

Erasmus of Rotterdam

As a humanist (in the strict and specific sense of the word) Erasmus highly appreciated Hebrew and demanded thorough knowledge of the original language of the Bible. “Who does not master all three holy tongues [i.e., Hebrew, Greek, and Latin], is not a theologian, but a violator of the holy Theology” (Adagiae, 1515). But Erasmus' own knowledge of Hebrew was rudimentary and he was completely dependent on other scholars' commentaries and upon their direct, personal help (in his New Testament commentaries and paraphrases of Psalms). Hence numerous mistakes, “anti-philological” interpretations (discrediting Erasmus' general method), and even a kind of irritation against “ambiguities” of Hebrew can be found in his writings. Source: <http://bit.ly/2FAW6ZN>

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