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BIBLIA SACRA

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

Level II

Biblical Selections from Genesis

by

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The Kalepaedeia House
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BIBLIA SACRA

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Fig. 50 English school. The Inspiration of St. Jerome c. 1070. This miniature illustrates a manuscript of Jerome's Letter to Pauline. Heron.

INTRODUCTION

In *Biblia Sacra Level II*, the principal grammatical topics necessary for independent study of the Vulgate or for the continuation of Latin studies in other areas, are developed in some detail, but also in a manner that should not overwhelm the student working independently. Any attempt to be thorough or to give an exhaustive treatment of Latin grammar in a course such as this would surely have been counter-productive. So, for example, when passive voice is introduced in Section S, the work of memorization and practice exercises involve the first and second conjugations only. The decision was made not to include the third and fourth for the sake of being thorough, since the topic is generally quite confusing to the beginning Latin student, even in its barest outlines. As the course progresses some third and fourth conjugation examples are introduced in the exercises, and by the end of the text, where the various forms of the subjunctive mood are introduced, the treatment of the passive voice includes all four conjugations. Overall, the method of grammatical development proceeds systematically and at a pace which will allow the conscientious student to master the essentials of Latin grammar in a comfortable, and perhaps enjoyable manner. For this to occur it is important that each topic be mastered before going onto the next. In general this will mean thoroughly memorizing the declensions, conjugations, and vocabulary presented in each section. Working closely with the tapes should facilitate this process considerably, since they have been designed to set the tone for a comfortable and enriching learning experience with material which traditionally has been considered tedious and dry; namely, memory work with Latin noun and verb forms.

All biblical material for Level II has been taken from the first eleven chapters of Genesis, and a summary of the specific readings may be found at the end of the text in a section titled, Biblical Passages in translation. The course begins, aptly, with Genesis 1: 1-7. The format of the course for sections A-E is quite similar to that of *Biblia Sacra Level I*, in that there is not a specific treatment of grammar in those sections. Beginning with section F and continuing through Section N, each section contains biblical material followed by a number of pages devoted to a specific grammatical topic. The portion of the tapes corresponding to Section F also includes a brief review of the Latin grammar which was covered in *Biblia Sacra Level I*, namely, the conjugation of the verb to be, *esse*, in the past, present, and future, as well as the present tense of the first and second conjugations. For sections O to Z, the focus of the course is entirely on Latin grammar, and there are no biblical sections as such from Genesis. However, the exercises do include a good deal of material from the Bible, mostly New Testament, and in general, directly quoted. Also, because so much of the English and Romance languages derives from Latin, a subsection entitled English Derivatives has been included in many of the sections.