

THE GERMAN BIBLE

(PRINTED IN 1778)

“Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake?” - 1 Corinthians 9:8-10

This antique book is a visual historical journey, with artwork and cursive font expressing God’s word, first mediated through prophets, and then affirmed through Emmanu-el, God on earth as Jesus Christ. This Bible serves as an expression of the access to new truths that many found through the European Reformation.

WHAT IS A BIBLE?

The Bible is a sacred text around which the Christian faith is based. Articulated over numerous centuries by dozens of prophets and recorded by scribes, it is regarded as the eyewitness accounts of some of history’s most important events. For Christians, the first half of the Bible is known as the Old Testament and chronicles the story of the nation of Israel. The second half, the New Testament, details the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth, who himself was Jewish and understood much of the Jewish story and many of the traditions. The reputation of the Bible as a fact-based text offers Christianity its miracles, morals, and faith.

WHY HAS DEERFIELD ACADEMY ACQUIRED IT?

In America, over well over half of its citizens identify as Christian. Although Deerfield has no religious affiliation as a school, it does claim to be an institution that creates a community of informed, open-minded, and worldly scholars. Familiarity with the sacred texts of various faiths promotes cultural literacy. The Bible, the Torah, and the Qu’ran are connected not just to the study of religion and spirituality, but also to art, music, philosophy, literature, and law.

Lynnette Jiang (2018)