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# THE “THEODOOR” PROJECT § INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

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## INTRODUCTION

The “TheoDoor” project comprises a large set of files containing transcriptions of ancient texts of the books of the Bible, along with numerous deuterocanonical books, meta-canon, apocrypha, pseudepigrapha and other related works. The texts are (mostly) presented as Microsoft Word™ documents (.docx files), in which a consistent format has been maintained (as much as is possible) across all texts, allowing easy access for copy/paste operations. There is (or will be) also an annotated, parallel version of each book (in PDF format), in which the primary source-language text (most often Hebrew or Greek) can be compared with an English translation. The origin, purpose, and details of the parallel/annotated version (the so-called “TheoDoor Files”) are discussed in detail in a [later section](#).

For all books, we also include a published, English translation. For the Canonical Old and New Testaments, and those book generally considered Deuterocanon (by either the Catholic or the Orthodox Churches), the text presented is that of the [World English Bible](#) (British Edition, **WEBBE**), which is published under the [Creative Commons CC0 Declaration](#). The text is **as published** but the books have been arranged and formatted in a manner consistent with the transcription texts. For many other OT apocrypha, the text is that of R.H. Charles’, “*The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*,” published in 1913. For the works of the Apostolic Fathers, the text is that of J.B. Lightfoot’s translation, published (posthumously) in 1891. For more ‘obscure’ books, other published translations (or adaptations thereof) are used as noted. For these latter translations, the texts’ sources are often products of automatic image-to-text conversion and, as such, they may contain minor errors; for entries that do not (yet) have a completed parallel/annotated file, no comprehensive ‘proof-reading’ has been applied to the translations.

## HEBREW BIBLE TRANSCRIPTIONS

Two versions of the Hebrew *Masoretic Text* (MT) are provided. The primary version (and that used in the parallel texts for the books of the Tanakh) is that of the [Miqra according to the Masorah](#) (MAM), published under [CC BY-SA licence](#). The text has been formatted for easy reading and access; detailed information on alterations and/or corrections made can be found in [this document](#). A complete copy of the [Unicode/XML Leningrad Codex](#) (UXLC), included by permission, is also provided, with only very minimal editing/formatting (similar to that used for the MAM text) applied; this text (originally based on the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*) has been downloaded (and published here with permission) from Christopher V. Kimball's [tanach.us](#) website.

The text for the *Old Greek Translation*, often referred to as the *Septuagint* (LXX) – though that term strictly applies only to the Pentateuch – is *consistent with* that of the classic transcription by Alfred Rahlfs ([a PDF of his entire text is also included](#)). In some cases (notably, for the Book of Daniel), other sources (such as the work of Theodotion) are used, in which case mention is made in the parallel/annotated texts. The provenance of this transcription is uncertain, as explained in the [introductory file](#) (also linked in the “Septuagint (LXX)” column headers). The text in the individual files (per book) has been formatted similarly to that of the MT, with paragraph breaks added to closely match those of Rahlfs' text; some minor textual corrections and verse number adjustments have also been applied, to conform more closely with Rahlfs' seminal work.

The project also includes transcripts of the *Aramaic Targumim* (Tg); these have been downloaded from the [Sefaria](#) website, which are also either public domain or published under [CC BY-NC 4.0 licence](#); further details on the sources used by Sefaria and the adjustments made to the texts can be found in [this document](#). It is also possible that, in a future release, transcripts of the relevant *Qumran Manuscripts* and the *Syriac Peshitta* will be included in the project.

The *Latin Vulgate* text is from Michael Tweeddale's [Clementine Vulgate Project](#) (which is currently unavailable online but the transcription has been released into the public domain); the usual formatting has been applied. The Latin text of Psalm 151 (not included in the *Vulgate*) is taken from the CURSUS Project and that for 2 Esdras (mostly) from the *Online Critical Pseudepigrapha*.

The *Church Slavonic* transcripts are from [Wikisource](#); the text appears to be that of the [Elizabeth Bible](#), with the original, alphabetic verse numbers. The usual formatting has been applied, as well as removal of the drop-cap style for the opening letter of each chapter. (If there is demand, we could – potentially – include the version of the Slavonic Bible as encoded by Yegor Nachinkin in this collection; contact us if you feel this would be a useful addition to the collection.)

