The New Testament Manuscripts

Randy Broberg 2005

MS 193 The Crosby-Schøyen Codex. Egypt, 3rd c.
The oldest MS of Jonah and 1st Peter, and the oldest book in private ownership
1 Peter 3:15

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.
Review: Battle Over The Bible

- God
- Revelation
- Human Author’s Mind of the Writer
- Inspiration
- Manuscripts of the Bible
- Modern Greek & Hebrew Bibles
- Collection of the 66 books of the Bible
- Textual Criticism
- Modern English Translations
- Canonicity
Review: Attacks On The NT

- **Legend**: The NT Was Written Long After The Events Described
- **Lost Gospels**: The Canon Left Out Crucial Texts
- **Transcription Errors**: The NT we have today doesn't match the original versions
When all facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm.
Review: Limits To Inerrancy: Manuscripts Transmissions

• “Inerrancy” refers to the original autographs and NOT to the transmitted copies of the texts, which are susceptible to copying error.
Transmission Methods
2 Tim. 4:13

• “When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.”

• -Paul
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO TEXTUAL CRITICISM
Definitions and Illustrations Taken from
Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism
by J. Harold Greenlee

Definition:
Textual criticism is the study of copies of copies of any written work on which the autograph (original) is unknown, with the purpose of ascertaining the original text.
4800 extant mss. in Greek
8000 extant mss. in Latin
1000 extant mss. in other languages

Materials, Utensils, Book Form, Style:
NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPTS
Total Greek and Non-Greek Manuscripts

Greek manuscripts  c. 5,686
Latin Vulgate 10,000
Ethiopic, Slavic and Armenian 8,000
TOTAL ------------------------------- c. 24,000

Plus c. 32,000 citations from pre-Nicene church Fathers
Number of Greek Manuscripts

- 6,686 Greek manuscripts containing all or portions of the New Testament that have survived to our time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncials</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniscules</td>
<td>2860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectionaries</td>
<td>2410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papyri</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5686</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer</td>
<td>Iliad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herodotus</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thucydides</td>
<td>History of the Peloponnesian War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demosthenes</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesar</td>
<td>Gallic Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livy</td>
<td>History of Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suetonius</td>
<td>12 Caesars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacitus</td>
<td>Annals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliny Secundus</td>
<td>Natural History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15,000 Ancient NT Translations

- 15,000 copies
- Syriac,
- Old and New Latin,
- Sahidic,
- Bohairic,
- Middle Egyptian,
- Armenian,
- Gothic,
- Georgian,
- Ethiopic, and
- Nubian versions.
Even if We Lost All the Greek Manuscripts....

“Because even if we had no Greek manuscripts today, by piecing together the information from these translations from a relatively early date, we could actually reproduce the contents of the New Testament.”

Dr. Bruce Metzger,
Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary
Early Church Quotations

- 36,000 quotations used in letters and literature written by the early church show we have the same form as they had nearly 2,000 years ago.
- John Burgeon, a Biblical scholar, cataloged over 86,000 quotations before A.D. 325.
## Early Quotations of the NT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writer</th>
<th>Gospels</th>
<th>Acts</th>
<th>Pauline Epistles</th>
<th>General Epistles</th>
<th>Revelation</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justin Martyr</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irenaeus</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement of Alexandria</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origen</td>
<td>9,231</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>7,778</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>17,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertullian</td>
<td>3,822</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>2,609</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>7,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hippolytus</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>1,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eusebius</td>
<td>3,258</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Totals</td>
<td>19,368</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>14,035</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>36,289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Even if we lost all the Greek AND Non-Greek Manuscripts

- These quotations are so extensive that the New Testament could virtually be reconstructed from them without the use of New Testament manuscripts.


- ...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.

TIME
INTERVAL
“In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament.”

Sir Frederic Kenyon
Review: Dating The Originals

The Gospels

- John
- Luke
- Mark
- Matthew

B.C. 50

A.D.

