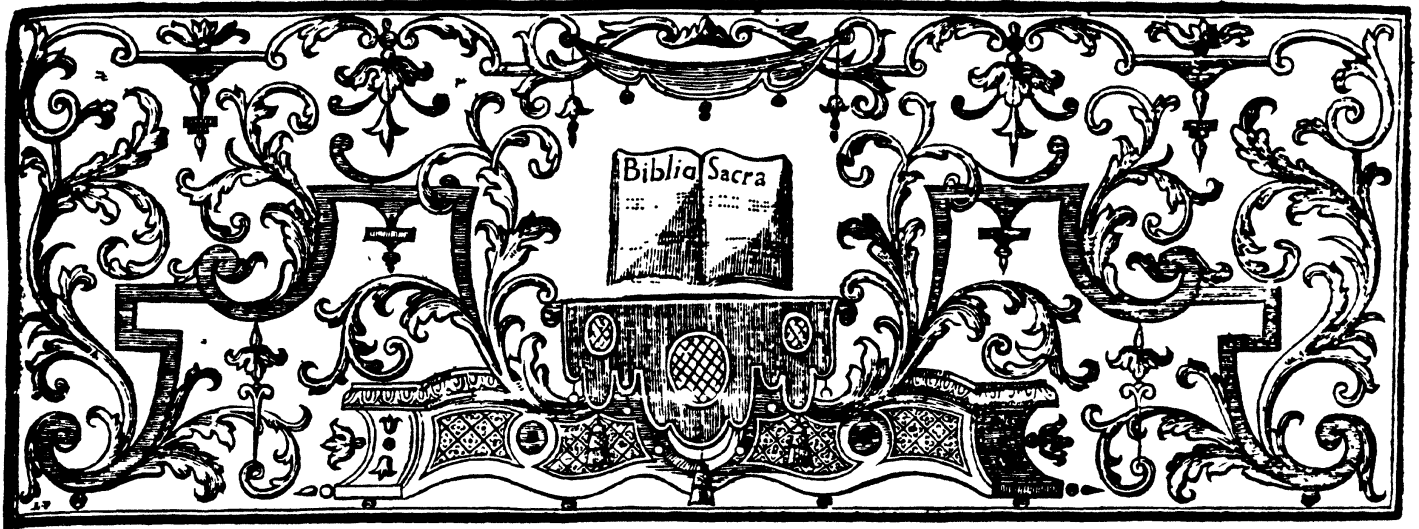


B I B L I A
S A C R A





Albrecht Dürer, *St Jerome in His Study*, 1514



BIBLIA SACRA

A self-study Latin course
based on the 4th c. Vulgate Bible of St. Jerome

Level I
Lessons 1-9

by

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The Kalepaedeia House
Newfield, NY

BIBLIA SACRA

The Kalepaedeia House, 1992

Produced for The Kalepaedeia House, Inc.,
Newfield, New York, 14867, a not-for-profit
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Maximus Scriptorius Publications, www.churchlatin.com

The Kalepaedeia House is an independent arts-in-
education program for school-aged children.

Produced in the United States.
Distributed by The Kalepaedeia House, 215 Miller
Road, Newfield, New York 14867.

B I B L I A
S A C R A

Vulgatæ Editionis

SIXTI V. PONTIFICIS MAX.

IVSSV RECOGNITA,

ET CLEMENTIS VIII.

Auctoritate edita .

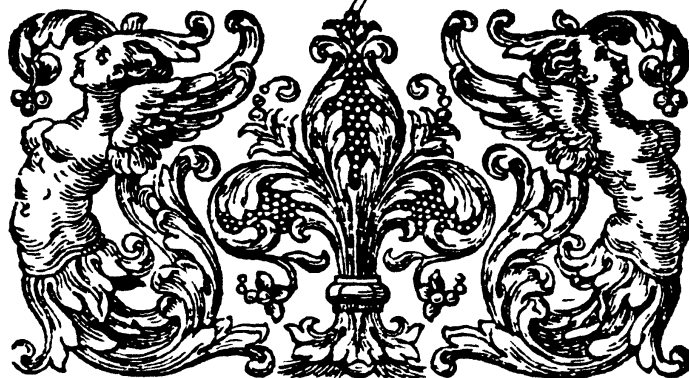
VERSICVLIS DISTINCTA,

Et ad singula Capita Argumentis aucta,

Pluribusque Imaginibus, ad Historiarum notitiam
politissimè elaboratis, ornata;

Indiceque Epistolarum, & Euangeliorum locupletata.

Proprietà di meo P. Vincenzo Saulci di Mandavio



VENETIIS, M.DC.XCVII.

