

From Darkness to Light

From Darkness to Light

Caving

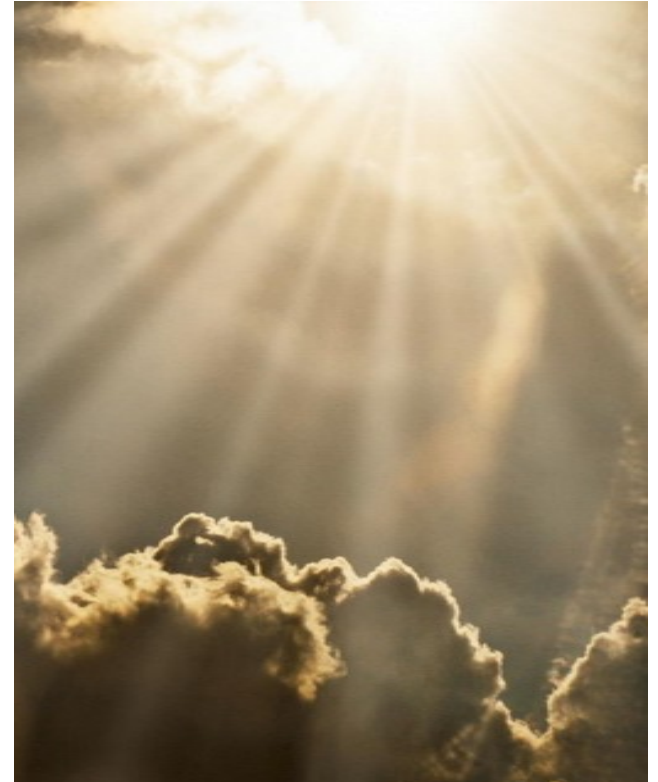


From Darkness to Light

God is Light

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

“Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” Genesis 1:1-5



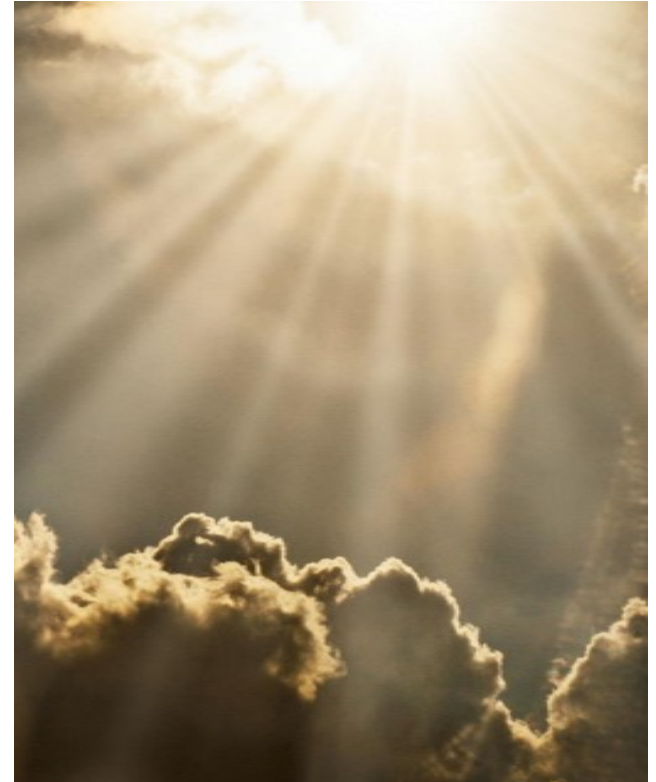
From Darkness to Light

God is Light

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”” John 8:12

“I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.” Daniel 5:14

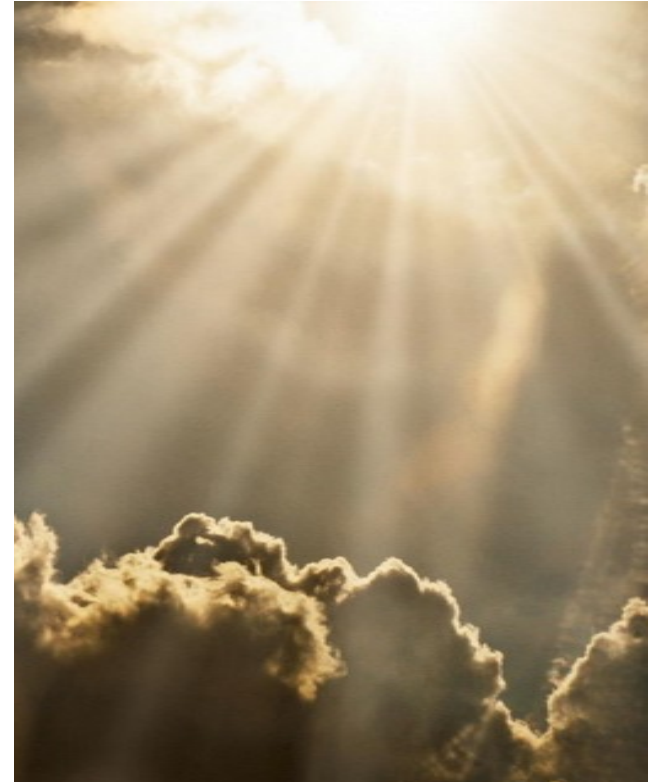


From Darkness to Light

God is Light

Where God is, is light.

- Light at Creation
- Pillar of cloud by day and fire by night
- Light blazed on Mt. Sinai
- Light rested over the mercy seat of the ark
- Light filled the temple at Solomon's dedication
- Light shown around the hills when the angels sang

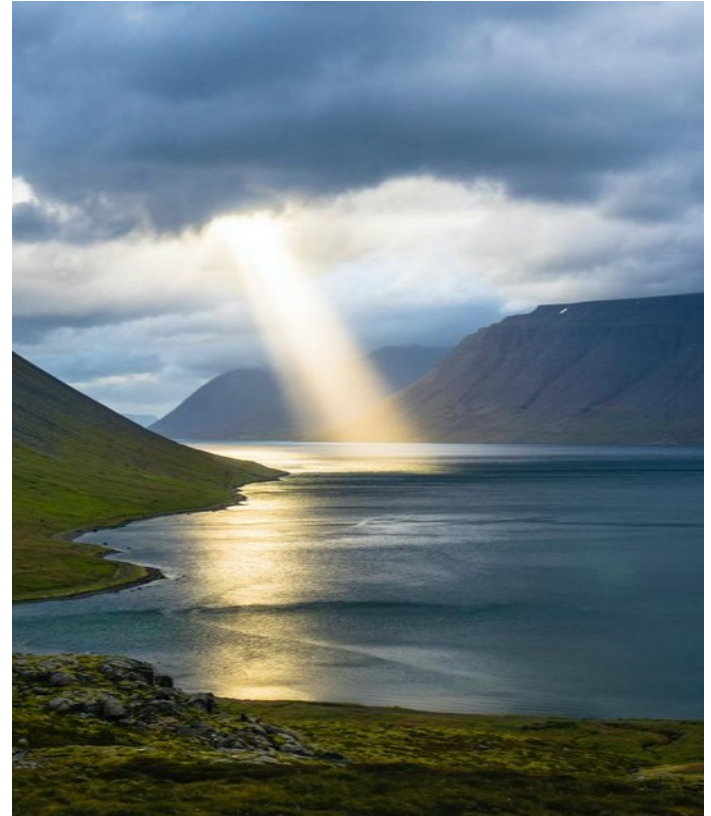


From Darkness to Light

God has given us light.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4

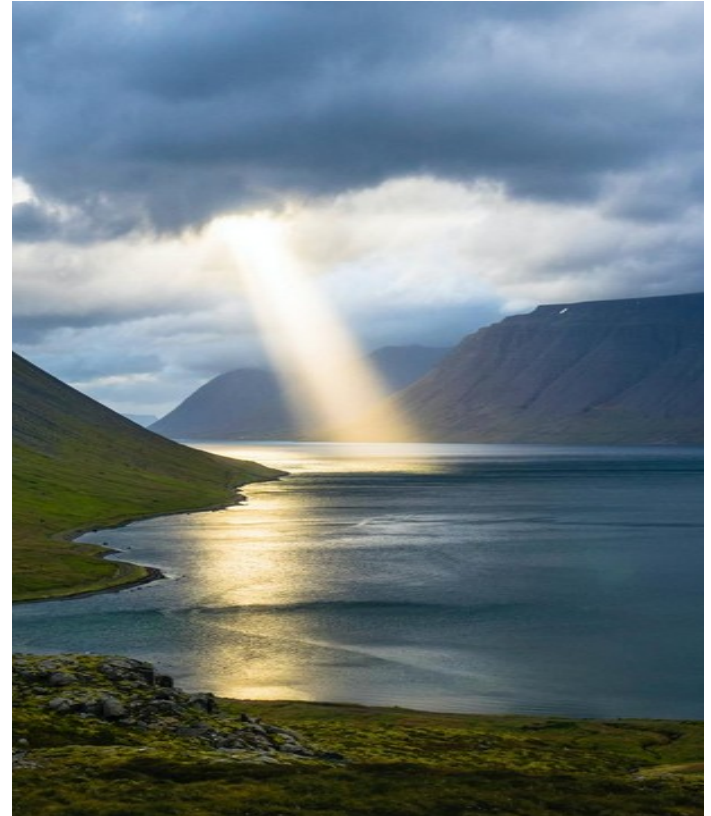
“That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.” John 1:9



From Darkness to Light

God has given us light.

