

ERASMUS' 6 (?) MANUSCRIPTS

which is the foundation for the Textus Receptus (*Greek New Testament*)
Phil Myers, PhD

Multilingual Erasmus, who compiled the Greek New Testament from partial manuscripts

- Dutch, his mother tongue
- German
- Latin
- Greek

- Novum Instrumentum Omni, a series of bilingual Latin-Greek New Testaments written by Erasmus including annotations.

He had access to at least 6 (*possibly 12+*) different Greek manuscripts but no complete New Testaments.

(Numbering differs by various scholars.)

These first 6 Greek manuscripts were loaned to him from the Dominican library in Basel.

His purpose was to correct the Vulgate more than offer a new translation of the New Testament.

* *The producers of the Textus Receptus adopted Erasmus' Greek Novum manuscript.*

* *The Textus Receptus does not include the Old Testament.*

* *The King James' Bible used the Hebrew Masoretic text for the Old Testament.*

⇒ The Vulgate, 4th century, a Latin translation from the Greek by Jerome.
This was Erasmus' "study Bible" which he had used from his youth.

- 1 containing the complete Gospels & Acts, 11th century
- 2 Gospels only, 15th century
- 2 ap (#2815) Acts & epistles, 12-14th centuries
- 4 ap The Revelation, 15th century, Latin text, Vulgate? *pjmyers, probably*
- 2 e ?
- 2 ap ?

He may also have had access to the following which were available at the time.

- 2817 Pauline epistles, 10th & 11th centuries
- 2105 Pauline epistles, 12th century
- 2814 The Revelation, 12th century
- 2816 Acts & epistles, 15th century
- 812 Gospels, 15th century
- one non-Byzantine MS, *dubious*

** Acts 9.5,6 the phrase "it is hard for thee. . .the Lord said unto him," are found in no Greek manuscript but are from the Latin Vulgate.

Desiderius Erasmus, the man, 1466—1536 (*renaissance period*), Dutch, humanist, RC priest, philosopher, theologian, pacifist, Cambridge, ordained age 26, prolific writer, most printed scholar (*of any kind*) of the early 16th century. Born about 20 years before Luther.

- a. Roman Catholic priest and scholar, but never a practicing monk. He seemed to embrace orthodox Roman Catholic doctrine, and his writings did not dispute it theologically.
- b. His understanding of salvation by faith alone in the payment of Christ on the Cross is imprecise, but his love of the Bible is unquestioned.

MS = manuscript