

Transcription of M.R. James's unpublished description
Cambridge, University Library, MS Dd.8.12

Title	Biblia Sacra
Secundo folio	text [f. 10]: esse quod
Language	Latin
Material	Vellum
Measurements	15 ½ x 10 ½ ins.
Collation	a (?10; 1 a pastedown; wants one) 1 ¹⁰ – 25 ¹⁰ (+1) 26 ¹⁰ – 43 ¹⁰ 44 (one) 45 ¹⁰ 46 ¹⁰ 47 ⁶
Number of leaves	467
Columns	Double
Lines to a page	52 to 53
Date	XIII and XV
Handwriting	Very fine, probably English
Binding	Old brown leather
Parris 329	Holdsworth 33 (34)

Contents

The pastedown and the first quire are additions, in a very neat hand (xiv – xv). The pastedown has:

- a) a list of the books of the Bible
- b) a list in verse with numbers of chapters:
50 40 27 36 34 24 21
genesis . ex . le . nu . deu . Iosue . Iudicumque . etc.
- c) distich: Morbus signe cibus blasphemia dogma fucre
Cause cur dominum turba secuta fuit
- d) receipt in English: For to make a water for yzen
- e) receipt in English in a later hand: To destrie vermyn
- ff. 1, 2 blank
- f. 3 in triple columns:

Summaria compilatio [*MS* copulacio] metrificata docens quid communius et utilius continetur in unoquoque capitulo tocius biblie unde quodlibet uerbum unius capituli sentenciam tenet. Inc. lib. genesis et habet capitula 50 uersus nouem.

Sex .1. dies [dierum?] opera
prohibet .2. fructum ligni scientie boni et mali
peccant .3. adam et eua etc.

This very common text is sometimes attributed to Alexander de Villa dei

Ends 6b:

uenio iam .22. Dicit sponsus

Versus ducenti .12.

Creed and prophecies assigned to Apostles and prophets

Headed: Credidit abraham et reput'. ge. 15. In principio fecit deus celum. ge. primo

Ieremias: Patrem inuocabitis etc. } Deus pater

Petrus: Credo in deum etc. }

Verses on Evangelists:

Marcus romanus . set Iohannes asianis

Lucas achaiis . matheus scribit hebreis					
On deaths of prophets:					
Sectus ysaias . lapidatus erat Ieremias					
Ezechiel tractus per rupes excerebratus					
Mortuus est Amos per tempora cana foratus					
A Harmony of the Gospels; double columns					7
De genelogia Ihesu Christi	Mt.	Mr.	Luc.	Ioh.	
	1a		3d	etc.	
The Epistle of Jeremy (Baruch vi)					8
List of Expositores biblie including, on the Psalter, Ric. Hampole; on Apoc. the list is					8b
Ambrosius . Haymo . Beda . Victorinus . Haupertus . Bagoredus (= Berengardus).					
A paragraph: Quomodo Salomon sit saluus.					
Ieronimus super ezechielem ubi scribit de edificio in monte constituto					
— tractum fuisse per plateas ierusalem causa penitencie.					
The main hand now begins.					
Jerome's prologues. Frater Ambrosius					9
Desiderii mei					11
Capitula of Genesis 11b Text					12
Exodus capp. 158[28b] Capitula are not always numbered but are given for most Books.					
Ios. has prol. [82b] 1 Reg. prol. 101b 1 Par. prol. 148 No Prayer of Manasses at					
end of 2 Par. Esdr. 1 prol., no capp. Neem. Tob. (part) Iudith prol.					
Hester prol.					
Iob a. Cogor b. In terra quidem capp. At end, Iob exemplar					
The Psalter has a large quantity of preliminary matter:					207
Eusebius Ieronimus sofronio. Scio quosdam Berger 67					
Inc. de dictis origenis. Psalterium ita est B. 77					
Inc. interrogatio ac responsio personarum de nomine et qualitate psalterii etc.					
Interrogatio quasi (quare) psalmi dicuntur B. 115					
Origo prophetie etc. Dauid filius Iesse B. 69					
In nomine christi [MS christi nomine] inc. epistola pape damasi etc.					
Damasus etc. Dum multa corpora B. 80					
Item s. Ieronimi ad Damasum. Beatissimo etc.					
Legi literas B. 81					
Quid significat in finem etc. Finem duobus modis					
Pref. s. Ieronimi. Psalterium rome B. 68					
S. Augustinus dixit. Canticum psalmodum B.90					
Verbum sela lxx interpretes					
Inc. ep. b. Ieronimi ad paulam etc. Nudius tercius B. 74					
Omnem prophetiam ad christum referendam B. 87					
Notandum sane quod ubi nunc missarum officia					210
Quid enim in psalmis non inuenitur					
Notandum sane quod iiii erant notarii					210b
Inc. diapsalmatis interrogatio. Nempe diapsalma est semper est fiat fiat					
Inc. interpretatio alleluia. Est igitur alleluia laus tibi soli					
Inc. glorie interpretatio. Gloria est terra laudat creatorem					
Inc. ep. s. Ieronimi ad Sunniam et Fretelam					210b
Dilectissimis etc. Vere in nobis B. 71					
Cur in psalmodum titulis quasi auctorum nomina diuersa reperiuntur					215b
In primo libro paralipomenon legitur B. 93					
Quemadmodum sit in psalmis de christo domino sentiendum					215b
Tribus modis psalmi locuntur					
De prophetia. Prophetia est aspiratio diuina B. 118					216
De unita inscriptione titulorum. Quosdam superscriptiones psalmodum per allusionem B. 72					216
De propria eloquentia psalterii. Primum est quod ipsi tantum psalmi					216b
— inde legendi faciunt decenter initium.					
Added by the hand of quire 1: Notes on mulus, ascalonita etc., and a receipt in large script:					
Ad incaustum nigrum faciendum. accipe unam libram aque stagnatis et duas uncias					
gallorum et duas uncias coprose uiridis et unam unciam gummi et dimidiam.					

