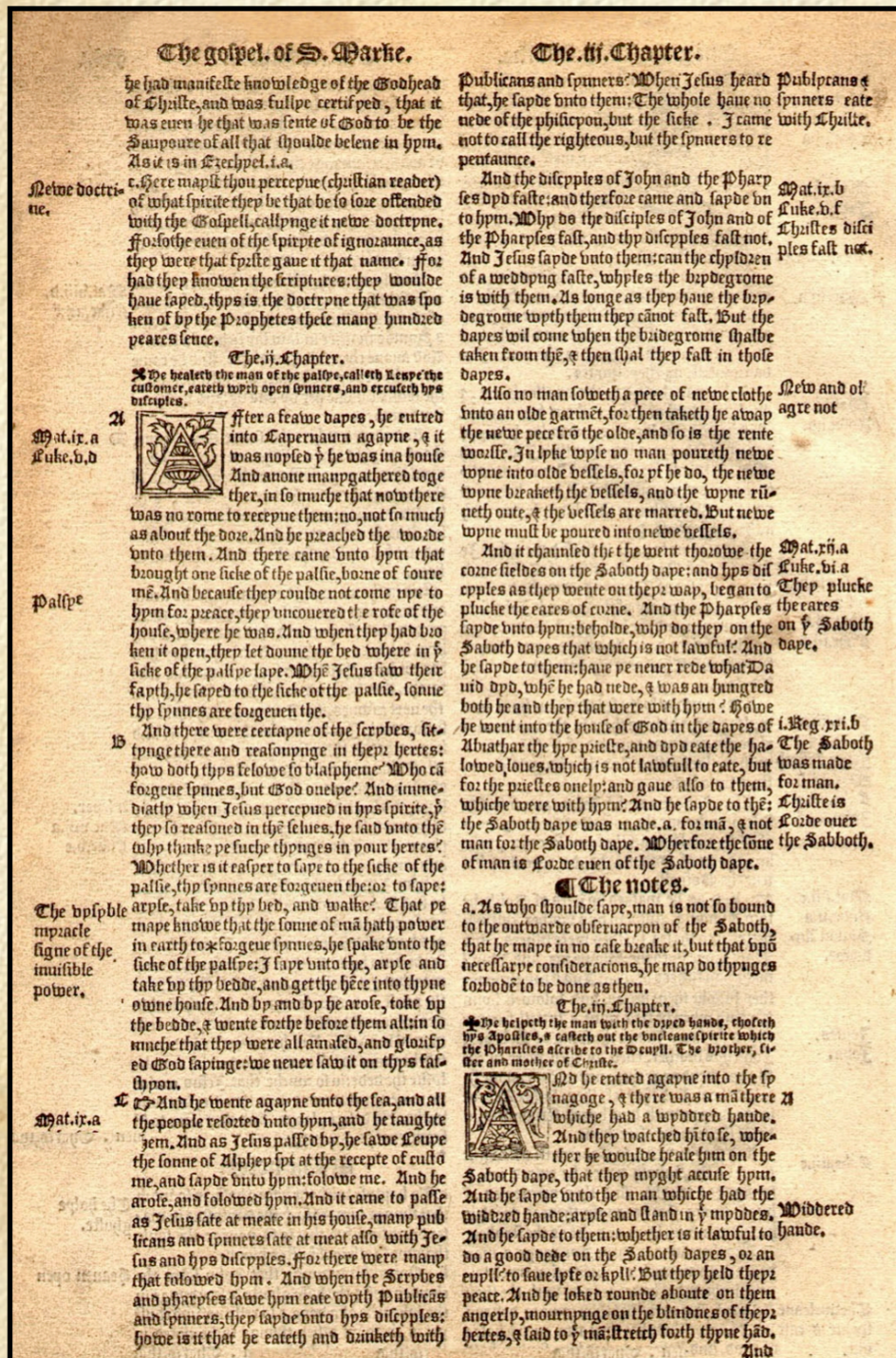


Thomas Matthew Bible

Second English Bible printed in 1537

Using the pseudonym of “Thomas Matthew,” which was previously used by William Tyndale, John Rogers arranged for the printing of the second complete English Bible in 1537. The N.T. and portions of the O.T. were essentially the translation of Tyndale, so it is often called the “Matthew-Tyndale Bible.”

Original 1537 leaf in exhibit.

