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Books of the Bible

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Abstract: This article discusses the development of different versions and translations of the Bible.

another, the Lord is to "say to the north give up, and to the south keep not back; bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Again by revelation the people are to be commanded, to "get up into the high mountain." At another time, they are to be required to "return to Zion with songs of everlasting joy." By revelation they learn the precise place, where the city "Sought Out" shall be located. By revelation, they are ordered to build the city, that the Lord may "appear in his glory." By revelation, they move, and act, in all things, from first to last, being guided in every event, as were Israel in the days of Moses.

The people of Zion will, not only be favored with an abundance of revelation, but enjoy in the highest degree, the miraculous exhibitions of the power of God, in which the blind, the deaf, the dumb, and the lame, will be healed; and by the power of God, springs and streams will gush forth in the desert, and in the thirsty land the Lord will give drink to his people—his chosen. All these things are predicted, and will be fulfilled in the latter-day dispensation.

When Zion is, as it were in her childhood, and is cast out, persecuted, driven to the mountains, "tossed to

and fro and not comforted," she will, undoubtedly, feel, at times, "as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit." And in the midst of her severe afflictions she will be ready to exclaim, in the words of the Prophet, "But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." The days of her tribulation will soon come to an end. Thus saith the Lord, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee." "Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." The hills and mountains, earth and heavens, will celebrate with joyful songs, the glorious day of Zion's redemption, when "the bands of her neck" shall be loosened, and she shall come forth from the wilderness, leaning upon the strong arm of her beloved; fair as the sun, clear as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners.

(To be Continued.)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

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When and by whom were the books of the Old Testament first collected and arranged?

By Ezra, about 450 years before Christ. The five books of Moses had been kept with the Ark of the Covenant (Deut. 31: 24, 26) and Joshua had written the portion of Scripture bearing his name, "in the book of the law of God." Joshua 8 and 24: 26.

What are the most prominent translations of the Bible that have been made?

The Septuagint, the Vulgate, the Douay, and the English or King James' Bible.

What is the meaning of the word Septuagint?

Seventy. The translation was so called because it was made by seventy, or more strictly, by seventy-two men; six having been chosen from each of the twelve tribes of Israel for that purpose.

When and where was this translation made?

At Alexandria, in Egypt, about 200 years before Christ. It was a translation of the Old Testament only, from the Hebrew into Greek.

How was this translation regarded by the Jews in the time of Christ?

It was regarded with peculiar reverence. Our Savior and the Apostles, in their discourses, generally quoted from this version.

What is the Vulgate translation ?

It is a Latin translation of the Septuagint, not of the Hebrew, and so called the Vulgate, because, being the only version which the Roman Catholic Church holds to be reliable, it is in that church the common version.

When and by whom was this translation made ?

By Jerome, about the year A.D. 400.

What of the Douay Bible ?

It is an English translation of the Vulgate, with the notes and comments, and is the only English Bible approved by the Roman Catholic Church.

From what did it receive its name ?

From the place where it was first published—Douay, a town in France.

When was it published ?

In the year 1610.

Why does it differ so much from our English Bible ?

Because it was made, not from the original Hebrew, but from the Vulgate, which was from the Septuagint, and was very imperfect. It could not be as correct as a translation made directly from the Hebrew.

Why is our English version called "King James' Bible" ?

Because it was made during the reign of James I. King of England.

When was it begun and when completed ?

In the year 1607 the work was commenced, and was finished in about three years, and published in 1611.

By whom was the translation made ?

Fifty-four of the most learned men of the kingdom were appointed for the task. Seven of these did not serve, leaving forty-seven as the number who were actually engaged in the work.

How was the labor apportioned among this number ?

They were divided into six classes ; to each of which a certain portion of the Bible was given to translate, not from the Latin nor from the Septuagint, but directly from the original Hebrew and Greek.

What was the earliest division of the Bible ?

That which is supposed to have been made by Ezra. The books of the Old Testament were divided into three classes : "the Law," "the Prophets," and "the Writings," or "the Psalms." To this our Savior refers, Luke 22 : 44 — "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets, and Psalms concerning me."

When and by whom was the Bible first divided into chapters ?

This is generally said to have been done by Cardinal Hugo, A.D. 1240. But as early as the middle of the third century, the four Gospels had been divided into chapters.

When and by whom were the chapters divided into verses ?

By Robert Stevens, in the year 1551. It is stated that he performed the greater part of this tedious task while on horseback, on a journey.

DIEU ET MON DROIT.

Dieu et mon droit—God and my right, the motto of the kingdom of Great Britain, contains sentiments truly grand, beautiful, sublime ; sentiments which, honored and respected, will exalt a nation in the eyes of all good men, in the esteem of angels, and in the favor of the Majesty of heaven. It implies absolute obedience to the authority of God, implicit confidence

in the righteousness of his government, and a hearty acknowledgment of the matchless wisdom of his administration. It implies also, on the part of the nation or people, rectitude of conduct, purity of life, and a perfect compliance with the mandate of the golden rule. It embraces whatsoever things are pure and honest, whatsoever things are true and of good re-