



## ***The Great Passion Play Bible Museum***

**The Bible Museum contains a collection of over 7,000 Bibles in more than 600 languages and dialects.**

### **CASE #1 The Hebrew roots of our Old Testament.**

The first writing of scripture was the 10 Commandments. The PENTATEUCH or first 5 books of the Old Testament which are the books of the law or THE TORAH was written under the supervision of Moses. The other books of the Hebrew Bible were written by other divinely inspired men. The items in this case include a 10<sup>th</sup> Century Masoretic Text on Vellum, a 16<sup>th</sup> Century deer skin scroll of Genesis, and a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Vellum scroll of Esther. On the wall to the right of case 1 is an 11<sup>th</sup> Century scroll from the Eastern Orthodox Church.

### **CASE #2 The Greatest Discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and other Antiquates.**

The most important archaeological discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 in what was then Palestine and is now Israel. This discovery verifies the accuracy of the Books of the Old Testament. Other antiquates include the facsimile of a 4,000 year old "Flood Tablet", 2100 BC Cuneiform Tablets from the Sumerian Period, Luristan Clay Cylinders from 1200 BC, fragments of old Papyrus, a cone shaped object from Babylon dated at 2450 BC recording the construction of a building, and a stone figure from 1500BC in Egypt carved to resemble the person in the tomb where it was found.

### **CASE #3 The Hebrew Bible translated into Greek.**

The Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC, by The Levite Priests. This Bible is known as The Greek Septuagint. This case also contains a small Greek New Testament from 1584, The Harmony of Psalms, a Polyglot dated 1591, and a Greek/Latin New Testament dated 1599. The books of the Old Testament were formally accepted as the Jewish Canon by the Council of Laodicea in 363AD and the Council of Carthage in 397AD.

### **CASE #4 The Greek Septuagint is translated into Latin.**

Jerome translated the Greek Septuagint (The Old Testament) into Latin and completed the task in 408AD. Jerome was not allowed to translate the Hebrew Bible directly by command of Augustine at the Council of Carthage in 397AD. The New Testament was translated into Latin from Greek in about 200AD and presented to the Emperor Constantine upon his conversion. These two elements were combined to create The Latin Vulgate. The official Bible of The Holy Roman Catholic Church for over 1,000 years and our oldest complete Bible is the Latin Vulgate of 1512. This case also has examples of Bible embellishment "illumination". Gold leaf and other colors were used to enhance the pages.

### **CASE #5 The Latin Vulgate is translated into English.**

John Wycliffe translated the Latin Vulgate into English in 1380 and with the aid of over 100 young priests permitted the English people to hear the scriptures in English for the first time. The Holy Roman Catholic Church classified this act as Heresy and burned many of the young priests at the stake for their actions. Wycliffe was put on trial twice and each time was saved by a Prince of England, John of Gaunt. But, John Wycliffe died of a series of strokes

before he could be put on trial for the third time. This case has a page from one of the hand written Bibles. John Hus, Wycliffe's assistant, was burned at the stake for preaching against Vatican corruption.

#### **CASE #6 The printing press with movable type**

Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press with movable type and printed the Book of Psalms in 1450 and a complete Bible in 1452. Gutenberg did not bind the Bibles as they were sold to churches and monasteries. These organizations would illuminate the pages and then bind the Bibles. Therefore, every Bible is unique. This case has one original vellum page and a facsimile Bible.

#### **CASE #7 The Bible is translated into German.**

Martin Luther was a Lecturer at the University of Wittenberg and studied the Bible and the Canons of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Luther came to the conclusion that some practices of the church needed to be changed and posted his 95 thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, in 1517 which started The Reformation. This case contains a page from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Bible of 1539 translated from the original languages into German. The complete Bible from 1599 is also found in this case.

#### **CASE #8 The Textus Receptus (the Received Text).**

Erasmus, a priest and Greek scholar on the faculty at Cambridge University, consolidated the 6 available Greek transcripts, known as The Byzantine Transcripts, and translated them into Latin which was printed in 1516. The New Testament was ordered by Pope Leo X and became the Basis for both the New Testament in English in German by Martin Luther and in English by William Tyndale. This case contains a rare copy dated 1551 printed by Stephani. A third column was added which was the Latin Vulgate to allow scholars to compare Erasmus' translation and see the corruption of the Latin Vulgate.

#### **CASE #9 The English Bibles.**

William Tyndale translated the first New Testament into English from Greek in 1526 and smuggled hundreds of these new testaments into England in sacks of flour (the Flour Sack Bible). Tyndale was captured in 1535 and burned at the stake in 1536. A page and other information are located in this case. Miles Coverdale, a bishop of The Church of England, put together a complete Bible in English in 1535. This Bible was the first machine printed Bible in English. John Rogers was a friend of Tyndale and completed the work of Tyndale with the printing of The Thomas Matthew Bible in 1537. This case has a copy printed in 1543. The Great Bible of 1539 was a redo of The Thomas Matthew Bible by Miles Coverdale and became the only authorized Bible, by signature in the history of The Church of England. Our copy is a second edition. The Geneva Bible of 1560 was an effort of the Puritan branch of The Church of England which was forced into exile in Geneva Switzerland by Bloody Mary, Queen of England. Our copy is a first edition Quattro of 1561.

#### **CASE #10 The King James Version 1611.**

The Bishops Bible of 1568 was a revision of The Great Bible to compete with The Geneva Bible which was popular with the people of England. But, it was very ornate and expensive. In 1604 King James I convened a meeting of clerics to solve problems within The Church of England and the Bible controversy was at the forefront. King James decided that a new Bible was needed and selected a committee of 54 scholars to create a new Bible. In 1611 The King James Version (KJV) was printed. This case contains a 1<sup>st</sup> printing, 1<sup>st</sup> edition KJV.