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Oldest Bible To Online Bible

By William Teleo

Last year, press releases from the religious and scholastic communities had been ripe with news of digitizing and making Codex Sinaiticus an online bible. To the uninitiated, this is considered the oldest known Bible, dating back 17 centuries ago. Published during the rift between the East and West Roman Empire, the Bible was said to have been commissioned by Emperor Constantine when he adopted Christianity. It also included the oldest version of the New Testament. The year 2005 had been the start of an ambitious project, but no new publicity had been announced regarding the manuscript's online bible version.

The online bible version was conceptualized with four phases: conservation, digitization, transcription, and academic commentary. The online Codex project aimed to reach a wider, and even worldwide audience through the internet. Tools developed for the manuscript's internet launch include a CD Rom, free website, and digital facsimile. The project is intended to be the standard of collaborative manuscript projects. However, the team behind the Codex project was reportedly having troubles with the first phase of the project and is not quite done yet. Conservation is essential to protect the Codex from damage during the project. Since the manuscript is old and very fragile, the conservation team faced the difficulty of restoring the manuscript to readable and presentable texts. Scot McKendrick, British Library's Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts Department chair, commented that the manuscript is very distinct from other old manuscripts. Given the size of each parchment (37 cm) and the text layering (four columns of Greek texts), it is a considerable feat to finish the conservation of all 400 pages in a short time.

Probably eyeing a 2010 or 2011 launch date, the Codex still have to undergo a digitization process. This involves taking digital images of the texts and the whole manuscript. Transcription is an essential part of the process since not everyone can understand Greek symbols. Scholars contribute commentaries and discussion as an added feature of the online bible. The process necessitates long hours of study from language and the principles from the Codex, to its similarities and differences from the present Bible. The religious and academic block had expressed their interest and excitement about the manuscript's online release. Due to its sensitive nature, only four scholars -- apart from those involve in the online bible project -- have seen the document up close. McKendrick estimated the whole Codex project to be over in about four years. Incidentally named after Mt. Sinai where Moses received

the Ten Commandments, Codex Sinaiticus studies are now considered as the peak of religious learning.

For more valuable information on Online Bible, please visit

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Humorous Message Promotes Importance of the Bible for Kids

By Lisa M. Hendey

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Book Review - If You Give a Boy a Bible by Andy Holmes
Reviewed by Lisa M. Hendey

On the surface, hot tubs, red Kool Aid, iguanas and shish-kebabs may not seem the perfect enticements towards promoting Bible reading for young children, but a reading of Andy Holmes newest book *If You Give a Boy a Bible* (Kregel Kidzone, May 2004, hardcover, 32 pages) shows that you can't make assumptions when it comes to kids.

Author and Illustrator Andy Holmes takes a humorous approach towards evangelization with this book, which is loosely reminiscent of the classic *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*. The opening pages of the story find a father sharing the Bible with his son and in turn taking time to read it with him. From here, the true action of the book begins as this gift leads to all kinds of imaginative thoughts. As the boy learns stories from the Bible, he begins to act out the accounts in his own little world.

Sprinkled throughout the book are references to classic Old Testament accounts. Readers will love how the boy absorbs and then finds his own take on the stories of Noah, Joseph, Moses and others. Holmes illustrations lend life to the story - I was particularly drawn to the variety of facial expressions in the book.

The book's end finds the boy sharing the gift he's received and loved so much with a friend. This gentle approach to witnessing to our faith will make sense to kids - who wouldn't want to share a gift that brings so much wisdom, enlightenment and fun? *If You Give a Boy a Bible* is aimed at children ages four through eight years of age, but I'm willing to predict that most grown ups will learn a thing or two from this enjoyable book.

For more information on *If You Give a Boy a Bible* visit

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0825455138/digitalcropper-20>

Lisa M. Hendey is a mother of two sons, webmaster of numerous web sites, including <http://www.catholicmom.com> and <http://www.christiancoloring.com>, and an avid reader.

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