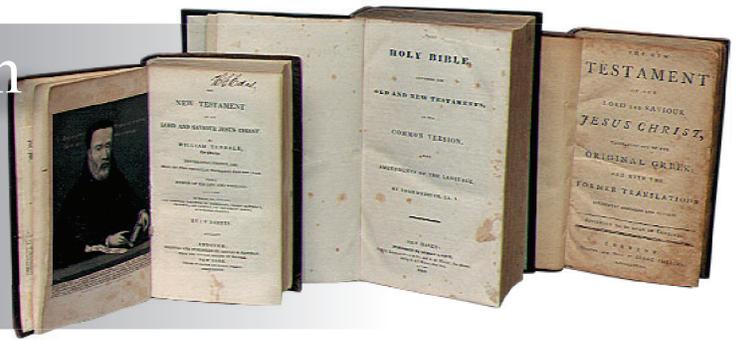


Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

Winter 2022

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A 500 Year Anniversary

In January 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church on charges of heresy. At primary issue were Luther's attacks on papal authority and the Church's teaching on salvation, purgatory, and indulgences. From Scripture Luther understood that man was justified by repentance and faith, not through any works.

In April 1522, Luther was summoned to appear before the Emperor to respond to the charges of heresy. Elector

and enemy of the state. Anyone could kill him without legal consequence, and it was a crime for anyone in Germany to give him aid.

However, Elector Frederick the Wise sought to protect Luther by capturing him and bringing him to hide in the Wartburg Castle at Eisenach. Luther shed his monk's clothes and took on the persona of Junker Jörg or Knight George. Isolated and alone, except for three staff at the Castle, Luther



Wartburg Castle, (A.Savin, WikiCommons)

Frederick the Wise arranged for a safe conduct for Luther to appear before the Diet of Worms. When Luther was asked to repudiate his works, Luther famously replied, "Unless I am convinced by testimonies of the Holy Scripture or evident reason (for I believe neither in the pope nor councils alone, since it has been established that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience has been captive by the Word of God, and I am neither able nor willing to recant, since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience. God help me. Amen." The Diet finally declared Luther a heretic, an outlaw

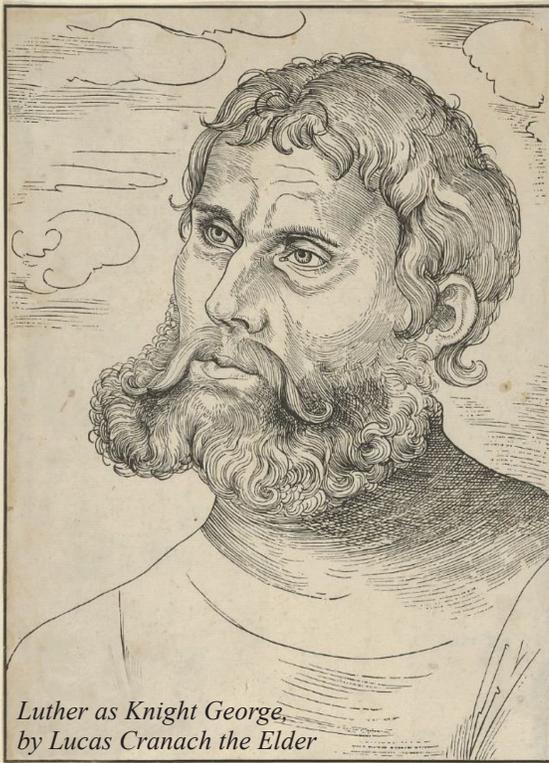


Room in Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament into German (Library of Congress Catalog: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002720777>)

corresponded secretly with a few supporters and worried about the future of the reform movement he had begun.

In December, Luther made a brief, clandestine visit to Wittenberg. While there, his friend and supporter Philip Melancthon encouraged Luther to use his time in isolation to translate the New Testament into German. Returning to the Wartburg, Luther set to work, and within two and a half months he had translated the New Testament from Erasmus' 1519 edition of the Greek text. Against Frederick the Wise's instructions, Luther left the Wartburg at the end of February and returned to Wittenberg in early March.

A 500 Year Anniversary - continued



Luther as Knight George,
by Lucas Cranach the Elder

There was great rejoicing at Luther's return, for many thought he had been done away with. Luther consulted with Melanchthon, a Greek scholar, on his New Testament translation. In May, Wittenberg printer Melchior Lotthier, with financial backing from Lucas Cranach the Elder and Christian Döring, began printing. By September, 3000 copies were printed, in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. The cost was one half gulden, a weekly wage of a journeyman carpenter.