50 60 70 80 90 100 120 140 150

Jesus crucified

70 years

48-50 A.D.
Galatians

50 A.D.
1&2 Thessalonians

54-56 A.D.
1&2 Corinthians

57 A.D.
Romans

40-60 A.D.
James

60 A.D.
Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon

65-80 A.D.
Jude

63-65 A.D.
1&2 Timothy, Titus

85-95 A.D.
1 John

60-68 A.D.
1 Peter

50-60 A.D.
1&2 Corinthians

54-56 A.D.
1&2 Corinthians

57 A.D.
Romans

60 A.D.
Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon
Dead Sea Scrolls’ *Mark* Fragments Pre-70 AD

Qumran cave 7 (7q5 is Mark 6:52-53) – (dated around 50 A.D. !)
John Rylands MSS: Dated A. D. 114-130.

✓ Oldest fragment of NT, contains only five verses (Jn. 18:31-33, 37-38) but reads exactly the same as the Greek text today!

The Rylands Fragment
John 18:31-33, 37 AD 130
Magdalen Papyrus
Dated 150 AD

- Magdalen papyrus - fragment (dated around 150 A.D., but a more recent dating place it possible around 50 A.D. !)
Brodmer Papyrus II: Dated A. D. 150-200.

✓ Contains first 14 chapters of John and portions of last 7 chapters.

Brodmer papyrus: dated around 200 A.D.
Oxyrrhynchus Papyrus, 200 AD

Papyrus of the Acts, found at Oxyrrhynchus, Egypt. 3rd century AD.
P66
200 AD

- John 1:1:
  - ENARCHHNLOGOS
P.Oxy. LXIV 4405
Matthew XXIII 30-34; 35-39
Late 2\textsuperscript{nd}/Early 3\textsuperscript{rd}
Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri: Dated A. D. 200-250

☑ Contains all 4 gospels, Acts, 10 of Paul’s epistles, Revelation.

- Chester Beatty papyrus P45 - fragment
Codex Vaticanus: Dated A. D. 325.

• Contains almost the entire Bible (except Mk. 16:19-20; Jn. 7:53-8:11).
## Time Intervals:  
**Originals → Quotations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Church Father</th>
<th>Quotes</th>
<th>Intervals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 70-163</td>
<td>Papias</td>
<td>all four gospels</td>
<td>0-110 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 69-155</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>3 John, James, Hebrews, Jude</td>
<td>0-100 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 111</td>
<td>Ignatius</td>
<td>quoting Gospels and other NT letters.</td>
<td>20-60 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 130-200</td>
<td>Iranaeus</td>
<td>Philemon, James, 2 Peter, and 3 John</td>
<td>80-110 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 150-215</td>
<td>Clement of Alexandria</td>
<td>2 Timothy, and 2 John, 2 Peter and James</td>
<td>100-150 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 100-165</td>
<td>Justin Martyr</td>
<td>2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, James, Hebrews, Jude</td>
<td>10-75 yrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time Intervals: Quotations

