

The Ge'ez and Other Texts for the Books of the Ethiopic 'Broad Canon'

Numerous (and varied) sources have been used for the texts of the books in the two 'Ethiopic Broad Canon' sub-sections, which are explained below. As with all 'source documents' in the TheoDoor Project, these texts are subject to ongoing analysis, correction, and improvement.

A. The Old Testament Books

For the *Book of Jubilees* and the *(First) Book of Enoch*, we have used transcriptions made by recognized scholars (as noted in the documents' headers); these have been gleaned from what we consider reliable websites; so, although the texts may not be 100% perfect, they can be considered of high, academic quality. The same is true for the Greek and Latin texts for these two books, which were gleaned (mostly) from the [Online Critical Pseudepigrapha](#).

For the *Book of Josippon*, we have PDF image-scan documents for both Hebrew (the original language) and Ge'ez transcriptions, but this is a very large text and the work on digitizing them is still 'in progress'.

For the three *Books of Meqabyan*, the British Library has posted online images of the 'standard' Ge'ez manuscript, and work on digitizing the text is underway. The Amharic text we present is, essentially, that given in the ["Amharic Bible 81" Android app](#), with verse divisions and numbers following [Feqade Selassie's 2005 Iyaric translation](#). Paragraph breaks loosely follow the 'source' text but are subject to change, as the text is more thoroughly analysed.

The Android app – and its text it – is presented anonymously but appears to have been made with the cooperation (and blessing?) of the Ethiopic Orthodox Tewahedo Church. Below, we present the text of the app's 'about' page, along with a translation:

በስመ፡ አብ፡ ወወልድ፡ ወመንፈስ፡ ቅዱስ፡ አሐዱ፡ አምላክ፤
አሜን።

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the one God, Amen.

ይህ፡ መጽሐፍ፡ ቅዱስ፡ በእለቄጥሯዊ፡ አቀጻጽ፡ ሲሰናዳ፡
የኢትዮጵያ፡ ኦርቶዶክስ፡ ተዋሕዶ፡ ቤተ፡ ክርስቲያን፡-

This Holy Book, prepared in the light of the Holy Scriptures, is the work of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church:

“መጽሐፍ፡ ቅዱስ፤ የብሉይና፡ የሐዲስ፡ ኪዳን፡ መጻሕፍት።”

“The Holy Bible; The Books of the Old and New Testaments.”

ብላ፡ 1980፡ ዓ.ም.፡ ያሳተመችውን፡ መጽሐፍ፡ ቃል፡ በቃል፡

The Bible was published in 1980 and recorded word for word.

ለቅዋ፡ መዝግቧል። ለጊዜው 81 መጽሐፍት ተዘጋጅተዋል። 15

Eighty-one books have been prepared so far. Fifteen canonical

የቀኖና፡ መጻሕፍት በ *EthioApps Team* ተጨምረዋል

books have been added by the EthioApps Team.

እግዚአብሔር ይመስገን።

ምስጋና፡- መጽሐፍ፡ ቅዱስን፡ እንዳዲስ፡ ለመተርጎም፡ ሳይኾን፡ ራሷ፡ የኢትዮጵያ፡ ኦርቶዶክስ፡ ተዋሕዶ፡ ቤተ፡ ክርስቲያን፡

ያሰናዳችልንን፡ መጽሐፍ፡ ቅዱስ፡ በመላ፡ ዓለም፡ ለሚገኙ፡ ወንድሞቻችንና፡ እጎቶቻችን፡ በእለቄጥሯዊ፡

አቀጻጽ፡ በነጻ፡ ለማዳረስ፤ ለደከሙት፡ ለወሌ፡ነጋ፡ አነሣሥቶ፡ ላስዝመረ፡ አስዝምሮ፡ ላስፈጸመ፡ ለልዑል፡ እግዚአብሔር፡ ክብርና፡ ምስጋና፡ ይግባው፡ ለዘላለሙ፤ አሜን።

ይኸኛውን፡ ያማርኛ፡ ቅጂ፡ ከሌላዎቹ፡ ያማርኛ፡ ቅጂዎች፡ ለየት፡ የሚያደርገው፤

ኛ፤ በኢትዮጵያ፡ ኦርቶዶክስ፡ ተዋሕዶ፡ ቤተ፡ ክርስቲያን፡ መጽሐፍ፡ ቅዱስ፡ መሠረት፡ መዘጋጀቱ፤

ኛ፤ ፊደሉና፡ አጻጻፉ፡ በግእዝና፡ ባማርኛ፡ መዛግብተ፡ ቃላት፡ መሠረት፡ ታርሞ፡ መዘጋጀቱ፡ ነው።

We would like to thank GOD for stirring up the spirit of all those people who have contributed to provide the Amharic Bible in electronic form to the benefit and strengthening the saints as ministry of love. Amen! Enjoy! Enjoy!

Thank God.

Acknowledgement: Not only for translating the Holy Bible, but also for the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church itself.

The Holy Bible, which prepares us, is for our brothers and sisters all over the world, in the literal sense.

To the Almighty God, who has risen up and begun, to the one who has begun and completed, to the one who has risen up and begun, to the one who has risen up.

What makes this Amharic version different from other Amharic versions?

1: The preparation of the Holy Scriptures of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church;

2: The alphabet and spelling were prepared based on the Ge'ez and Amharic vocabulary.

B. The New Testament Books

The divisions (and, to some extent, the content) of the four Book of Sinodos are subject considerable ongoing debate amongst scholars; in this collection, we endeavour to follow – where we can – the layout of the Ge'ez texts. However, for some of these books, locating reliable, high-quality Ge'ez texts is proving to be difficult.

For the *Order of Zion* (Sər'ata Şəyon), we have yet to locate a usable Ge'ez (or other) text.

For the *Book of Herald* (Te'ezaz), we present the 1904 transcription of the Ge'ez text by Rev. George W. Horner (along with his Arabic text). Some consider the first part of this to be the Order of Zion, but the Ethiopic tradition does not corroborate this division. We also present the 1848 transcription of a Coptic manuscript, by Henry Tattam.

For the *Book of Gitsew* (Gəşsew), we present Winandus Fell's 1871 Ge'ez text.

For the *Book of Abtilis* (‘Abṭəlis), we have yet to find a usable source for the Ge’ez text, but we are currently working on encoding the last (7th) ‘book’ from Fell’s text (*vide supra*), which is clearly the same work.

Each of the other four books of the NT Broad Canons has its own issues. We have some usable Ge’ez (and other) sources for three of these, but they are large books and the digitization – in most cases – is ongoing.

For the *First Book of Dominos*, we have yet find/digitize a usable source text.

For the *Second Book of Dominos*, we use the Ge’ez transcription of the work, “*Le Testament en Galilée de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ*,” published by L. Guerrier and S. Grébaut, in 1913. Now, although this work cannot be identified with 2nd Dominos with 100% certainty, the connexion with the Coptic text of *Epistula Apostolorum* is clear.

The Ge’ez text for the *Book of Clement* (Qäləmentos) is problematic; Lumpkin based his English translation (the first ever, in 2024) on a text published by Gabra Yohannes Gabra Maryam – but the only copy of that work we have is of very poor quality, and some verses are entirely illegible. Nonetheless, we strive to get this work digitized.

The texts for the *Didascalia* (Ge’ez and Syriac) are available but in poor-quality images. Digitizing this will take some time but can be considered a ‘work-in-progress’.