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
2 Corinthians 4:6



From Darkness to Light

God has given us light.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16



From Darkness to Light

God has given us light. How?

Through His Word

“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

Through His Spirit

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:13



From Darkness to Light

Walk In the Light

“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

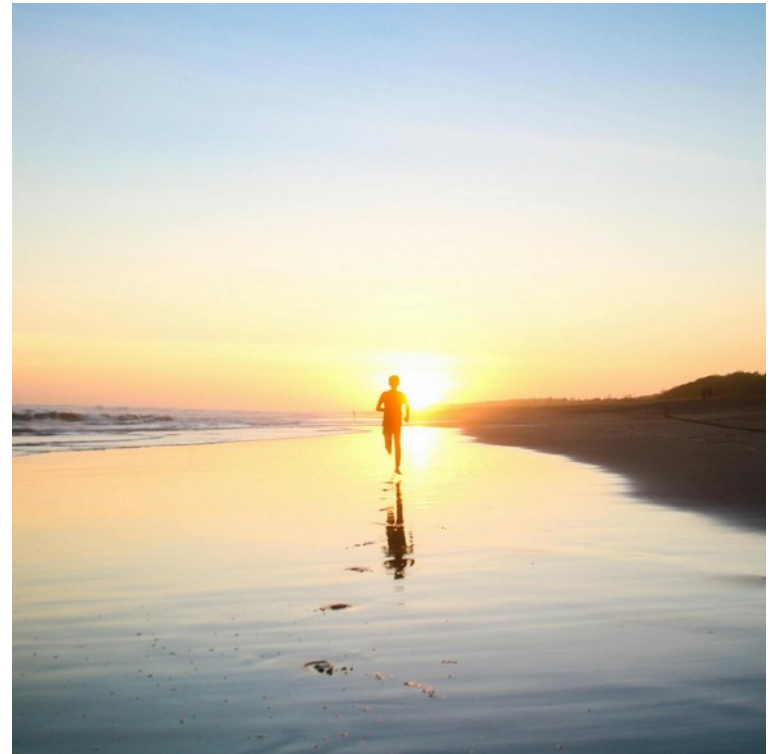
It does not say a light to my bed or a light to my chair. A path indicates movement, progress.



From Darkness to Light

Walk In the Light

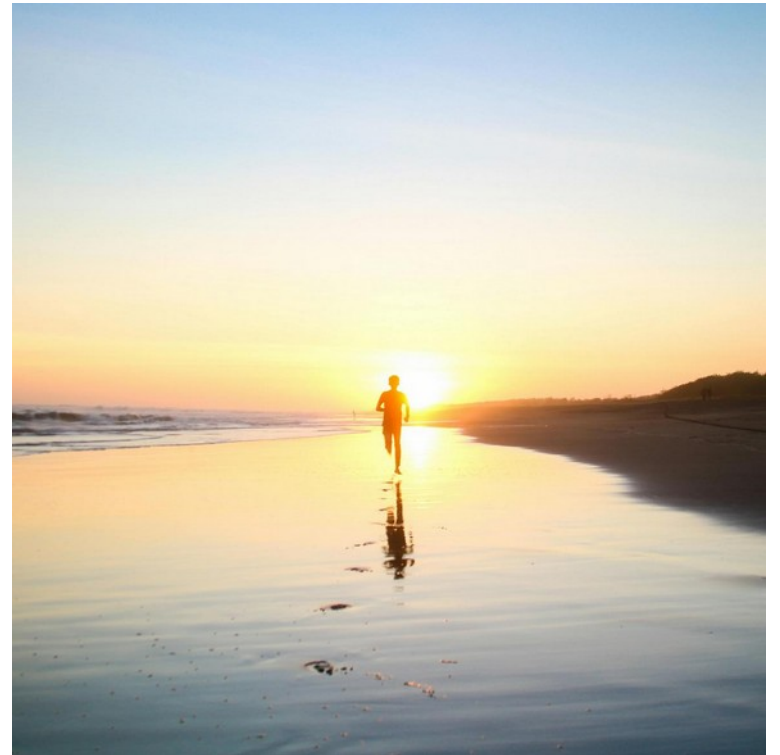
“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.””
John 8:12



From Darkness to Light

Walk In the Light

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:5-7



The Dark Ages

Waldenses

“From their pastors the youth received instruction. While attention was given to branches of general learning, the Bible was made the chief study. The Gospels of Matthew and John were committed to memory, with many of the Epistles. They were employed also in copying the Scriptures. Some manuscripts contained the whole Bible, others only brief selections, to which some simple explanations of the text were added by those who were able to expound the Scriptures. Thus were brought forth the treasures of truth so long concealed by those who sought to exalt themselves above God.” GC 68.2



The Dark Ages

Waldenses

“By patient, untiring labor, sometimes in the deep, dark caverns of the earth, by the light of torches, the Sacred Scriptures were written out, verse by verse, chapter by chapter. Thus the work went on, the revealed will of God shining out like pure gold; how much brighter, clearer, and more powerful because of the trials undergone for its sake only those could realize who were engaged in the work. Angels from heaven surrounded these faithful workers.” GC 69.1

The Dark Ages

Waldenses

“To have made known the object of their mission would have ensured its defeat; therefore they carefully concealed their real character. Every minister possessed a knowledge of some trade or profession, and the missionaries prosecuted their work under cover of a secular calling. Usually they chose that of merchant or peddler. “They carried silks, jewelry, and other articles, at that time not easily purchasable save at distant marts; and they were welcomed as merchants where they would have been spurned as missionaries.”—Wylie, b. 1, ch. 7. All the while their hearts were uplifted to God for wisdom to present a treasure more precious than gold or gems. They secretly carried about with them copies of the Bible, in whole or in part; and whenever an opportunity was presented, they called the attention of their customers to these manuscripts. Often an interest to read God's word was thus awakened, and some portion was gladly left with those who desired to receive it.”
GC 71.1