- 30 A.D. Jesus crucified
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- 95 A.D. Clement
- 110 - 115 A.D. Ignatius
- 120 A.D. Polycarp
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Date Written</th>
<th>Earliest Extant Copies</th>
<th>Time Gap</th>
<th>No. of Copies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homer</td>
<td>Iliad</td>
<td>800 B.C.</td>
<td>C. 400 B.C.</td>
<td>c. 400 yrs</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herodotus</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>480-425 B.C.</td>
<td>C. A.D. 900</td>
<td>c. 1,350 yrs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thucydides</td>
<td>History of the Peloponesian War</td>
<td>460-400 B.C.</td>
<td>C. A.D. 900</td>
<td>c. 1,300 yrs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>Various dialogs</td>
<td>400 B.C.</td>
<td>C. A.D. 900</td>
<td>c. 1,300 yrs</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td></td>
<td>384 - 322 BC</td>
<td>C. A.D. 1100</td>
<td>c. 1,200 yrs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demosthenes</td>
<td></td>
<td>300 B.C.</td>
<td>C. A.D. 1100</td>
<td>c. 1,400 yrs</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesar</td>
<td>Gallic Wars</td>
<td>100-44 B.C.</td>
<td>C. A.D. 900</td>
<td>c. 1,000 yrs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livy</td>
<td>History of Rome</td>
<td>59 B.C.-A.D. 17</td>
<td>4th century (partial) Mostly 10th century</td>
<td>c. 400 yrs c. 1,000 yrs</td>
<td>1 partial 19 copies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suetonius</td>
<td></td>
<td>180 AD</td>
<td>C. A.D. 950</td>
<td>c. 750 yrs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacitus</td>
<td>Annals</td>
<td>A.D. 100</td>
<td>C. A.D. 1100</td>
<td>c. 1,000 yrs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliny Secundus</td>
<td>Natural History</td>
<td>A.D. 61-113</td>
<td>C. A.D. 850</td>
<td>c. 750 yrs</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
<td>A.D. 50-100</td>
<td>C. 114 (fragment) C. 200 (books) C. 250 (most of N.T.) C. 325 (complete N.T.)</td>
<td>+ 50 yrs 100 yrs. 150 yrs. 225 yrs.</td>
<td>5,366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparing Time Intervals

- Time when the work was written
- Earliest surviving copy

- Plato (400BC)
- Pliny
- Suetonius
- Caesar

- Josephus
- Complete NT text
- NT
- Eusebius
- Papias (Against Heresy)
- Pliny
- Caesar
- Plato
- Suetonius
- Josephus

Time scale: 200 BC, 100 BC, 1, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100.
“The interval then between the dates of the original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

Sir Frederic Kenyon
*The Bible and Archaeology*, P. 288
The Lord's Prayer (Luke xi, 2-4) from the Codex Sinaiticus. In the margin, the petition 'and deliver us from evil' originally omitted, was inserted by a corrector.
Time Intervals: Papyri

B.C. 50
0 50 60 70 80 90 100 120 140 150 A.D.

Dead Sea Scrolls

30 A.D. Jesus crucified

98 - 130 A.D. John Ryland fragment

125 - 150 A.D. Chester Beatty fragment

John

Mark

30 A.D.

98 - 130 A.D.

125 - 150 A.D.

Jesus crucified

John

Mark

Dead Sea Scrolls

B.C. 50
0 50 60 70 80 90 100 120 140 150 A.D.
VARIATIONS IN THE TEXT
Variant Example „AMEN“

- P46 - Philipper / Kolosser
Example of Variant: Mark 16

CODEX SINAITICUS
Mark 16:2 - Luke 1:18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Unintentional Variants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mistaken Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Homophony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Dittography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Homoioteleuton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## INTENTIONAL VARIANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in grammar or spelling</th>
<th>Updating in languages.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harmonization</td>
<td>Often the scribe felt at liberty to change apparent discrepancies. (Lk 23:38 and Jn 19:20).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological changes and/or additions</td>
<td>In Luke 2:41 `gonei/j auvtou/ “His parents” was changed in some Latin manuscripts to “Joseph and Mary” probably to safeguard the doctrine of the virgin birth by clarifying that Joseph was not Jesus’ biological father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Comma Johanine</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 John 5:7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Additions</td>
<td>Matthew 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <em>For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</em>'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
200,000 Variants
Is That a Concern?

