

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of an ancient papyrus scroll. The scroll is made of yellowish-brown material and contains several columns of text written in dark ink. The text is in the Greek alphabet, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect, possibly representing the original language of the Bible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the papyrus and the individual letters of the text.

Bible Origins

**Apologetics, How We Got the Bible
and Why we can Believe it**

Introduction

- 4-week study
- No required reading or homework
- Participation requested
 - Bring your Bibles
 - Q&A at the end of each session

Agenda

- Apologetics
- Understanding Manuscripts
- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- The Many Versions of the English Bible

Faith Comes By Hearing

- Romans 10:17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Tough Spot
- Difficult Decision
- Proverbs 22:1 A [good] name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold

Apologetics

What is “Apologetics?”

- Apologetics is the study and application of defending a position
- Term comes from the Greek word *apologia* (απολογία), meaning “a speaking in defense.”
- The **Apostle Paul uses the term *apologia*** in his trial speech to Festus and Agrippa when he says “I make my defense...”

Apology

- English word “apology” comes from the Greek word *apologia*, but its use has changed
- Now refers to a plea for forgiveness for a wrong act
- Implicit is an admission of guilt, exactly the opposite of “speaking in defense”
- Modern usage makes the term confusing to Christians
 - Many even think Apologetics is somehow saying “sorry” for the hard sayings in God’s Word
- *Apologetics – Not just a Christian term*

All viewpoints have “apologists”

- Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu, Pantheism, Atheism, New Age, Emergent Church – all have “apologists”
- “Reverse Apologetics” –explaining why you don’t believe an alternative viewpoint
 - *For example, Why you believe the Bible and don’t believe the New Age*
- *Within Christianity, why you are “pre-trib” vs “post-trib”, or Protestant vs. Catholic*

Well-known apologists

- Norman Geisler, (“Christian Apologetics,” a source book for this study)
- Neil Lightfoot (“How we got the Bible,” a source book for this study)
- C. S. Lewis, (“Mere Christianity”)
- Tertullian of Carthage, (ca.155–230) was a church leader and was a notable early Christian apologist. He introduced the term “Trinity” (Wikipedia.com)
- Paul
 - Acts 9:22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and **confounded the Jews** who dwelt in Damascus, **proving that this [Jesus] is the Christ.**
- Reverse Christian Apologist: Saul of Tarsus
 - Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing [them] to prison.

Modern Apologist: You

- 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
- Why should you “be ready always to give a reason?”
- What kind of “reason” should you be ready to give?
 - Start like Paul: Acts 22
 - Don’t stop there
 - Hebrews 5:13
 - 2 Timothy 2:15

Apologetics: Why it's Important

- Deut 18:21 - And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'
- 1Tim 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.
- 2Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

What is Scripture?

- Most people receive the writings in their Bibles as “Holy Scripture” simply because they have purchased at the bookstore
- We trust in others that all scripture and nothing but scripture is between the covers of our Bibles
- What about all the different translations – which ones are the right ones?
- Why are there strange notes in my Bible about certain text “not in most reliable Manuscripts?” Isn’t all Scripture “God-breathed?”
- The question is, who compiled the Bible, and are they really competent to decide for all of us?

Have you ever heard...?

- The Bible was written by men, not inspired*
- Don't the Dead Sea scrolls prove that the Bible isn't right?*
- King James is the only truly inspired English translation*
- The Bible has been translated so many times...*

Have you ever wondered...?

- What does it mean when my Bible indicates “Some manuscripts omit this word?”
- If the Bible is inspired by God, why don’t the manuscripts all agree?
- With all those manuscripts out there, how do we know which ones are right?
- Who decided which books of the Bible were “inspired,” and how does that work?

People Have Questions

- Many People have questions, we should have answers
- Hard Questions, Solid Answers
- Most Common Questions



Once Saved, Always Saved?

- Can I lose my Eternal Salvation?
 - What about people who claim to be Christians, but then they fall away?
- But if I'm Saved, Why Do I still Sin?

If I'm Saved, Why Do I Still Sin?

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Body, Soul, Spirit

Apologetics and the Bible – Why it's important to you

- Bible itself is the cornerstone of our faith
- Ability to explain its origin and reliability are key
- Many have wandered due to
 - *Concerns over seemingly unbelievable accounts*
 - *Jonah and the great fish*
 - *Noah, the Ark and the Great Flood*
 - *Reports of “giants” (Goliath)*
 - *Miracles*
 - Concerns about “**apparent contradictions**”
 - *Concerns over reliability of God’s Word as passed down (our focus in this study)*

Apparent Contradictions: What did Pilate write on Jesus' cross?

