

Trusting The Text 2Peter 1:16-21

Scripture Was Promised

John 14:26; 2Peter 1:15; 3:15-16; Colossians 4:16; Ephesians 3:1-5; 2Timothy 4:13

A long process of preservation was instrumental in providing your convenient handheld Bible

Not Just Paper And Ink

Materials - Stone, clay, wood & wax, metal, potsherds, papyrus, leather, parchment, vellum
papyrus - paper from thin wide strip from plant mainly Egypt
leather - tanned animal skin
parchment/vellum - stretched & dried small animal skins (sheep, goats, calfs), vellum - calfskin
Parchment far superior - Much of New testament preserved on parchment.

Arrangements - Scroll - Codex

Scroll - roll of paper or leather up to 35 feet long (length of Mt or Acts)

Codex - leaves bound together much like our books today. May be christian innovation for purpose of distributing the word.

3 Languages - Hebrew - Aramaic - Greek

OT Hebrew few chapters of Aramaic, mainly Daniel 2:4b-7:8

Several of Jesus' expressions are Aramaic notable - **Mark 15:34**

NT Greek particularly Koine (common) universal language of 1st century

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.

Gathered Together

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

Types

Autographs - original writings - none survived

Manuscripts - in original Greek language - ~5,300

UNCIALS - all caps no spaces - ~650 [95 papyri (20th century), 270 lectionaries (public readings)]

Gives ~ 280 parchment manuscripts (like our Bibles) copied in 3rd or 4th - 10th century

PAULASERVANTOFJESUSCHRISTCALLEDTOBEANAPOSTLESETAPARTFORTHEGOSPELOFGODWHICHHEPROMISED BEFOREHANDTHROUGH HIS PROPHETS

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

Top 3 Manuscripts - Greek Uncials

Vatican Manuscript - 4th century (300s) cataloged 1481 available 1867 pub 1890

From Genesis 46:28 to Hebrews 9:14, James-Jude (located between Acts & Hebrews), except Psalm 106-138, Timothy, Titus & Revelation

Mark 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 (has paragraphs noted)

most all Old & New/missing Matthew 1:1-25:6; John 6:50-8:52; 2Corinthians 4:13-12:6

Versions - Translations

An Anglo-Saxon word for word 'interlinear' ~950 in Lindisfarne Gospels Latin ~700 (Image Matthew 26:39-55) First English-type translation

>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 mostly in Latin until 1500s

Greek To Me

Chapters – Stephen Langton ~1227; Verses – Robert Stephanus ~1551

First Greek NT in 1516 Erasmus from few late greek manuscripts available, no early unicals

Stephanus Latin Vulgate first to include chapter & verse divisions. He & others revised through til 1633 known as "Received Text" (KJV) (Still being edited/revised today)

Westcott-Hort text 1881 able to use Vatican & Sinaitic as well as many other new discoveries not available to Erasmus & Stephanus (RSV/ASV benefited) (Still being edited/revised today)

Variants

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

Could Effect - Mark 16:9-20

First English versions

Wycliffe 1382 from Latin

Tyndale 1526 from Greek

Coverdale 1535

Great Bible 1539 - (Preachers complained people wanted reading of Bible instead of sermons)

Geneva Bible 1560 - commentary of John Calvin & reformation (first English with chapter/verse)

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 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 (first to have full advantage of WH)

New Revised Standard 1990

New American Standard NT 1963 OT 1971 - Revision bring ASV back to public focus; updated 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 contemporary English text. It also restored the messianic prophecy language to 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