

Glossary

Codex - an ancient manuscript in book form. Previously, the biblical texts had existed as scrolls. It marked the beginning of the Bible as a book.

Exegesis - critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture.

Masoretic Text – The authoritative version of the Hebrew text of the Tanak. The extant manuscripts date from around 900 CE.

Septuagint - Translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek in Alexandria in the third and second centuries BCE. Legend that the work was uniformly created by seventy scholars at the same time.

Textus Receptus – The series of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament beginning with Erasmus' 1516 edition. Most of the texts came from the Byzantine tradition and the TR remained the principal form of the Greek used by Protestants until the 19th century.

Vetus Latina (“Old Latin”) – Latin translations of the Septuagint that circulated in North Africa and the Mediterranean from the fourth century. They remained in use even after the creation of the Vulgate.

Vernacular – Translations of the Bible into the languages of the people. As Latin was the language of the Empire, Jerome's Vulgate was a vernacular translation. By the end of the Middle Ages the Bible existed in German, French, English, Italian and many other languages.

Vulgate – Late fourth-century Latin translation of the Hebrew and Greek by St Jerome. Most of the Bible was his work, but he did draw on the Vetus Latina and other existing translations. The Vulgate became the standard Latin Bible of the Medieval church and was confirmed at the Council of Trent as the official Bible of the Catholic Church.