- Matthew 27:37 THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Mark 15:26 THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Luke 23:38 THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- John 19:19 JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Which One is Right?

Apparent Contradiction Solution

Matthew 27:37	THIS IS	JESUS		THE KING OF THE JEWS
Mark 15:26				THE KING OF THE JEWS
Luke 23:38	THIS IS			THE KING OF THE JEWS
John 19:19		JESUS	OF NAZARETH	THE KING OF THE JEWS
Complete:	THIS IS	JESUS	OF NAZARETH	THE KING OF THE JEWS

Not Contradictory, Complementary

What is Hermeneutics?

- ***Definition***

- Study of the interpretation of written texts, especially texts in the areas of literature, religion and law (Wikipedia.com)

- **Are you entitled to your own *opinion*?**

- **Are you entitled to your own *interpretation*?**

- 2 Peter 1:20

Interpreting means understanding what the *author* intended

- Must include who the author is, **background** and other writings
- Who the author is talking to or about
- What is the context of the author's words
- Many read into the author's words **what they already want to believe** – “opinion,” not “interpreting”

Example – the desires of your heart

- Psa 37:4 **KJV**- Delight thyself also in the LORD; and **he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**
- Psa 37:4 **NLT** - Take delight in the LORD, and **he will give you your heart's desires.**
- What does it mean?

New Age “Interpretation”

- New Age tells you this confirms that God will give you whatever you strongly desire
- Basis for New Age “Power of Positive Thinking,” – to get what you strongly desire

Sidebar: Positive Attitude - Hijacked

- **Joseph**
 - Gen 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph, and **he was a successful man**; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
 - Thrown into a pit
 - Sold into slavery by his brothers
 - Thrown into prison for a crime he didn't commit
 - Forgotten by his fellow prisoners
 - Brought before Pharaoh
 - Eventually ruled the known world

Positive Attitude - Matthew and Paul

- Matthew
 - Mat 19:26 But Jesus looked at [them] and said to them, "With men this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.**"
- Paul
 - Eph 3:20 Now to Him who **is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us,
 - Rom 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose.
- If these things are true, Christians should be the world's most optimistic people

Interpreting - Examine Other writings of David

- Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy [and] renounces the LORD.
- Psalms 10:6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity."

Other Writings from David

- Psa 37:31 The law of his God [is] in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.
- Psalms 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law [is] within my heart.”

What does Ps 37:4 really mean?

- This Psalm of David [*author*] is all about the difference between the good and the wicked [*context*]
- Correct interpretation: God will give you *new desires*, not whatever you happen to desire at the time
- What kind of “new desires?”

Why is hermeneutics important

- Different than apologetics, but complementary
- Many point to troubles with *interpretation* and use that to discount the *reliability* of the Bible
- If an unbeliever can't discount the source, then the next step is to confuse or re-define the meaning
- Know the difference – is an objection about the source or the meaning?

Inductive Study

- Allowing the text to speak
- Not reading into the text what we already believe
- One of the keys to apologetics
- Are you entitled to your own opinion?
- Are you entitled to your own interpretation?



Presuppositions

- John 3:16
- How did we get this passage?
 - John 19:25-27 (John there, with Mary)
 - John 19:39-40 (Nicodemus there)
- Where did the burial spices come from? Mt 2:11

Be Filled with the Spirit

- Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
- singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
- 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Inductive Study: Look for lists... what about patterns?

Patterns (What's Missing)

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
- Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

More Patterns – A Curse

- Curse – to the Generations
- Exodus 34:7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."
- Jeremiah 31:29 "In those days they shall say no more: 'The fathers have eaten **sour grapes**, And the children's teeth are set on edge.' 30 "But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

More Patterns - A Curse, Con't

- Curse – Broken
- John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of **sour wine** was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with **sour wine**, put [it] on hyssop, and put [it] to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the **sour wine**, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

If Scripture is really “inspired...”