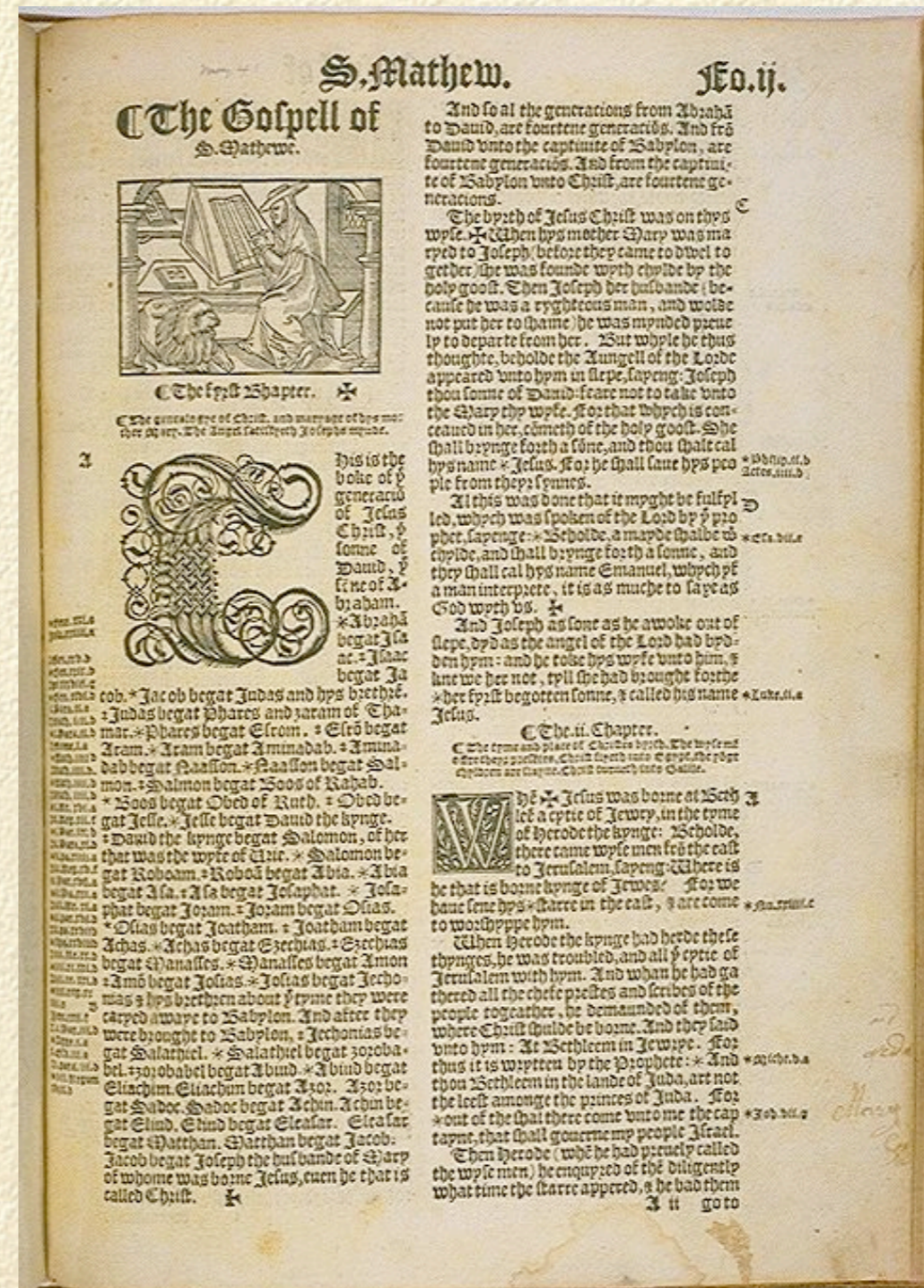


“Great Bible”

Large folio Bible first printed in 1539

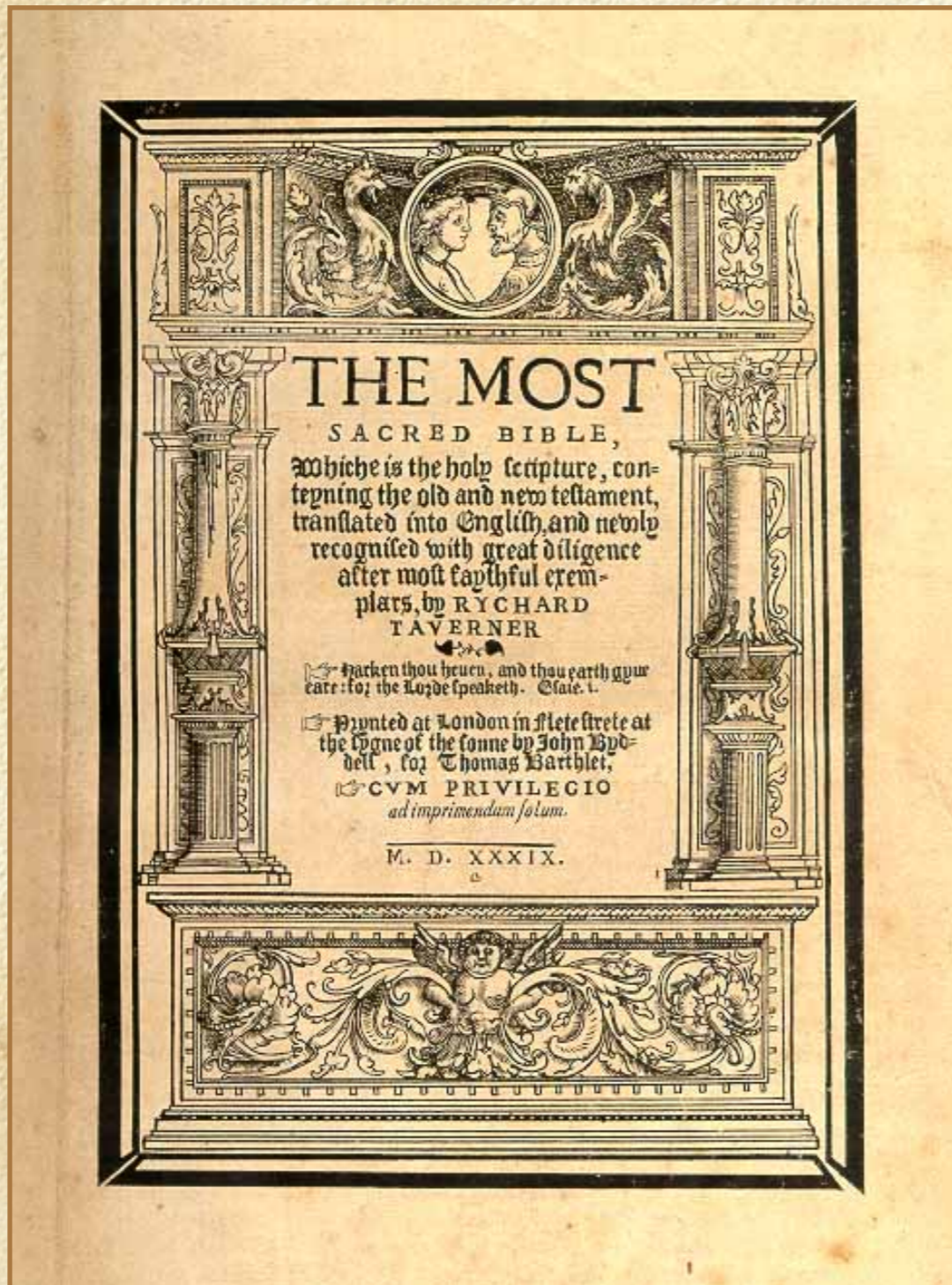
Archbishop Thomas Cranmer selected Myles Coverdale to produce the third complete English Bible. King Henry VIII authorized a copy to be placed in every church in the land. Due to its large size it was called the “Great Bible,” but is also known as “Cranmer’s Bible,” as he wrote the prologue in the 1540 edition.

Original 1541 leaf in exhibit
Original 1566 leaf in exhibit.



Taverner's Bible

a.k.a. "The Most Sacred Bible"



In 1539 Richard Taverner published "The Most Sacred Bible." Taverner was a Greek scholar, and parts of his translation (ex. "parable") were retained in later English versions. His translation did not compete well with the "Great Bible," published the same year.

