

The Library in Alexandria and Bible in Greek (Supplements to Vetus Testamentum)

Nina L. Collins



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The Library in Alexandria and Bible in Greek (Supplements to Vetus Testamentum) Nina L. Collins The translation of the Hebrew bible into Greek brought the Jewish Scriptures into the non-Jewish world and enabled Greek-speaking Jews, the founders of Christianity, to establish a religion based on its prophecies. This accessible study argues that the Pentateuch was translated in 281 BC for Ptolemy II by a team of translators working for Demetrius of Phalerum, the librarian of the great Library of Alexandria. Collins presents the evidence for this date, the opposition of the Jews, the motivation behind the work and the repurcussions of the translation. She also examines Demetrius of Phalerum who, she argues, was not only the employee of Ptolemy II but was also the first librarian of the Alexandria Library created by Ptolemy I. This is an informative history of both the Bible and the early history of Alexandria, and its Library, under the first two Ptolemies.

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