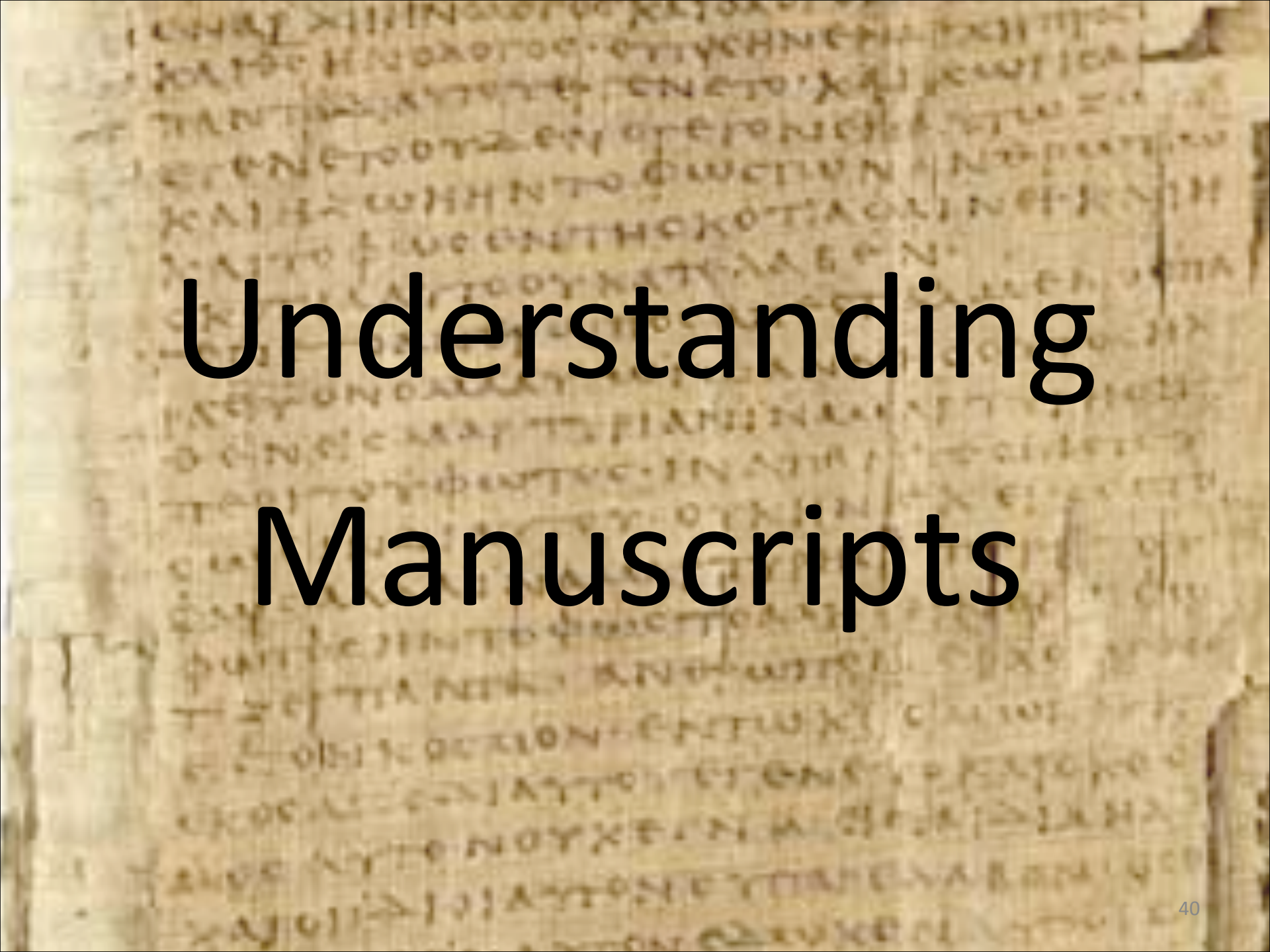
- Then why are there differences in the texts?
 - God works His purposes through people
 - People are fallible
 - Knowing that, what’s the best strategy for ensuring the message gets through?

Spread the Message evenly throughout the whole text of Scripture

- No single chapter on end times, salvation, baptism...
- Ensures that **no single human failure** can prevent the message from getting through
- Many copies of the message allow us to ensure accountability and comparison, source to source
- Read Isaiah 28:10

What does the Bible say about “Scripture?”

- Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.
- 2Tim 3:16 All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- What “Scripture” is being spoken of?

The background of the slide is a photograph of an ancient manuscript page, likely a papyrus scroll. The text is written in a cursive Greek hand, which is characteristic of the early Christian era. The ink is dark, and the parchment is a light, aged yellowish-brown color. The text is arranged in horizontal lines, with some larger letters or initials that might be part of a liturgical or doctrinal text. The overall appearance is that of a well-preserved but clearly antique document.

