

Ulfilas - his grandparents, according to what is most likely the facts, were taken prisoner and he was brought up in Rumania there among the Goths so his parents trained him and trained him in views of the Roman Empire and in views of Christianity to a limited extent. They were not highly trained people. Then the Goths sent him as a representative. Now that is probably the case. The fact of the matter is that the Goths at this time were illiterate and we do not have evidence from them about the facts and that the Arians later of course were completely condemned by the leadership of the Roman Empire, so the later Roman historians were not much interested in tracking down the details of an Arian leader. So our knowledge of him is rather limited -----14

There are a few things we know about Ulfilas. We know that he went with an earnest Christian message. We know that he was anxious to get the word of God to these people and so he worked out a system of writing. He invented a Gothic alphabet and then having invented this Gothic Alphabet using the Roman Alphabet as a basis, but developing letters adapted for their signs and he knew their language very well, he then proceeded to translate the Bible into the language and made the first translation of the Bible into any Germanic language. It was the Gothic translation that Ulfilas made. He translated the whole Bible into the Gothic language and did a very excellent job. Now of course one man's translation of the whole Bible can't be perfect by any means. There would be great flaws doubtless. But there was a feeling for words. There was an understanding of exact meanings and a searching for methods to give them the Bible in the language clearly. This gives this translation a high standing in the translations of the Bible. I said he did the whole Bible. This was an overstatement. He left out the books of Kings. He said he would like to leave out this because it had so many wars in it, so he did not translate the Books of Kings. Of course that may be just a story. Maybe he was just leaving it until the last. We know comparatively little about it. But we know from the effects that came later that