

## Codex Sinaiticus

The name 'Codex Sinaiticus' literally means 'the Sinai Book'. It reflects two important aspects of the manuscript: its form and a very special place in its history.

'Codex' means 'book'. By the time Codex Sinaiticus was written, works of literature were increasingly written on sheets that were folded and bound together in a format that we still use to this day. This book format was steadily replacing the roll format which was more widespread just a century before when texts were written on one side of a series of sheets glued together to make a roll. These rolls were made of animal skin (like most of the Dead Sea Scrolls) or the papyrus plant (commonly used for Greek and Latin literature).

Using the papyrus codex was a distinctive feature of early Christian culture. The pages of Codex Sinaiticus however are of prepared animal skin called parchment. This marks it out as standing at an important transition in book history. Before it we see many examples of Greek and Latin texts on papyrus roll or papyrus codex, but almost no traces of parchment codices. After it, the parchment codex becomes normative.

During its history – particularly its modern history – parts of Codex Sinaiticus were also known by other names. The 43 leaves which are now at Leipzig University Library were published in 1846 as 'Codex Frederico-Augustanus' in honour of Frederick Augustus II, King of Saxony, who was the patron of the German Biblical scholar and editor of Codex Sinaiticus, Constantine Tischendorf. The 347 leaves now in The British Library were previously known as 'Codex Sinaiticus Petropolitanus', as they were kept in St Petersburg between 1863 and 1933.

### What is Codex Sinaiticus?

Codex Sinaiticus, a manuscript of the Christian Bible written in the middle of the fourth century, contains the earliest complete copy of the Christian New Testament. The hand-written text is in Greek. The New Testament appears in the original vernacular language (koine) and the Old Testament in the version, known as the Septuagint, that was adopted by early Greek-speaking Christians. In the Codex, the text of both the Septuagint and the New Testament has been heavily annotated by a series of early correctors.

The significance of Codex Sinaiticus for the reconstruction of the Christian Bible's original text, the history of the Bible and the history of Western book-making is immense.

### Content

As it survives today, Codex Sinaiticus comprises just over 400 large leaves of prepared animal skin, each of which measures 380mm high by 345mm wide. On these parchment leaves is written around half of the Old Testament and Apocrypha (the Septuagint), the whole of the New Testament, and two early Christian texts not found in modern Bibles. Most of the first part of the manuscript (containing most of the so-called historical books, from Genesis to 1 Chronicles) is now missing and presumed to be lost.

The Septuagint includes books which many Protestant Christian denominations place in the Apocrypha. Those present in the surviving part of the Septuagint in Codex Sinaiticus are 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, 1 & 4 Maccabees, Wisdom and Sirach.

The number of the books in the New Testament in Codex Sinaiticus is the same as that in modern Bibles in the West, but the order is different. The Letter to the Hebrews is placed after Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians, and the Acts of the Apostles between the Pastoral and Catholic Epistles.

The two other early Christian texts are an Epistle by an unknown writer claiming to be the Apostle Barnabas, and 'The Shepherd', written by the early second-century Roman writer, Hermas.

**For your viewing, I have downloaded the 'Codex Sinaiticus' of Revelations Chapter 13.**  
**In addition, you can compare it to the King James Bible Revelations Ch. 13. to compare them both..**

**13:1** και ειδον εκ της θαλασσης θηριον αναβαινον εχον κερατα δεκα και κεφαλαις επτα και επι των κερατων αυτων διαδηματα δεκα και επι τας κεφαλαις αυτου ονομα βλασφημιας

**1** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

**2** και το θηριον ο ειδον ην ομοιον παρδαλι και οι ποδες αυτου ως αρκου και το στομα αυτου ως στομα λεοντω και εδωκεν αυτω δρακων την δυναμιν αυτου και το θρονον αυτου και εξουσιαν μεγαλην

**2** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

**3** και μιαν εκ των κεφαλων αυτου ως εσφαγμενην εις θανατον και η πληγη του θανατου θανατου εθεραπευθη και εθαυμασεν ολη η γη οπισω του θηριου

