

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

How it Got to Us

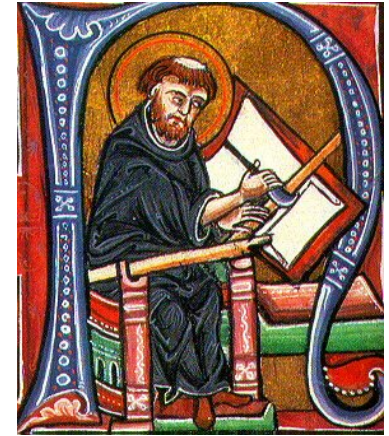
Copyists Dedicated their Lives.

Scribes were meticulous in copying the Old Testament.

Around 300 A.D. Constantine authorized the copying of Scriptures.

Thousands of monasteries were established across Europe for the purpose of copying the Scriptures.

Several thousand monasteries were established across Europe, **and for many of the monks making copies of the Scriptures was their chief task.** They became the true guardians of the text and produced literally thousands of magnificent Bibles. Teams of scribes and artists worked with parchment to produce incredibly beautiful works of art. A scribe taking dictation might use as many as 80 quills a day, and artists embellished the work with intricate designs and illustrations.



Translators Dedicated their Lives.

The Old Testament was translated into Greek about 250 years **before** Jesus was born. It is called the Septuagint.

The first translation of the New Testament into Latin was likely around in 175 AD. By the year 600, the Gospels had been translated into only **eight languages**.

In **405 A.D.** the Pope commissioned the great scholar Jerome to make a definitive translation into Latin. For nearly a thousand years this translation, known as the Vulgate, reigned supreme.

As of November 2015
the full Bible has been translated into
554 languages,
and **2,378 languages**
have at least some portion of the Bible.
There is current active translation and/or
linguistic development happening in
2,267 languages
across more than 130 countries.

Missionaries Dedicated their Lives.

Example: The Cacebar of Costa Rica is a remote Indian tribe numbering only 10,000. Aziel and Marian Jones dedicated 40 years of their life-work to translating the Scriptures, which were dedicated just a couple years ago. Aziel Jones passed away Feb. 10, 2016. The Daasanach of Kenya are a semi-nomadic tribal people numbering approximately 20,000. Work began to learn and write their language and then translate the Bible and teach them how to read. In 2014 the complete New Testament was dedicated and there are many baptized believers and pastors.

Schools in America were established for the purpose of studying the Scriptures.

Harvard, Princeton, and Yale had rich Christian beginnings.

Sunday Schools in America were established to teach reading and the Scriptures to the uneducated.

The Sunday school movement began in Britain in the 1780s.

Religious education was, of course, always also a core component. The Bible was the textbook used for learning to read. Likewise, many children learned to write by copying out passages from the Scriptures. A basic catechism was also taught, as were spiritual practices such as prayer and hymn-singing.

Today, the Bible is BIG BUSINESS.

Dozens of translations, for any and every age, with any type of footnotes, for any kind of demographic group, with any kind of binding, with any kind of cover, with any kind of layout, with any kind of text size and font, with any kind of features...

Popular books that use the Bible are often more popularly read.

They are also BIG BUSINESS.



If God superintended the giving of His Word to His Holy Prophets so that people could know HIM through Jesus, and if godly men and women have given their very lives to copy, translate, transport and educate others to be able to read God's Word, what am I doing with God's Word?

Questions to Think About:

*How much of my life is given to knowing God through His Word?
How much of my life is given to helping others know Jesus through His Word?*

*Am I learning what God wants when I study the Bible?
What is the next step to know the Word of God and the God of the Word?*