

# NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

### HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US

#### LESSON 9

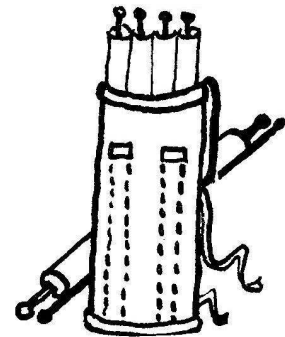
#### OUTLINE

- I. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US
- II. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT GREW
- III. MANUSCRIPTS
- IV. HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO US
- V. WORDS TO LEARN
- VI. ASSIGNMENT

#### I. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US

The different books of the New Testament were letters or books written to different churches and Christians. They were written on scrolls of parchment. (Parchment was made of calf or lamb skins.) Within the first one hundred years people learned to put the parchment together like a book.

At first scrolls were passed from one church to another. After a while the leaders of the churches copied the scrolls. In this way they were able to keep the Word of God in each church. Soon each church had a collection of scrolls.



There were many religious writings in those days. Many writings did not make the test of the New Testament canon. The leaders of the churches watched that such writings did not become a part of the New Testament. The church leaders had meetings to decide which writings were to be part of the New Testament. At a meeting in A.D. 397 the leaders accepted the 27 books we have in the New Testament today. Since that time there have been no changes.



All writing and copying of the Scripture was done by hand. There were very few copies of the Bible. The most important church centers had the Bible. There were some Bibles in the

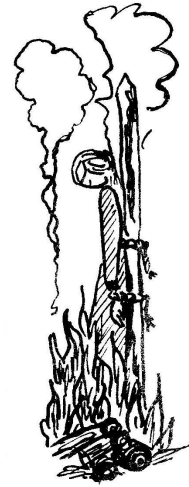
monasteries. (Monasteries were places where the priests studied.) A few rich people had the Bible.

In 1456 the printing press was invented. The Bible was the first book to be printed. After the Bible was printed, more people were able to have Bibles. The people began to study the Bible.

As more people studied the Bible, they saw that the Roman Catholic Church did not teach what the Bible said. The people started to protest (to protest means to complain). The people who left the Roman Catholic Church were called Protestants (protest-ants).

The leaders of the Roman Catholic Church saw the people leaving the church. They tried to get rid of the Bibles. They killed those who printed the Bibles. They killed those who translated the Bible into the language of the people. Yet, they could not keep the Bible from the people.

The first manuscripts which were written by the apostles have not been found. In the last 150 years men have found many copies of the first manuscripts. Men have studied these manuscripts. They find that the Bible has not changed. God protected His Word over many years of copying.



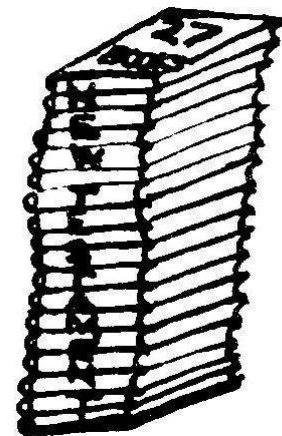
## II. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT GREW

A.D. 55 - 100. During these years the New Testament books and letters were written. These writings were sent from church to church.

A.D. 100 - 382. During these years the first writings were copied and collected. This was the beginning of the New Testament as a book.

A.D. 382 - 1456. The New Testament was accepted by the Church with the 27 books. These are the books in the New Testament today. The Bible was translated into many languages, but not into the English language. All these translations were copied by hand.

A.D. 1400 - 1500. During this time the Bible was translated into: German, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Portugese, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Icelandic, Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, Russian and Modern Greek.



- A.D. 1456 - today. The printing press was invented in 1456 by Johann Gutenberg. The Bible could be printed easily.
- The Gutenberg Bible was the first Bible to be printed. It was in the Latin language.
  - John Wycliffe was the first to translate the Bible into English.
  - John Tyndale's Bible was the first English Bible to be printed on a printing press.
  - The Bible can be found in almost every part of the world today.
  - Parts of the Bible have been translated into almost all written languages. Men are working hard to translate the Bible into every language.

### III. MANUSCRIPTS

You do not have to know this list of manuscripts. They are here to show you how we got our Bible. These manuscripts are in the museums today. If you went to the country and city where they are, you could see them.

1. Sinaitic - written A.D. 340 and written in Greek. It is kept in the British Museum, London, England.
2. Vatican - written around A.D. 325 - 350 and written in Greek. It can be found in the Vatican Library, Rome, Italy.
3. The Alexandrian - written around A.D. 450 and written in Greek. It is in the British Museum, London, England.
4. The Ephraem - written around A.D. 450 and written in Greek. It is in the National Library, Paris, France.
5. The Beza - written about A.D. 550 and written in Greek and Latin. It is in the Library of Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.
6. Claromontanus - written about A.D. 550 and written in Greek and Latin. It is found in the National Library, Paris, France.
7. The Washington - written in Greek and written in the fourth or fifth century. It is in the National Library, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
8. The Koridethi Gospels - written in Greek. It is in the National Library, Tiflis, Russia.
9. The Chester Beatty Papyri - written between the second and third century. It has only parts of the Bible.
10. The Rylands fragment of the Gospel of John - written about A.D. 150. This must have been copied from John's own writing of the book.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> H.S.Miller, General Biblical Introduction, pp. 191-202.

There are about a thousand other manuscripts like these. These manuscripts are used to check our translations to see if they are correct.

#### **IV. HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO US**

##### **A. The Bible in the Indian languages.**

###### **1. Indian language in Massachusetts.**

John Eliot translated the Bible into an Indian language used in Massachusetts, United States. It was printed in 1663.

