

The ‘Calvinist Patriarch’ Cyril Lucaris and His Bible Translations*

- Antony J. Khokhar

Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Abstract

Cyril Lucaris’ Bible translation is a curious case from the Middle Ages. This article attempts to bring to the fore Lucaris’ efforts in translating the Bible and its ensuing aftermath. We begin by unfolding a few pages from the life of Lucaris in order to situate him in the context of his so-called grand endeavour. Our paper then concentrates on his teachings on the Bible. Here focus is put on his initiatives to translate the Bible into Modern Greek, a language of the masses. This enormous task, however, could not be accomplished individually. It required assistance and collaboration – political as well as intellectual – in order to gift his flock with a translated copy of the Bible. The last part of the essay presents the corrective measures taken by the Eastern Church to condemn the erroneous teachings of Cyril Lucaris. Various anathemas silenced his voice and reaffirmed orthodox teachings on the Sacred Scriptures.

Key concepts: Cyril Lucaris, Bible Translation, Confession of Faith of Cyril, Dositheus, the Patriarch of Jerusalem