**3** And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

**4** και προσεκυνησα τω δρακοντι οτι εδωκεν την εξουσιαν τω θηριω και προσεκυνησαν

**4** And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

**5** και εδοθη αυτω στομα λαλουν μεγαλα και βλασφημιας και εδοθη αυτω ποιησαι ο θελει μηναι τεσσερακοντα δυο

**5** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

**6** και ηνοιξε το στομα αυτου εις βλασφημιας προς τον θν βλασφημησαι αυτον και την σκηνην αυτου τους εν τω ουνω σκηνουτες

**6** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

**7** και εδοθη αυτω ποιησαι πολεμον μετα των αγιων και νικησαι αυτους και εδοθη αυτω εξουσιαν επι πασαν φυλην και λαον και γλωσσαν και εθνος

**7** And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

**8** και προσκυνησουσιν αυτω παντες οι κατοικουντες επι της γης ων γεγραπται τα ονοματα αυτω εν βιβλω της ζωης του αρνιου του εσφαγμενου απο καταβολης κοσμου

**8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

9 ΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΥΣ ΑΚΟΥΣΑΤΩ ·

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 ΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΕΙΣ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΣΙΑΝ ὙΠΑΓΕΙ ΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΕΝ ΜΑΧΑΙΡΑ ΑΠΟΚΤΕΙΝΕΙ ΔΕΙ ΑΥΤΟΝ ΕΝ ΜΑΧΑΙΡΑ ΑΠΟΚΤΑΝΘΗΝΑΙ ΩΔΕ ΕΣΤΙΝ Η ὙΠΟΜΟΝΗ ΚΑΙ Ὑ Η ΠΙΣΤΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 ΚΑΙ ΕΙΔΟΝ ΑΛΛΟ ΘΗΡΙΟΝ ΑΝΑΒΑΙΝΟΝ ΕΚ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΧΕΝ ΚΕΡΑΤΑ ΔΥΟ ΟΜΟΙΑ ΑΡΝΙΩ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΑΛΕΙ ΩΣ ΔΡΑΚΩΝ

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΣΑΝ ΠΟΙΕΙ ΕΝΩΠΙΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΙΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΓΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΕΝ ΑΥΤΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΥΝΤΑΣ ΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΙΝ ΤΟ ΘΗΡΙΟΝ ΤΟ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ ΟΥ ΕΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΘΗ Η ΠΛΗΓΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΝΑΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 ΚΑΙ ΠΟΙΕΙ ΣΗΜΙΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΑ ἸΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΠΥΡ ΠΟΙΗ ΚΑΤΑΒΑΙΝΕΙΝ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΟΥΝΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΓΗΝ ΕΝΩΠΙΟΝ ΤΩΝ ΑΝΩΝ

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 ΚΑΙ ΠΛΑΝΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΥΝΤΑΣ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ ΔΙΑ ΤΑ ΣΗΜΙΑ Α ΕΔΟΘΗ ΑΥΤΩ ΠΟΙΗΣΑΙ ΕΝΩΠΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ ΛΕΓΩΝ ΤΟΙΣ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΥΣΙΝ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΙΗΣΑΙ ΕΙΚΟΝΑ ΤΩ ΘΗΡΙΩ Ο ΕΧΕΙ ΠΛΗΓΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΑΧΑΙΡΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΖΗΣΕΝ

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 ΚΑΙ ΕΔΟΘΗ ΑΥΤΩ ΔΟΥΝΑΙ ΠΝΑ ΤΗ ΕΙΚΟΝΙ ΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ ἸΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΛΑΛΗΣΗ Η ΕΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΙΗΣΕΙ ΟΣΟΙ ΑΝ ΜΗ ΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΗΣΟΥΣΙΝ ΤΗ ΕΙΚΟΝΙ ΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ ΑΠΟΚΤΑΝΘΩΣΙΝ

