

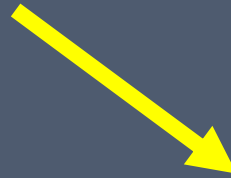
# HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

*LESSON 4 – RECONSTRUCTING THE NT PART I  
(HISTORICAL BACKDROP & EARLY EDITIONS)*

*Dan Leiphart*

# FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION



TRANSLATION

# Transmission of the Bible

# Reconstructing the Greek Text of the New Testament

# Constantine the Great (272-337 AD)



Image from Wikipedia

- Roman Emperor of Illyrian-Greek origin
- First Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity
- Called the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD
- Moved capital from Rome to Byzantium (Constantinople) in 330 AD
  - Center of gravity now shifted east
  - Bishop of Constantinople now had all the honor of the Bishop of Rome
  - After death of Theodosius the Great, the Empire was divided for the final time into western (Latin) and eastern (Greek) halves (395 AD)

# Roman Empire Divided (395-476 AD)



Image from <http://lukensocialstudies.weebly.com/beginning-of-the-byzantine-empire.html>



# Fall of Rome, Rise of Byzantine (476 AD)



## **Boethius (480-524)**

- Roman senator and philosopher
- Worked on revitalizing the relationship between the church in Rome and the church in Constantinople
- One of the last Greek speakers in the West

- Emperor had little power in the West which was mostly ruled by Germanic tribes
- This was now a permanent separation between the Greek East and the Latin West
- The number of people who spoke both Greek and Latin now dwindled, and communication grew much more difficult
- Language, culture and the Church were now naturally divided
- In the East, this marked the beginning of the Byzantine Empire

# Byzantine Empire Begins (476 AD)





# East-West Schism (1054 AD)

Image from Wikipedia



## **Hagia Sophia** (537-pres.)

- Roman/Byzantine church originally built in 360, burned down in 532
- Greek-speaking orthodox church
- Converted to Roman Catholic Latin-speaking cathedral 1204-1261
- Converted to Muslim mosque in 1454

- Justinian I took back much of the western part of the Roman Empire, but established caesaropapism (the emperor had charge over the church). This did not sit well with the Church in Rome
- Much of the other points of conflict were border disputes, theological issues, governance & canonical issues
- **Mutual excommunication of both East and West churches occurred in 1054 AD**

# The Great Schism (1054 AD)



Image from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Schism-of-1054>



# *The Fourth Crusade* (1202-1204 AD)



**The Entry of the Crusaders in Constantinople,  
by Eugène Delacroix**

Image from Wikipedia

- Called by Pope Innocent III
- Originally meant to recapture Jerusalem from the Muslims
- Instead they ended up sacking the Byzantine Christian city Constantinople
- A retaliation from the massacre of the Roman Catholics (Latins) in Constantinople (1182 AD)
- **Severely weakened the Byzantine Empire**
- Constantinople recaptured by the East in 1261 AD

# Byzantine Empire (476-1453 AD)





# *Fall of Constantinople* (1453 AD)



- The Byzantine Empire ended after nearly 1,000 years on April 6, 1453
- Ottoman armies led by 21 year-old Mehmed the Conqueror
- Many Christians slaughtered
- The event generally marks the end of the Middle Ages
- The Hagia Sophia converted to a mosque
- Constantinople (Istanbul) remains a Muslim city to this day

Benjamin Constant L'Entrée du sultan Mehmet II à  
Constantinople le vingt-neuf mai 1453  
Image from Wikipedia

# Current Events

So, with the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 and its fall to the Ottomans in 1453, many Greek-speaking Christians fled to Western Europe for refuge.

meanwhile...

