

## ~LATIN (84)

- **A language belonging to the Indo-European family** and the **parent** of the Romance languages, namely, Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Romanian.
- The last half of the **Second Century C.E.** saw a move on the part of the religious powers of Rome to have Latin replace Greek as the language of the Roman bishopric.
- Among the results of this was the production of the **Latin Vulgate**, by Jerome of the **Fourth Century C.E.**, second only to the **Greek Septuagint** as a noted ancient Bible translation.
- Latin was the language of Imperial Rome and hence, when Jesus Christ was on earth, it was the official language of Palestine, though not the popular language of the people.
- It is therefore not surprising to find some Latinisms in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**. The word Latin itself occurs but once in the Bible, at;
  - Therefore many of the Jews read this title, because the place where Jesus was impaled was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in **Latin**, in Greek. (**John 19:20**)
  - Where we are told that the inscription placed above Jesus on the torture stake was written in Hebrew, Greek, and **Latin**.
  - **Latin** in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** occurs in various forms. They contain over 40 proper **Latin** names of persons and places, such as Aquila, Luke, Mark, Paul, Caesarea, and Tiberias. In this part of the Bible are found Greek equivalents of some 30 Latin words of military, judicial, monetary, and domestic nature, such as *centurio*.
  - Now, when the army officer that was standing by with him in view saw he had expired under these circumstances, he said, Certainly this man was God's Son. (**Mark 15:39**)
  - Army officer, **denarius**
  - When he had agreed with the workers for a **denarius** a day, he

sent them forth into his vineyard. (**Matthew 20:2**)

- And **speculator** , Body guardsman.
- So the king immediately dispatched a **body guardsman** and commanded him to bring his head. And he went off and beheaded him in the prison (**Mark 6:27**)
- Certain **Latin** expressions or idioms also occur, such as **wishing to satisfy the crowd**
- At that Pilate, **wishing to satisfy the crowd**, released Barabbas to them, and, after having Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be impaled. (**Mark 15:15**)
- And **taking sufficient security**.
- And first after **taking sufficient security** from Jason and the others they let them go. (**Acts of Apostles 17:9**)
- The syntax, or pattern of phrases and sentences, sometimes suggests **Latin** influence. However, the amount of this is disputed by various scholars.
- **Latinisms** are found mostly in Mark and Matthew, Mark having used them more than any other Bible writer. This lends credence to the belief that he wrote his Gospel in Rome and mainly for Gentiles, particularly the Romans. Paul made little use of **Latinisms**, none occur in the **Greek Septuagint**.
- The appearance of **Latinisms** in the Scriptures is of more than academic interest to Bible lovers. It is in keeping with what the Bible shows about Palestines being occupied by Rome when Jesus Christ was on earth.
- Further, the use of these Latinisms by the best secular Greek writers of the same period argues that the Christian Scriptures were indeed produced during the times about which they tell. This fact, therefore, further testifies to the authenticity of the **Christian Greek Scriptures**.