



English Translation of the Greek Septuagint Bible

Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton

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The Translation of the Greek Old Testament Scriptures, Including the Apocrypha, Compiled from the Translation by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton.

The Septuagint (pronounced /ˈsɛptʊˈdʒɪnt/), or simply "LXX", is the Koine Greek version of the Hebrew Bible, translated in stages between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC in Alexandria.

It is the oldest of several ancient translations of the Hebrew Bible into Greek, lingua franca of the eastern Mediterranean Basin from the time of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC). The word septuaginta means "seventy" in Latin and derives from a tradition that seventy (or seventy-two) Jewish scholars translated the Pentateuch (Torah) from Hebrew into Greek for Ptolemy II Philadelphus, 285–246 BC.

The Septuagint includes some books not found in the Hebrew Bible. Many Protestant Bibles follow the Jewish canon and exclude the additional books. Roman Catholics, however, include some of these books in their canon while Eastern Orthodox Churches use all the books of the Septuagint. Anglican lectionaries also use all of the books except Psalm 151, and the full Authorized (King James) Version includes these additional books in a separate section labeled the "Apocrypha".

The Septuagint was held in great respect in ancient times; Philo and Josephus ascribed divine inspiration to its authors.[4] Besides the Old Latin versions, the LXX is also the basis for the Slavonic, Syro-Hexaplar (but not the Peshitta), Old Armenian, Old Georgian and Coptic versions of the Old Testament.[5] Of significance for all Christians and for Bible scholars, the LXX is quoted by the Christian New Testament and by the Apostolic Fathers. While Jews have not used the LXX in worship or religious study since the second century AD, recent scholarship has brought renewed interest in it in Judaic Studies. Some of the Dead Sea scrolls attest to Hebrew texts other than those on which the Masoretic Text was based; in many cases, these newly found texts accord with the LXX version. The oldest surviving codices of LXX (Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus) date to the fourth century AD.

About the Author:

Sir Lancelot Brenton - (1807-1862), Protestant Septuagint scholar

Sir Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton was the son of Sir Jahleel Brenton. Lancelot was the second of four children and his key claim to fame was as the translator of one of only two English translations of the Septuagint. His father, Jahleel, was a Vice Admiral in the British Navy and a contemporary of Nelson. Jahleel was later made a Baronet for services to the crown. It was this title that Lancelot Brenton inherited. Lancelot however didn't inherit his father's acceptance of war, when he re-edited his father's memoirs he made it clear that he was a pacifist.

He trained for ministry at Oriel College and was ordained by the Church of England in 1830. He had left the established church by December 1831 to found an independent chapel in Bath with a friend, William Moreshead. By 1835 this chapel was associated with the Brethren and by 1837 Lancelot was contributing to "The Christian Witness", an early Brethren journal, and appears to have cemented his relationship with the emerging Brethren movement.

On the death of his father in 1844, Lancelot became Sir Charles. He moved to the Isle of White from Bath in 1849 where, although married, he died childless, the second and last Baronet of his line.

At time of writing, his translation of the Septuagint was the second and the latest English translation available It was first released in 1844 and has gone through several reprints and formats in the over a century and a half since.

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