# **Stephen Langton** (1150-1228)



- English Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church
- Archbishop of Canterbury (1207-1228)
- Credited with dividing the Bible into the standard modern arrangement of chapters

# ***The Rise of the Humanists***

- Definition – the study of the humanities (of classical antiquity)
- Started in late 13th century in Western Europe
- At its core was using the study of classical texts to alter contemporary thinking – drawing back to Rome and Greece
- Humanists desired to create a virtuous and elegant citizenry through the study of the humanities (grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy)
- Most humanists were Christians and sought to “purify” the church rather than to do away with it
- By 1500 Humanism was the dominant form of education, and its teaching helped fuel the Protestant Reformation





Image from Wikipedia

## ***Petrarch*** (1304-1374)

- Father of Humanism
- His re-discovery of the Roman politician Cicero's letters is credited with the birth of humanism
- Believed classical writings were not just relevant to his age, but could provide moral guidance which could reform humanity
- Worked at bringing together the classics and the Christians
- A prime mover in the recovery of knowledge of writers of Rome and Greece, collected manuscripts, but knew no Greek
- Created the concept of the Dark Ages for the centuries preceding his era

# **Manuel Chrysoloras** (1355-1415)



Image from Wikipedia

- Born in Constantinople, a Byzantine scholar, sought aid in Venice in 1390 against the advance of the Muslim Turks
- **Taught Greek grammar in Florence, Bologna, Venice and Rome; some of the first Greek classes in Western Europe since the end of the Roman Empire**
- **His *Erotemata* was the first basic Greek grammar in use in Western Europe, published later in 1471 in Venice & studied by Erasmus at Oxford**

# Demetrios Chalkokondyles

(1423-1511)



Image from Wikipedia

- Born in Athens, taught Greek literature at the major universities of the Italian Renaissance
- Published first printed edition of Homer (1488)
- Famous pupils:
  - Johann Reuchlin (Florence) – German humanist who focused his life on advancing German understanding of biblical languages, mastered Hebrew and published grammar in 1506, sister's grandson was P. Melanchthon
  - William Grocyn (Florence) – English humanist and first teacher of Greek at Oxford in 1492; friend of Erasmus



# ***God Working through the Renaissance***

- The Roman Empire and Church was split between the Greek East and Latin West since ~400 AD
- Humanists in the West desired a revival of classical learning in the 1300s but had no knowledge of Greek
- Greek-speaking scholars in the East dispersed to Western Europe ahead of the Muslim invasion in the 1400s
- By the mid-late 1400s Greek language courses were now being taught in Western Europe by the Eastern scholars
- After 1440, the printing press made it possible for the publication of biblical language study material (grammars & lexicons)
- In the late 1400s to early 1500s, the humanists, now with their mastery of the biblical languages, educated minds such as Melanchthon, Luther, Calvin and Erasmus and helped fuel the Reformation



# *The Printing Press (1440)*

- Invented in 1440 by the German Johannes Gutenberg
- First print was the Gutenberg Bible (1455), a copy of Jerome's Latin Vulgate.
  - Between 158-180 copies made
  - 49 copies survive today (21 complete)







