

Now there is a thing which we call the Hexapla--it is not a translation. It represents the great work of Origen around 250 A.D. and one of the greatest scholars in the history of the Christian church. Origen was very interested in finding out what the original was of the O.T. and as a result he did a lot of harm. Instead of copying some early MSS and preserving them as he found them, he took all the MSS that he could find of the O.T. and he tried to take them what he thought should be and today we know he was wrong because we have made advances in textual criticism beyond what was known then. Origen prepared this work which he called the Hexapla with six columns therein and in the first column he put the He.b text; in the second he put a translation of the Heb. text into Greek letters; in the third he put the LXX as he thought it ought to be; then in the fourth, fifth and sixth columns he put Aquilla, Simichus and Theodician. So his Hexapla gives us his six columns and you can well imagine what a large book this would be. You have these six columns for the whole O.T. He not only puts in what he thinks ought to be there but puts in extra notes and says these words are not in the Heb. or these words should be in. He puts a lot of little marks therein and quite a bit of this third column has been preserved for us.

64 So we have the Hexaplarit--that which Origen made up. So this work is of tremendous value for us. But today we say that if you wish to get the true LXX you should get a MSS at the time of Hex. since we have hundreds of MSS since that time which follow Origen's text but Vaticanus and Siniaticus do not follow his text and one thing that makes us feel that they represent the actual LXX at many rather than our later MSS is that the Ethiopic which is translated from the Greek is a mediate version the Old Latin, portions of it which we have before Jerome agree in general with the text of B rather ~~than~~ that of Vaticanus rather than the text of the later Greek MSS. We see that the Hexapla is of tremendous importance in the history of the LXX. Now I should mention two translations made by Lucian and _____. Lucian was a Christian martyr killed in 311 A.D.; so he made translation into Greek of the O.T. which has largely been lost. We have four MSS which in general follow Lucian though some places they follow the Hexapla and an interesting thing is that Josephus writing about 100 A.D. ~~a~~ good many times puts the LXX a good times the same way as Lucian put in his translation ~~showing~~ ^{showing} that Lucian also had an earlier translation differing from the LXX. The Greek O.T. was a translation in the early days of the Christian church into Latin and some parts of that have been preserved. There is a Syrian translation of Origen's Hexapla--the Syro-Hexaplar. It is a translation into Syriac translation. Then we have the Ethiopic, a very early translation of the LXX. We have three distinct translations in Egypt.