The Dark Ages

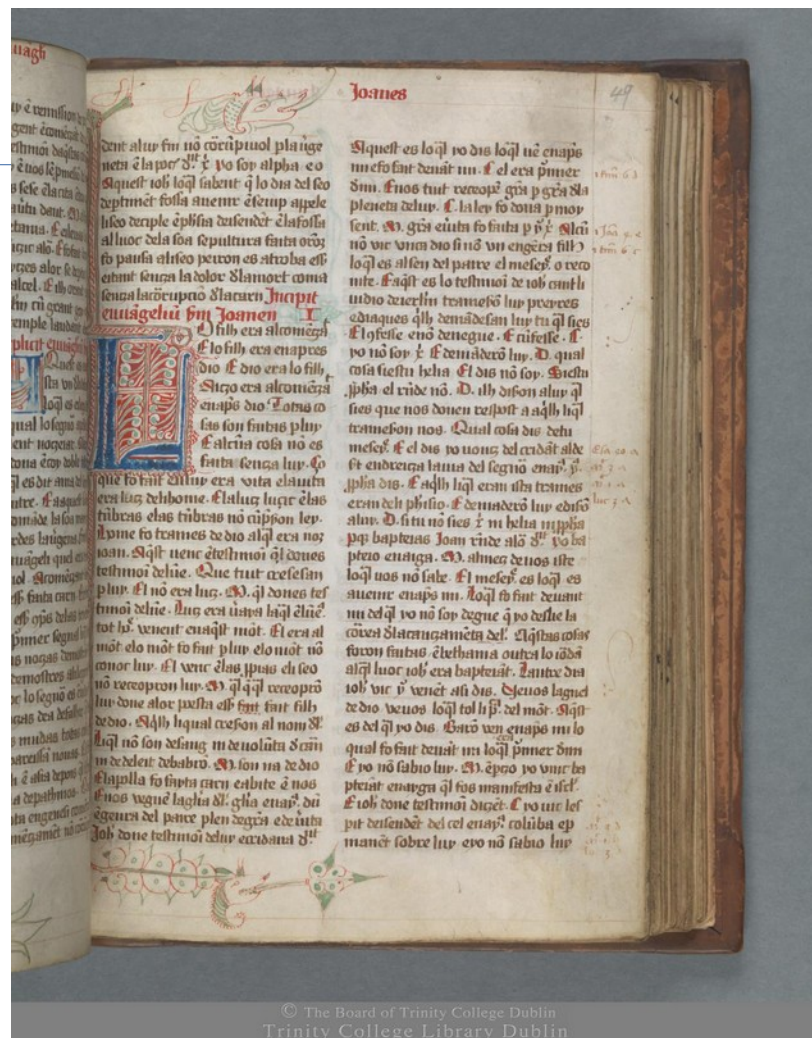
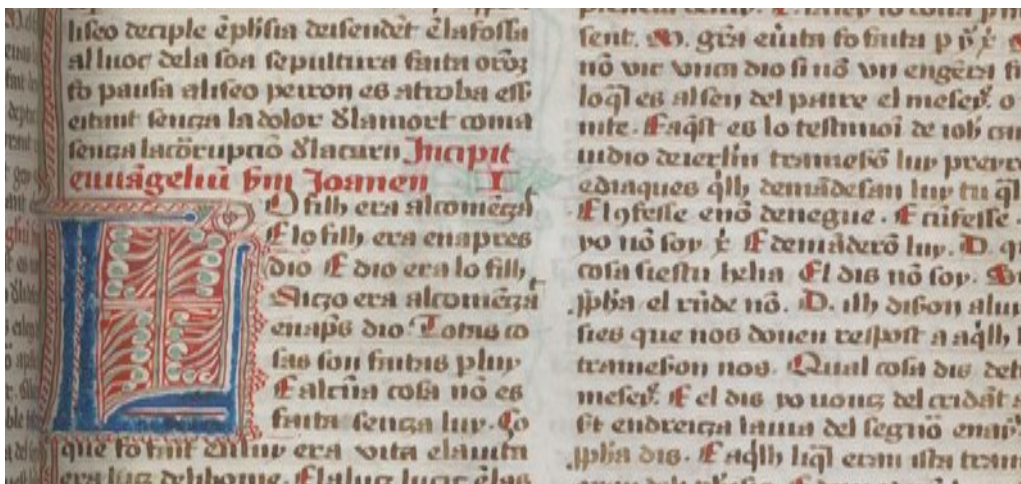
Waldenses

“The work of these missionaries began in the plains and valleys at the foot of their own mountains, but it extended far beyond these limits. With naked feet and in garments coarse and travel-stained as were those of their Master, they passed through great cities and penetrated to distant lands. Everywhere they scattered the precious seed. Churches sprang up in their path, and the blood of martyrs witnessed for the truth. The day of God will reveal a rich harvest of souls garnered by the labors of these faithful men. Veiled and silent, the word of God was making its way through Christendom and meeting a glad reception in the homes and hearts of men.” GC 71.2

The Dark Ages

Waldenses

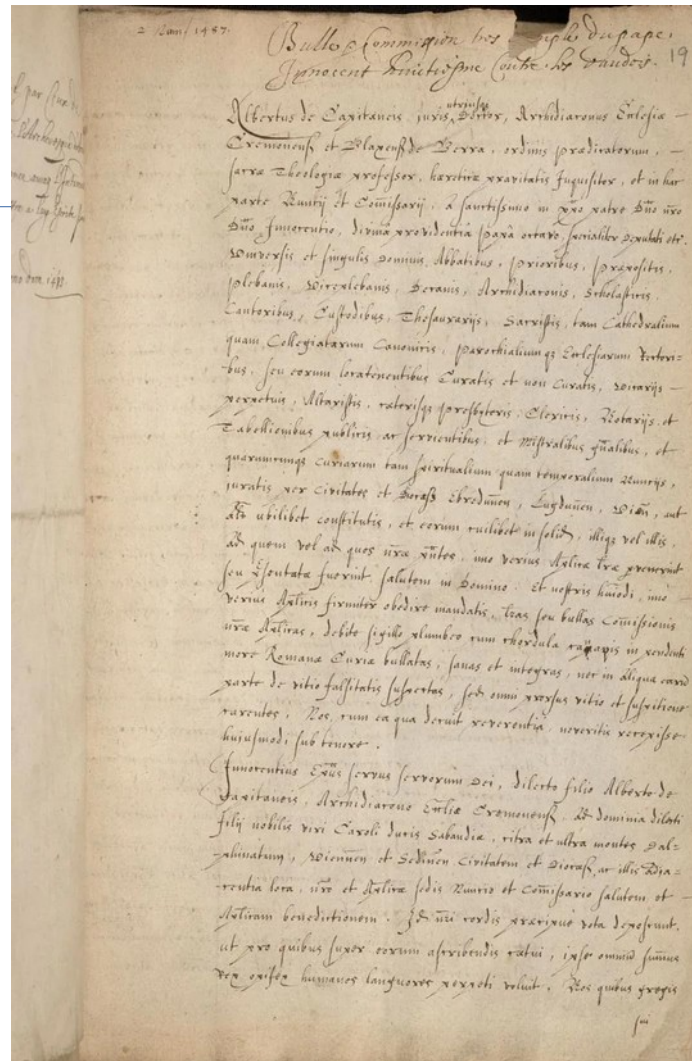
Dublin manuscript
Waldensian Bible from 1500s
John chapter 1
meticulously handwritten



The Dark Ages

Waldenses

This Bull of Pope Innocent VIII was promulgated in Rome on April 27, 1487. The Bull outlined a plenary indulgence (forgiveness) for anyone who joined the military crusades against the Waldensians. His commands extended to religious and secular powers and threatened excommunication for those who did not join.

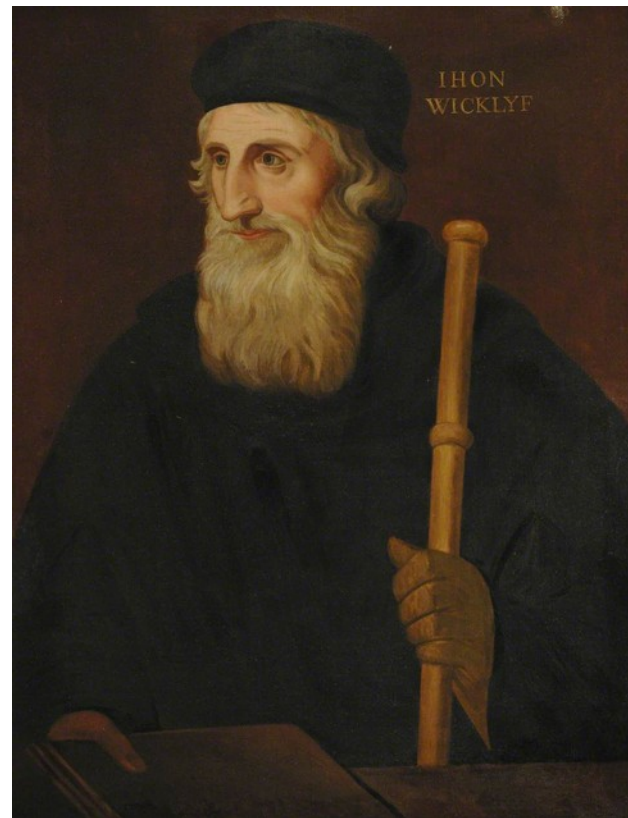


Light after Darkness

John Wycliffe

John Wycliffe
1328-1384
England

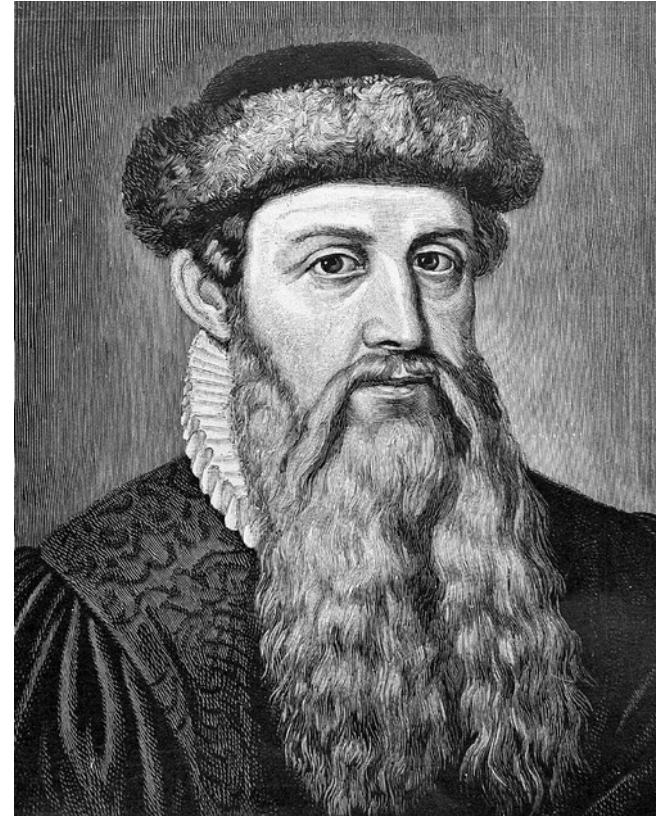
During the Dark Ages, there were only a few copies of the Bible in existence.
Existing copies were in languages of the more educated.
Translated the Bible into English.



