

St Jerome

Jerome, the Latin name for Eusebius (the Greek form of the name), was born March 27, 347 A.D. and died on September 30, 420. In about 360-366 he went to Rome to study.

He set out about 373 on a journey through Thrace and Asia Minor into northern Syria. He went to Constantinople to pursue a study of Scripture under Gregory Nazianzen in 380 – 382. He returned to Antioch several times. He went on to Alexandria. The Catechetical School of Alexandria is the oldest catechetical school in the world. Jerome records that the Christian School of Alexandria was founded by St. Mark himself. Many scholars, such as Jerome, visited the school of Alexandria to exchange ideas and to communicate directly with its scholars.

He is best known for his translation of most of the bible into Latin (the translation that became known as the Vulgate), and his commentaries on the Gospels. His list of writings is extensive. The **Vulgate** is a late-4th-century Latin translation of the bible that became the Catholic Church's officially promulgated Latin version of the bible during the 16th century.

It is Jerome that states that Peter went to Rome and it is there that when he was to be executed he asked to be crucified upside down (Foxes Book of Martyrs). He is also the one that states that the Gospel of Mark is simply a recording of Peter's recollections (Mark preface, Douay-Rheims Bible).

The Codex Vaticanus dating is estimated between 300-325 A.D. The Codex Sinaiticus dating is estimated between 330-360 A.D. Jerome began working on the Vulgate in about 382 A.D. The provenance and early history of the codex is uncertain. The chapter division of Acts, similar to that of Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, is not found in any other Greek manuscript, but is present in several manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate.

The **Reformation** is usually considered to have started with the publication of the *Ninety-five Theses* by Martin Luther in 1517 and lasted until the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648. The **Great Bible** of 1539 was the first authorized edition of the Bible in English, authorized by King Henry VIII of England. The textual bases for the Bible were the 'Textus Receptus' which is based on the Antioch manuscripts and the Vulgate. The **Geneva Bible** of 1557 is significant because, for the very first time, a mechanically printed, mass-produced Bible was made available directly to the general public which came with a variety of scriptural study guides and aids (collectively called an apparatus), which included verse citations that allow the reader to cross-reference one verse with numerous relevant verses in the rest of the Bible. Its textual bases were the 'Textus Receptus'. The **Bishops' Bible** is an English translation of the Bible which was produced under the authority of the established Church of England in 1568. The thorough Calvinism of the Geneva Bible (more evident in the marginal notes than in the translation itself) offended the high-church party of the Church of England, to which almost all of its bishops subscribed. The **King James Version (KJV or Authorized Version)**, is an English translation of the Christian Bible for the Church of England, begun in 1604 and completed as well as published in 1611 under the sponsorship of King James I of England. About 18 years later, in 1629, came the **first revision** and then 9 years later, in 1638, came the **second revision**. After punctuation had hit its peak in the 17th century a **final revision** was prepared and published in 1769.

In order to present a bible to the public before the Authorized Version came out, the Catholic Church published the **Douay-Rheims Bible** in 1609 which was translated from the Latin Vulgate which follows the Codex Vaticanus.