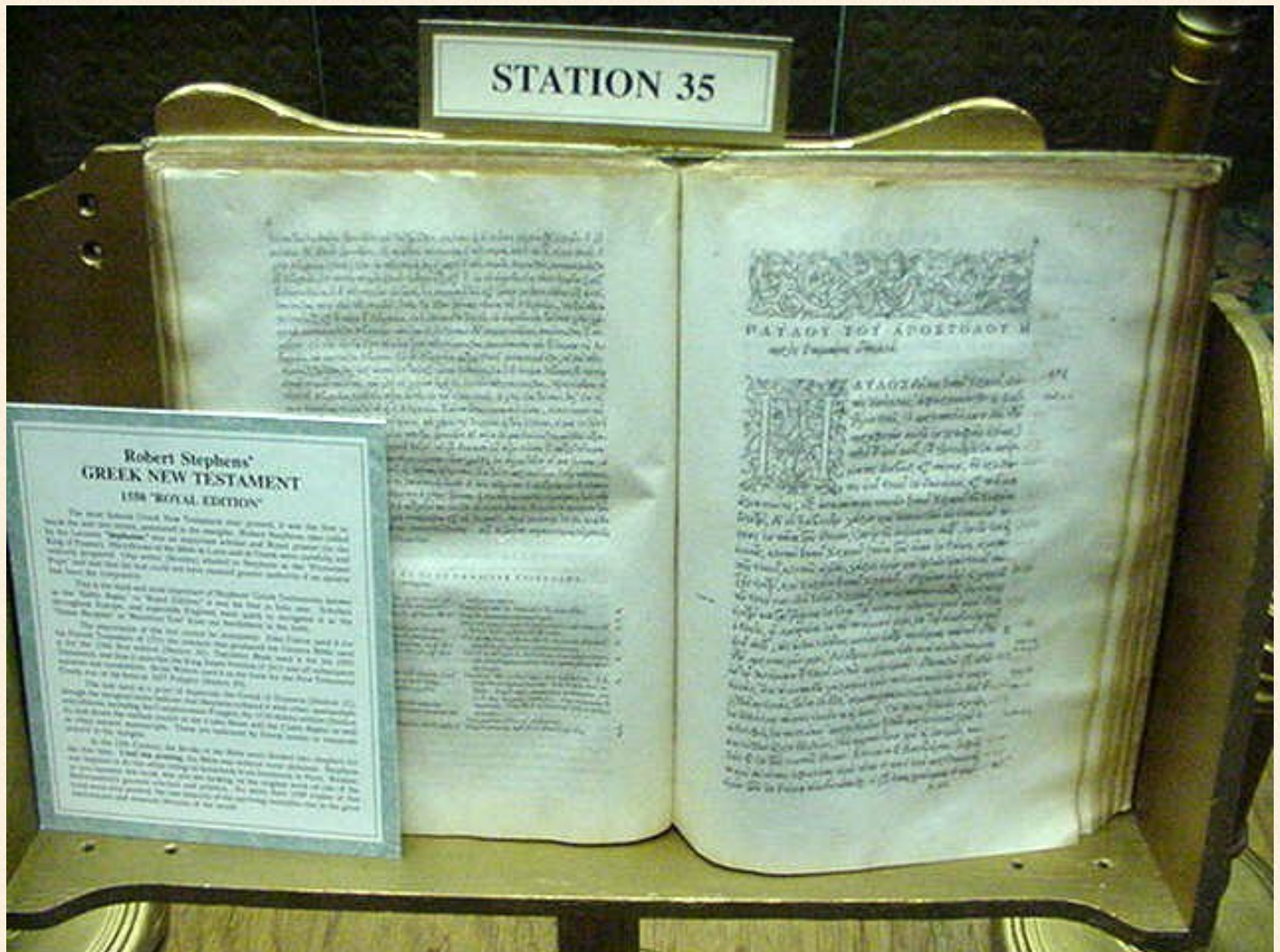


# The Dr. Gene Scott Bible Collection

## STATION 35: Stephanus' Own ROYAL GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

Divided by his own hand into verses for the first time!



