

# The Translators To The Reader

## Lesson 2

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# On The Purpose of the Translators

- Truly (good Christian Reader) we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one, (for then the imputation of Sixtus had been true in some sort, that our people had been fed with gall of Dragons instead of wine, with whey instead of milk:) but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against; that hath been our endeavor, that our mark.
- To that purpose there were many chosen, that were greater in other men's eyes than in their own, and that sought the truth rather than their own praise.

# On The Purpose of the Translators - The Septuagint

- Neither did we run over the work with that posting haste that the Septuagint did, if that be true which is reported of them, that they finished it in 72 days; [Joseph. Antiq. lib. 12.] neither were we barred or hindered from going over it again, having once done it, like S. Jerome, if that be true which himself reporteth, that he could no sooner write anything, but presently it was caught from him, and published, and he could not have leave to mend it: [S. Jerome. ad Pammac. pro libr. advers. Iovinian.] neither, to be short, were we the first that fell in hand with translating the Scripture into English, and consequently destitute of former helps, as it is written of Origen, that he was the first in a manner, that put his hand to write Commentaries upon the Scriptures, [Sophoc. in Elect.] and therefore no marvel, if he overshot himself many times.
- None of these things: the work hath not been huddled up in 72 days, but hath cost the workmen, as light as it seemeth, the pains of twice seven times seventy two days and more: matters of such weight and consequence are to be speeded with maturity: for in a business of movement a man feareth not the blame of convenient slackness. [S. Chrysost. in II. Thess. cap. 2.]

# An Answer to the Imputations of Our Advisories - The Septuagint (LXX)

- Neither did we think much to consult the Translators or Commentators, Chaldee, Hebrew, Syrian, Greek or Latin, no nor the Spanish, French, Italian, or Dutch; neither did we disdain to revise that which we had done, and to bring back to the anvil that which we had hammered: but having and using as great helps as were needful, and fearing no reproach for slowness, nor coveting praise for expedition, we have at length, through the good hand of the Lord upon us, brought the work to that pass that you see.
- The translation of the Seventy dissenteth from the Original in many places, neither doth it come near it, for perspicuity, gravity, majesty; yet which of the Apostles did condemn it? Condemn it? Nay, they used it, (as it is apparent, and as Saint Jerome and most learned men do confess) which they would not have done, nor by their example of using it, so grace and commend it to the Church, if it had been unworthy of the appellation and name of the word of God.

# Who wrote The Translators To The Reader?

- Miles Smith, D.D. (1554-1624)
- 14 years old when he started at Corpus Christi College, Oxford
- Expert in Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic and Hebrew
- Served in the First Oxford Company, that translated Isaiah - Malachi
- One of the twelve final revisers
- He also served as final editor of the whole translation with Thomas Bilson



# So what about the Apocryphal books?

- Not found in the Hebrew OT
- Are in the Septuagint, Latin Vulgate, Alexandrian, Vatican & Sinai texts
- Not part of the Protestant Canon of Scripture
- Distinguished in the KJB together between the OT & NT (1<sup>st</sup> by Martin Luther)
- Objections by the Critics:
- But the Translators refer to them in some Marginal Notes and in the Preface?
  - They also refer to the Church Fathers, Tradition and residual Customs/teachings – does not add to their canonical credibility

# What Books are in the Apocrypha?

1. I Esdras
2. II Esdras
3. Tobit
4. Judith
5. Rest of Esther
6. Wisdom of Solomon
7. Ecclesiasticus
8. Baruch
9. Song of the Three Holy Children
10. History of Susanna
11. Bel and the Dragon
12. Prayer of Manasses
13. I Maccabees
14. II Maccabees

# Are there any NT period “Apocryphal” Books?

- Shepherd of Hermas
- I & 2 Clement
- Didache (The teaching of the Twelve apostles)
- Epistle of Barnabas
- Apocalypse of Peter
- Third epistle to the Corinthians
- The epistle to the Laodiceans (Col.4:16)
- Others?
- More Epistles
- More Acts
- Fate of Mary
- Penitence of Origen
- Prayer of Paul
- Book of the Bee (13<sup>th</sup> c.)



# Inspiration, Preservation & Canon of Scripture

- **1** And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, *that* this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, **2** Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.
- **4** Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.
- **17** And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth? **18** Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote *them* with ink in the book.
- **23** And it came to pass, *that* when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast *it* into the fire that *was* on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that *was* on the hearth.
- **28** Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.
- **32** Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words. **Jeremiah 36**