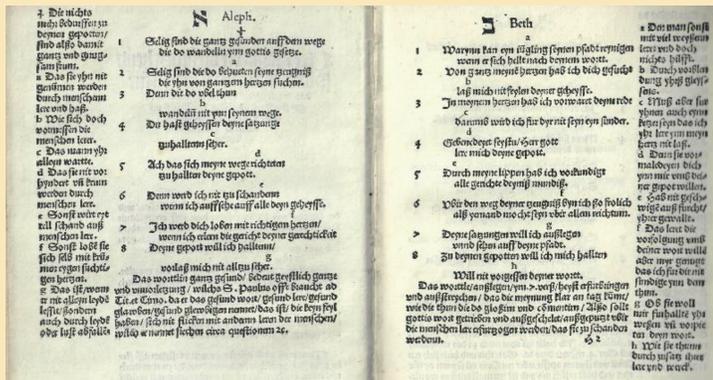
There had been earlier German Bible translations before Luther, but they were stiff, wooden, and difficult to understand. Luther worked diligently to make his

German intelligible to the average person. He even said he wanted Moses to speak as a German. Luther continuously worked on revising and improving his translation until his death in 1546. His work influenced the German language as well as the spiritual life of Germany. He emphasized the importance of the Scriptures in the vernacular, the common language of the people. Luther's example was soon followed by William Tyndale in English, with his New Testament translation first printed in 1525.

Luther's September Testament, published 500 years ago, was an important milestone in making the Bible available to the people.

Words of Life

Martin Luther recognized that the Scriptures were foundational to all of life, and he was concerned that even Christian leaders neglected the Scripture. In the preface to his commentary on Psalm 119, Luther wrote, "The neglect of Scripture, even by spiritual leaders, is one of the greatest evils in the world. Everything else, arts or literature, is pursued and practiced day and night, and there is no end of labor and effort; but Holy Scripture is neglected as though there were no need of it...But its words are not, as some think, mere literature; they are words of life, intended not for speculation and fancy but for life and action...May Christ our Lord help us by His Spirit to love and honor His holy Word with all our hearts. Amen."



Martin Luther's translation and notes on Psalm 119, 1522, from the Dunham Bible Museum collection. Psalm 119 is the longest of the psalms, and each verse speaks of the Word of God.

The Bible of the Reformation

In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's translation of the Greek New Testament into the common language of the German people, the Dunham Bible Museum will host a special lecture January 20, 2022 at 7 pm in Belin Chapel.

Dr. Jennifer McNutt, professor in Biblical and Theological studies at Wheaton College, will speak on "The Bible of the Reformation." Dr. McNutt is an editor of *The People's Book: the Reformation and the Bible*, 2017, and coeditor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of the Bible and the Reformation*.





Mark Gaither, Elijah Hicks, and David Flood digitize early printed Greek texts from the Museum's collections.