Beginning of Genesis

# Gutenberg Bible (1455)

Date: 1455

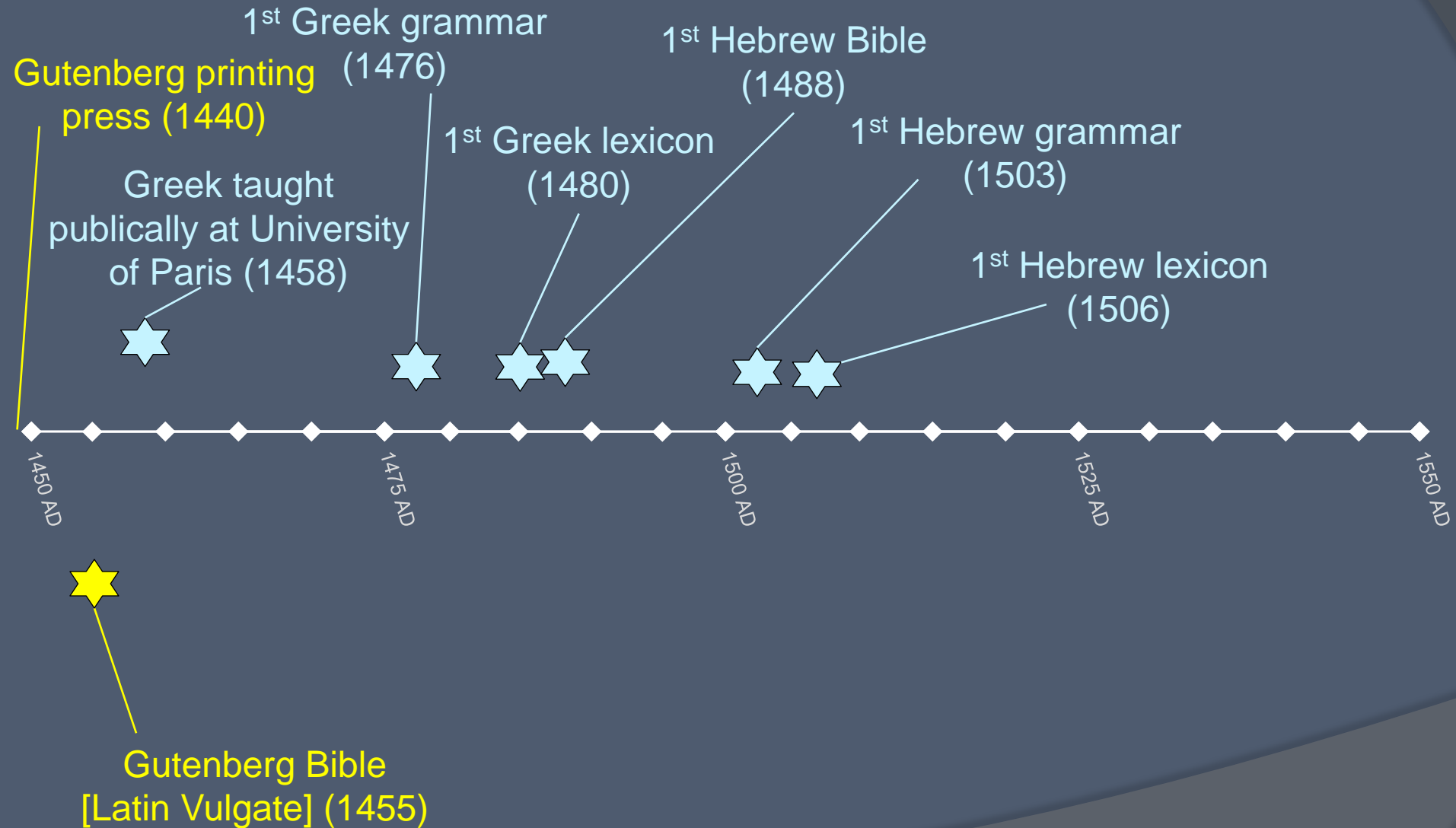
Text: entire Bible from Jerome's Latin Vulgate

- Between 158-180 copies made
- 49 copies survive today (21 complete)

Image from

<http://burton.byu.edu/Bible%20Site/Gutenberg.htm>

# Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials





# Early Editions of the Greek NT

An edition is a compilation of a single text from multiple manuscripts through the process of textual criticism.

Most often, when someone refers to the original Greek, they are referring to the edition that is the textual basis for their translation.

# Complutensian Polyglot (1517)

**Date: 1517**

Text: entire Bible

- First printed Greek Bible (1514)
- Finished in 1517, published 1520
- Initiated and financed by Cardinal Francisco Jimenez (Ximenez) de Cisneros (1436-1517)
- Manuscripts and scholars assembled at Complutum near Madrid, Spain
- A 6-volume set (4 OT, 1 NT, 1 aids)
- OT – Hebrew, Latin Vulgate, LXX, Aramaic Pentateuch and Latin translation at bottom
- NT – Greek and Latin Vulgate
- 1<sup>st</sup> printed Greek New Testament
- 600 printed; 123 survive

Primaabeb. Ter. Heb. Deut. Lxxvii.

