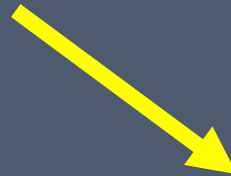


HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

*LESSON 5 – RECONSTRUCTING THE NT
(UP TO THE PRINTING PRESS)*

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 (306-337 AD)
- 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 of the whole empire now shifted east
 - Bishop of Constantinople now had all the honor of the Bishop of Rome
 - After death of Theodosius the Great, the Roman Empire was divided for the final time into western (Latin-speaking) and eastern (Greek-speaking) 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

Image from Wikipedia

- Empire again had a single emperor but had little power in the West which was mostly ruled by various 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)



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

Image from Wikipedia

- Justinian I (Byzantine Emperor from 527 to 565 AD) 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)



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**
- Established the Latin Empire as Baldwin of Flanders was crowned emperor in the Hagia Sophia
- 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 sought to create a citizenry able to speak and write with eloquence and clarity and thus capable of engaging in the civic life of their communities and persuading others to virtuous and prudent actions – accomplished 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

Petrarch (1304-1374)



Image from Wikipedia

- 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
- This helped propagate the great spread of humanism through Europe through the late 14th century
- 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

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375)



Image from Wikipedia

- Italian writer, poet and humanist
- Correspondent of Petrarch, whom he called his teacher
- Pushed for the study of Greek, housing Barlaam of Calabria, and encouraging his translations of Homer, Euripides and Aristotle
 - Barlaam, an Italian, moved to Constantinople in the 1320s and became a master of the Greek language (teaching some to Petrarch)
- Challenged the arguments of clerical intellectuals who wanted to limit access to classical sources to prevent any moral harm to Christian readers

Leontius Pilatus (d. 1366)



- Calabrian scholar and one of the first promoters of Greek studies in Western Europe
- **First professor of Greek in Western Europe (Florence)**
- Translated and commented on works of Euripides, Aristotle & Homer, including the Odyssey and the Iliad, into Latin
- Made a very literal translation of Homer into Latin prose which he gave to Boccaccio, who then sent it to Petrarch

Coluccio Salutati (1331-1406)

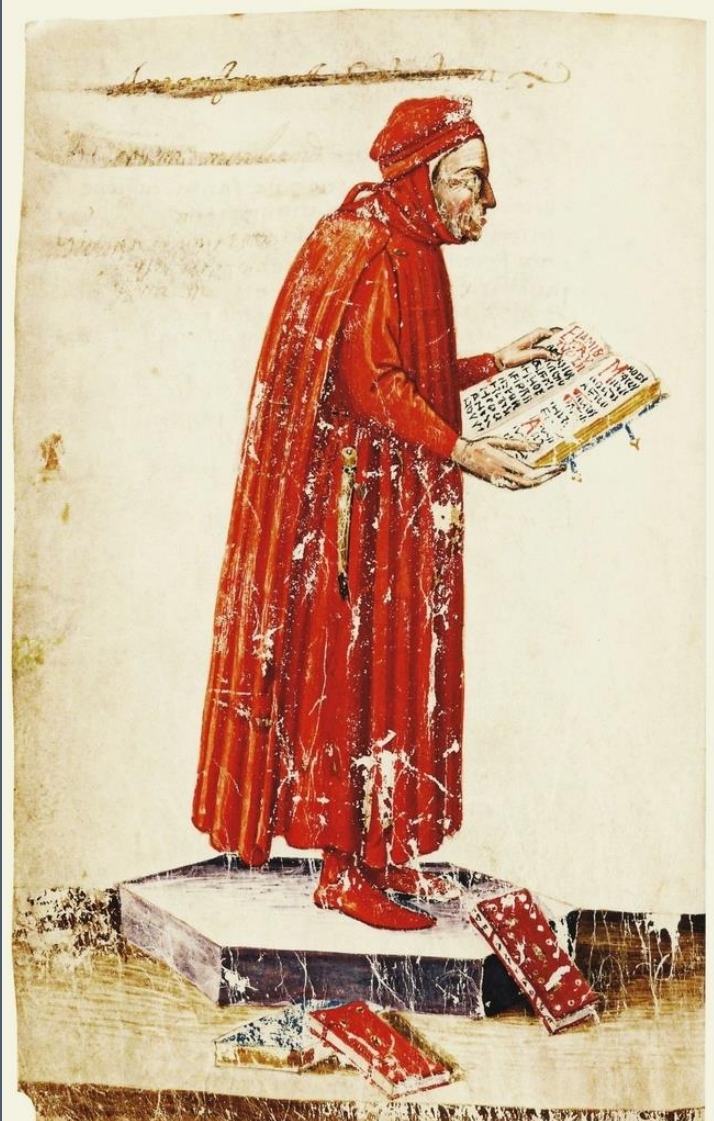


Image from Wikipedia

- Chancellor in Florence, which he made the capitol of Renaissance Humanism
- Correspondent of Petrarch
- A skilled writer and orator, believed he must imitate antiquity not just reproduce it
- Amassed the largest library in Florence, pursued classical manuscripts
- Played important role in changing the Roman Catholic Church's view towards studying secular & pagan literature
- **Brought Byzantine scholar Manuel Chrysoloras to Florence in 1397 to teach one of the first courses in Greek since the end of the Roman Empire**