###### **2. Cree Bible.**

Rev. H. B. Steinhauer translated the Bible into the Cree language. John Sinclair helped him. James Evans translated part of the Bible into the Cree language in the 1800's.

###### **3. Navajo Bible.**

The New Testament was translated into Navajo in 1956. The Navajo New Testament was checked over again in 1975. The Wycliffe missionaries translated the New Testament into Navajo.

###### **4. Slavey Bible.**

The New Testament was translated into Slavey by the Anglican missionaries about 1880 to 1890. The Gospel of John was translated into Slavey by the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission missionaries in 1963. Those who translated the Gospel of John used the Modern English and Greek New Testaments. The Gospel of Mark was translated into Slavey by Wycliffe missionaries in 1974. They used the Modern English and Greek New Testament.

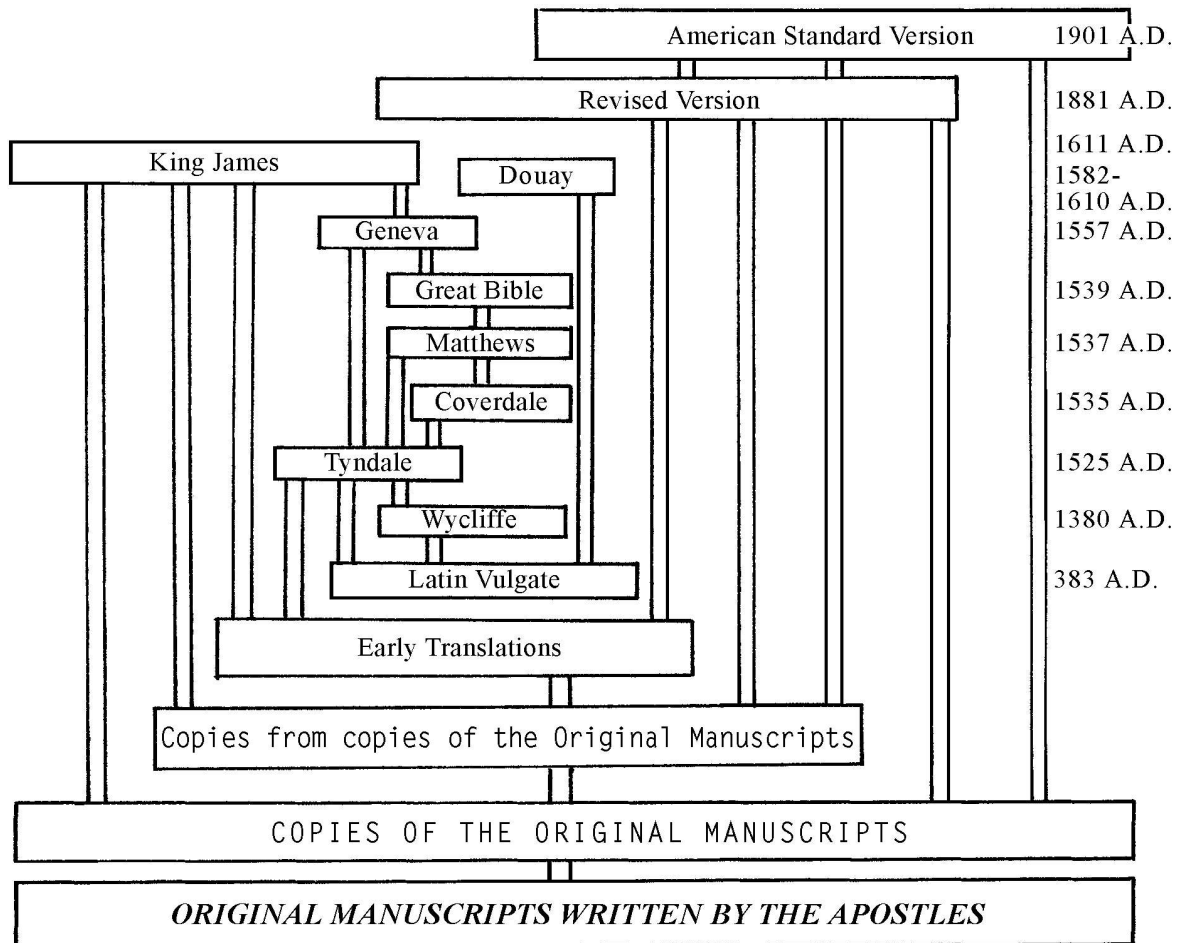
###### **5. Denésoliné Bible.**

The New Testament was translated by Anglican missionaries. The Gospel of Mark was translated by Northern Canada Evangelical missionaries in 1975.

## B. The Bible in the English language.

This chart shows how the Bible came to us. Remember what these men did to help us get the Bible.

Those who translated the Bible used other translations and manuscripts to translate the Bible. The posts in the picture show from where the men got their help.<sup>2</sup>



## V. WORDS TO LEARN

1. manuscript - papers or books written by hand.
2. monasteries - places where the priests used to study.

<sup>2</sup>Information for English Bible from Thompson Chain Reference Bible. Copyright by B.B.Kirkbride Bible Company, Inc. Used by permission.

3. original - that which was done first.
4. protest - to complain - to say that you do not want to be part of something.

## **VI. ASSIGNMENT**

1. READ MATTHEW CHAPTERS 1 to 9.
2. The first Bibles were written by
3. The first printing press was invented in by
4. The first book printed on the printing press was
5. What are manuscripts? (give the meaning)
6. Why are the manuscripts of the Bible important?
7. Have the manuscripts which the apostles wrote been found?
8. Where can some manuscripts be found today? in
9. Has the real meaning of the Bible changed over the years?

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