

ERASMUS' 6 (?) MANUSCRIPTS

This 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 of manuscripts differs by various scholars.)

These first 6 Greek manuscripts were loaned to Erasmus from the Dominican library in Basel, Germany.

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

* *The printers of the Textus Receptus adopted Erasmus' Greek Novum manuscript, 1516.*

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

* *The King James Bible was printed in 1611.*

* *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