Understanding Manuscripts

Ancient Writings

- New Testament writings were made 14 centuries before Gutenberg invented the printing press
 - Old Testament way older than N.T.
 - No copy machines
 - No photography
- Only option -> hand-copying

Gutenberg Bible

- First printed Bible
- Edition of the Vulgate, printed by Johannes Gutenberg in the 1450s
- Believed that in total 180 copies were produced
- **21 complete volumes still exist**
- Considered the most expensive books on the market



From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutenberg_Bible

Terms associated with old writings

- Brief Overview of the Materials, Formats, and Languages that were used by scribes to create the copies of ancient writings
- Manuscript, from Latin
 - *Manu*, hand (English word “manual”)
 - *Script*, writing

Formats

- Tablet
- Scroll
- Codex



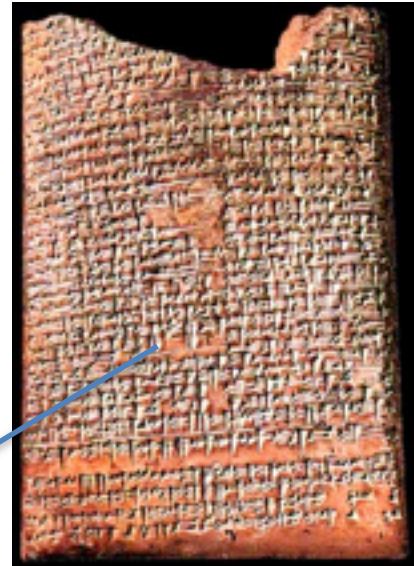
Dead Sea Scroll (Psalm Scroll) (Israel Antiquities Authority)



Codex discovered in Nag Hammadi (Egypt) in 1945 (Wikipedia)

Materials

- Stone – Very old Hebrew texts are carved in stone (including 10 Commandments). Very durable, not good for long writings
- Clay – Very common to write in moist clay and let dry. Also very durable; typically found inscribed in cuneiform (wedge-shaped) letters
- Ostraca – Shards of broken pottery
 - Practically indestructible, small size
- Writing boards, Wood and wax – O.T. mentions writing on wooden rods and sticks (Num 17:2-3; Eze 37:16-17)



Clay tablet from 700 BC inscribed in Mesopotamian cuneiform (www.bible-history.com)



inscribed pottery shards known as 'ostraka'

Lightfoot, "How we got the Bible"



Materials, Con't

- Papyrus

- Light, Flexible. A thick paper-like material produced from the pith of the papyrus plant once abundant in the Nile Delta of Egypt.
- First used in ancient Egypt, also used throughout the Mediterranean region.
- Papyrus had the advantage of being relatively cheap and easy to produce, but it was fragile and susceptible to both moisture and excessive dryness.
- Letters and books of the N.T. were originally written on papyrus

- Parchment (Vellum)

- Made from animal skins (usually Calfskin, sheepskin)
- Much more durable than papyrus
- Sheets of parchment were folded to form quires from which book-form “codices” were fashioned. Early Christian writers soon adopted the codex form, and in the Roman world it became common to cut sheets from papyrus rolls to form codices.
- An improvement on the papyrus scroll as the papyrus was not strong enough to fold without cracking and a long roll, or scroll, was required to create large volume texts.



Papyrus Bodmer II (p66) from 200 A.D. Uncial Greek.
From www.earlham.edu/~seidti/iam/tc_pap66.html



(Codex Sinaiticus parchment,
from www.codex-sinaiticus.net)

(from Wikipedia.com, Lightfoot,
“How we got the Bible”)

Languages

- O.T. - Hebrew
- N.T. - Greek - (with some Aramaic)
- Ideal Language Choices

Aramaic

- Many scholars believe that Jesus primarily spoke Aramaic, with some Hebrew and Greek
- A common language of the Eastern Mediterranean in the time of Jesus
- Aramaic remained a **common language of Israel** in the first century A.D., despite the Macedonian-Greek (331 B.C.) and Roman (63 B.C.) invasions
- Modern Aramaic is spoken today as a first language by many scattered, predominantly small, isolated communities of West Asia

N.T. Aramaic References

- Mark 5:41 And taking the hand of the child, he said to her, "**Talitha kum**", which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, get up".
- Mark 7:34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "**Ephphatha**", which is 'be opened'.
- Mark 14:36 "**Abba**, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
- John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, **Rabboni**; which is to say, Master. (KJV)
- Matthew 27:46 Around the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, saying "**Eli Eli lema sabachthani?**" which is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Hebrew