Apud Nicolaum Pezzana .

Non scholae sed vitae discimus.

Seneca

"We learn not for school, but for life."

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VENETIIS APVD NICOLAVM PEZZANA M.DC.LXXXVII

INTRODUCTION

Biblia Sacra is a two-part sequence of Latin tapes and workbook exercises designed to teach Latin using original passages from Jerome's Vulgate Bible as instructional material.

This course is ideally suited to persons interested in both Biblical studies and learning the Latin language.

It is anticipated that students completing the course will have a good understanding of the rudiments of Latin, and be in a position to pursue independently their own study of the Vulgate. For those students wishing to study classical, medieval or Renaissance Latin literature, the groundwork will have been laid, and the transition to such texts will prove straightforward.

The Benefits of This Course

As a student of the Vulgate Bible, you will deepen your insights into the vast wisdom of the Christian scriptures. In addition, you should experience a hearty cultural and educational enrichment that derives simply from the study of the Latin language.

There is currently a widespread revival of interest in Latin; it is once again enthusiastically recognized as a language to be seriously studied. And the reason for this revival is that, truly, Latin is the thread that connects Western culture to its roots. If we are to understand ourselves we must connect with those roots. The rich treasury of Latin literature is a storehouse of marvels in history, religion, philosophy, and science--all coming down to us from a period of classical excellence. We are fortunate indeed to be able to partake of such splendor in translation, but we do so at the price of losing the quintessence of the original. To work with materials in their original language is a most satisfying and rewarding enterprise.

Latin may no longer be a spoken language, but as the ancestral mother of the Romance languages, it is alive and well. Its influence on English is felt in all walks of life, as even a quick perusal of etymologies would indicate. Latin is, therefore, far from a "dead" language. On the contrary, it is alive and flourishing. The ongoing vitality of Latin is witnessed in our own lives on coins and bills, in the language of school diplomas and medical prescriptions, in legal and scientific vernaculars, and, of course, in the words and phrases we use every day.

To study Latin is, quite simply, to enrich and enhance our lives immeasurably. Latin returns us to times and texts of spiritual and philosophical greatness; for a moment we partake in that greatness, transcending the boundaries which the ages impose.

Jerome's Biblia Sacra

Biblia Sacra, the title of this Latin course, is taken from the title of that translation of the Bible produced late in the fourth century by the great scholar Jerome. Ever since the seventh century, Jerome's Bible has been known as the Vulgate.

But there had been numerous Latin translations of different parts of the Bible earlier than Jerome's. Yet frequently they had not been well done, and there was much disagreement over the accuracy of the translations.

Serious scholars have always studied the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, for these are the mother languages of the Bible. However, for most people such study is not possible. We can be thankful that Jerome was a scholar of unquestionable brilliance with deep understanding and insight into the essential meaning of the scriptures. He was fluent in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, as well as a respected scholar in philosophy and Christian theology. Hence, his Bible has always been held in the highest respect.

What was Jerome's purpose in creating another Latin translation of the scriptures? For one thing, he wished to provide a version that was true to the original. Another clue lies in his original title *Biblia Sacra Vulgatae*. *Biblia Sacra* means "sacred books." *Vulgatae* comes from the Latin verb *vulgo*, which has several meanings: "to make common; to make generally accessible; to spread." Since Latin was gradually becoming the language of the Mediterranean region, and since everyday people wished to know the Bible, a good Latin translation was sorely needed. Jerome's Vulgate provided a way for the sacred books of the Bible to spread and to be made generally accessible to the common people.

The King James Version

Jerome's Vulgate translation tends to be quite literal. We can trust that the meaning is as close and as true to the original Greek as can be achieved in translation. The King James Version is a literal translation as well, in English. Thus, passages from the Vulgate can be directly compared to corresponding passages from the King James Version. For this reason the English translations used in this course have been taken from the King James Version which, while literal, is still unsurpassed in beauty and dignity of language.

To the Student

The approach used in this course is different from the majority of other self-study language courses. The usual procedure is to master quantities of vocabulary and then to work with those words according to numerous rules governing grammar and syntax. Here, however, the approach can be said to imitate the acquisition of one's native language. That is, you will from the start work with phrases and sentences, not just individual words. As you learned to speak your own language, you were not concerned with grammatical analysis; likewise, this course immerses you in the sense and sound of the language and only later and gradually do you pay attention to analysis, rules, exceptions, conjugations and declensions, verb and case endings. You will find yourself translating phrases and whole sentences without knowing the meaning of each word; this is similar to the acquisition skills of reading, in which the context as a whole is of paramount importance; exactly how the whole is put together emerges later, when you discover to your delight that a lot of it has been absorbed already. The approach of this course tries to replicate the natural process of learning a language, within the limitations of self-study.

