



Desiderius Erasmus

1466-1536

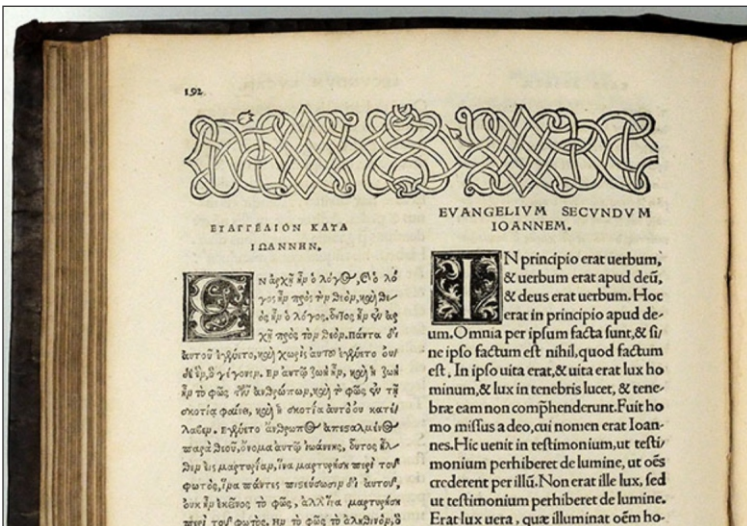
“I have been applying my whole mind to the study of Greek; and as soon as I receive any money I shall first buy Greek authors, and afterwards some clothes.”



“Would that the farmer might sing snatches of Scripture at his plough and that the weaver might hum phrases of Scripture to the tune of his shuttle, that the traveler might lighten with stories from Scripture the weariness of his journey.”



“I am not so mad as to fly in the face of the Vicar of Christ (the pope).”



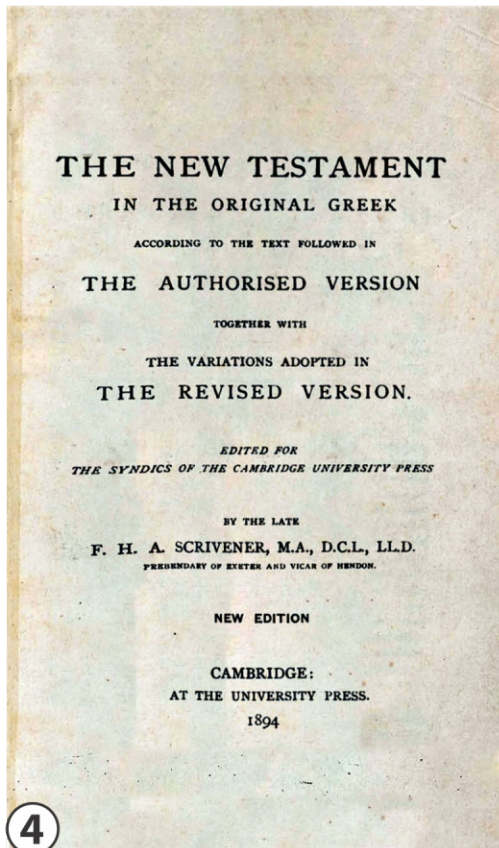
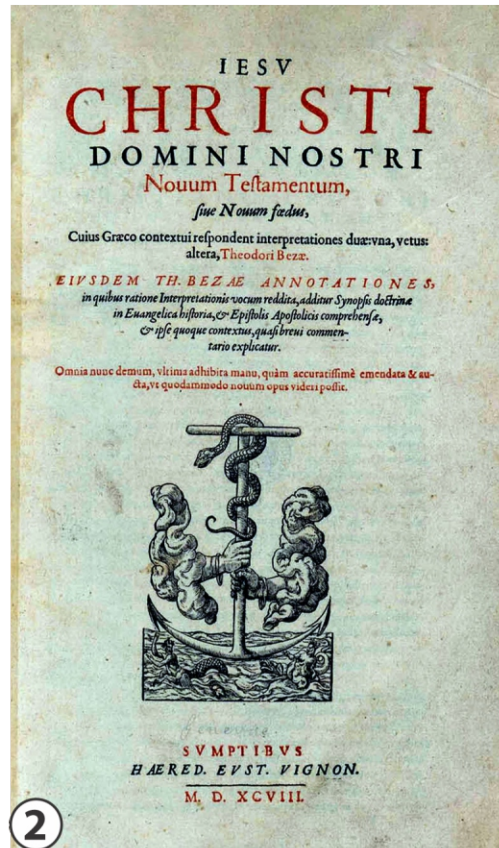
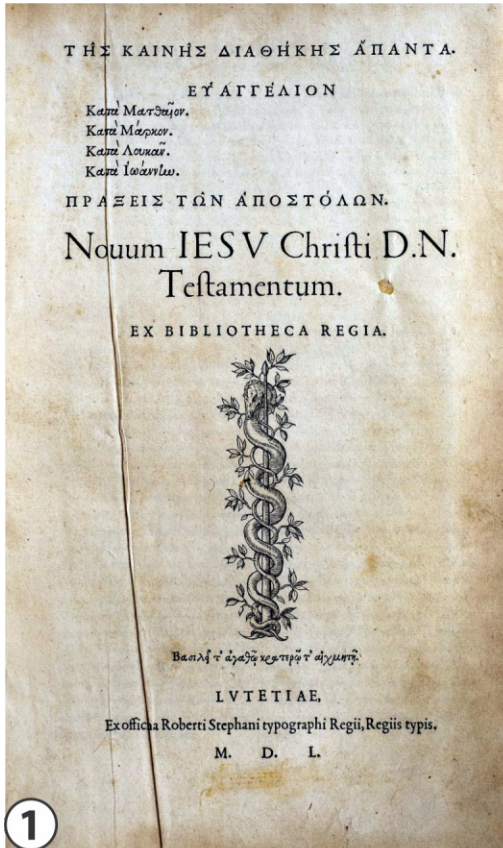
Erasmus produced the Novum Instrumentum Omne, a side-by-side printing of the Greek New Testament (left) and Latin (right). This image shows the title page of The Gospel According to John. Erasmus edited and reprinted the book five times between 1516-1535.