לַעֲתִמְמוֹת רַבִּים כִּי קְרוֹב וְיוֹם מִסִּפְּרָב  
 אֵינֶם וְהֵשׁ עֲמִתָּ לְסוֹכֵי דִין וְחֶשֶׁן  
 יִהְיֶה עִמָּךְ וְעַל עֲבָרֶיךָ וְחֻנְהָם כִּי אִם  
 יִרְאֶה לְךָ אֶחָד יָד וְאֵפֶס עֲצוֹר  
 וְיִתְּנוּ וְיִאָּמֶר אֶלְהִימִי צוֹר עָלַי  
 חֲסִיו בּוֹאֵשׁ חֲלִיב וְכִחֵשׁ וְאֶלֶּל  
 וְעִשְׂמוֹתֶיךָ נִסִּימֶם וְקִימוֹתֶיךָ  
 קְרוֹי עֲלֵיכֶם מִתְּרִי רְאוּ עֲתָה  
 כִּי אֲנִי אֲנִי הוּא וְאוֹן אֱלֹהִים  
 וְעִמְדִי אֲנִי אֲמִית וְאִמִּי מִתְּרִי  
 וְאֲנִי אֶרְפָּא וְאוֹן מִדִּי מִצִּילִי כִי  
 אֲשֶׁא אֱלֹשִׁפִים דִּי וְאֶלְכִתִּי מִי  
 אֲבָנִי עֲלֵי־סִי אִם עֲשׂוֹתִי בְּרַק  
 מִרְבִּי וְהָאֵחָד מִשְׁפֵּט מִי אֲשֶׁר  
 נִקְם אֶצְרִי וְלִמְשָׁא אֱלֹהִים  
 אֲשִׁמּוֹר אֶתְּרִימֶם וְחֲרִיבִי הָאֵחָל  
 כְּשֶׁר מִסֵּס חֲלָל וְשִׁבְיָה מְרֹאשׁ  
 פִּרְשֵׁת אוֹיֵב וְרַגְלִי נֹסֵעַ עִמּוֹ  
 כִּי יָדִים עֲבָרִי יָקוּם וְנִקְם וְשׁוֹב  
 לְצִדִּי וְנִקְרֵא אֶתְּרִי עִמּוֹ וְנִבֵּא  
 מִשָּׁה וְחֲרִב אֶתְּרִי דְּכָרִי הָעִירָה  
 הָזֹאת מִנְּחִי הָעֵם הוּא וְהוֹשֵׁעַ  
 מִן־לִּנְוֹן וְכֵל מִשָּׁה דְּכָרִי אֶתְּרִי  
 הִדְרִים אֶלֶּה אֶלֶּל וְשִׁמְעָלוּ  
 וְיִאָּמֶר אֶלֶּהם שִׁמּוֹ לְנִקְמֶם  
 לְכֵל הַמְּדַבְּרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מִעִיד  
 בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר תִּצְּוִם אֶת אֶמֶת

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Zrása, B. Hetero,

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Trăila. Gre. lex. cū interp. latina.

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COMPLUTENSAN POLYGLOT. DEUT., XXXII, 35-46

UPPER PART: HEBREW, VULGATE, SEPTUAGINT (WITH INTERLINEAR LATIN TRANSLATION)  
LOWER PART: CHALDAIC, WITH LATIN TRANSLATION. IN THE LEFT-HAND MARGIN ARE  
GIVEN HEBREW AND CHALDAIC ROOTS. PHOTOGRAPHED FROM ONE OF TWO COPIES  
OF ORIGINAL EDITION (first copies) IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY



Image from <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/lot.148.html/2016/bible-collection-of-charles-caldwell-ryrie-n09539> (Bible sold from Charles Ryrie's collection in December 2016 for \$87,500 on Sotheby's)



# *Brethren of the Common Life*



- Started by Geert Groote (1340-1384) in Deventer, Netherlands
- Promoted a call to live a simple life
- Here Erasmus learned Greek at the first place it was taught in Europe at a lower level than a university (He mastered Greek at Oxford)
- Erasmus discovered New Testament notes of Lorenzo Valla, which encouraged him to continue the study of the NT
- Luther studied at the Magdeburg location of the school (1497) before going to the University of Erfurt
- John Calvin was also a student



Portrait of Erasmus of Rotterdam (1524)  
by Hans Holbein the Younger  
Image from Wikipedia

