

Our Bibles

John 14:26; 2Peter 1:15; 2Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 4:16; Ephesians 3:1-5

Materials

Stone, clay, wood & wax, metal, potsherds, papyrus, leather, parchment vellum

Arrangements

Scroll - Codex

3 Languages

Hebrew Aramaic Greek

Copied by hand each time. Romans scribes copying as text was read aloud, thus making many copies at a time, 1 scribe = 1 copy still though.

Types

Autographs - original writings - none survived

Manuscripts - in original Greek language - ~5,300

UNICALS - all caps no spaces - ~650 [95 papyri, 270 lectionaries (for public readings), 280 parchment]

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ANAPOSTLESETAPARTFORTHEGOSPELOFGODW

Minuscules - ~13,000 copies of portions of the NT in Greek. Some within 50-100 years of original

Location

Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy; No one controls all

Variants

No Effect - **Jhn 7:53-8:11; Acts 8:37; 1Jhn 5:7**

Could Effect - **Mk 16:9-20**

How

Manuscripts

Vatican Manuscript - 4th century cataloged 1481 available 1867 pub 1890

From Gen 46:28 to Heb 9:14, James-Jude, except Psa 106-138, Timothy, Titus & Revelation

Mk 16:9-20 not written but space left sufficient for its inclusion

Sinaitic Manuscript - 4th century first available 1862 pub 1933

complete NT

Alexandrian Manuscript - 5th century 1627

most all Old & New/missing Mt 1:1-25:6; Jhn 6:50-8:52; 2Cor 4:13-12:6

Versions

>1,000 copies & fragments – Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic

~8,000 Latin Vulgate dating almost to Jerome's original ~400 AD

Writings

1,000s of quotations of NT in early writings – 100-400 AD

"so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament." **Professor Bruce Metzger**

Bible in Latin until 1500s

First Greek NT in 1516 Erasmus from few late greek manuscripts available, none of the early unicals
Stephanus & others revised through til 1633 known as "Received Text"

Westcott-Hort text 1881 able to use Vatican & Sinaitic as well as many other new discoveries not available to Erasmus & Stephanus

First English versions

Wycliffe 1382 from Latin

Tyndale 1526 from Greek

Coverdale 1535

Great Bible 1539 - (Preachers complained that people wanted to hear reading of Bible instead of their sermons)

Geneva Bible 1560 - included commentary of John Calvin & reformation

Bishops Bible 1568

Catholic version **Rheims** NT 1582 - **Douai** OT 1610

King James 1611 - Very scholarly work, revision of Bishops Bible 48 Greek & Hebrew scholars almost 3 yrs; no commentary! Over 80% of KJV is Tyndale's translation; It was not a start over from scratch as some have presented it

English Revised 1885 - English revision of KJV followed British line of thinking could use old manuscripts

American Standard 1901 - English revision of KJV followed American line of thinking

Revised Standard NT 1946 OT 1952 - Another revision of KJV

New Revised Standard 1990

New American Standard NT 1963 OT 1971 - Revision to bring ASV back into public focus; updated in 1995

NKJV 1979/1982 - 2 editions - discovered the minor changes of thee, thou etc. would not allow them to copyright the text, so they revised more to be sufficient to copyright.

ESV 2001, updated in 2007, minor update 2011 – followed Revised Standard line from KJV to achieve a contemporary English text. It also restored the messianic prophecy language to the OT.

New translations done with better resources, more access to earlier texts & more texts. Revision done by many scholars working together. These things lead to a more accurate text.

DLH

How We Got the Bible – Neil R. Lightfoot
The Books & the Parchments – Bruce Morgan