Light after Darkness

Gutenberg

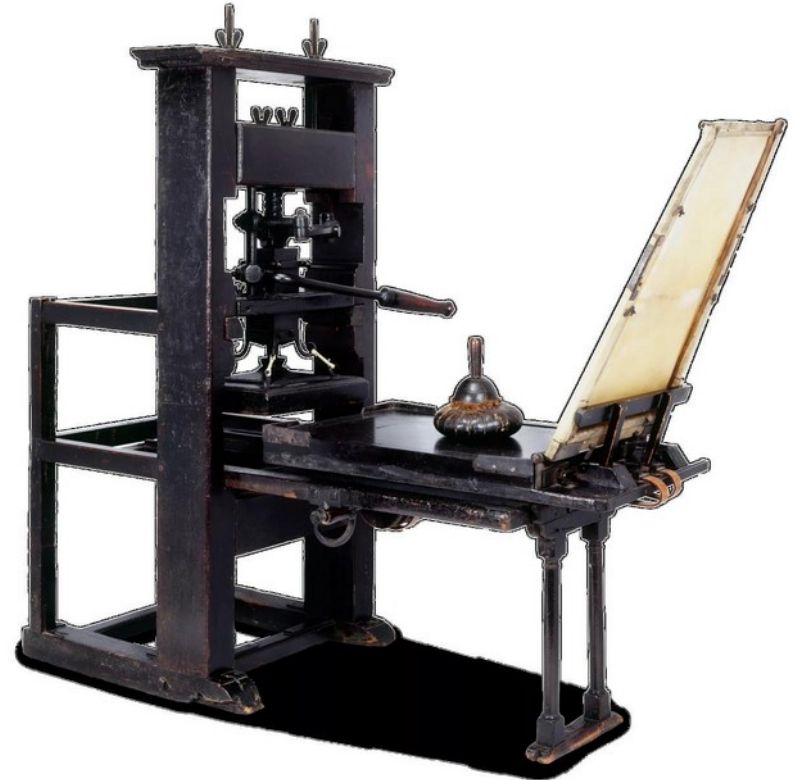
Gutenberg was born in Germany around the year 1400 A.D. He invented the movable-type printing press. His work led to the massive spread of literature in Europe. The Gutenberg Bible was the first Bible printed on a printing press.



Light after Darkness

Gutenberg

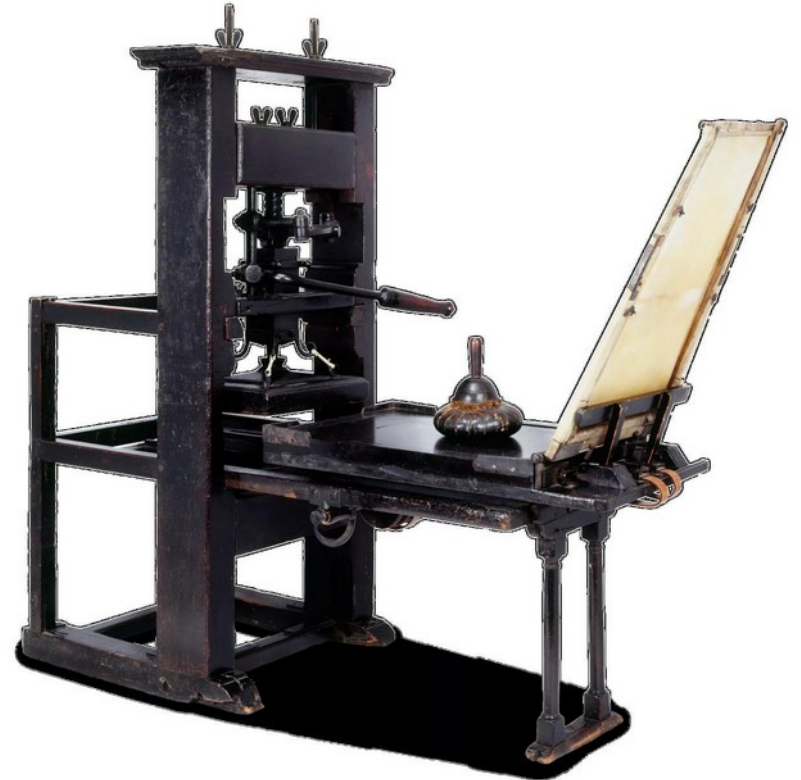
An early wooden printing press. Such presses could produce up to 240 impressions per hour (4 per minute).



Light after Darkness

Gutenberg

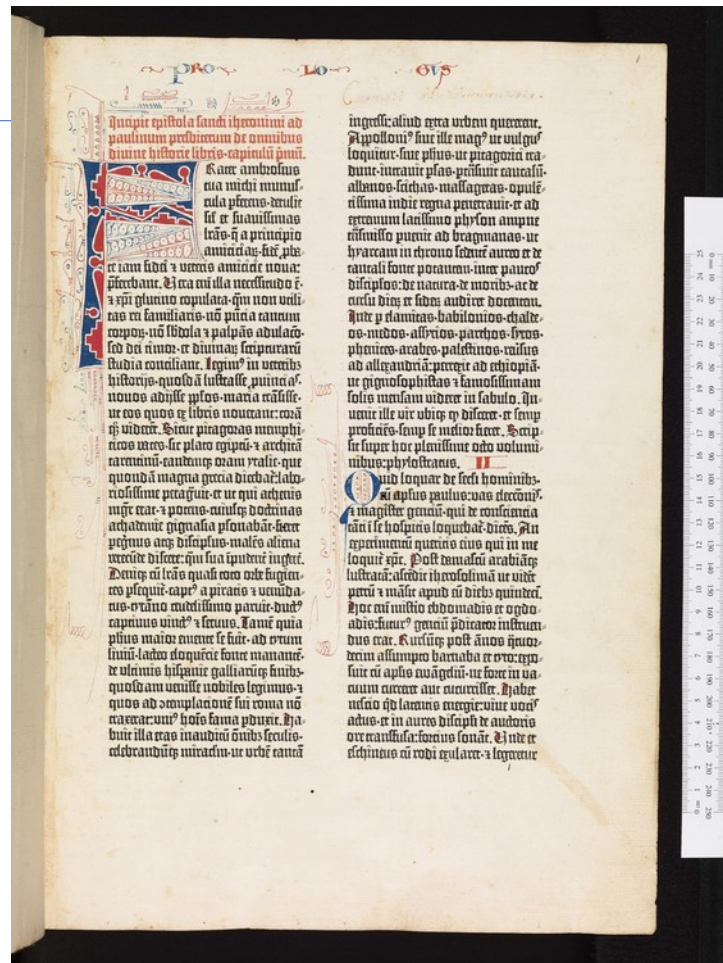
See video.