# *Desiderius Erasmus* (1466-1536)

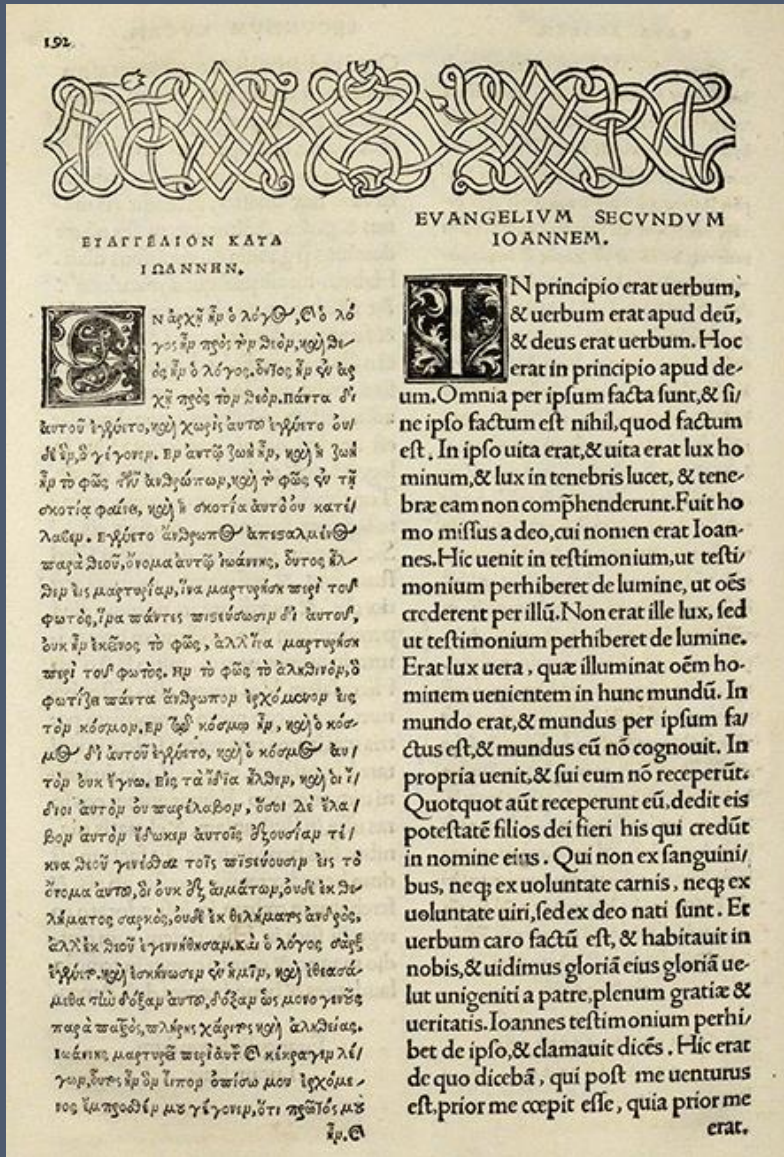
- Dutch humanist & Catholic priest
- Greek New Testament
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (1516) – first published Greek NT
    - Revised Latin Vulgate with Greek text on left side
    - Rushed into print rather than edited; numerous errors
    - Sometimes back-translated Greek text from Latin when missing (i.e. last 6 verses of Revelation)
    - Used 7 manuscripts from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1519)
    - Corrected errors in 1<sup>st</sup> edition
    - Added one more 12<sup>th</sup> century manuscript
    - Used by Martin Luther for his German translation
    - Criticized for not including 1John 5:7-8

# Erasmus' Manuscript Witnesses (1516)

Manuscript	Content	Date
Minuscule 1 <sup>cap</sup>	the entire NT except <a href="#">Revelation</a>	12th century
Minuscule 1 <sup>rk</sup>	<a href="#">Book of Revelation</a>	12th century
Minuscule 2 <sup>a</sup>	<a href="#">Gospels</a>	12th century
Minuscule 2 <sup>ap</sup>	Acts and Epistles	12th century
Minuscule 4 <sup>ap</sup>	Pauline epistles	15th century
Minuscule 7 <sup>p</sup>	Pauline epistles	12th century
Minuscule 817	Gospels	15th century



