

b. The Coptic

3rd century AD by the copts of upper Egypt.
The Coptic church followed the monophysite
tradition after Chalcedon.

c. The Ethiopic latter 4th century

d. The Armenian

About 430 in translation although there may
have been an earlier version or mss under the
hand of Gregory Thaumaturgus.

e. The Arabic...about 928

Certainly there were others, some of which are noted
in church history. All of these, to some degree,
show immediate dependence on the Hebrew with some
traces of the LXX or Hexaplaric influence. They are
not particularly important for this course but attest
again to the spread of the Word and the need men had
for it in their own tongue. This continues to be a
challenge for our day.

F. The Criticism of the Text

1. The Goal

The goal is the establishment of the better or best read-
ing of a text as the case may be. The problem is differ-
ent from the one occurring in the New Testament and so we
are not looking for families or text rescensions. As
noted earlier, the reality of this divergency in Hebrew
is not yet proved. It may be assumed but until more mat-
erial is unearthed, we have only one of those families
with us now and so our work is more to see what in our
present text may need revision in thought and/or in
order. Our assumption is that the documents we presently
have offer us a rather fixed text and we work from it to
note particulars where correction or augmentation may
prove helpful.

2. The Causes of Corruption

Some of these were mentioned in the introductory material
and we note them at this point in a sort of ongoing
review:

a. simple physical failure. The error of the
"sleepy scribe"...in that no one can be totally alert
at all times.