Original 1539 leaf in exhibit.

Bishop Becke's Bibles

aka. "Wife-beater Bible"

Bishop Edmund Becke reprinted Taverner's Bible of 1537 with some of his own revisions. Printed by Jhon Daye and William Seres in 1549 at London.

Also known as the "Wife-beater Bible" due to Becke's comment on I Peter 3:7 – *"If she be not obedient and healful unto hym; endeavoreth to beate the feare of God into her heade, that thereby she maye be compelled to learne her dutye and do it."*



John Calvin

1509-1564

Protestant Reformer, John Calvin, originally trained as a lawyer in France. Influenced by the writings of Martin Luther, he wrote *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. He fled France in 1536 to avoid King Francis I. Joining William Farel in Geneva, Switzerland, he established a city government with an ecclesial model. Calvin wrote commentaries on most of the books of the Bible, and participated in the translation of the *Geneva Bible*.

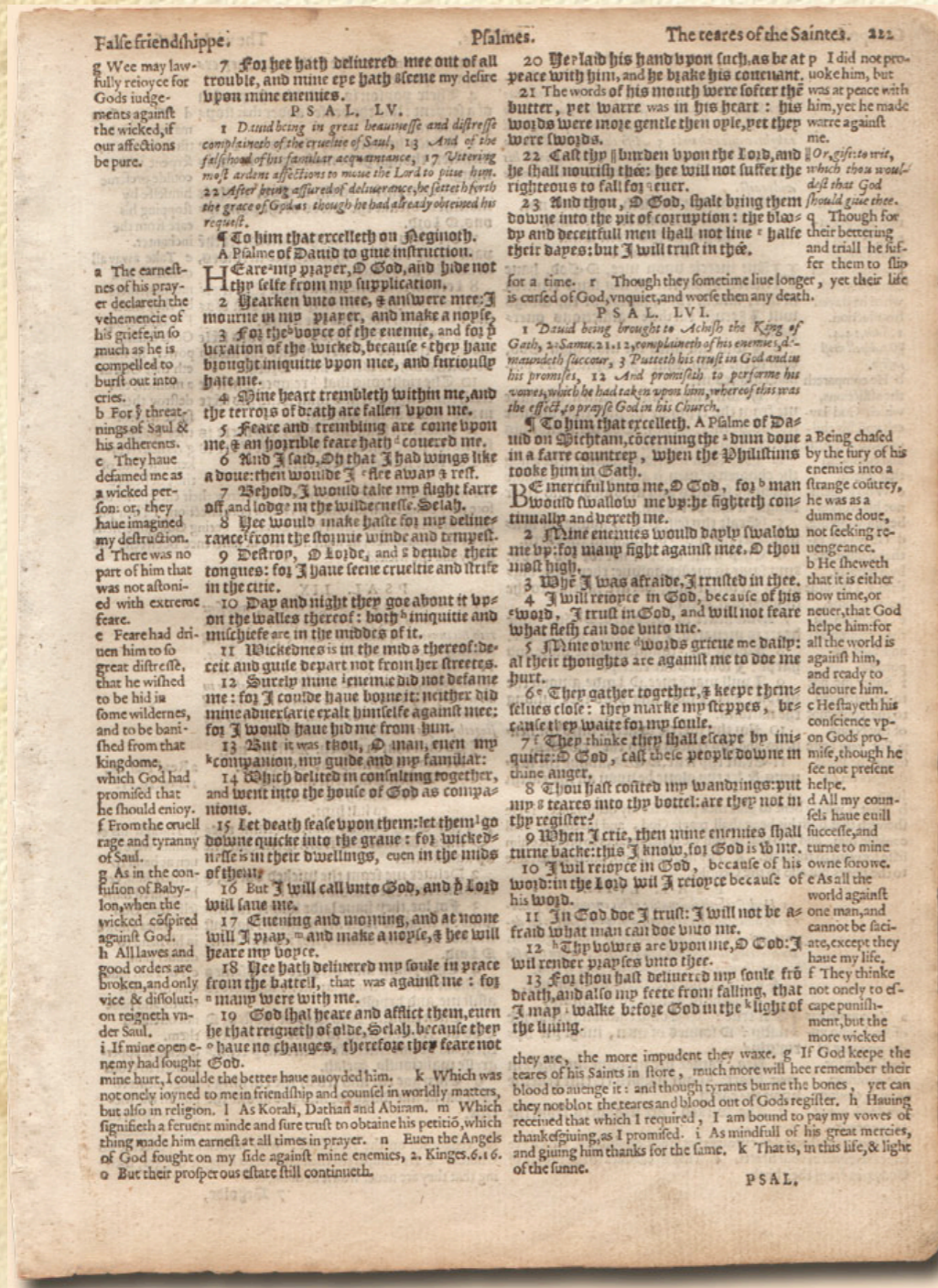


Original leaf from Calvin's Commentary on Psalms in exhibit.

©2004 by James A. Fowler

Geneva Bible

New Testament – 1557; Complete Bible – 1560



John Calvin, John Knox, and the reformers in Geneva, Switzerland welcomed exiles from Britain who fled the heresy hunts of “Bloody Mary.” William Whittingham, Calvin’s brother-in-law, together with Myles Coverdale, John Foxe, and the Geneva reformers translated a new English Bible from the best Hebrew and Greek manuscripts available. The “Geneva Bible” was the first to employ verse numbers, and had numerous anti-Catholic comments in the columns. It is often referred to as the “Breeches Bible,” due to the translation of Genesis 3:7.

Several original leaves from Geneva Bibles in exhibit.

