

Greek To Me Ephesians 3:1-6

Original Copies

Top 3 Manuscripts - Greek Uncials

Vatican Manuscript (300s) c1481 a1867 p1890

Sinaitic Manuscript (300s) a1862 p1933

Alexandrian Manuscript (400s) p1627

All Greek manuscripts generally classified in 3 groups

Alexandrian - origin traced to Alexandria, Egypt

Syrian/Byzantine - origin traced to Antioch, Syria

Western - origin traced to Western Europe

Versions - Translations

Septuagint Greek Old Testament (Hebrew original) mid 200s BC

Syriac, Latin, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic, Georgian

~8,000 Latin Vulgate (common/commonly accepted) dating almost to Jerome's revision ~400 AD

Lindisfarne Gospels Latin ~700 (interlinear Anglo-Saxon ~950)

>1,000 copies & fragments

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

A Work Of Centuries

Chapters – Stephen Langton ~1227 (somewhat different than ours)

Erasmus - First Greek NT in 1516

Few late Greek manuscripts available, none of the early uncials

Robert Stephanus ~1551 - Robert (Estienne) Stephanus; 1546-1551 several revised editions

1551 1st include chapter & verse; 1550 edition "Royal edition" (almost entirely Erasmus)

Theodore Beza revised 1565-1604 (little changed from Stephanus)

By 1633 known as "Textus Receptus" or "Received Text" (minor editing, not substantially changed today) - 1611 KJV - translated from these revisions

Alexandrian (1627) & other new earlier Greek made available caused call for improving Greek text

John Mill - 1707 published reprint of 1550 Stephanus Greek with collection of ~30,000 variants

This and other events pushed for a new look

Sinaitic & Vatican available mid 1800s

Opportunity for new edition Greek & thorough revision of KJV

1881 - Brooke Foss Westcott & Fenton John Anthony Hort

Published "The New Testament in the Original Greek"

New text using Vatican & Sinaitic as well as many other new discoveries not available to Erasmus & Stephanus with preference for oldest/closest available (quality over quantity)

Also published accompanying volume discussing principles used to develop (great care to consider ALL available resources)

Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece/United Bible Society Greek New Testament

Current Greek Text in the line of Westcott-Hort

Nestle-Aland & Received Text are major Greek texts today though there are a few others. Most of these are the same in 80-85% of their text.

English For Me Please

Bible mostly in Latin until 1500s; Anglo-Saxon interlinear mid 900s

Wycliffe 1382 from Latin revision 1388

Tyndale 1526 from Greek (Erasmus) (smuggled into England)

Much of his English text (80-90%) in KJV

Coverdale 1535; Matthew's Bible 1537; Taverner's Bible 1539 (improved renderings in NT)

Great Bible 1539 - First authorized by king (Henry VIII) to read in churches (of England) - (Preachers complained that people wanted to hear reading of Bible instead of their sermons)

Geneva Bible 1560 - Legible type (first English chapter/verse) Major step between Tyndale & KJV; Shakespeare, Jamestown, Plymouth; Had commentary of John Calvin & reformation

Bishops' Bible 1568

Catholic version Rheims NT 1582 - Douai OT 1610 (from Latin Vulgate, not Greek)

Authorized (KJV) 1611 - Bishops' Bible revision

scholarly work, ~48 Greek & Hebrew scholars almost 3 yrs; no commentary! Advantage of better Greek & Hebrew understanding; Second edition 1613 - over 400 variations

Over 80% Tyndale's translation, revision not new

English Revised 1885 - British revision benefit from Westcott-Hort studies

American Standard 1901 - American revision from previous English (mainly idiom & spelling) more variation from KJV; Complaints of both "too much" and "not enough" revision

Revised Standard NT 1946 OT 1952

Another revision of KJV (first to have full advantage of WH & Biblical papyri)

New Revised Standard 1990 (revision of RSV-ASV-KJV-Tyndale)

New English NT 1961 complete new translation using sense for sense

New English OT Revised NT 1970

New American Standard NT 1963 OT 1971; updated in 1995

Revision to bring ASV back into public focus; Nestle 26th (Substantially same as 1881 WH)

New International NT 1973 OT 1978, 1984, 2011 - Nestle-Aland Clearing up RSV more sense for sense; Revised English 1989 make New English a little more 'American'

NKJV 1979/1982

Received Text; 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.

Good News Bible 1976

Living Bible 1971, The Message 1993 paraphrase (more commentary than translation)

Holman Christian Standard 1999-2009 - Nestle-Aland 27th/United Bible Societies' 4th

ESV 2001, updated in 2007, minor update 2011 - Followed RSV line from KJV to achieve a contemporary English text. It also restored the messianic prophecy language to the OT.

Christian Standard 2017 - HCS revision Nestle-Aland 28th/UBS 5th

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.

More To Come

Next lesson will deal with variants/omissions (probably in May)

Variants

KJV - 'hell' for both 'Hades' & 'Gehenna'

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

Could Effect - Mark 16:9-20

DLH

How We Got the Bible – Neil R. Lightfoot 1963, 1988, 2003, Ebook 2012

The Books & the Parchments – F.F. Bruce 1991, Ebook 2018