The Desiderius Erasmus Timeline

- 1382** – Wycliffe's Bibles are copied and distributed in England
- 1384** – John Wycliffe dies.
- 1408** – Possessing a Bible in English is a capital offense.
- 1428** – Wycliffe's body is exhumed, burned and ashes scattered in River Swift.
- 1445** – Johannes Gutenberg invents the moveable-type printing press.
- 1455** – Gutenberg prints 180 copies of the Bible in Latin.
- 1466** – Erasmus born in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 1492** – Erasmus officially ordained in the Augustinian order.
- 1493** – He leaves monastic life to become secretary to Bishop of Cambrai.
- 1495** – Enters the University of Paris, but leaves before graduating.
- 1502** – Cardinal Francisco Jimenez begins work on “Complutensian Polyglot,” a multi-language edition of the whole Bible.
- 1506** – Erasmus granted doctorate of divinity at University of Turin, Italy.
- 1509** – Henry VIII crowned king of England.
- 1509** – Begins lectures at Queen's College in Cambridge, England.
- 1516** – Erasmus publishes “Novum Instrumentum Omne,” (All of the New Teaching) – a Greek and Latin edition of the New Testament.
- 1517** – Martin Luther presents “95 Theses” at Wittenberg, Germany.
- 1536** – Erasmus dies in Basel, Switzerland.

The History of the Bible

THE TEXTUS RECEPTUS (TR)



The Textus Receptus (TR), meaning Received Text, is not a manuscript of the Greek New Testament. Manuscripts are handwritten while the TR is a press-printed document which does not match exactly to any known handwritten manuscript. The development of the TR began with the text-critical work of the Catholic priest Desiderius Erasmus who collated 6-10 manuscripts as well as using the Latin text for support. Between the first printing by Erasmus in 1516 and that of F.H.A. Scrivener in 1894, there have been about 30 edited TR versions.

Front page - The Novum Instrumentum Omne (All The New Teaching) printed by Erasmus in 1516.

1 - Robert 'Stephanus' Estienne edited and reprinted Erasmus' Greek New Testament in Paris in 1546. Stephanus added verse divisions, editing and reprinting the Greek New Testament four times between 1546-1551.

2 - Theodore Beza edited and reprinted the Greek New Testament nine times between 1564-1604.

3 - Abraham and Bonaventure Elzevir edited and printed the Greek New Testament several times beginning in 1633. Their printing was the first to use the phrase Textus Receptus (Received Text).

4 - When modern readers refer to "The TR," they generally mean this version edited by F.H.A. Scrivener and printed in 1894. Scrivener's purpose was to create an apparatus to show when the KJV translators followed Stephanus or Beza in each passage. (They used Beza in 111 passages, Stephanus in 59 and in 67 places they ignored both.)