# Erasmus (1466-1536) (cont'd)



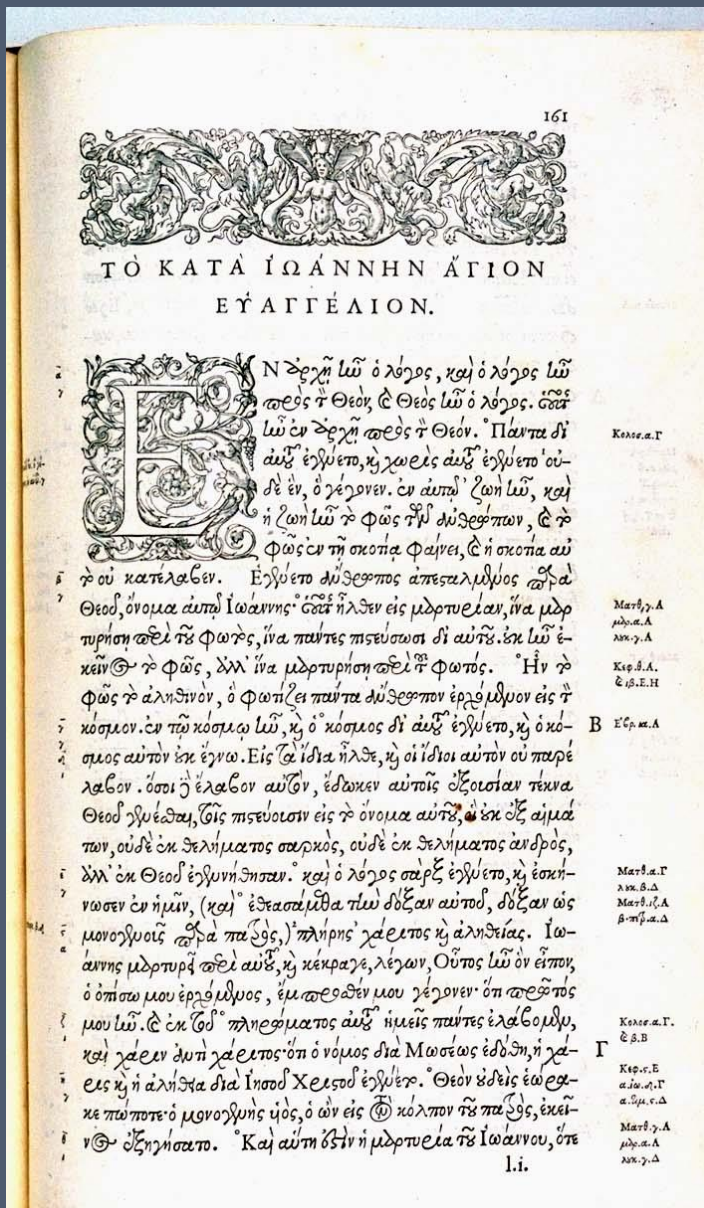
- Greek New Testament
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1522)
    - Contained 1 John 5:7-8 as a 16<sup>th</sup> century Greek manuscript was manufactured with it for him
    - Used by Tyndale in first English NT
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1527)
    - Contains Greek, Latin Vulgate & Erasmus' Latin
    - Improved Greek text using the Complutensian Polyglot
    - Basis for Stephanus' 1550 edition which was basis for King James Version
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (1535)
    - Similar to 4<sup>th</sup> edition but without Latin Vulgate

Erasmus' Greek New Testament

Image from SMU

# Robert Estienne (1503-1559)

- Known as Stephanus in Latin
- Printer and former Catholic priest who converted to Protestantism
- Greek New Testament
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (1546)
    - Based on Complutensian Polyglot and Erasmus' 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1549)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1550) – *editio regia*
    - Used Complutensian Polyglot and 15 Greek manuscripts
    - First Greek NT to include a critical apparatus
    - Based on Erasmus' 4<sup>th</sup> edition
    - Became basis for *Textus Receptus*
    - **Standard Greek text until 1880**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1551)
    - **First edition to include verse divisions**
    - Estienne indicates Protestant conversion



3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Stephanus' Greek New Testament (1550)

