

#3 God's Word in Man's Language

all-out effort was made by the Roman empire to completely destroy Christianity and to do away with God's Word, after ten years of terrible persecution the Roman Empire found it impossible to go further and this way unless the whole empire were to be destroyed and found it necessary to surrender and to give Christianity full toleration within the empire.

The Bible was written originally in Hebrew, in Aramaic, and in Greek. During the Middle Ages very few people could read either of these languages. However all scholars could read Latin and the copies of the ~~Vulgate~~ (the Latin translation that Jerome had made) were found in monasteries all over Europe. In the monasteries of the Greek Orthodox Church sleepy scribes copied manuscripts of the Greek NT in the monasteries of W. Europe. They make copies of the Latin Vulgate. One day Luther picked up a copy of the Vulgate in the Library in which he was serving, and he read the Epistle to the Romans. His heart burned with the realization that all the forms and ceremonies that he was going through were of no avail for salvation, that as Paul said (quoting from Habakkuk) The just shall live by faith. What Luther found in the Vulgate stirred his heart and led him to become a fiery preacher of salvation through faith. When Luther attacked the superstitions that had grown up without any warrant, he came under great condemnation. He was brought to Wormes where a meeting of all the leaders of the Holy Roman Empire were -- was being held. Luther was put under the ban of the empire and declared to be an outlaw. Anyone who could get hold of him could kill him. A friend seized him and hid him in the castle in the mountains of Turrezia where he waited wondering what day the armies of the Emperor would close in and take him and probably burn him at the stake. If you or I were in his situation we would be running to the windows