The Psalter in two versions, Gallican and 'Hebraicum'. In the latter, Pusillus eram (Ps. 151) is added.	217
On 249 the late hand has added notes, and lists of words and names with short and long penultimates. Note that 249 is a replacement of the last page of the text of the Psalter. The original is f. 250; it has erasures and is rather spoiled. On the verso begins: Prov. prol. and capp. Eccl. capp. Cant. divided among the speakers. Sap. prol.: Tres libros Ecclus.: prol. of Jesus; oratio salomonis at end.	
Prophets Isa. – Mal. with proll. and capp.	280
Lam. not Baruch follows Ier.	
Dan. proll.:	
a. Ubi cumque medicina uel sanitas necessaria raphael uadit etc. (interpretations of miscellaneous names follow)	
b. Daniele prophetam	
Minor Prophets. Non idem ordo. Osee. none Iohel filus phatuel Amos pastor Abdias qui interpr. Ionas columba Micheas de morasti Naum consolator Abacuc luctator Sophonias speculator Aggeus festiuus Zacharias memor Malachias aperte	
1, 2 Macc. Machabeorum libri duo	356
On 371b sqq. the later hand adds in double columns a list of Lections for the year with incipits and explicits. The very short Sanctoral includes Abdon and Sennen, Sirciacus, Septem fratres. 373b blank.	
Euu. proll. Beatissimo. Nouum opus Plures fuisse Eusebius carpiano	374
Capp. Usual proll. Sections marked in margin	
Paul. Epp. proll.	407
Epistola(-e) Pauli ad romanos causa	
List of Epp. Ad Romanos una	
Cum Romanis ita agit apostolus (Versus Damasi) Iam dudum saulus Primum queritur Romani sunt qui ex iudeis — ad pacem et concordiam cohortatur.	
Capp. The remaining prologues are the ordinary sets	
Baruch I – V. Liber iste (for Ep. Ier. see at the beginning)	424b
Acts. Lucas natione syrus Capp.	426b
Cath. Epp. one prol. Non ita ordo	433b
Apoc. Iohannes apostolus ending 440b	437
In a hand which may be that of quire 1, and is certainly contemporary therewith. In triple columns:	
Interpretationes nominum, Aaz – Zusim	441
In the hand of quire 1. Triple columns:	
Canons of the Gospels in verse, with rubric at beginning.	459
Canon grece regula latine	
Quatuor est primus. primus tribus. alter optimus Each of the ten canons being marked by a letter.	
Ending 460b.	
Esdree 4. 27 et 28 cap. usque in finem	460b
Et respondi et dixi coram te domine. Ecce enim ego adibo ... ending et feci sic. (4 Esdr. XIV. 19 – end)	
In a neat xv th century hand:	
A brief Chronicle of sacred history (? Petrus Pictauensis)	461
Considerans historie sacre prolixitatem Genealogies in tabular form, plans of ark etc.	

Ends with the Apostles 467a.

Iste mathias loco iude est substitutus super quem cecidit sors inter diem ascensionis et pentecosten.

Stichometric notes are uniformly given for each Book.

Decoration. Each Book and prologue has a fine large initial. The letter is often in burnished gold, a favourite colour is salmon pink for the grounds, also a fine blue. Both are patterned in white.

There is one historiated initial, to Genesis, which is a splendid work. It extends the whole length of the page. Top and bottom have been slightly cropped by the binder. It contains seven medallions with gold grounds pricked with rosettes. These are set in squares of which the L side is blue and the R pink. Narrower bands connect these squares and contain floriated crosses of coloured foliage. More of this foliage is at the top, and a large expansion of it at the bottom, where three intersecting roundels of it contain three great blossoms. The medallions are of the Seven Days of Creation. Christ is beardless. His mantle is alternately blue and pink.

In 1 he stands holding book and blessing; cloud above and below.

2 an oval scarlet sphere, water above and below it

3 three trees on L, water on R

4 sun L, moon R

5 two blue birds in air, three emerge from water

6 creates Eve, on R a stag and three snakes

7 Christ throned and blessing

The whole book is a very fine one. It has not [*sic*] some features which I regard as English, e.g. 3 and 4 Esdras and the Epistle to the Laodiceans, and the aspect and ornament seem on the borderline between French and English. But at least it has been in England since the fourteenth century.