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 ΚΑΙ ΠΟΙΕΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΜΙΚΡΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΤΩΧΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΛΟΥΣΙΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΔΟΥΛΟΥΣ ἸΝΑ ΔΩΣΙΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΧΑΡΑΓΜΑ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΧΕΙΡΟΣ ΑΥΤΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΔΕΞΙΑΣ Η ΕΠΙ ΤΟ ΜΕΤΩΠΙΟΝ ΑΥΤΩΝ

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 ἵΝΑ ΜΗ ΤΙΣ ΔΥΝΗΤΑΙ ΑΓΟΡΑΣΑΙ Η ΠΩΛΗΣΑΙ ΕΙ ΜΗ Ο ΕΧΩΝ ΤΟ ΧΑΡΑΓΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΘΗΡΙΟΥ Η ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ ΑΥΤΟΥ Η ΤΟ ΑΡΙΘΜΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΟΝΟΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΥΤΟΥ

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 ὡδε ἡ σοφία ἐστὶν ὁ ἐχὼν οὐκ ψηφισατὼ τὸν ἀριθμὸν τοῦ θηρίου ἀριθμὸς γὰρ ἀνοῦ ἐστὶν ἑξακόσια ἑξηκὸτα ἕξ ·

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

### **The oldest Bible to go on line.**

**A manuscript containing the oldest known Biblical New Testament in the world is set to enter the digital age and become accessible online.**

A team of experts from the UK, Europe, Egypt and Russia is currently digitizing the parchment known as the Codex Sinaiticus, believed originally to have been one of 50 copies of the scriptures commissioned by Roman Emperor Constantine after he converted to Christianity.

The Bible, which is currently in the British Library in London, dates from the 4th Century.

"It is a very distinctive manuscript. No other manuscript looks like this," Scot McKendrick, the head of the Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts Department in the British Library, told BBC World Service's Reporting Religion programme.

"On each very large page, about 14-16 inches (34-37cm) it has a Greek text written in four columns.

"That's the really distinct feature of it - layers of text - it's one of the fascinating aspects of it and it shows us how the Biblical text developed over a certain period, how it was interpreted in those crucial early years of Christianity."

#### **Stolen**

The digitizing project is particularly significant because of the rarity and importance of the manuscript.

The original document is so precious that it has only been seen by four scholars in the last 20 years.

Constantin von Tischendorf was shown the Codex by a monk

The Codex Sinaiticus contains the whole of the Christian Bible; specifically, it has the oldest complete copy of the New Testament, as well as the Greek Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, which includes books now regarded as apocrypha.

It is named after the place it was written, the monastery of Saint Catherine in Sinai, Egypt, set beneath the mountain where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments.

ΚΑΙ ΔΟΘΗΤΩΣ ΜΗΓ  
ΜΑ ΚΑΙ Η ΛΟΙΠΗ  
ΗΜΕΡΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΓΥΝΗ  
Η ΑΝΑΡΕΣΗ ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙ  
ΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ ΛΕΥΣΕΡΑΝ  
ΤΙ ΑΣΤΙ Η ΚΑΙ Η ΡΕΣΕ  
ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙ ΤΟΤΙ ΡΑ  
ΓΜΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΟΙΗΣΕ  
ΟΥΤΩΣ·  
ΚΑΙ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΗΝ  
ΙΟΥΔΑΙΟΣ ΣΕΝΣΟΥ  
ΣΟΙΣ ΤΗ ΠΟΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ  
ΟΝΟΜΑ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΜΑΡ  
ΔΟΧΑΙΟΣ Ο ΤΟΥ ΙΑΙ  
ΡΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΣΕΜΕΙΟΥ·  
ΙΟΥΚΕΙΣ ΑΙΟΥΚΕ  
ΦΥΛΗΣ ΒΕΝΙΑΜΕΦ  
ΟΣΗΝ ΔΙΧΜΑΛΩ·  
ΤΟΣ ΕΪ Η Δ' ΗΝ  
Η ΧΜΑΛΩ ΤΕΥΣΕΝ

The Codex is written in ancient Greek

The website address to view the complete works of it to date is  
[www.codexsinaiticus.org](http://www.codexsinaiticus.org)