

#4 God's Word in Man's Language

looking to see whether the army was approaching wondering whether somebody had found out where he was hiding, wondering how long he would be safe there. Luther however, was different from most of us. Luther's whole ambition was to serve God. His whole desire was to bring the great truths he had learned from the Latin Vulgate into the language of the people of his land. Luther took his Greek NT and set to work there to make a translation into German that would reach the people --that would bring the Word of God to his people. Luther sweat over this task. He struggled with it. He said to take the thoughts of Greek and to express them clearly in German was a very very difficult task, but he worked on it every possible minute while he was in the castle.

After he left the castle and went back to Wittenberg where in the swirling political cross currents of that day he was protected for the rest of his life even though he never knew at what moment the Emperor's forces would overrun the area and he would be burned. In fact the Emperor's forces did overrun the area just a few months after his death, but God protected him. For nearly 25 years, and during this time he set to work to translate the OT out of the original Heb. He issued one edition after another, constantly improving his trans. of the OT and NT all through his life. It was a very difficult matter to take the thoughts as expressed in the verses of the Bible in Heb. and in Gk. and to put them into German, and Luther worked constantly at this great task. All Germany was soon swept by the forces let loose by the Word of God in the people's own language. The great Reformation experience changed the character of the country.

Sometimes it is said that Henry VIII was the founder of the Church of England, and that it was because Henry VIII wanted to get a divorce which the Pope would not give him that he founded the British Reformation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The founder of the Reformation in England was M. Luther. Students in Oxford began reading Luther's works. They began to meet together to discuss what Luther had