

said on account of ecclesiastical necessity. And we do not know what that means but we do know that before long he was a theological advisor and an ecclesiastical secretary of the elderly bishop of Rome. He had been bishop nearly twenty years, and he was now nearly 80 years of age. And this bishop, named Damasus, is a pope. according to the present titling, he wrote various hymns, he is considered a pope of considerable renown, but the greatest thing that he ever did was to invite Jerome to be his secretary. Because Jerome so overpowered in ability any pope of the first three centuries that making Jerome his secretary put him into a position where his influence would be great, and where he would have opportunity and stimulus to do scholarly work.

And Damasus deserves great credit for stimulating Jerome to do what perhaps was the most important thing that he did. And that was to make the translation of the Bible into the tongue of the common people. Damasus said to Jerome, he said, the Latin translation was made a couple of hundred years ago, the texts were very poorly preserved, there are all kinds of versions of it, it wasn't a very good translation in the first place, he said, will you make us a new translation of the New Testament from the Greek.

And Jerome got busy to make this new translation, into the vulgar speech, so it is called the Vulgate. Into the language of the common people, the Vulgate. And so Jerome made his Vulgate translation of the New Testament. First of the Gospels, then of the rest of the N.T. and then he made a translation of the Psalms. Later on he translated the entire O.T. from the original Hebrew, making very careful and extensive studies of the Hebrew. And making a translation, this translation was never authorized, pope Damasus died before Jerome got to the O.T., Jerome left Rome, and did the rest of it in Palestine, many people said the Itala Version was good enough for the church for 200 years, it is good enough for us. And they insisted that they didn't want another translation, they didn't like it where he changed from the former, he was bitterly reviled for making a new translation, and he answered in kind. For though the mean and disagreeable things that were thrown upon him, he flung one back twice as bad at the people who were