## NEW TESTAMENT TRANSCRIPTIONS

The text for the *Greek New Testament* has a similar origin/provenance to that for the LXX as explained in the [these notes](#) (also linked in the column headers). The text has been formatted to reflect the layout of the classic *Nestle-Aland* text.

The New Testament transcriptions for the *Latin Vulgate* and the *Church Slavonic* text have the same provenance as their OT counterparts (*vide supra*) and similar formatting has been applied.

## DEUTEROCANON/APOCRYPHA TRANSCRIPTIONS

For those deuterocanonical books included in the *LXX* and/or *Vulgate* (such as *Tobit*, *Baruch* and *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees*), the Greek and Latin texts are from the sources mentioned in the Hebrew Bible section (*vide supra*). For other books, the texts have been gleaned from a variety of places (but the *Online Critical Pseudepigrapha* website, *OCP*, is a major source), with details given at the head of each file. Many of the texts from sources other than *OCP* are – to put it mildly – not necessarily that reliable (in terms of their accuracy); please take careful note of any caveats given in the leading notes for these texts.

Also included along with the deuterocanonical books are those works that are closely related, such as the other ‘Baruch books’, the other ‘Esdras books’ and books included in the ‘Broad Canon’ of the Ethiopic or Coptic Orthodox Churches (Jubilees, Enoch, Josippon, and the Books of Meqabyan). Many of these additional books are currently ‘works-in-progress’ and only limited texts have so far been found.

## EARLY (NON-CANONICAL) CHRISTIAN WRITINGS TRANSCRIPTIONS

For the Apostolic Fathers’ works, two versions of the Greek text are provided – that of J.B. Lightfoot’s transcriptions and that of Kirsopp Lake (1912). The texts presented have been through a thorough ‘proof reading’ process ([as described here](#)) and, although we make no claim that they are without error, they are likely among the best digital representations of their respective texts available.

For other works, such as the *Gospel of Thomas*, the texts (including the English translations) have been gleaned from a variety of sources, as noted in the individual files.

## THE PARALLEL/ANNOTATED TEXTS

The so-called “TheoDoor Files” in this project represent the ‘current’ state of our studies of Biblical and related texts, which is an on-going project. Several friends and colleagues, after seeing some of these files, suggested that they comprise a potentially useful resource, and have encouraged me to make them available to others. These should all be considered as a perpetual ‘work-in-progress’ and they are intended to be a community effort; if you find errors in any of these files, wish to make additions or changes to the text or notes, or have other suggestions for improvement, please contact us at the given email address.

The English texts (translations, right-hand column) in these files should not be taken as representing any other published translation (although, for the relevant books, they are heavily influenced by the *NJB*, *NRSV* and *WEBBE*) ***unless explicitly stated in the notes***.

The notes draw on a variety of sources: the footnotes in the (printed) edition of the *NJB*, study notes in the *NRSV* (Oxford Edition), and footnotes from *NET Bible*® (<https://netbible.org/>), (*NETB*); others are comments, observations, or remarks made by the compiler, or suggested by other, independent reviewers and contributors.

The footnotes in these files also include notes pertinent to the individual source text files (which, themselves, do not contain critical apparatus) and to the published English translations; we have moved such notes to these PDFs because footnotes are notoriously non-portable between programs and platforms when used in Word documents.

### Fonts, Formats, Files, &c.

The majority of 'source text' files are presented as Microsoft Word® documents (.docx files) – a format that, these days, can be read by many available platforms and software packages, including LibreOffice (though some minor formatting options may be lost if not using Office 365); the exceptions to this format are the source files for the Westminster Leningrad Codex and those for Syriac texts; these, for internal reasons that are not entirely clear, do not lend themselves well to the standard 'docx' format and are saved in OpenDocument® Text format (.odt files), instead. The parallel/annotated files, which are very heavily and intricately formatted, are presented as PDF files, to preserve their appearance across platforms.

