

Church through this difficult period.

Another man who stands out in this period is St. Jerome. Jerome was one of the great scholars of the day. In this period he is almost worthy to be compared with Origen in the period two centuries earlier. Like Origen, Jerome had great interest in the determination of the correct text of the Bible. He saw that the current translations in Latin were not accurate and desired to make a more accurate rendering. In order to make it correct in the Hebrew, he went to Palestine and studied Hebrew with Jewish rabbis becoming a master of the details of this difficult language. Jerome translated all the books that we find in our Bible today. Certain books which today are found in the Roman Catholic Bible, Jerome refused to translate as he said that they were not part of the Word of God. Jerome was bitterly attacked for making a change in the standard, accepted translations of the Bible, but so accurate was his translation, so close to the original, and so excellent in its clear expression, that it soon came to displace all other Latin versions and became universally recognized as the standard Bible of the Church. A strange development should be noticed. Jerome did not wish ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ordinary people always to have to go back to the original Greek and Hebrew. He wanted to translate the Bible into the common language of the people, so his translation was called ~~XXXX~~ "The Vulgate" ~~XXXXXXXX~~ which means the translation into the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ common tongue. Yet after a few ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ centuries when Latin was becoming more and more a dead language, Jerome's Vulgate translation had become so established that in the time of the Reformation and even since, the Roman Church has insisted that the Vulgate is the authoritative Bible and desired people to use it as ~~XXXX~~ their source instead of reading the Bible in their own tongue.

~~XXXXXX~~ Mos of ~~XXXXXX~~ The Apocryphal writings were translated into Latin by other hands and added to the Vulgate. At the time of the Reformation they were included in this volume and as a result, the Roman Catholic Church today accepts in its Old Testament as inspired, books contained in the Vulgate which Jerome, the author of the Vulgate, refused to trans-