Bishop's Bible

First printed in 1568

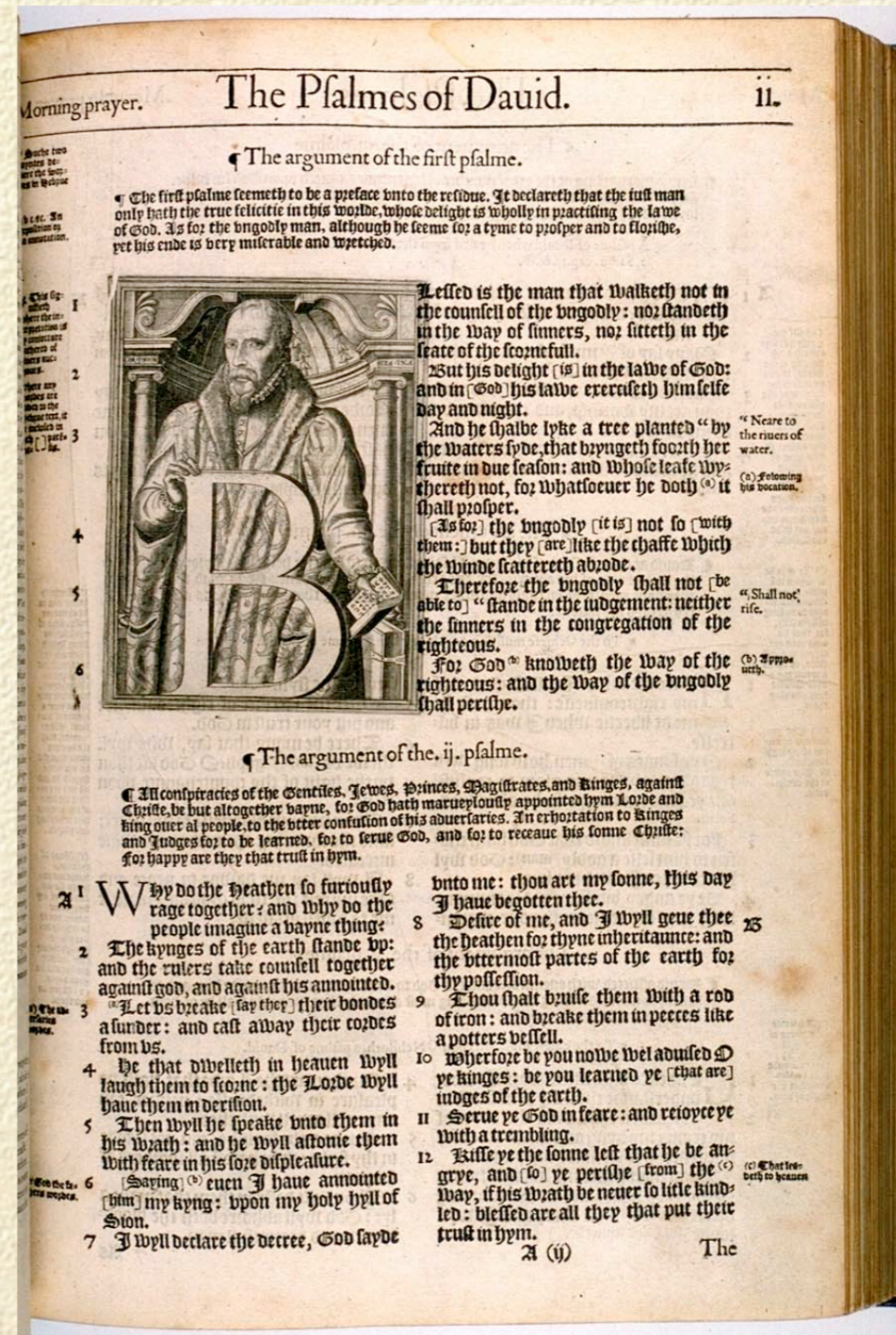
In response to the critical column notes of the Geneva Bible, Anglican bishops made another translation with notes that simply explained the text.

Matthew Parker and other bishops produced the "Bishops' Bible" in 1568. Sometimes referred to as "Matthew Parker's Bible."

Never became as popular as the "Geneva Bible."

Much of its text was retained in the "King James Bible."

Original 1568 1st edition leaf in exhibit.



John Foxe

Historian of Christian Martyrdom

Graphic woodcuts of martyrs dying for their faith.



John Foxe first published his “Book of Martyrs” in Latin in 1559. Also participated in translation of the Geneva Bible of 1560.



'A lamentable spectacle of three women, with a sillic infant brasting out of the mothers wombe, being first taken out of the fire, and cast in againe, and so all burned together in the Isle of Garnsey. 1556. July 18.'