- The more manuscripts, the more mistakes
- The more manuscripts, the greater number of comparisons that can be made.
- Example: early copyist spelled a word incorrectly. Then his manuscript was copied. This continued for centuries until a line of 4,000 copied manuscripts contained the misspelled word. This would constitute 4,000 errors!
### Table 1. Variant-free verses in the New Testament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Total Number of Verses</th>
<th>Variant-Free Verses Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>1071</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>57.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>51.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>67.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>75.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossians</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>68.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Thessalonians</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>72.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Timothy</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>81.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Timothy</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philemon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>76.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peter</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 John</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 John</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 John</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>73.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7947</strong></td>
<td><strong>4999</strong></td>
<td><strong>62.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
99% of Variants Inconsequential

“If Comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the the article with proper names, and the like are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the New Testament.”

Only 40 NT Lines have Variant Meanings

• Out of the 20,000 lines of the New Testament, only 40 lines of text have readings that present even a minor change of meaning.
• What this means is that we are sure of the accuracy of 99.5 percent of the Biblical text!
• Percentage wise, this means that only one half of one percent of the variants actually change the meaning of the text in any way!
NT 99.5% True to Originals

- Norman L. Geisler & William E. Nix said:
  The New Testament has not only survived in more manuscripts than any other book from antiquity (i.e., there are many more copies of the New Testament from ancient times in the world today), but the New Testament has also survived in a purer form than any other book - a form that is 99.5% pure (i.e., 99.5% of the New Testament that we read today is exactly the same as the original copy that was written almost 2000 years ago !!!)
No Variants Affect Any Central Doctrine

- Ninety-nine percent of the variants make no theological difference.
- Of the one percent that do, none affect any major doctrine.
Comparing Variants

Before Abraham was, I am

48 'Απεκρίθησαν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι καὶ εἶπαν αὐτῷ, ὡ Ἰσαὰκ γενέσθαι ἡμῖν ὡς εἶ οὗτος καὶ τοστὸ οὐκ ἀκούσετε, ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐκ ἐστε.

The Healing of a Man Born Blind

9 Καὶ παράγων εἶδον ἀνθρώπων τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετής. 2 καὶ ἤρωταν αὐτὸν ὁ θεός αὐτοῦ λέγοντες, 'Ραββί, τίς ἡμαρτεν, οὗτος ἡμεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἐν τυφλῷ γενετήθη; 3 ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐὰν τοὺς ἁμαρτήσας, οὐδὲ ἡμεῖς ἡμεῖς ἦμεν, ἀλλὰ τίς ἡμαρτήσας τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ ἡμῖν; 4 ἠμαρτήσας τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ ἡμῖν ἐκ τοῦ ἡμῶν; 5 ἠμαρτήσας τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ ἡμῖν ἐκ τοῦ ἡμῶν.
κράβαττόν σου και περιπάτει. 12 ἡρώτησαν αὐτὸν, 'Τύς ἐστιν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ εἰπὼν σοι, Ἄρον καὶ περιπάτει; 13 ὁ δὲ λαβεὶς οὐκ ἤδει τίς ἐστιν, ὁ γὰρ Ἰσούς ἐξένευσεν.

3 [A] ἡρῴων ὄν. 75 Β* B. C* L. T 0141 157 it (syr) cop. ἐκδεχομένων τὴν τοῦ ὦδατος κίνησιν A. C. W. W. χρήσις ἐκδεχομένων. Δ. Θ. Ψ. 078 0233 f. 193 28 33 (180 ἀπεκδεχομένων) 205 565 576 597 700 892 1006 1010 1071 1241 1243 1292 1342 1424 1505 Byz [E F G H] Lect (f. 193) 16 ἐκδεχομένων it. c. f. 1. 2. 3. 4. vg syr. a. b. 1. cop. arm eth. geo slav Chrysostom Cyril. 3 [A] omit ἡρῴων (eth 3rd).