Special Visitors

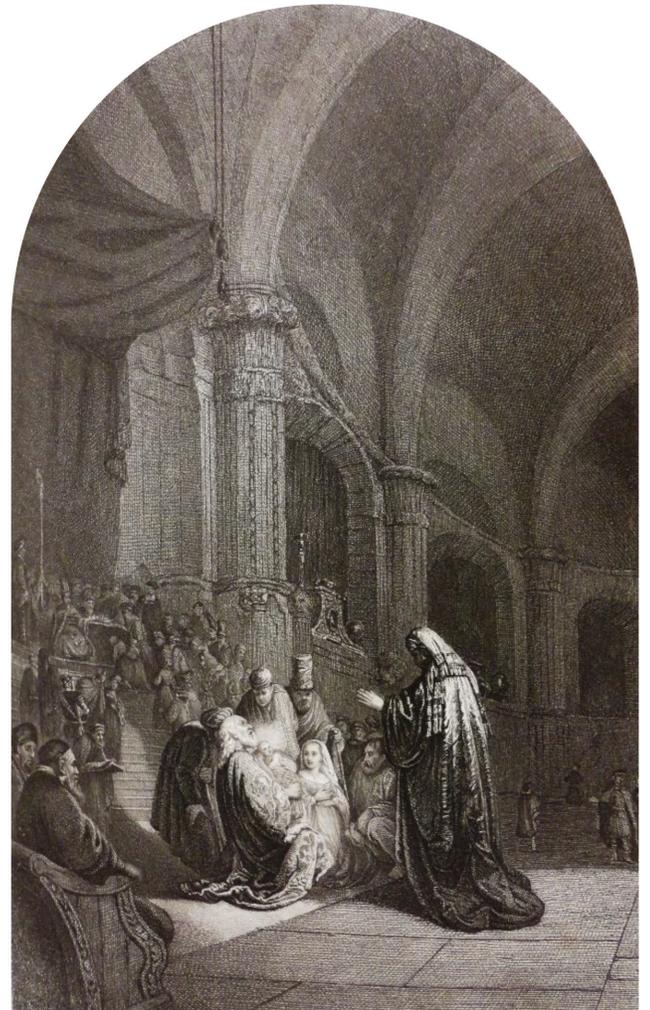
In December the Dunham Bible Museum had special visitors - Dr. Dan Wallace and a team of Mark Gaither, Elijah Hicks, and David Flood from the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts. Dr. Wallace and his team had come to digitize some of the Museum's early printed Greek texts. The CSNTM has digitized Greek manuscripts of the New Testament from around the world and placed them in an online archive (www.csntm.org) for Bible students around the world to access. The digitized early printed Greek texts from the Dunham's collection will be added to CSNTM's online library. The CSNTM has the most sophisticated machinery and follows meticulous protocols in their work.

Another Anniversary

2022 marks another anniversary – the 25th anniversary of the Dunham Bible Museum! It was in 1997, that Houston Baptist University purchased a collection of rare American Bibles from Jonathan Byrd and housed them in a section of the Moody Library (where Java City now is!). In 2008, when the Bible in America Museum was scheduled to relocate to the new Cultural Arts Center, the University, through the generosity of Archie and Linda Dunham, was able to purchase the Bible collections of Drs. Donald Brake and John Hellstern, which included manuscripts and rare European and English Bibles. HBU is very honored to exhibit these important collections to showcase the Bible's history, influence and impact. We look forward to celebrating this anniversary year, beginning with Dr. McNutt's lecture on "The Bible in the Reformation" on January 20 and with the special exhibit "Celebrating the Life of Jesus the Christ."

Celebrating the Life of Jesus the Christ

In 2008, when we first opened the Bible Museum in the Morris Cultural Arts Center, we had a very special exhibit prepared by Dr. John Hellstern from his collection: "Celebrating the Life of Jesus, the Christ: Three Centuries of Bible Art." We are delighted to reprise this beautiful, reflective exhibit this year. Biblical pictures from the life of Christ are grouped into four sections: Birth Through Baptism; Miracles and Healings; Parables and Teachings; Passion and Resurrection. Each picture exhibited includes relevant Scripture quotations and a history of the artwork itself. The entire exhibit is a beautiful meditation on the life of Jesus, the Christ.



"Jesus' Presentation in the Temple" is from an 1854 Family Bible. The engraving is a mirror image of Rembrandt's painting "Simeon's Song of Praise." Rembrandt made at least 3 engravings of Jesus' presentation in the temple and several paintings, the first when he was 23. An unfinished painting on this theme was on an easel when Rembrandt died.



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Visit our website at
HBU.edu/BibleMuseum

*“It’s impossible to rightly govern the world
without God and the Bible.”*

–George Washington

Visit our website at www.hbu.edu/biblemuseum. There you will find virtual tours of the Museum’s exhibits, past and present, as well as videos of past lectures and much more.

Dunham Bible Museum Lecture
“The Bible in the Reformation,”

Dr. Jennifer McNutt, professor at Wheaton,
January 20, 2022, 7pm, Belin Chapel.

Current Special Exhibits

- “CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE CHRIST: THREE CENTURIES OF BIBLE ART”
- “THE TREASURED WORD”

The Dunham Bible Museum’s regular exhibits include:

- Bible Manuscripts
- Early printed Bibles
- English bibles
- American Bibles
- *The St. John’s Bible*
- Foreign Bible translations

...all designed to show the Bible’s history, influence and impact.

The Dunham Bible Museum is OPEN
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday – Saturdays,
except University holidays.

To make an appointment for group tours, or
for further information, contact

Dr. Diana Severance at
281-649-3287 or dseverance@HBU.edu



On your next Dunham Bible Museum visit, try out our new audio tour using your cell phone!