Light after Darkness

Gutenberg

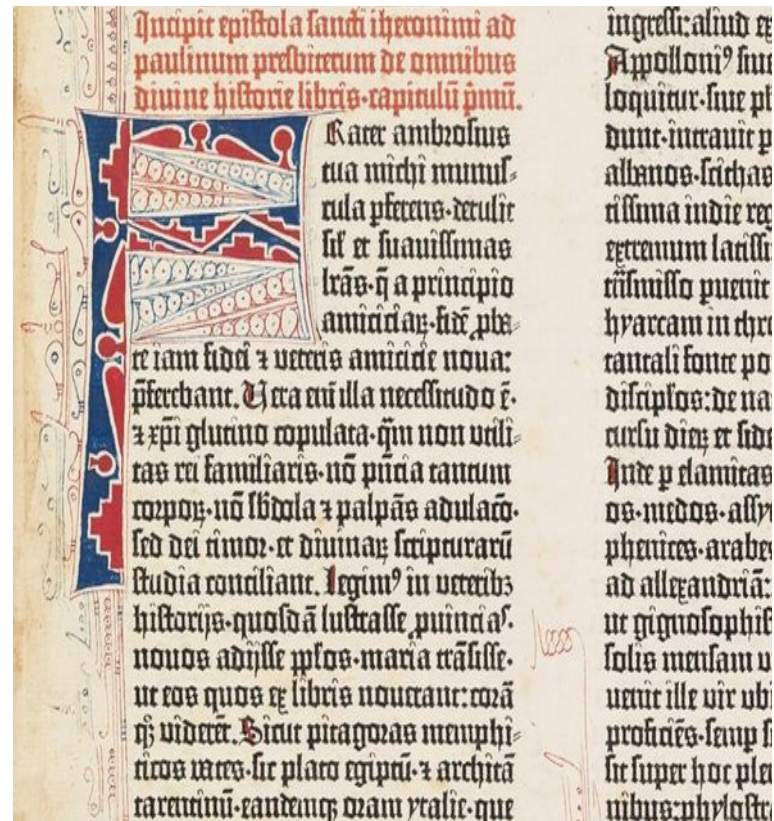
Gutenberg Bible
Oxford, Bodleian Library Archives
c. 1455



Light after Darkness

Gutenberg

In 1455, Gutenberg completed copies of a well-executed folio Bible (Biblia Sacra), with 42 lines on each page. Copies sold for 30 florins each, roughly three years' wages for a clerk. Nonetheless, it was much cheaper than a manuscript Bible that could take a single scribe over a year to prepare. After printing, some copies were rubricated or hand-illuminated in the same elegant way as manuscript Bibles from the same period.



Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Before the invention of the printing press, printed books and Bibles were rare. This meant that the church could easily control access to the few physical copies. What most people knew about the Bible was from what they heard, not from what they read.

Once the Bible became widely available, the church could no longer control what the people heard. Each person could now search for himself what is in the Bible.

Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Martin Luther

1483-1546

Prominent leader of the Protestant Reformation

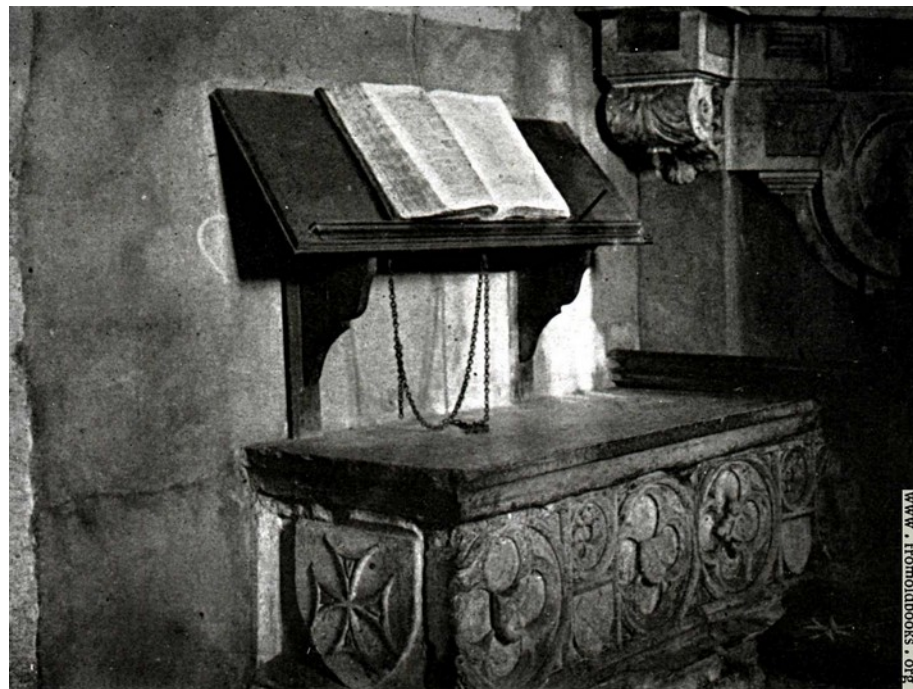


Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Bibles were chained to the wall to keep them from going too far.

“While one day examining the books in the library of the university, Luther discovered a Latin Bible. Such a book he had never before seen. He was ignorant even of its existence.... Now, for the first time, he looked upon the whole of God's word.... Above everything else he delighted in the study of God's word. He had found a Bible chained to the convent wall, and to this he often repaired.” Great Controversy p.123



Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Luther's 95 Theses

Printed in 1517

Detailed opposition to teachings of the Catholic church

Promoted teachings of the Bible

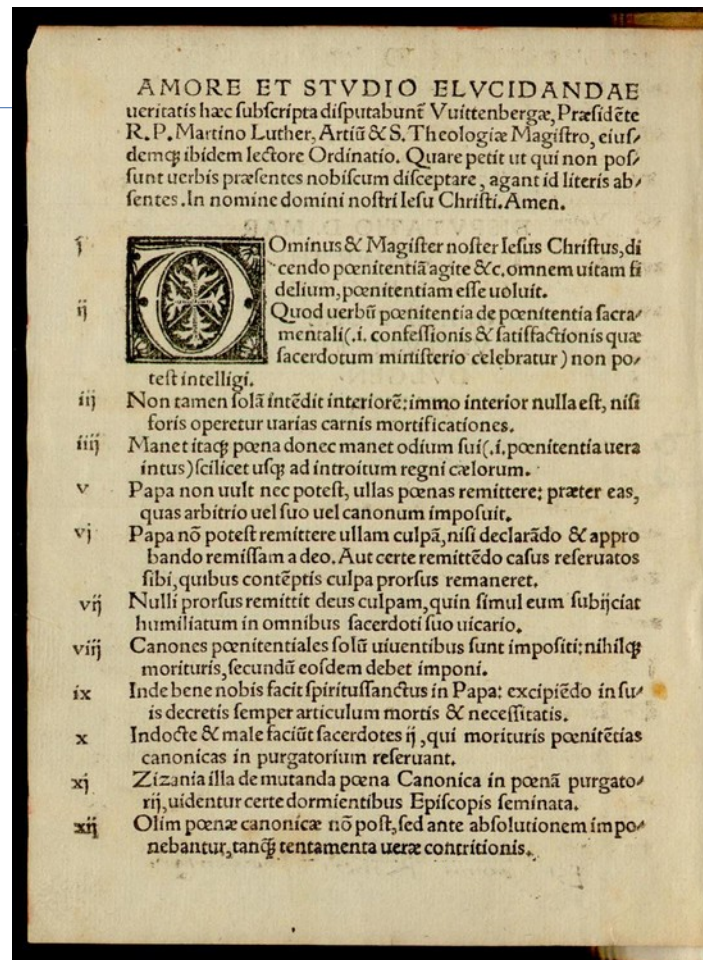


Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Luther's 95 Theses were also printed in a 4-page tract format. Several hundred copies were produced in 1517.

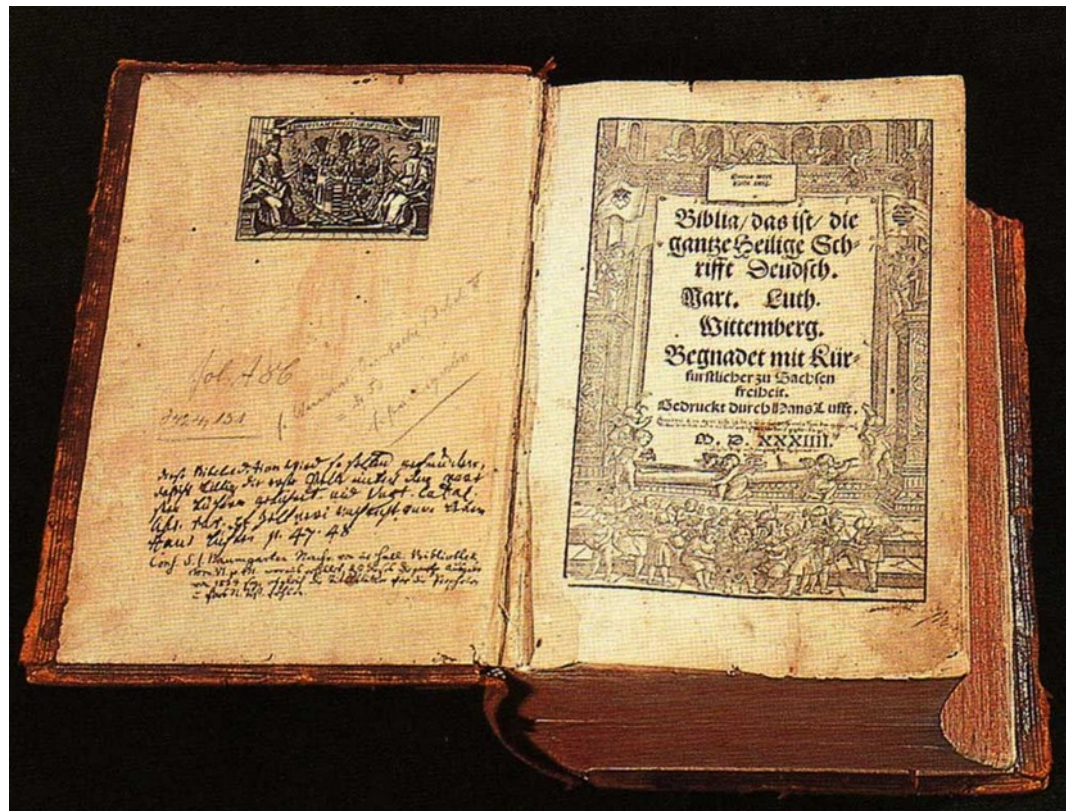
By 1519, it was widely read and distributed.