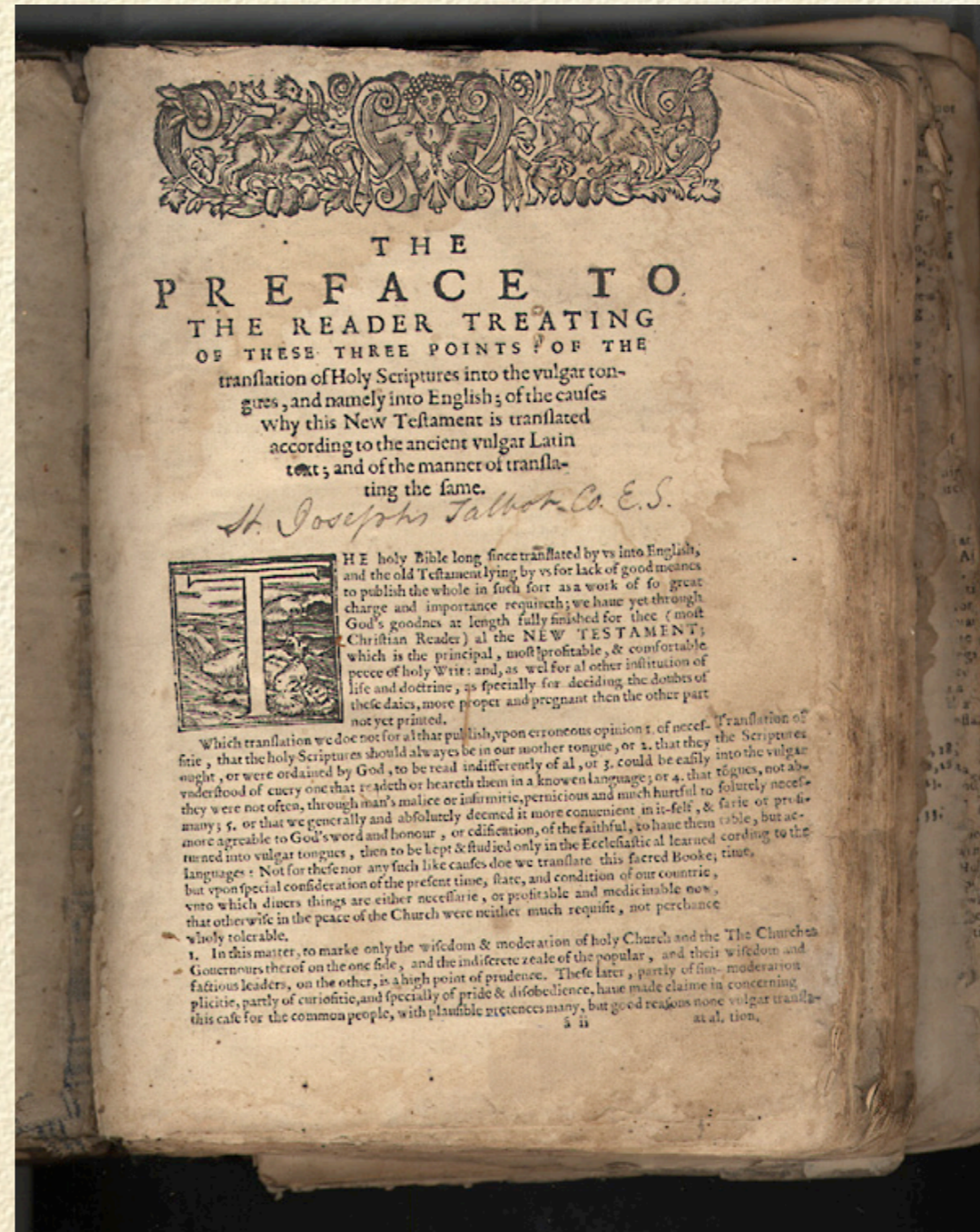
Douay-Rheims Bible

First Roman Catholic English Bible

Translating primarily from the Latin Vulgate into English, the Catholic New Testament was printed in Rhemes (aka Reims, Rheims), France in 1582.

The Old Testament was printed in Douai (aka Doway, Douay), France. The first volume in 1609, and the second volume in 1610.

The Douay-Rheims translation was used extensively by the King James Bible translators.



Fulkes' "Confutation" Bible



In 1617 William Fulkes arranged for the publishing of a double-columned New Testament comparing the Douay-Rheims text (1610) to the text of the Bishops' Bible (1568). His purpose was to refute the Catholic Bible with partisan polemics ("confutation"). Ironically, it secured greater publicity for the Douay-Rheims translation.

King James I

1566 - 1625



Prince James VI of Scotland was brought up as a Scottish Presbyterian. He became King James I of England and Ireland in 1603.

At the behest of John Reynolds of Oxford, King James I authorized 54 scholars to make a new English translation of the Bible.

This Bible was first published in 1611, and became known as the “Authorized Version” or the “King James Bible.” It became the predominant English Bible for almost 300 years.

