

## 1451 AD – THE GUTTENBERG BIBLE / MEHMED II SULTAN OF OTTOMANS

**“Thus says the LORD, Stand ye at the crossroads, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said: We will not walk therein.” (Jeremiah 6 v 16)**

### HISTORY

Two events occurred in **1451** that changed the world. First, the Bible went into mass production in Mainz Germany. Second, **Mehmed II** became Sultan of the Ottomans. The LORD puts forth his kindness and his severity. Those who will not receive the goodness of the LORD and believe the Scriptures will receive the discipline of the LORD: a harsh punishment.

### THE GUTTENBURG BIBLE

The invention of the printing press made it possible to publish printed books at a higher rate than ever before seen. The cost of the Bibles was many times less than the cost of manuscript Bibles. These Bibles sold out quickly – the hunger for the Word of God was great.

The quality and craftsmanship in the Bibles was impressive. Every detail in the production was carefully considered. It was the pinnacle of the craft of the printer. Many copies were illuminated by hand in the top left corner making them collectible works of art.

The Guttenburg Bible put all the books in the Bible in one place in a script that was easy to read:

*"All that has been written to me about that marvelous man seen at Frankfurt [sic] is true. I have not seen complete Bibles but only a number of quires of various books of the Bible. The script was very neat and legible, not at all difficult to follow—your grace would be able to read it without effort, and indeed without glasses."<sup>1</sup>*

The Guttenburg Bible was a Latin copy of the Vulgate text and therefore did not open the door for the common people to read the Bible for themselves. But it promoted Bible literacy among the scholars and priests in the Roman Church. This permitted priests like Martin Luther to quickly learn the Bible's teachings. Then when he was inspired by them he could communicate more easily with other priests because they were Bible literate too.

<sup>1</sup> Future pope Pius II writes in a letter to Cardinal Carvajal, March 1455. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutenberg\\_Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutenberg_Bible)

## MEHMED II BECOMES SULTAN

In **1413** **Mehmed I** became Sultan of the Ottomans. He reunified the dynasty after disruption of Ottoman rule caused by the major defeat in battle with **Timur** in **1402**. His son **Murad II** became Sultan in **1421** and began to expand Ottoman domains in Greece and in the Balkans. In **1439** the Ottomans conquered Serbia. In **1444** the Ottomans won a major battle in Bulgaria. In **1448** at the second battle of Kosovo the Ottomans gained control of all of the Balkans. Vassal states adjacent to the Ottomans paid tribute. And so the Moslem Ottoman Empire had extended itself deep within the boundaries of Christian Europe.

In **1451** **Mehmed II** became Sultan. He was eager to prove his credentials as a Sultan. He set his eyes on the greatest prize, the city of Constantinople. The pride of the Byzantine Empire was a city of great wealth and the home of the great Hagia Sophia cathedral. It was the last bastion of Christianity in the East. Constantinople was a fortress. It was built on the sea and protected by four sets of walls that had proven impregnable for a thousand years. In **1453** **Mehmed II** took the city and shocked the world. See our paper **1453 AD**.

When **Mehmed II** was only 12 years old his father **Murad II** abdicated to follow a contemplative life. As a youth **Mehmed II** did not have the confidence of the Ottoman generals. Therefore he pleaded with his father to take back his responsibility. In **1444** he wrote: 'If you are the Sultan, come and lead your armies. If I am the Sultan I hereby order you to come and lead my armies.' His father re-assumed his responsibility.

## PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 6 V 16

**"Thus says the LORD, Stand ye at the crossroads, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said: We will not walk therein."** (Jeremiah 6 v 16)

The Bible was mass produced and distribution of an easy-to-read version of the complete Scriptures quickly spread all across Europe. Priests and scholars were able to absorb God's truth more easily and more comprehensively than ever before.

But did that change anything? The church leaders read the Scriptures '**ask for the old paths**'. But for the great majority of them – it did not budge their belief in the authority of the Church of Rome. Regarding how a man might be saved from their sins '**find rest for your souls**' - they

did not change their opinion that receiving sacraments blessed by the Roman Church was efficacious. Thus the prophecy of Jeremiah 6 v 16 became true: '**But they said: We will not walk therein**'.

All the more is the pity that the people of God did not take to heart the Words of God. By the time the Latin Bible was published God had raised up a hammer to smash the kingdom of the idols in Byzantium. The Byzantine Church had the Scriptures in their own native language, Greek or Aramaic, for a thousand years. Yet the Byzantines had not harkened to the Word of God. The Byzantine Church was in a compromised position where the secular Emperor had dominion over the Church by virtue of his power to appoint the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Therefore, the judgment would fall first on the people who had the clear Testimony of Scriptures the longest and persisted in their obstinacy. Even worse they had corrupted their temples with all manner of idolatry and iconography. See our paper [431 AD](#).

## **SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS**

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

### PART ONE

Jeremiah **6 v 16** is the **19,106<sup>th</sup>** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,106 = 82 x 233**

The spiritual meaning of **82** is 'Throne of God'

The spiritual meaning of **233** means 'Believers Appear in Holy Land'.

A recurrent theme of Jeremiah's prophecy is this truth: '**See today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.**'

Who did God appoint? He appointed His Word through the Prophets.

God sits on the Throne of God and He judges all the nations from the seat of all power.

According to his judgment he lifts one nation up and he puts another nation down. God lifted up **Mehmed II** for the express purpose of putting the Byzantine Dynasty down.

For any people to abide in any land is a privilege not a right. If a people fears God and obeys his commands God will honor them with long life. Here is the tricky part: if a people has more light, more insight into God's will, as the Christians in Byzantium did through the possession of the Scriptures, then God holds them to a higher standard.

Was **Mehmed II** more righteous than the Byzantine Emperor? From history we know the result – Mehmed II conquered Constantinople. So therefore, **Mehmed II** was more righteous according to the light of knowledge he had, than the Emperor of Byzantium according to the light of knowledge he had. Everyone is tested according to the degree they fear the LORD Almighty – Maker of Heaven and Earth.

## PART TWO

Jeremiah **6 v 16** is the **1,451<sup>st</sup>** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1,451** = [230<sup>th</sup> prime]

The spiritual meaning of **230** is 'Disgraceful Acts'

The spiritual meaning of **1451** is 'King Makes Holy Men Suffer'.

The Sultan, **Mehmed II**, made the holy men of Byzantium suffer. Not every man in Byzantium was as unfaithful as the Emperors. There would have been men and woman in Byzantium who mourned for the sin of the Church of Byzantium – her images – her deceiving harlotries. Nevertheless, the 'Disgraceful Acts' of the Church of Byzantium were punished by the Sultan of the Ottomans 'King Makes Holy Men Suffer'. And 700 years later the city is still in the hands of his descendants.