Light after Darkness

Martin Luther

Translated the Bible into German from Latin. This allowed many people to have access to the Bible for the first time. He completed the Old Testament in 1534.



Light after Darkness

William Tyndale

Translated the Bible into English, building on the work of John Wycliffe.

First Bible to be translated into English directly from Hebrew and Greek texts.

First English translation to take advantage of the printing press.



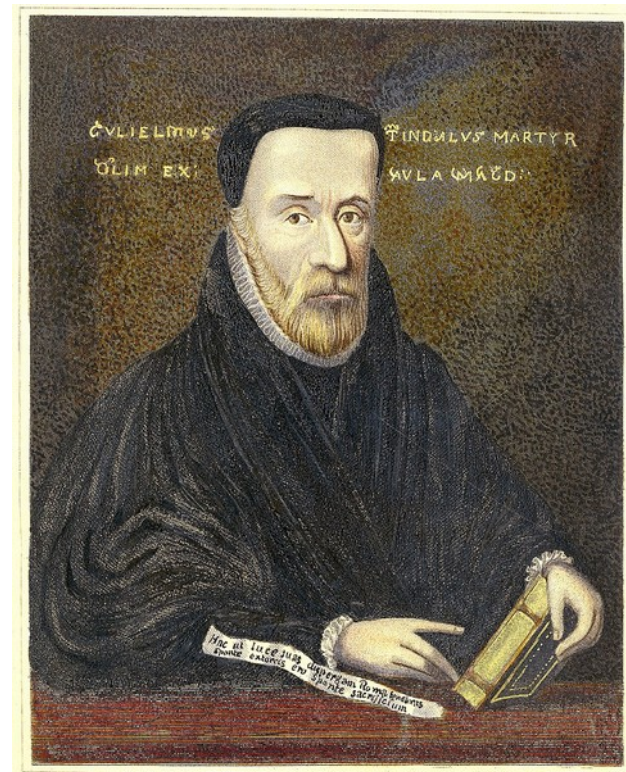
Light after Darkness

William Tyndale

Translated the Bible into English. Wycliffe's Bible had been translated from a latin text full of errors. Tyndale was able to complete the work of John Wycliffe.

First Bible to be translated into English directly from Hebrew and Greek texts.

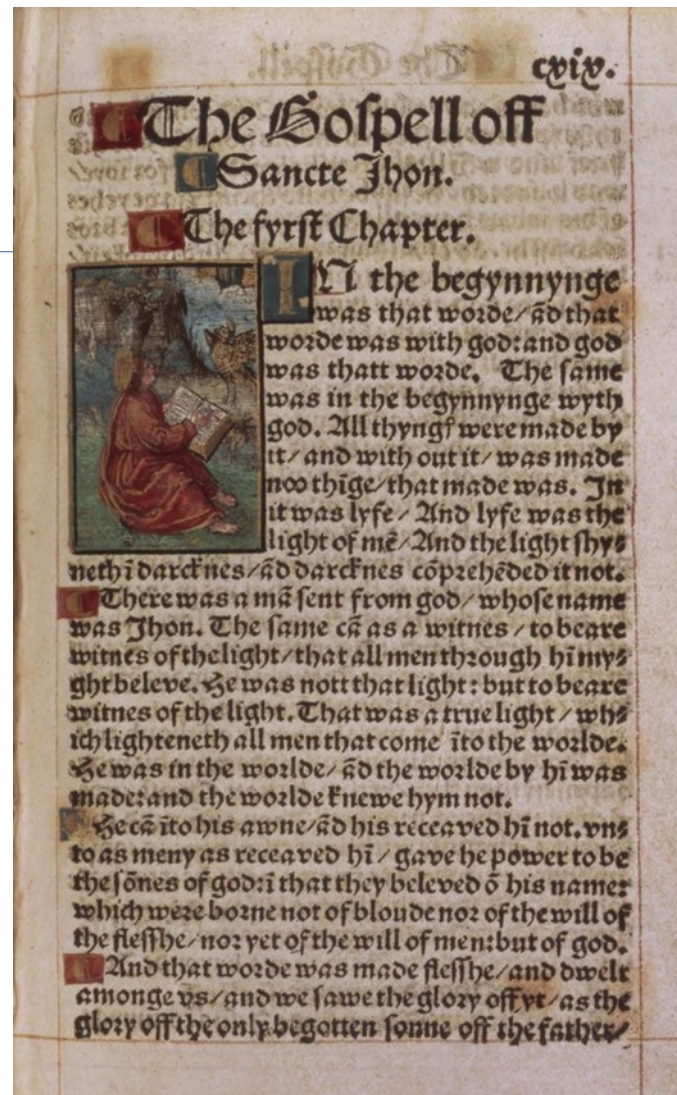
Wycliffe's translation had never been printed. Tyndale's version was the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.



Light after Darkness

William Tyndale

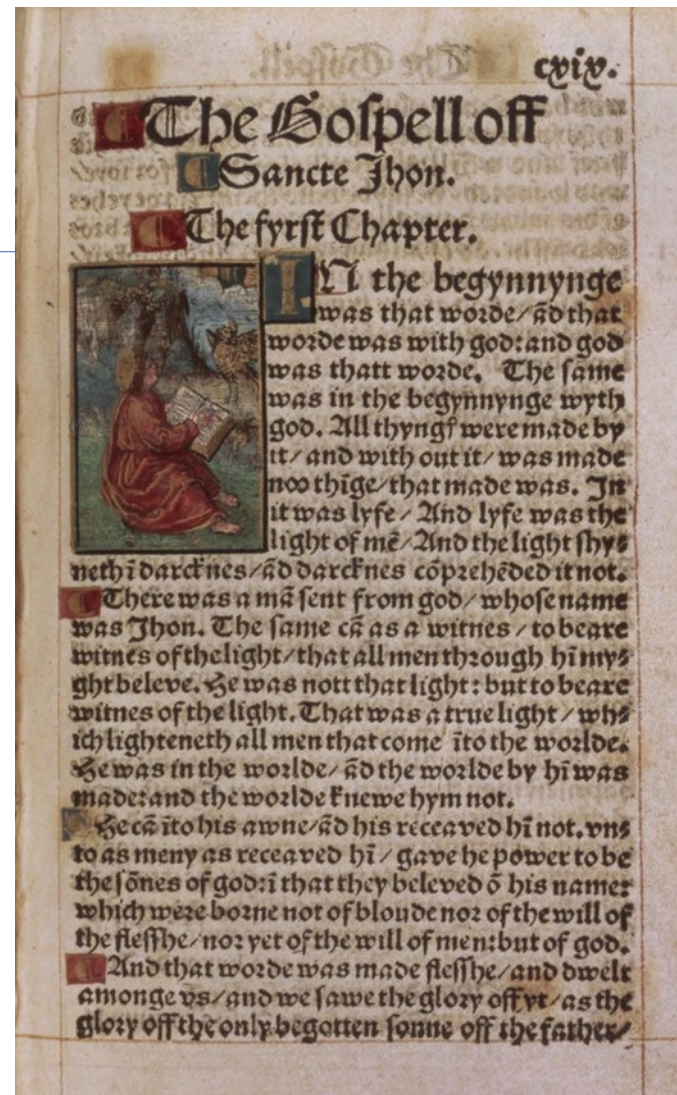
Tyndale was persecuted and left home for London. Then violence forced him to flee to Germany. Here, he began to print the English New Testament. When he was forbidden in one city to print, he went to another. Finally, in Worms, he was able to produce 3,000 copies of the New Testament. Another edition followed.