King James Bibles

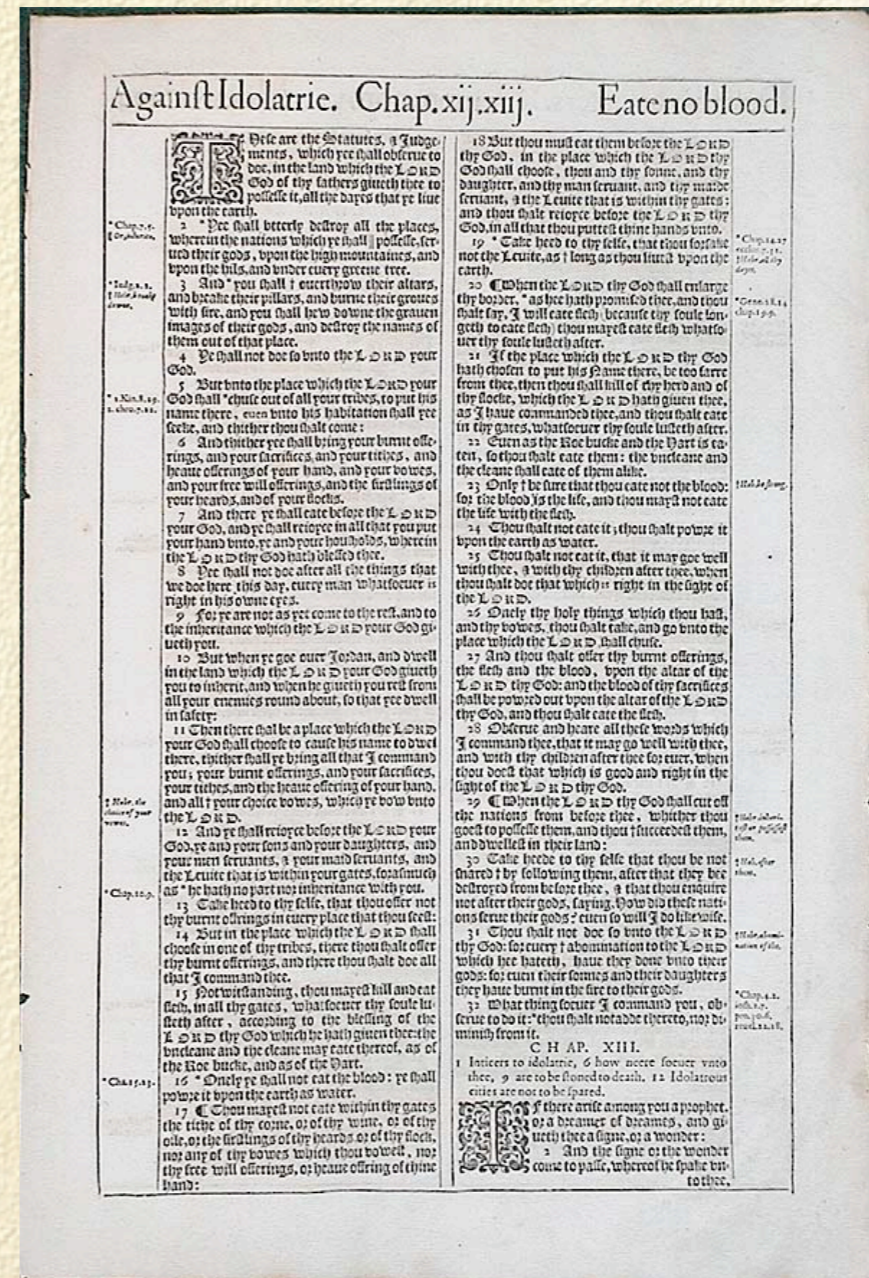
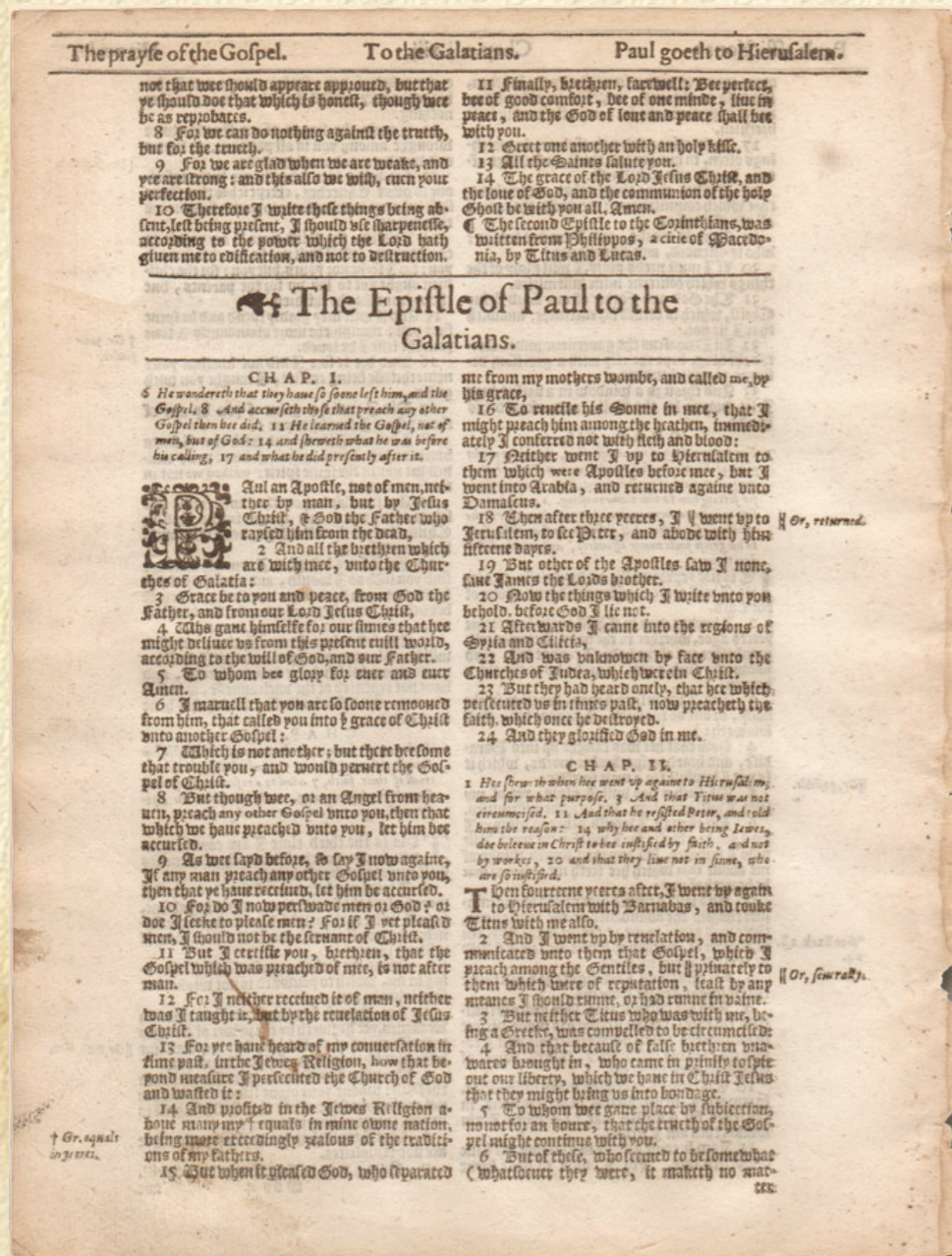
“Authorized Version”

1611 - First Edition

59 lines per column

1613 - Second Edition

72 lines per column



Algonquin Indian Bible

First Bible Printed in America

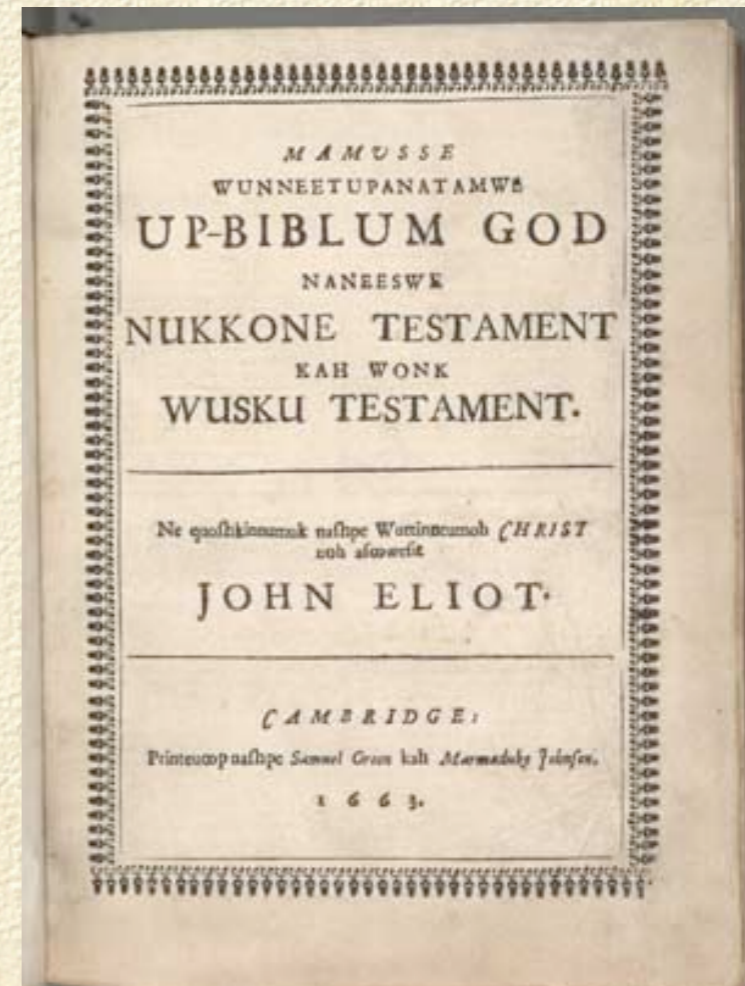


John Eliot studied at Cambridge in England, and worked with Puritan, Thomas Hooker.