**Note the verse numbers  
in manuscript in both  
outer margins!**

### 1550 "ROYAL EDITION"

The most famous Greek New Testament ever printed, **this very book** was the basis for the breaking of the text into verses, as it was annotated **in manuscript by Stephanus himself** in the margins. Robert Stephens (French "Estienne"), also called by the Latinate **Stephanus**, was an important scholar and Royal printer (to the King of France). His editions of the Bible in Latin and in Greek were carefully and critically prepared. One writer (Bentley) alluded to Stephens as the

"Protestant Pope" and said that his text could not have claimed greater authority if an apostle had been the compositor. Stephanus used this very volume to produce Latin and Greek editions of scripture which carried forward the verse divisions he began with this book.

This is the third and most important of Stephanus' Greek Testaments, known as the ***Editio Regia***, or "Royal Edition;" it was his first in folio size. Scholars throughout Europe, and especially England, were quick to recognize it as the ***Textus Receptus*** or "Received Text" from our forefathers in the faith.

The importance of this text cannot be overstated. John Calvin used it for his French Testament of 1551; the scholars that produced the Geneva Bible used it for the 1560 first edition (Stations 20 & 38); Theodore Beza used it for his 1565 Testament, and thus it underlies the King James Version of 1611 and all subsequent versions and translations. Brian Walton used it as the basis for the New Testament Greek text of his famous 1657-60 "London Polyglot" (shown at [Station 49](#)).

The text used as a point of departure the Greek of Erasmus (shown at [Station 12](#)), though the marginal notes indicate that Stephanus collated it with other manuscripts and editions, including the Complutensian Polyglot, and the 1518 Aldine edition (shown at [Station 4](#)). It shows the earliest record of the ***Codex Bezae*** and the ***Codex Regius*** as well as other ancient manuscripts. These are indicated by Greek letters or numerals printed in the margins.

In the 13th Century, the Books of the Bible were divided into chapters for the first time. But **until this book**, the Bible was without verse divisions. Stephanus was inspired to do this while riding on horseback from Innsbruck to Paris. Realize, as you examine this book, that you are looking on the **original work** of one of the Reformation's greatest scholars and printers. No more than 1500 copies of this book were ever printed; the vast majority of the surviving examples rest in the great institutional and museum libraries of the world. This **unique** example, annotated by Stephanus himself, is surely one of the greatest treasures in the history of the Bible.

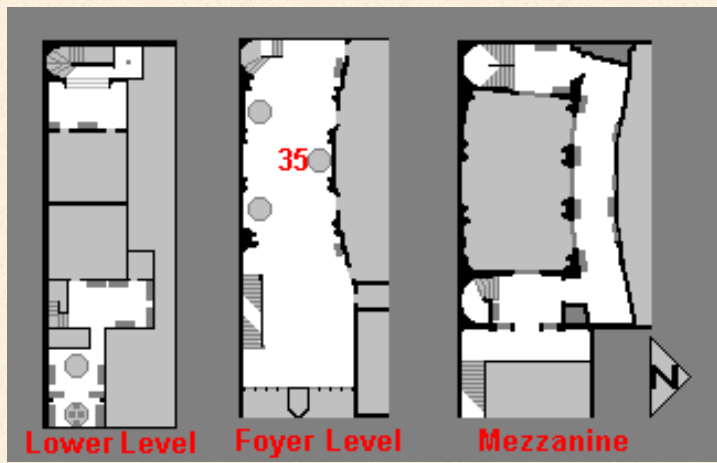
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***Stephanus' first printed Bible with his verse divisions, a Latin Vulgate, is shown at [Station 8](#). The first English Bible to show verse divisions was the [Geneva Bible](#).***

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## STATION LOCATION MAP

Below is a floor plan map of the Cathedral in 3 sections, one for each level. The first section is the Lower Level, the second is the Foyer Level, and the third is the Mezzanine Level. This station is located in the central Octagon on the Foyer Level at the red #35.



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