Light after Darkness

William Tyndale

“The papists attempted to suppress the truth, but in vain. The bishop of Durham at one time bought of a bookseller who was a friend of Tyndale his whole stock of Bibles, for the purpose of destroying them, supposing that this would greatly hinder the work. But, on the contrary, the money thus furnished, purchased material for a new and better edition, which, but for this, could not have been published. When Tyndale was afterward made a prisoner, his liberty was offered him on condition that he would reveal the names of those who had helped him meet the expense of printing his Bibles. He replied that the bishop of Durham had done more than any other person; for by paying a large price for the books left on hand, he had enabled him to go on with good courage.” GC 247.1



Light after Darkness

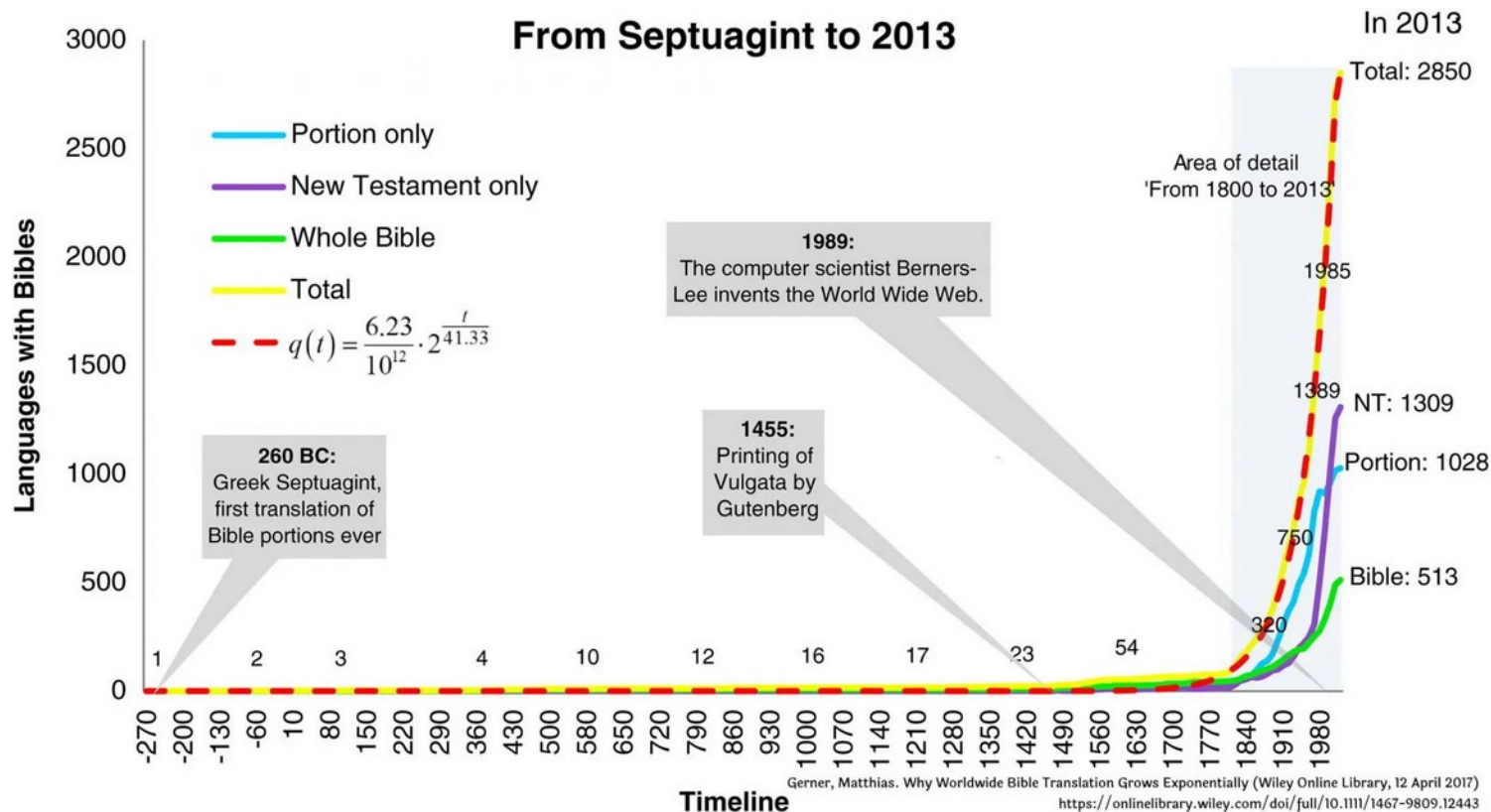
William Tyndale

“Tyndale was betrayed into the hands of his enemies, and at one time suffered imprisonment for many months. He finally witnessed for his faith by a martyr's death; but the weapons which he prepared have enabled other soldiers to do battle through all the centuries even to our time.” GC 247.2