Eliot came to America in 1631, and was pastor of a church in Roxbury, Mass.

Preached to the Algonquin Indians, and translated Bible into their language. He has been called “The Apostle to the Indians.”

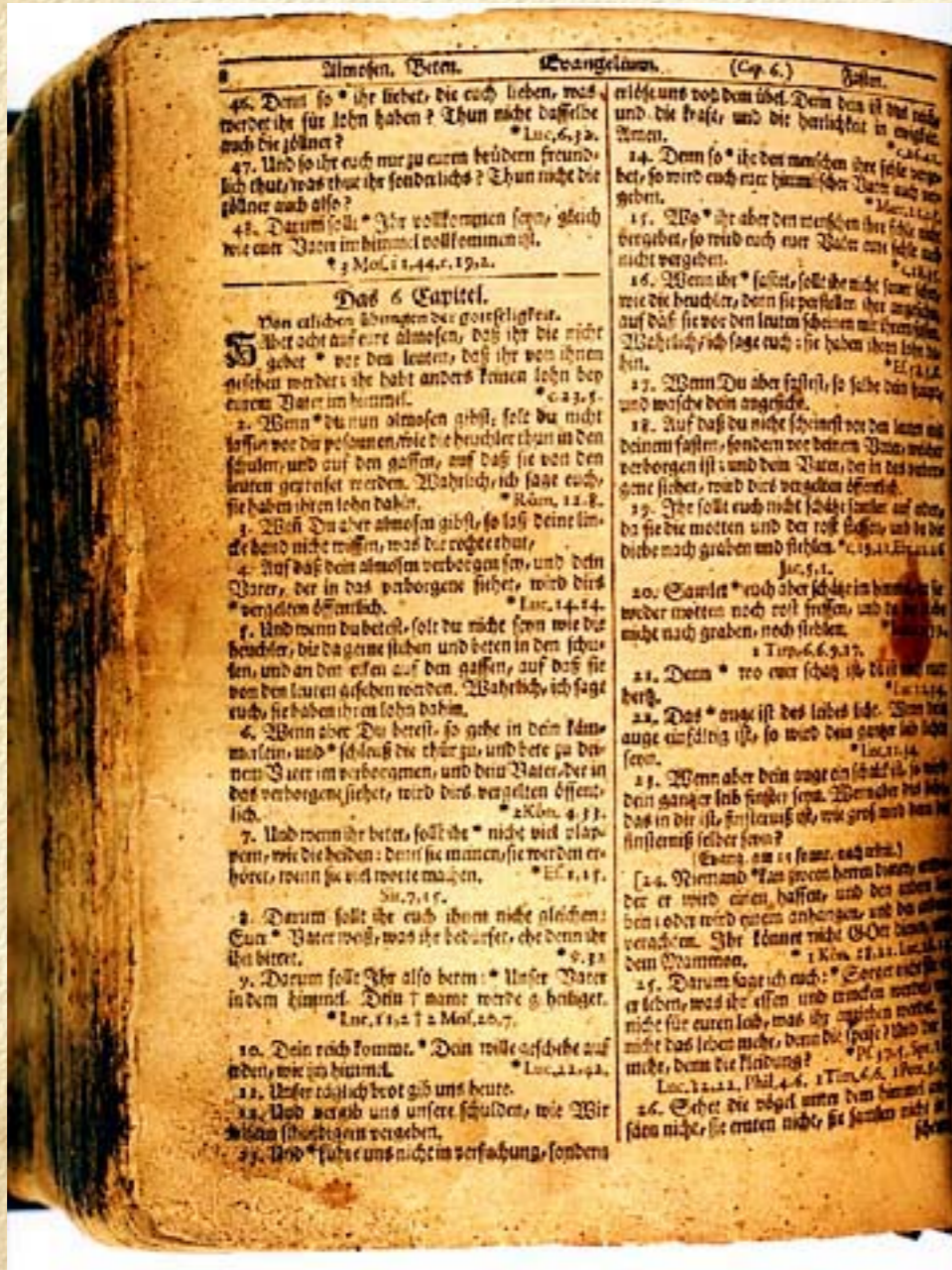
1661 - New Testament
1663 - Entire Bible printed
in Cambridge, Mass.



Original 1663 leaf in exhibit.

1776 Saur Germantown Bible

Known as "The Gun-wad Bible"



Christopher Sauer had printed the pages for 3000 copies of a German Bible, when British troops broke into his shop at the beginning of the American Revolution. Very few copies were ever bound. Legend indicates that the unbound leaves were used as gun-wad in the muskets of British and colonial troops.

Original 1776 leaf in exhibit.