Here are a few suggestions which will prove useful to you in getting the most out of this program:

1. Do not be in a hurry. Do not assume that, because you have heard the tapes once and completed the accompanying exercises, you are ready to move along to the next tape. If you were studying with a tutor or in a classroom, you would be drilling and reviewing every day. Make it a habit to listen to the tapes *at least twice*, for they provide valuable discussions about various aspects of the language, and they drill the vocabulary--neither of which is written out in the workbook. Discipline is the key.

2. It is very important that you keep up with the vocabulary. When you are given new words, commit them to memory. To help you do this, it is advisable to make vocabulary cards. 3x5 index cards work quite well; write the Latin on one side and the English on the other. You can use them like flash cards: flash them to yourself, or have someone do it with you. You will be surprised how quickly your vocabulary will accumulate. All the exercises can be completed with relative ease *provided you have mastered the vocabulary*.

3. This course places a good deal of emphasis on Latin pronunciation. You are expected to take care when working with the tapes, pronouncing words, phrases, and sentences as accurately as you can. Try to pronounce the words and sentences as they are given to you. At the same time, try to achieve a sound that you like, and never feel that your pronunciation is not up to par just because you are a beginner. Latin is not like a modern language. If you were to study French and you were careless with your pronunciation, you might find yourself one day in Paris, embarrassed and misunderstood. The pronunciation of Latin, like that of all classical languages (e.g., Greek, Hebrew, Sanskrit) is open to interpretation. You can be sure that there are scholarly debates on the pronunciation of various Latin vowels and diphthongs. Do not shirk from pronouncing the words with the tape; speaking the language further immerses you in the language in a way that reading and writing alone cannot.

Repeating words and phrases out loud not only improves your pronunciation but also insures that you remember your vocabulary much better.

4. It is very important that you maintain a positive attitude when you encounter material that you do not fully understand (this matter is taken up on the first tape). The study of any foreign language presents challenges, simply because we cannot learn everything at once. Remember that you will be studying *original* passages from the Vulgate. It will be only at the end of this Latin course that you will begin to understand in full the intricacies of these passages. It would be inappropriate to overwhelm beginning students with the syntactical and grammatical details necessary to such an understanding. This will occur after you have mastered a good deal of Latin grammar. So, for now be patient, and when you see something that does not seem to make sense to you, remember that you are at the introductory level and that you are not expected to know what an advanced student would know.

5. For your convenience an answer key to all the exercises can be found at the end of the workbook.

6. English translations of the Latin Biblical passages used in each lesson can also be found at the back of the workbook. They have been taken from the King James Version (see above).

To the Parents of Young Students

This course has been carefully designed to ensure a harmonious coordination between listening to tapes and completing workbook exercises. This will happen when students carry out instructions *accurately*. It is therefore essential that the children follow carefully all instructions given on the tapes and in the workbook. As a parent you are in a good position to gauge your children's reading proficiency and to help them follow directions. For example, after new vocabulary has been presented on the tape and drilled three times, students are told to rewind the tape and repeat the exercise if the majority of the words have not truly been memorized. Young students eager to proceed to the next step may need your help in judging the degree of their mastery. Similarly, students should read the workbook directions carefully before they attempt an exercise. It is very important that parents pay close attention to the progress of their children. Listening to the tapes together would be ideal, although it may not always be feasible.

As a general guideline, mature children twelve and older should be able to proceed with the course quite independently, although your interest and support are invaluable. As the authors have found when teaching Latin to children younger than twelve, they are perfectly capable and do quite well; they might need help following directions. Younger children will benefit from your guidance.

The illustrations have been chosen from the vast goldmine of beautiful old books. These can be colored with colored pencils, and the wood block prints especially look beautiful when carefully done. A workbook with nicely printed or written exercises and lovely colored pictures becomes something more than a consumable activity book; it is a treasured record of academic and artistic achievement. It is hoped that some families will sing the Christmas carols in Latin, expanding their appreciation of that holiday season.

The most important aspect of learning a language is to enjoy the process. Helping and encouraging your children will enhance the pleasurable satisfaction they can gain from acquainting themselves with the beauty of Latin and the wonder of the Bible. It is our sincere wish that your family will reap the many rewards of these *Biblia Sacra* materials.



Liuthard, *St Jerome Translating the Psalms*, c. 860. The inscription reads, "Nobilis interpres Hieronimus atque sacerdos/Nobiliter pollens transscripsit iura Davidis. Jerome, noble translator and mighty priest, nobly translates the Psalms of David."