4 3 [A] omit verse 4. Β* B C* D T W. W. 0141 133 157 it. 1. 2. 3. 4. vg. syr. cop. pho. bat. act. 2. arm geo Amphilochius // include verse 4 (according to A, with many variations in later mss and versions) ἄγγελος γὰρ κυρίου κατὰ καιρὸν ἐλεύθετο ἐν τῇ κολυμβήσεσα καὶ ἐπάραστο τὸ ὦδωρ ὁ σὺν πρῶτος ἐμβάς μετὰ τὴν ταραξὴν τοῦ ὦδατος υγιῆς ἐγίνετο οὐ κηλικοῦ συν κατειχέτο νοσήματι A. C. L. Δ. Θ. Ψ. 078 0233 f. 193 28 180 205 565 579 597 700 892 1006 1010 1071 1241 1243 1292 1342 1424 1505 Byz [E F G H] Lect it. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 1. vg. 1. syr. a. b. c. cop. slav. eth. geo slav Didymus Chrysostom Cyril. Tertullian Hilary Ambrose // include verse 4 with asterisks or obeli Π 047 syr.
Variant Comparison: NT vs. Iliad

• Homer’s Iliad:
  – 764 lines (5%) is doubtful

• New Testament:
  – Only 40 lines (0.05%) are doubtful
Manuscript Families
The four different Christian areas of the Roman Empire which produced their respective family of manuscripts.
“Byzantine” or “Majority” Text

• These manuscripts constitute 4/5th of the extant Greek texts in our possession—hence “majority text”.

• Yet, the vast majority of them come from the 10th through 15th centuries.

• That is, they represent the later, ecclesiastical text, rather than the more primitive text of the first centuries.
“Textus Receptus”

- The “Textus Receptus” is derived from the “Byzantine” family of manuscripts.
- The “Textus Receptus” was created by Desiderius Erasmus.
- Erasmus printed and published the first edition of the Greek NT in 1516. The 3rd edition of his text was particularly influential.
- A total of five editions came from him; after him, Stephanus (1555) and Beza (1598) edited the work, and it was used by the KJV translators for their NT (1604-1611).
- TR Continued to be revised until 1633
- the TR differs in over 1800 places from the “Majority Text”
Modern texts, however, are based upon an "eclectic" text that draws from a wider variety of sources than the TR, including manuscripts unknown in the days of Erasmus.

Some of the papyri manuscripts used in the modern Nestle-Aland 27th edition date to as early as AD 125.

But these different sources, being more primitive, do not show the effect of long-term transcription seen in the Byzantine texts, and hence are not as "full" as the TR.
Textual History of the New Testament

**Antiochian**
(Eastern)

400 ← Byzantine Text
Greek (4800) → 1500

1100 ← Erasmus
MMS → 1500

1516  Erasmus
1550  Stephanus 3rd Edition
1611  KJV
1624  Elzevir 1st Edition
1633  Elzevir 2nd Edition
(Textus Receptus)

**Alexandrian**
(Western)

120 ← Papyri
400 → 1880
Westcott/Hort
1898  Nestle

350  Sinaiticus
Vaticanus

382  Jerome (Vulgate)

400 ← Latin (8000) → 1500

1880  ASV
RSV
NEB
NIV
NASV
NKJV (Footnotes)
Some Rules of Textual Criticism

• older reading is to be preferred
• more difficult reading is to be preferred
• shorter reading is to be preferred
• text which contains the less familiar grammar and syntax is to be preferred
• normal style and vocabulary of the author is to be preferred
• reading which matches the flow of the immediate context is to be preferred
NEXT WEEK: TRANSLATIONS!

5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:
8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor

Strong's data for "word" <0565>

0565 אָמְרָה 'imrah
{im-raw'} or אֱמָרָה {em-raw'}
- from 0561; TWOT - 118b; n f
- AV - word 29, speech

λόγοι noun nominative masculine plural
common, from [UBS]
λόγος, ou m something said (e.g. word; saying; message, teaching; talk; conversation; question

WTM Morphology + Strong's Hebrew

every, anything 1c)
totality, everything

H565 אָמְרָה (or אֶמְרָה) 1) utterance, speech,
word 1a) word of God, the Torah