

# READ THIS

This is a newly typeset edition of the *Original* Douay-Rheims Bible of 1582 (New Testament) and 1609 (Old Testament). It is a work in progress. As of this writing — All Saints Day 2019 — only five books from each of the Old and New Testaments are complete. Also, the typography and layout still leave much to be desired.

The only other available editions of the original Douay-Rheims Bible that I am aware of are difficult-to-read copies of copies of the original printings from between 1582 and 1610. There is also an edition by Dr. William G. von Peters where he has transliterated the text into modern English. While from what I have heard, he has done a wonderful job, this has always seemed dangerous to me — it is too easy to forget that the English language has changed since Shakespeare's time 400 years ago. Finally, there is Bishop Challoner's 1749-1752 revision of the Douay-Rheims. Most modern editions of the Douay-Rheims Bible are really this revised version.

## **Warning**

Not only the spelling, but the meaning of many English words has changed in the last four hundred years. If you truly want to study the Bible and do not know Latin and Greek, you should always compare multiple translations. The translation by Msgr. Ronald Knox, although a bit loose at points, is a particularly fine one.

## **Some Notes on the Text Itself**

Not only the language, but the typography has changed in the last 400 years. Here are some notes that may assist you:

- The ‘long s’ (‘f’) is an older form of the lower case letter s. It was used at the beginning or in the middle of a word. Thus, ‘finfulneff’ for ‘sinfulnesf’.
- There was not the same distinction made between the lower case letter forms ‘u’ and ‘v’. A ‘v’ was used at the beginning of a word, and a ‘u’ elsewhere. Thus, ‘vfed’ for ‘used’ and ‘heauen’ for ‘heaven’. Also, only the ‘V’ was used for upper case letters. Finally, since the letter ‘w’ was uncommon in France where these were type-set, they sometimes used ‘vv’. Thus, ‘lavvful’ for ‘lawful’.
- There are six kinds of notes:
  - End Notes: These appear at the end of a chapter, and are marked with a musical note, ♪. The marker appears at the beginning of the notated passage.
  - Foot Notes: These appear at the bottom of a page, and are marked with a letter. The marker appears at the beginning of the notated passage.
  - Marginal Notes: These appear in the right margin.
  - Textual Notes: These appear in the left margin, and generally give the original Latin or Greek.
  - Citations: These appear in the left margin, and indicate a cross-reference to another part of the Bible, or to some commentary from one of the Church Fathers.
  - Variant Readings: These appear in the left margin, and indicate a variant reading for the text.

## How You Can Help

From most to least helpful:

- Pray for me.
- The citations and cross-references should be checked for accuracy, and reformulated so they can be easily used by the modern reader.
- Proofread the current text against the original.
- Type up some of the other books.
- Give me money.

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All thoughts, suggestions, comments, or complaints will  
be appreciated.

— Robert Krug