Image from Wikipedia



# Stephanus' Manuscript Witnesses (1550)

Table 2 Greek texts used by the <i>Editio Regia</i> (later known as the <i>Textus Receptus</i> )		
Date (A.D.)	Text	Details of content
Fifth century	Codex Bezae	A mainly Western text type, <sup>8</sup> with many omissions, interpolations, and false readings, four Gospels (only Luke is complete), some of Acts and sections of 3 John.
Eighth century	Codex Regius	An Alexandrian text type, <sup>9</sup> with various omissions and interpolations, many readings of the Byzantine text type <sup>10</sup> and almost all of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 8 <sup>11</sup>	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of Acts, Paul's letters, the general letters and Revelation.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 42	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 237	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 2298	Contains Acts and the letters of Paul.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 38	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels, as well as Acts and Paul's letters.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 2817	A Byzantine text type, with almost the complete text of Paul's letters, ending at Hebrews 12:18.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 9	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 111	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Twelfth–thirteenth centuries	Minuscule 120	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 4	A mixed text type, but dependent on the Byzantine, with almost the complete text of the four Gospels, but with gaps in the text (Mt. 2:9-20; Mk. 15:42–16:14; Jno. 1:1-13; 1:49–3:11).
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 5	A mixed text type, but dependent on the Byzantine, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 6	A mix of the Alexandrian and Byzantine text types, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.
Fourteenth century	Minuscule 393	A Byzantine text type, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.