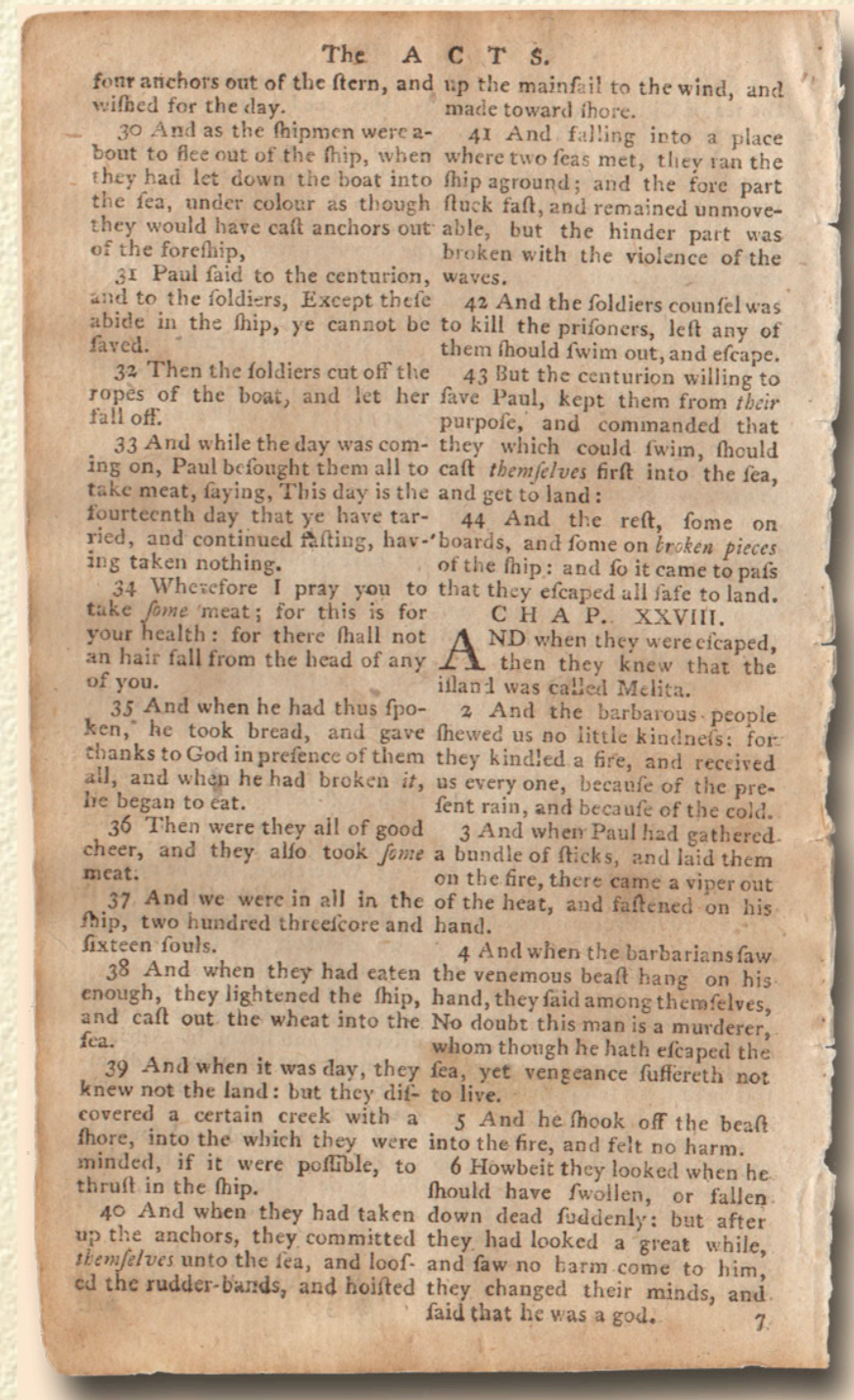
Aitken Bible

First English Bible printed in United States - 1782

Prior to the Revolutionary War the British Crown forbade the publishing of Bibles by any printers other than the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses.

Following the Revolutionary War, in 1782, the Congress of the United States authorized Robert Aitken to publish an English language Bible. The text was that of the King James Bible. It is sometimes called "The Bible of the Revolution."

*Two volume facsimile in exhibit.
Original leaf from 1782 Aitken
Bible in exhibit.*



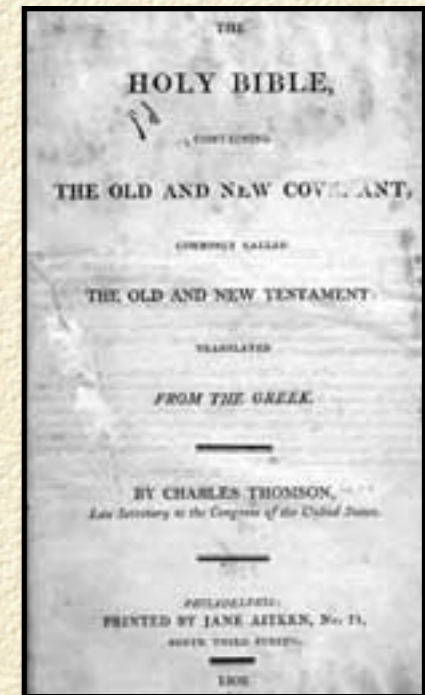
Charles Thomson Bible

First English Bible Translation in America



Charles Thomson

Charles Thomson (1729-1824) was the first secretary of the U.S. Congress. He signed the declaration that authorized the Aitken Bible in 1782. In 1808 his own original English translation was printed by Aitken's daughter, Jane.



*New Testament
Facsimile in exhibit.*

Cherokee Indian New Testament

1860

Dəvət III.

1 ԹաՅ ԿԵՆԱ ԸԲ Վ՞Վ ԻԲՅ
ԻԽ ՏԵՂԸ ԸՄԹՈՂԹԵ ԻՄԿՕՆ
ԻՆ ԻՐ ԼԵԵԸՕՕՕ ՕՆԻՏԹՎՆ
ԹԵՏ—

2 ԿԵԶ ԻԸ ԿԵՏՏՕՆ ՆՅ ՕՂ
ՎՕՆ ԵԸՏԼԹ ՕԵՎԹՆԱ ԻՐ ԸԲ
ԻՄԼՎՏ ԹԷ ԼՄՎԹԹԵԼԼՆ ԻՆ
ԿԹՕ ԿԵՆՏՈՂՆ;

3 ԹաՅ ԵԻԻՐ ՎԸՂՎ ԸՄԹՎՆ
ԹՎՎՅ ՕՏԹՕ ԻՐՏ, ՏԵՎ ԿՎ
ԹՅ ԿԹԼԸՆ ԵՂ ԻԸԵԿՎՎՆՎ,
4 ԹաՅ ԿԻՂՏԻՕԷ ԵԿԹՎՎՆ

*Original leaf from 1st edition
1860 New Testament in exhibit.*

The Cherokee nation once stretched from North Carolina to Georgia. After 1827, they were forced to move to “Indian Territory” in what is now Oklahoma.

The Cherokee language was developed by a Tennessee Cherokee named Sequoya, after whom the species of redwood trees is named. He devised 86 symbols for sounds in the Cherokee language. The entire New Testament was first printed in 1860.

A Few of the Modern English Translations

- 1885** - English Revised Version (RV)
- 1901** - American Standard Version (ASV)
- 1952** - Revised Standard Version (RSV)
- 1966** - Jerusalem Bible (JB)
- 1970** - New American Bible (NAB)
- 1970** - New American Standard (NASB)
- 1970** - New English Bible (NEB)
- 1973** - New International Version (NIV)
- 1982** - New King James Version (NKJV)
- 1985** - New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)
- 1989** - Revised English Bible (REB)
- 1989** - New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
- 1995** - Updated New American Standard Bible (UNASB)
- 2002** - English Standard Version (ESV)
- 2004** - Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)