

# The Issachar File

*"The children of Issachar . . . were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." I Chronicles 12:32*

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## LATIN COURSE RECOMMENDATION

by Karen L. Leddy

Those who have been reading The Issachar File for any length of time probably now have an increased appreciation for reading and studying--disciplines which strengthen one's spiritual life as well as mental capabilities. One of the best studies to embark upon to enhance reading skills and enjoyment is that of Latin.

Most Latin textbooks are secular and use stories about mythology or military conquests and life in the Roman Empire in all its "glory," gore, and ungodliness. However, my family has discovered a treasure that makes the study of Latin a rich devotional time. It is a course called Biblia Sacra, by Scott Bayer, Ph.D., and Elisabeth Furbush, Ph.D., and it is based on the Vulgate. (The Vulgate is a Latin translation of the Scriptures done by the scholar Jerome in the seventh century in order to make the Scriptures available to the common people. Because the Vulgate and the King James Version were both translated from the original Greek and Hebrew, the two correspond closely.)

The course's self-study format is excellent for home schoolers (or for anyone else). It includes a set of instructional tapes and a beautiful workbook with engravings and woodblock prints from the Middle Ages, which set the tone for the study of the Bible and the Latin language. Younger students can color the pictures while reviewing the vocabulary with the tapes. A delightful feature of the tapes is the worshipful music of J. S. Bach, which plays in the background as the instructor speaks. The music facilitates the learning process and enhances memorization.

Biblia Sacra is eventually to be a four-part series, and Level I is available now. There are vocabulary drills, matching and translation exercises, exploration of English derivatives of Latin words, crossword puzzles, and other enjoyable activities that are very effective in helping the student to master the material as well as to gain insights into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

For more information, write: **The Kalepaedeia House, 215 Miller Road, Newfield, NY 14867.** (The Kalepaedeia House, a non-profit organization, is an independent arts-in-education program for school-age children.)

The Issachar File (ISSN 1056-2621) is a bi-monthly newsletter for families who want to be like those of the tribe of Issachar: understanding the times and knowing what to do. The newsletter will contain articles on Christian character and lifestyles, health issues with a Biblical perspective, current events and commentary, practical applications of the concept of "faithfulness in little things," book reviews, hymns and hymnwriters you should know, and how hymns can be used in family devotions and home education. (Medical information is just that — information — and is not intended to take the place of advice or treatment from your physician.) Editor and publisher is Carol H. Blair, 950 N. Madison St., Hinsdale, IL 60521-2865. All articles are by Carol unless otherwise indicated. Copyright 1994C.

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