# **Theodore de Beza** (1519-1605)

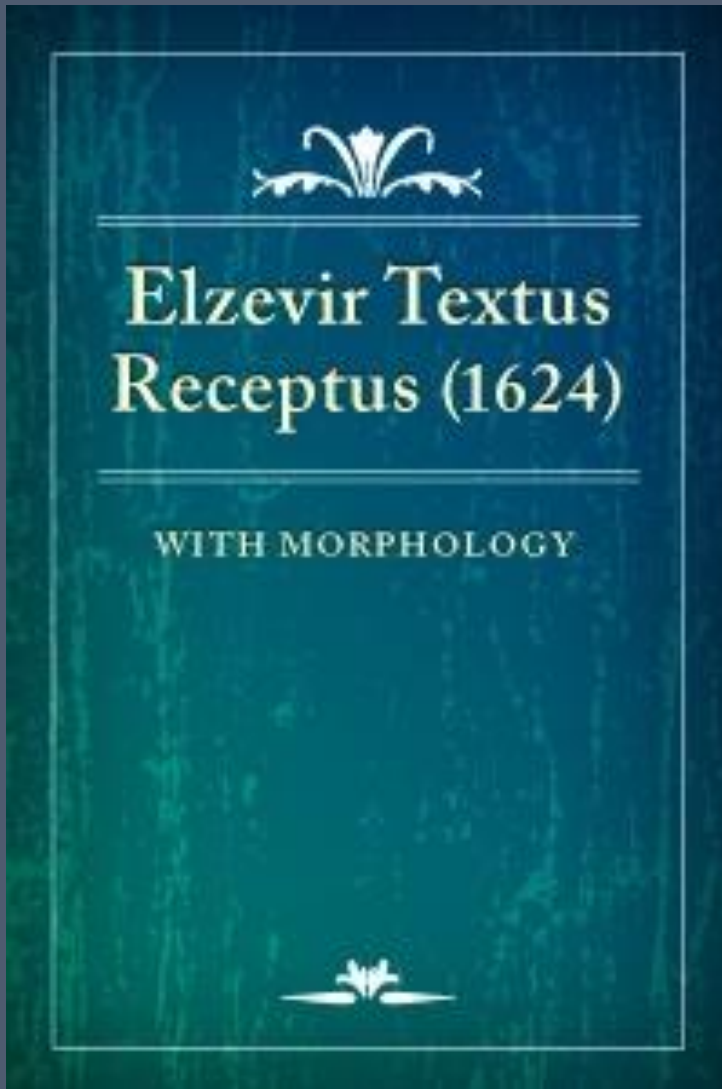


Theodore de Beze

Image from Wikipedia

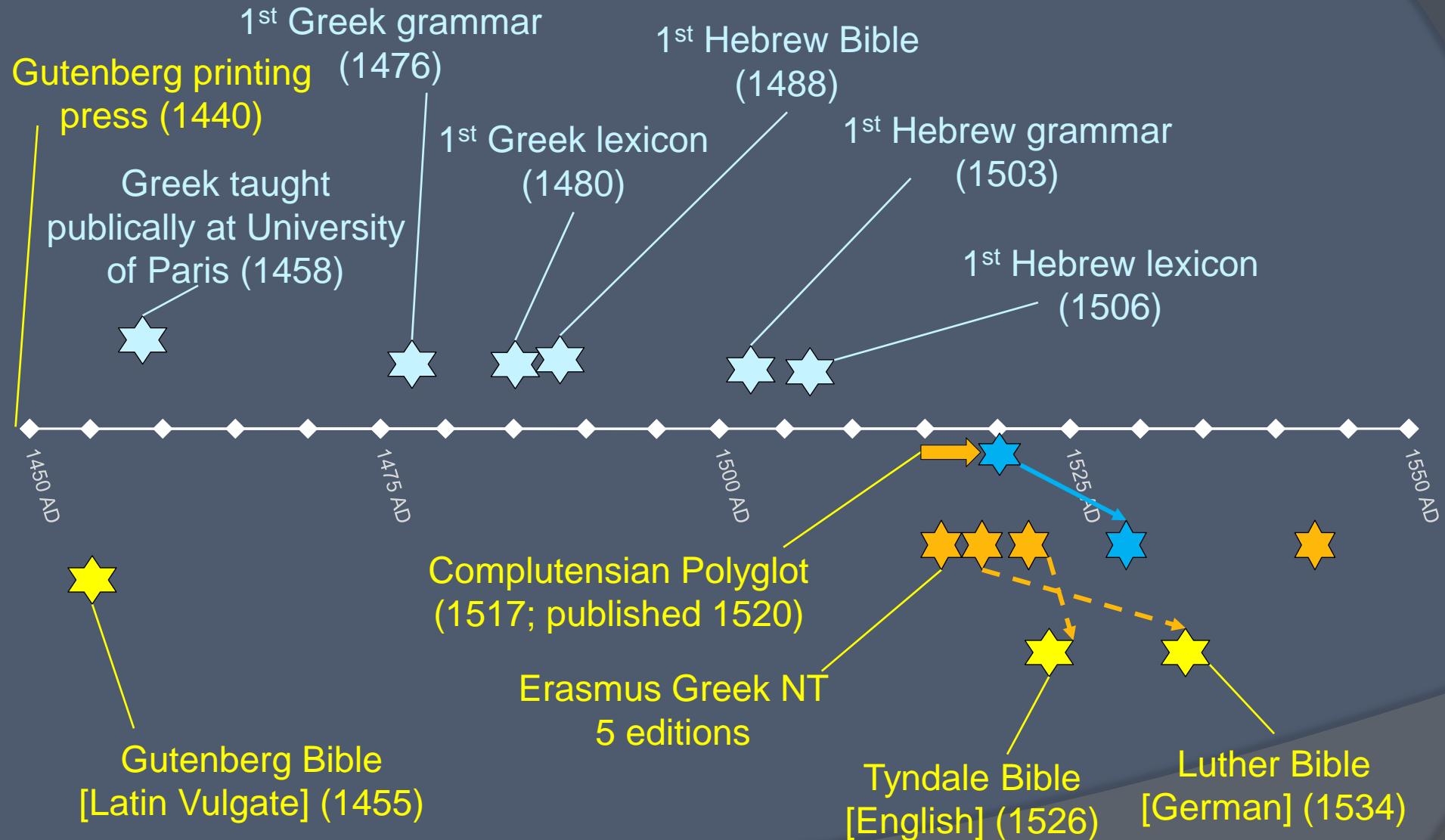
- Successor and disciple of John Calvin at Geneva Academy
- Published nine editions of the Greek New Testament
  - 1565 edition
    - Parallel Greek text with Vulgate and his own translation
  - 1582 edition
    - Made use of Codex Bezae (D) [5<sup>th</sup> century] and Codex Claromontanus (D<sup>2</sup>) [6<sup>th</sup> century], but used sparingly because they differed too much from the Erasmus and Complutensian texts
    - Still primarily based on Stephanus' 1550 edition
  - 1589 edition
    - Used by King James translators

# Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevir (1592-1652)



- Dutch printers Bonaventure and his nephew Abraham
- Printed seven editions of the Greek NT
  - 1624 Edition
    - Drew mainly from Beza's 1565
  - 1633 Edition
    - The *Textus Receptus*
    - Preface reads in Latin, "*Textum* ergo habes, nunc ab omnibus *receptum*: in quo nihil immatatum aut corruptum damus."
    - Trans. "...the text now received by all, in which we give nothing changed or corrupted."
    - *Textus Recptus* (Received Text) comes from this blurb.
    - Almost identical to Stephanus' 1550 edition, basis for KJV

# Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials





# Early Printed Bibles

