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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, apocrypha, pseudepigrapha and other related works. The texts are presented as open-access Word*®* documents and a consistent format has been maintained across all texts, allowing easy access for copy/paste operations. There is (or will be) also an annotated, parallel version of each book, 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 “TheoDoor Files”) are discussed in detail in a later section.

For all books, we also include a published, English translation. For the OT and NT Canon, and those book generally considered Deuterocanon (by either the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Churches), the text presented is that of the [World English Bible](https://worldenglish.bible/) (British Edition, ***WEBBE***), which is published under the [Creative Commons CC0 Declaration](https://creativecommons.org/public-domain/cc0/). 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 more obscure books, or those not recognised in Charles’ time, other published translations are used as noted. For the non-canonical “Early Christian Writings,” the translations are from various sources, as noted.

**Old Testament Transcriptions**

Two versions of the Hebrew ***Masoretic Text*** (***MT***) are provided. The primary version (used in the parallel texts) is that of the [Miqra according to the Masorah](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/User:Dovi/Miqra_according_to_the_Masorah#Original_Announcements_in_English) (*MAM*), published under [CC-BY-SA licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/). The text has been formatted for easy reading and access; detailed information on changes (and corrections) made can be found in [this document](Ynnn-Src/Y101-MAM.docx). A complete copy of the [***Westminster Leningrad Codex***](Ynnn-Src/Y501-WLC.docx) (***WLC***) – which is published under [CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) – is also provided, with only very minimal editing/formatting (similar to that used for the *MAM* text) applied; in a future release, some transcription notes and/or critical apparatus may be added to these *WLC* files.

The text for the ***Greek Old Testament***, 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](Ynnn-Src/Y202-Rlf.pdf)). 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](Ynnn-Src/Y201-LXX.docx) (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 that seminal work.

The project also includes transcripts of the *Aramaic Targumim* (*Tg*); these have been gleaned from the [Sefaria](https://www.sefaria.org/texts/Tanakh) website. These files, which also include (where available) a parallel English translation (from various sources), are still very much a ‘work in progress’; additional formatting and (considerably) more footnotes will be added in a future release. It is also hoped that, in a future release, transcripts of the relevant *Qumran Scrolls* will be included in the project.

The *Latin Vulgate* text is from Michael Tweedale’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 *Vg*) is taken from the Cursus Project.

The *Church Slavonic* transcripts are from [Wikisource](https://wikisource.org/wiki/%D0%91%D1%96%CC%81%D0%B1%D0%BB%D1%97%D0%B0); the text appears to be that of the [Elizabeth Bible](Ynnn-Src/Y601-Elz.pdf), 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.

**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](Ynnn-Src/Y102-GNT.docx) (also linked in the column headers). The text has been formatted to reflect the layout of the classic *Nestle-Aland* text.

The NT 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/Pseudepigrapha Transcriptions**

For those deuterocanonical books included in the LXX and/or Vulgate (such as Tobit, Baruch and 1st/2nd Maccabees), the Greek/Latin text is from the sources mentioned in the Old Testament section (*vide supra*).

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**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, have suggested that they comprise a potentially useful resource, and have encouraged me to make them available to others. These should all be considered as 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 as described below.

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), footnotes from *NET Bible®* (<https://netbible.org/>), (*NETB*) and some are comments, observations, or remarks made by the compiler, or suggested by other, independent reviewers and contributors.

**Abbreviations used in the Notes**

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| # | **‘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** |
| *Ant.* | **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 Greek Old Testament)** |
| 2K | **The Canonical Second Book of Kings (known as 4 Kings in the Greek Old Testament)** |
| Lk | **The Gospel according to Luke** |
| Lm | **The Canonical Book of Lamentations** |
| *LXX* | **The Greek translation of the Old Testament, 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, *etc*.** |
| 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** |
| Ml | **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.** |
| *NIV* | The New International Version – A completely original translation of the Bible, updated in 2011. |
| *NJB* | The New Jerusalem Bible – The most recent official Roman Catholic translation of the Holy Bible into English. |
| *NJPS* | The New Jewish Publication Society of America Tanakh, first published in complete form in 1985. |
| *NLT* | The New Living Translation – A modern English translation of the Bible that emphasises meaning rather than exactness. |
| *NRSV* | 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 |
| 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** |
| *RSV* | **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 Greek Old Testament)** |
| 2S | **The Canonical Second Book of Samuel (known as 2 Kings in the Greek Old Testament)** |
| 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)** |
| *Syr* | **The Syriac Peshitta – A translation of the Bible into the Syriac language.** |
| Tb | **The Deuterocanonical Book of Tobit** |
| *Tg* | **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** |
| *Vg* | **The Vulgate – The translation of the Bible into Latin by St Jerome (in the 4th 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** |

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