A variety of fonts are used for the source-language texts, all (well, *most*) of which are openly (and freely) available on the internet and also included in this collection (you can find them in the “\_Fonts++” folder – double click on any font file to install it on your system). The 'front page' (master index) file, “TheoDoor.docx,” has the fonts it uses embedded but other files do not (to considerably reduce their sizes). For proper viewing, the relevant fonts must be installed on your system, although standard Unicode encoding is used throughout and your system may find suitable substitutes. (Note that all the TheoDoor PDF files have the fonts they use embedded.) The following table summarizes the fonts used and their origins/provenances:

| <u>Language/Content</u>                | <u>Font Name</u>  | <u>Origin</u>                                                          | <u>Local File(s)</u>          |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hebrew Text (MAM)                      | SBL Hebrew        | The <a href="#">Society of Biblical Literature</a> – Fully Open Access | SBLHebrew.ttf                 |
| Hebrew Text (UXLC)                     | Ezra SIL          | <a href="#">SIL Language Technology</a> – Fully Open Access            | EzraSIL.ttf                   |
| Greek (Septuagint)                     | Vusillus (Italic) | <a href="#">Ralph Hancock</a> – Included with Permission               | VusillusI.ttf                 |
| Greek (New Testament)                  |                   | (Note: English text in Vusillus uses the non-italic version!)          | Vusillus.ttf                  |
| Aramaic (Targumim)                     | Vusillus          | <a href="#">Ralph Hancock</a> – Included with Permission               | Vusillus.ttf                  |
| Latin (Clementine Vulgate)             | Vusillus (Italic) | <a href="#">Ralph Hancock</a> – Included with Permission               | VusillusI.ttf                 |
| Slavonic (Elizabeth Bible)             | Pochaevsk         | <a href="#">Alexandr Adreev</a> – Various Versions Online              | Pochaevsk.ttf                 |
| English UK (WEBBE &c)                  | Gentium           | <a href="#">SIL Language Technology</a> – Fully Open Access            | Gentium.ttf                   |
|                                        |                   | (Note that this font is encoded in 4 files – <i>vide infra</i> !)      | GentiumB.ttf                  |
| Greek & Latin<br>(Non-Canonical Books) | Gentium (Italic)  | <a href="#">SIL Language Technology</a> – Fully Open Access            | GentiumI.ttf<br>GentiumBI.ttf |
| Syriac Texts                           | Estrangelo Edessa | <a href="#">Paul Nelson &amp; George Kiraz</a> – Not freeware!         | N/A                           |
| Coptic Texts                           | Antinoou          | <a href="#">Michael Everson</a> – Open Access                          | Antinoou.ttf<br>AntinoouI.ttf |
| Ethiopic Texts                         | Abyssinica SIL    | <a href="#">SIL Language Technology</a> – Fully Open Access            | AbyssinicaSIL.ttf             |

The “\_Fonts++” folder also contains a few other (potentially) useful files and resources, such as “TheoDoor.dic” (a custom dictionary of relevant names and terms, which can be used ‘as is’ in Microsoft Word™ or adapted for use with LibreOffice) and some (maybe) useful Word macros, written in Visual Basic, such as “DeOxiafy.vba”.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The TheoDoor Project is – from the beginning – designed to be completely open-access and, ultimately, a community effort! Any errors, suggestions, comments, **or offers of help should**, in the first instance, be sent *via* email to [TheoDoor.project@gmail.com](mailto:TheoDoor.project@gmail.com). For minor corrections or amendments, an email should suffice; if you would like to make more extensive changes to one or more of the TheoDoor Files, then please send an email with a basic summary of what you plan, along with a few examples; we can then (most likely) send you copies of the ‘source’ Word documents used to generate the PDFs.

If there are books not in the collection that you would like to see included, please don’t hesitate to contact us; however, bear in mind that reliable source texts for more obscure books can be hard to find online. *If you have access to source text for books that the collection does not include, or that is significantly better, more complete, or otherwise worthy of inclusion in the project, then please let us know!*

### RELEASE NOTES (UPDATE HISTORY)

The initial release (August 2025) is **Version 1.1**. This has a complete set of files for the Canonical Old and New Testaments, and for most of the Catholic and Orthodox deuterocanonical books – the exception being the *Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)*, for which the Hebrew text and parallel/annotated files are still awaiting completion. It is also (mostly) completed for the works of the Apostolic Fathers. The sections for other OT apocrypha and pseudepigrapha still have many ‘gaps’, which will be addressed steadily over the course of 2025–26. We plan to post regular updates approximately monthly; check for such shortly after the middle of any calendar month. If any major errors are reported, they will be corrected and updates posted as soon as is reasonably possible.

### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NOTES

|             |                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #           | ‘Footnote to’ – used in footnotes to refer to others; e.g., #3 is, “the footnote to verse 3” and #Gn 2:1 is, “the footnote to Gn 2:1.” |
| Ac          | The Acts of the Apostles                                                                                                               |
| Am          | The Canonical Book of Amos                                                                                                             |
| <i>Ant.</i> | The Antiquities of the Jews – The multi-volume work written by the historian, Flavius Josephus.                                        |
| ASV         | The American Standard Version – A US English translation, first published in 1901.                                                     |
| Ba          | The Deuterocanonical Book of Baruch                                                                                                    |
| BCE         | Before the Christian Era – used of dates formerly referred to as “BC.”                                                                 |
| CE          | Christian Era – used of dates formerly referred to as “AD.”                                                                            |
| 1Ch         | The Canonical First Book of Chronicles                                                                                                 |

|         |                                                                                                    |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2Ch     | The Canonical Second Book of Chronicles                                                            |
| Ch./Chs | Chapter(s) – of the book in which the note appears.                                                |
| cm      | Centimetres – Used when explaining or converting biblical units of measurement, such as the cubit. |
| 1Co     | Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians                                                             |
| 2Co     | Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians                                                            |
| Col     | Paul's Letter to the Colossians                                                                    |
| Dn      | The Canonical Book of Daniel                                                                       |
| Dt      | The Canonical Book of Deuteronomy                                                                  |
| Ep      | Paul's Letter to the Ephesians                                                                     |
| Est     | The Canonical Book of Esther                                                                       |
| Ex      | The Canonical Book of Exodus                                                                       |
| Ezk     | The Canonical Book of Ezekiel                                                                      |
| Ezr     | The Canonical Book of Ezra                                                                         |
| g       | Grams – A metric unit of weight, used when explaining or converting biblical units of measurement. |
| Ga      | Paul's Letter to the Galatians                                                                     |
| Gn      | The Canonical Book of Genesis                                                                      |
| Hab     | The Canonical Book of Habakkuk                                                                     |
| Heb     | The Letter to the Hebrews (originally counted among the Letters of St Paul)                        |
| Hg      | The Canonical Book of Haggai                                                                       |
| Ho      | The Canonical Book of Hosea                                                                        |
| Is      | The Canonical Book of Isaiah                                                                       |
| Jdt     | The Deuterocanonical Book of Judith                                                                |
| Jg      | The Canonical Book of Judges                                                                       |
| Jl      | The Canonical Book of Joel                                                                         |
| Jm      | The Letter of James                                                                                |
| Jn      | The Gospel according to John                                                                       |
| 1Jn     | The First Letter of John                                                                           |
| 2Jn     | The Second Letter of John                                                                          |
| 2Jn     | The Third Letter of John                                                                           |

|         |                                                                                                                               |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jon     | The Canonical Book of Jonah                                                                                                   |
| Jos     | The Canonical Book of Joshua                                                                                                  |
| JPS     | The Jewish Publication Society of America translation of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh).                                           |
| Jr      | The Canonical Book of Jeremiah                                                                                                |
| Kg      | Kilograms – A metric unit of weight, used when explaining or converting biblical units of measurement.                        |
| KJV     | The King James Version (also known as the Authorized Version) – An early English translation (1611) still popular today.      |
| 1K      | The Canonical First Book of Kings (known as 3 Kings in the Old Greek Translation)                                             |
| 2K      | The Canonical Second Book of Kings (known as 4 Kings in the Old Greek Translation)                                            |
| Lk      | The Gospel according to Luke                                                                                                  |
| Lm      | The Canonical Book of Lamentations                                                                                            |
| LXX     | The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, often known as the Septuagint.                                                     |
| Lv      | The Canonical Book of Leviticus                                                                                               |
| m       | Metres – Used when explaining biblical units of measurement, or when mentioning heights of mountains, <i>etc.</i>             |
| 1M      | The Deuterocanonical First Book of Maccabees                                                                                  |
| 2M      | The Deuterocanonical Second Book of Maccabees                                                                                 |
| 3M      | The Deuterocanonical/ Apocryphal Third Book of Maccabees                                                                      |
| 4M      | The Apocryphal Fourth Book of Maccabees                                                                                       |
| MAM     | The Mishra according to the Masorah – The primary text of the Hebrew Bible used in this collection.                           |
| Mi      | The Canonical Book of Micah                                                                                                   |
| Mk      | The Gospel according to Mark                                                                                                  |
| MI      | The Canonical Book of Malachi                                                                                                 |
| MS, MSS | Manuscript(s) – Used of ancient, written texts of biblical and other texts; the term can refer to scrolls or codices (books). |
| MT      | The Masoretic Text – The official Textus Receptus of the Hebrew Bible (the Tanakh).                                           |
| Mt      | The Gospel according to Matthew                                                                                               |
| Na      | The Canonical Book of Nahum                                                                                                   |
| NAB     | The New American Bible – An English translation of the Bible, first published in 1970; it is approved by the Catholic Church. |
| Nb      | The Canonical Book of Numbers                                                                                                 |
| Ne      | The Canonical Book of Nehemiah                                                                                                |
| NETB    | THE NET BIBLE®, New English Translation (NET) – An online, modern English translation with abundant footnotes.                |

|             |                                                                                                                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>NIV</i>  | The New International Version – A completely original translation of the Bible, updated in 2011.                        |
| <i>NJB</i>  | The New Jerusalem Bible – The most recent official Roman Catholic translation of the Holy Bible into English.           |
| <i>NJPS</i> | The New Jewish Publication Society of America Tanakh, first published in complete form in 1985.                         |
| <i>NLT</i>  | The New Living Translation – A modern English translation of the Bible that emphasises meaning rather than exactness.   |
| <i>NRSV</i> | The New Revised Standard Version – A popular and generally scholarly modern English revision of the King James Version. |
| NT          | The New Testament                                                                                                       |
| Ob          | The Canonical Book of Obadiah                                                                                           |
| OT          | The Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible)                                                                                    |
| 1P          | The First Letter of Peter                                                                                               |
| 2P          | The Second Letter of Peter                                                                                              |
| Ph          | Paul's Letter to the Philippians                                                                                        |
| Phm         | Paul's Letter to Philemon                                                                                               |
| Pr          | The (Canonical) Proverbs                                                                                                |
| Ps          | The (Canonical) Psalms                                                                                                  |
| Qo          | The Canonical Book of Qoheleth (also known as Ecclesiastes)                                                             |
| Rm          | The Letter of Paul to the Romans                                                                                        |
| Rt          | The Canonical Book of Ruth                                                                                              |
| Rv          | The Revelation to John                                                                                                  |
| <i>RSV</i>  | The Revised Standard Version – An authorized revision of the American Standard Version, published in 1952.              |
| 1S          | The Canonical First Book of Samuel (known as 1 Kings in the Old Greek Translation)                                      |
| 2S          | The Canonical Second Book of Samuel (known as 2 Kings in the Old Greek Translation)                                     |
| Sg          | The Song of Songs (also known as the Song of Solomon)                                                                   |
| Si          | The Deuterocanonical Book of The Wisdom of Sirach (also known as Ecclesiasticus)                                        |
| <i>Syr</i>  | The Syriac Peshitta – A translation of the Bible into the Syriac language.                                              |
| Tb          | The Deuterocanonical Book of Tobit                                                                                      |
| <i>Tg</i>   | The Targum/Targumim – Aramaic translations/interpretations of the books of the Hebrew Bible.                            |
| 1Th         | Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians                                                                                |
| 2Th         | Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians                                                                               |
| 1Tm         | Paul's First Letter to Timothy                                                                                          |



|         |                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2Tm     | Paul's Second Letter to Timothy                                                                                                                       |
| Ti      | Paul's Letter to Titus                                                                                                                                |
| UXLC    | The Unicode/XML Leningrad Codex – An online version of the text of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Century <i>Leningrad Codex</i> of the <i>Masoretic Text</i> . |
| Vg      | The Vulgate – The translation of the Bible into Latin by St Jerome (in the 4 <sup>th</sup> Century CE).                                               |
| v./vv.  | Verse/Verses                                                                                                                                          |
| WEB(BE) | The World English Bible (British Edition) – An open-source, modernised version of the American Standard Version.                                      |
| Ws      | The Deuterocanonical Book of The Wisdom of Solomon.                                                                                                   |
| Zc      | The Canonical Book of Zechariah                                                                                                                       |
| Zp      | The Canonical Book of Zephaniah                                                                                                                       |