

Cyrillic Alphabet Origin- **ЋИРИЛИЦА**

Saints Cyril and Methodius (Ћирило и Методије) were Byzantine Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki, Greece in the 9th century. They were Christian missionaries among the Slavic peoples of the Great Moravia. Great Moravia was a Slavic state that existed in Central Europe and lasted for nearly seventy years in the 9th century (whose creators were the ancestors of the Czechs and Slovaks.)

Great Moravia was a vassal state of the Germanic Frankish kingdom. Prince Rastislav (846–870) was originally chosen by the Frankish king, but he did not obey and pursued an independent policy. Prince Rastislav sought to weaken influence of Frankish priests preaching in his territory and he asked the Byzantine Emperor Michael III to send teachers who would interpret Christianity in the Slavic vernacular. By establishing relations with Constantinople, Rastislav



wanted to weaken the German political and religious influence. At the same time, prince Rastislav's request provided a convenient opportunity for the Emperor Michael III to expand Byzantine influence on Slavic territories. Upon Rastislav's request, two brothers, Byzantine officials and missionaries Saints Cyril and Methodius came to Moravia in 863. Here Cyril developed the first Slavic alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic, the Glagolitic alphabet (**ГЛАГОЉИЦА**) and translated the Gospels into the Old Church Slavonic language (**СТАРОСЛОВЕНСКИ**

ЈЕЗИК). Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "Apostles to the Slavs".

СТАРОСЛОВЕНСКИ ЈЕЗИК

ГЛАГОЉИЦА → ЋИРИЛО И МЕТОДИЈЕ

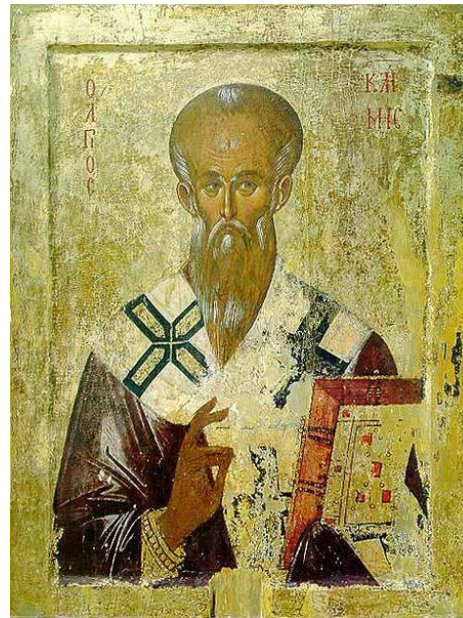
ЋИРИЛИЦА → КЛИМЕНТ ОХРИДСКИ

The Old Church Slavonic Glagolitic Alphabet							
Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ
a	b	v	g	d	ε	ž	dz
Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ
z	i	i	ǵ	k	l	m	n
Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ
o	p	r	s	t	u	f	x (kh)
Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ
o	ts	č	š	št	w/ə	i	y
Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ	Ⳛ
æ/e	yu	ě	yě	ǫ	yǫ	f	i/v

The brothers enjoyed considerable success in this endeavor. The Glagolitic alphabet was suited to match the specific features of the Slavic language. Cyril and Methodius knew the language of Macedonian Slavs, the variant of Church Slavonic language that was spoken in Thessaloniki. They grew up speaking Greek and Old Church Slavic dialect. Glagolitic's descendant script, the Cyrillic alphabet (ЊИРИЛИЦА) is devised by Cyril's most prominent disciple **Saint Clement of Ohrid** (Свети Климент Охридски). Saint Clement of Ohrid established the famous Ohrid Literary School (Охридска школа) in the city of Ohrid (nowadays Republic of Macedonia.)



St. Cyril and Methodius



St. Clement of Ohrid