Manuel Chrysoloras (1355-1415)



Image from Wikipedia

- Born in Constantinople, sought aid in Venice in 1390 against the advance of the Muslim Turks, met Roberto de' Rossi, a follower of Salutati
 - Rossi was the first pupil of Chrysoloras and one of the first Florentines to read Greek
 - Rossi's acquaintance Giacomo da Scarperia travelled to Constantinople to study Greek with Chrysoloras in 1395 – he was one of the first humanists to study and translate Greek texts
- **Taught Greek grammar in Florence, Bologna, Venice and Rome**
- **His *Erotemata* was the first basic Greek grammar in use in Western Europe, published later in 1471 in Venice & studied by Erasmus at Oxford**

Lorenzo Valla (1407-1457)



- Italian humanist and Catholic priest
- Critical of current Latin style, desired a return to classical style with a foundation of analysis and inductive reasoning
- Valla used his critical acumen and classical Latin style to disprove the authenticity of “the Donation of Constantine” document which yielded the western half of the Roman Empire to the authority of the Roman Catholic Church
- His critical study of Jerome’s Latin Vulgate called into question the church’s system of penance and indulgences. He believed “repentance” would be a more accurate translation of the Greek word *metanoia* than Jerome’s “penance.” This was praised by the later Reformers.
- **His notes on the NT inspired Erasmus**

Constantine Lascaris (1434-1501)



- Greek scholar and grammarian
- Took refuge in Rhodes after the fall of Constantinople, then in Italy
- **There he published his *Grammatica Graeca*, probably the first book entirely in Greek issued from the printing press in 1476**
- Taught Greek to the Basilan Monks in Sicily

Theodore Gaza (1398-1475)



- Greek scholar and humanist
- Supported himself in Mantua, Italy after fleeing Thessaloniki ahead of the Ottomans by teaching Greek and by copying ancient Greek manuscripts
- **Became professor of Greek at the newly founded University of Ferrara in 1447** where many students were attracted by his fame including Demetrios Chalkokondyles (who taught Reuchlin and Grocyn)
- Produced superior translations of Greek classics to those before him
- Published a Greek grammar in four books in Venice in 1495, which was then partially translated by Erasmus in 1521, was a leading textbook for a long time despite being defective in many aspects

Demetrios Chalkokondyles

(1423-1511)



- Born in Athens, the last of the Greek humanists who taught Greek literature at the major universities of the Italian Renaissance
- Published the first printed edition of Homer in 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

Early European Greek Professors

- Gregory Tifernas
 - Greek humanist from Italian city of Citta di Castello
 - Studied Greek classics under Manuel Chrysoloras
 - **First teacher of Greek at the University of Paris in 1458**
 - Taught Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples and Robert Gaguin (an associate of Erasmus)
- George Hermonymous
 - Greek scribe, diplomat, scholar and lecturer
 - First person to teach Greek at the College de Sorbonne in Paris
 - **Known as the teacher of Erasmus, Budaeus, Reuchlin and Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples**
 - Copied NT manuscript minuscules 30, 70, 287, 288 & 880

Johann Reuchlin (1455-1522)



- German-born humanist
- Learned Greek from Demetrios Chalkokondyles at Florence
- Scholar of Greek and Hebrew, focused his life on advancing German understanding of these language
 - Published several elementary Greek books
 - **Mastered Hebrew grammar and published *De Rudimentis Hebraicis* – grammar and lexicon – in 1506**
- His sister's grandson Philipp Melanchthon was like a son to him until the Reformation estranged them

Other Greek Firsts

- William Grocyn (1446-1519)
 - **First professor of Greek at Oxford in 1492**
 - Learned Greek from Demetrius Chalkokondyles
 - Friend of Erasmus
 - Spread new Greek learning to England
- Johannes Crastonis
 - **Published the first Greek-Latin lexicon (*vocabulista*) in 1480 in Modena, Italy**
 - Worked on a bi-lingual edition of the Psalms (Greek & Latin), published in 1481, the first ever printed version of the Greek Psalms
 - Translated and published Lascaris's Erotemata in 1480

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)





Gutenberg Bible (1455)

Date: 1455

Text: entire Bible from Jerome's Latin Vulgate

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

Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials