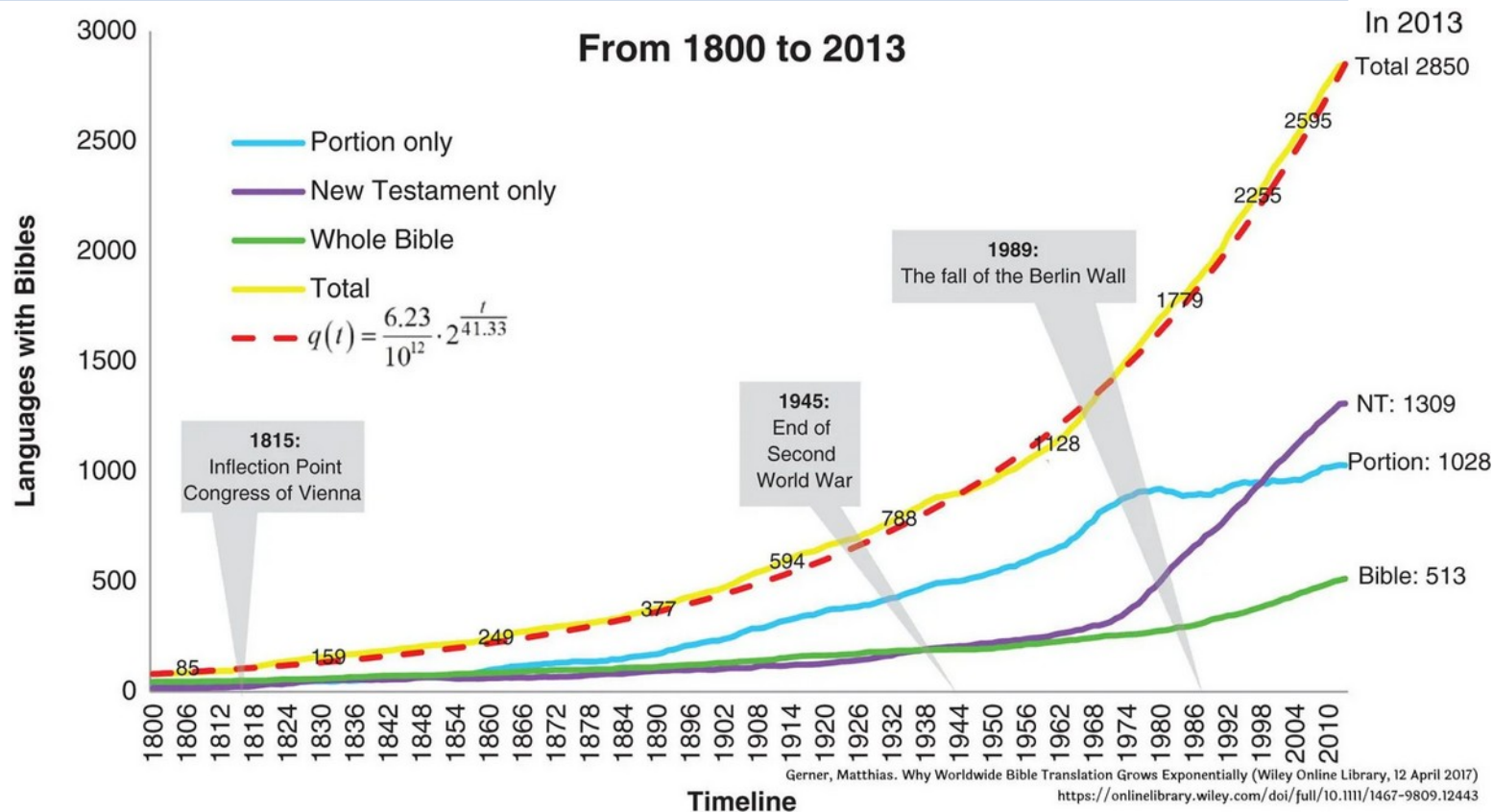
Light after Darkness

Bible Languages



Light after Darkness

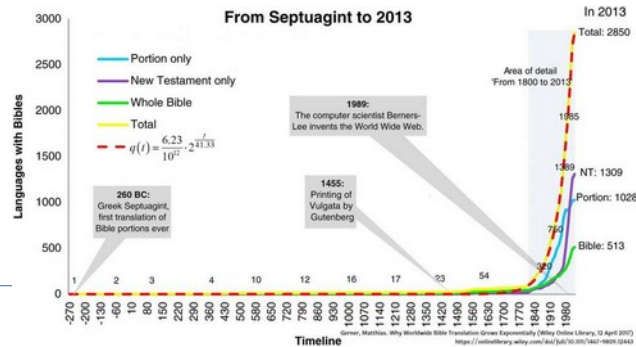
Bible Languages



Light after Darkness

Now

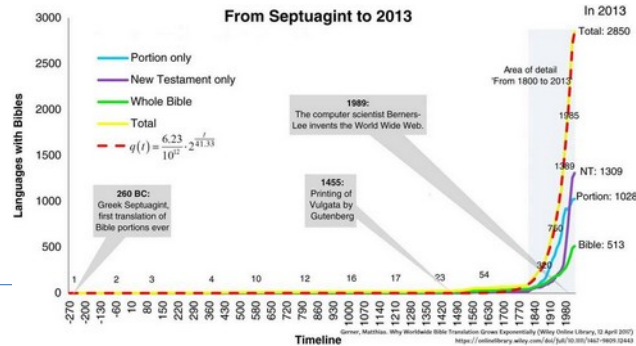
“In these days of travel, the opportunities for coming in contact with men and women of all classes, and of many nationalities, are much greater than in the days of Israel. The thoroughfares of travel have multiplied a thousandfold. God has wonderfully prepared the way. The agency of the printing press, with its manifold facilities, is at our command. Bibles, and publications in many languages, setting forth the truth for this time, are at our hand, and can be swiftly carried to every part of the world.”
Christian Service p. 150



Light after Darkness

Now

“We are living in an age when reading matter is abundant and cheap. The perfecting of the printing-press has made possible the rapid multiplication of the printed page. This was intended by the Lord to be a blessing to the world.” { CUM September 3, 1907, par. 9 }



From Darkness to Light

Walk In the Light. How?

“ 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.”
Zechariah 4:6

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27



From Darkness to Light

Ten Virgins (Matthew 25)

All 10 were virgins
All had pure biblical beliefs
All had lamps
All had the Bible
All of them went to meet the bridegroom
All of them looked forward to the 2nd coming
All of them went to sleep
All heard the call and woke up
All prepared their lamps
All the lamps were burning
Half of them noticed that their lamps were going out



From Darkness to Light

Ten Virgins (Matthew 25)

“I do not know you” Matthew 25:12

What was the difference? Oil.

“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Romans 8:8-9

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” 1 John 3:24



From Darkness to Light

Ask for the Spirit!

“Ask, and it will be given to you.... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:9,11



From Darkness to Light

Ask for the Spirit!

“How abundant is the gift to our world of the Holy Spirit! It is beyond the power of language to express the blessings it brings to God’s people. If received and appreciated, the Holy Spirit will make us holy, Christlike. Through its agency, we are united with Christ, partakers of the divine nature. The reception of the Holy Spirit in its fullness is the great need of the church today. Let us pray earnestly that it may soon be realized.” 22LtMs, Lt 178, 1907, par. 12



From Darkness to Light

Ask for the Spirit!

“For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.” AA 50.2

“In order that we may have the righteousness of Christ, we need daily to be transformed by the influence of the Spirit, to be a partaker of the divine nature. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to elevate the taste, to sanctify the heart, to ennoble the whole man.” 1SM 374.1



From Darkness to Light

Ask for the Spirit!

“Those who have been impressed by the Holy Scriptures as the voice of God, and desire to follow its teachings, are to be daily learning, daily receiving spiritual fervor and power, which have been provided for every true believer in the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ST March 8, 1910, par. 1



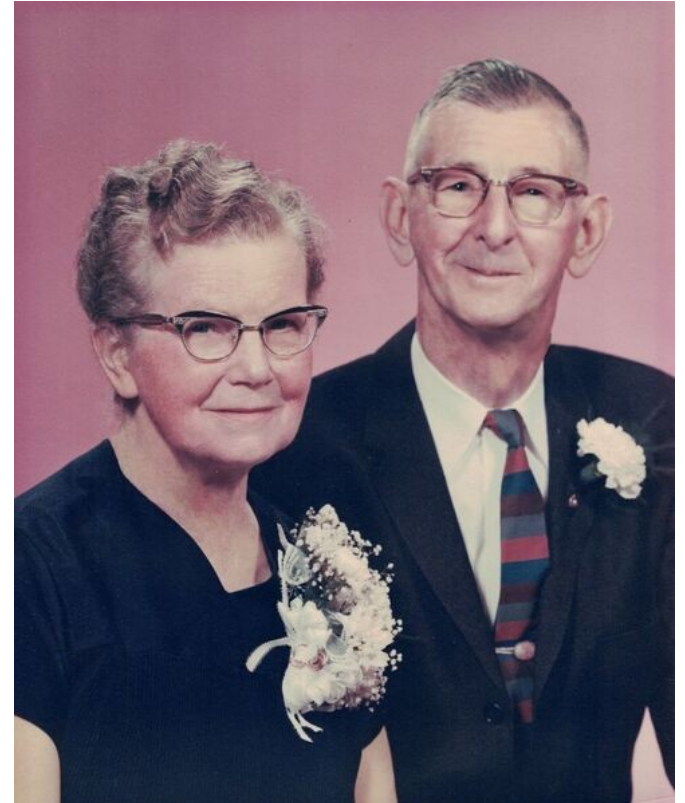
From Darkness to Light

Minnie

This is my Great-Grandparents. This picture was taken on their 50th wedding anniversary, in 1965.

My grandmother's name was Minnie.

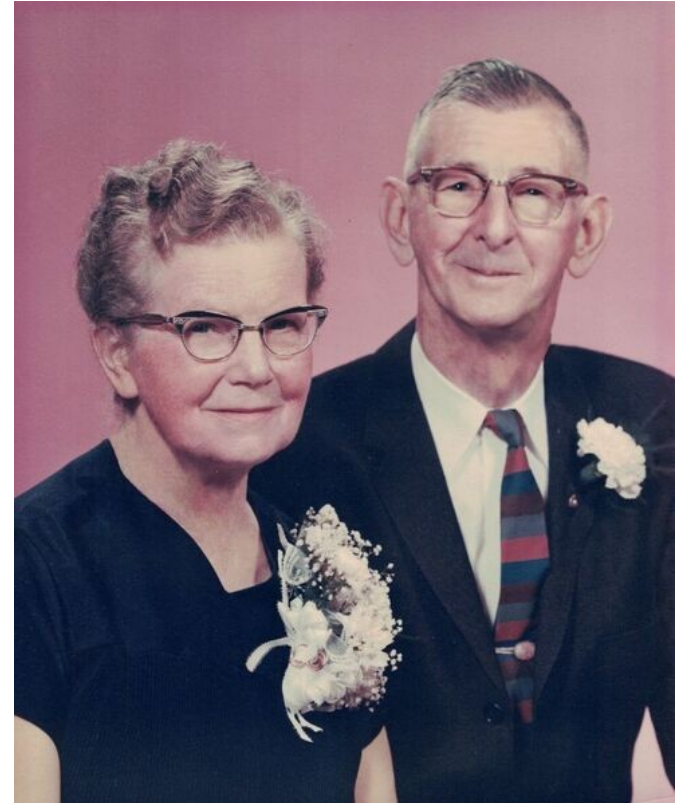
She went to meetings in the city. In her motel room, she found a tract that somebody had left. She read the tract, and started studying her Bible. Eventually, she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



From Darkness to Light

Minnie

She shared what she had learned with her sister and with her daughter Dorthy. Dorthy is my grandmother. Dorthy accepted the Adventist message and her kids are in the Adventist church.



From Darkness to Light

Minnie

Minnie owned a very nice piano much like this one.

When she died, it went to my grandmother Dorthy, who was studying to be a concert pianist.

When Dorthy died, my sister inherited the piano.

She eventually sold the piano and the money was donated to Desert Tree Ministry.



From Darkness to Light

Minnie

With this money, we bought a small digital two-color press for printing tracts.

This press is now printing tens of thousands of tracts for distribution around Chad.

We call it “The Minnie Printer”



From Darkness to Light

Conclusion



From Darkness to Light

Conclusion

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

2 Peter 2:9