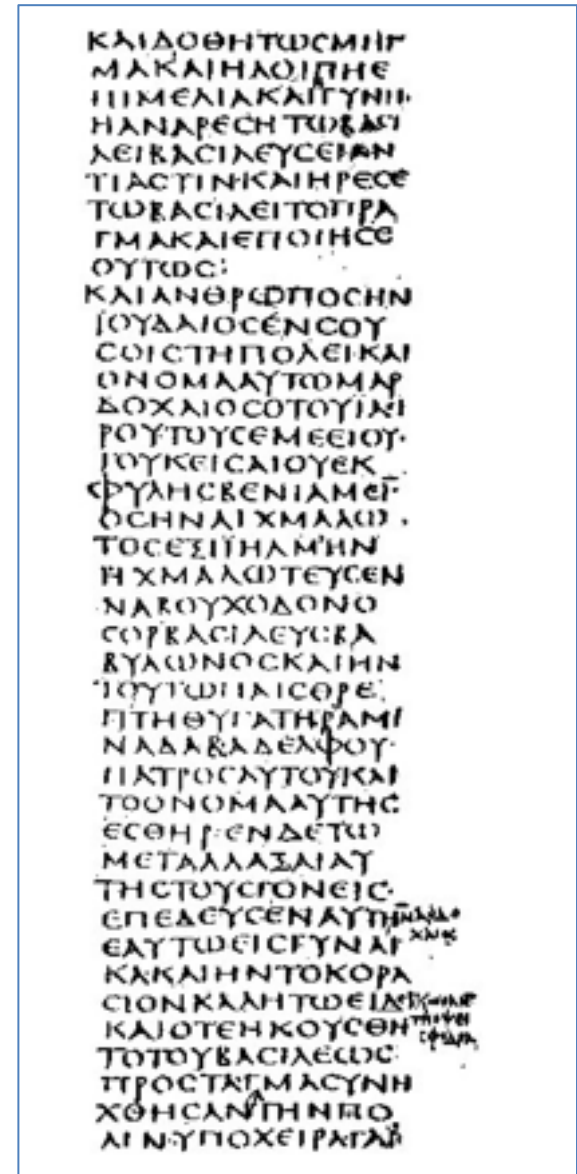
- Ancient and current language of the Jews
- Written and read from right to left
- O.T. originally written in Hebrew
- Letters are generally of a square shape, and underneath them are little dots and strokes
- The vowels are indicated by the dots or points beneath these letters
- The writing is usually arranged in columns



Hebrew manuscript - 9th century, from <http://www.katapi.org.uk/BibleMSS/HebrewMS.htm>

Greek Uncial

- An early form of Greek writing characterized by all-caps and little punctuation or spaces, making it difficult to read



A portion of the Codex Sinaiticus, in Byzantine uncial, containing Esther 2:3-8
From Wikipedia.com

Greek Uncial, Con't

- Exercise: Try reading this sample of similar text in English
 - A famous conversation, in English “Uncial-style”
 - Tell how many people in conversation, what they were doing, and what each one said:

ALDRINFOURFORWARDFOURFORW
ARDDRIFTINGTOTHERIGHTALIT
TLETWENTYFEETDOWNAHALFDUK
ETHIRTYSECONDSALDRINDRIFT
INGFORWARDJUSTALITTLEBITT
HATSGOODALDRINCONTACTLIGH
TARMSTRONGSHUTDOWNALDRINO
KAYENGINESTOPDUKEWECOPYYO
UDOWNEAGLEARMSTRONGENGINE
ARMISOFFHOUSTONTRANQUILIT
YBASEHERETHEEAGLEHASLANDE
DDUKEROGERTANQUILITYWECO
PYYOUONTHEGROUNDYOUGOTABU
NCHOFGUYSABOUTTOTURNBLUEW
EREBREATHINGAGAIN

Greek Minuscule

- Improvement over Uncial
- Includes lowercase, spaces and punctuation
- “Minuscule” means “lower” (as in lowercase)



Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae Luke 1,1-2, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Bezae_Cantabrigiae

Greek (Koine)

- Koine means “common” (The language of the common person)
- The original language of the New Testament and the **Septuagint**
- Sample, the beginning of the **Gospel of John**:
 - Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.
 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Latin

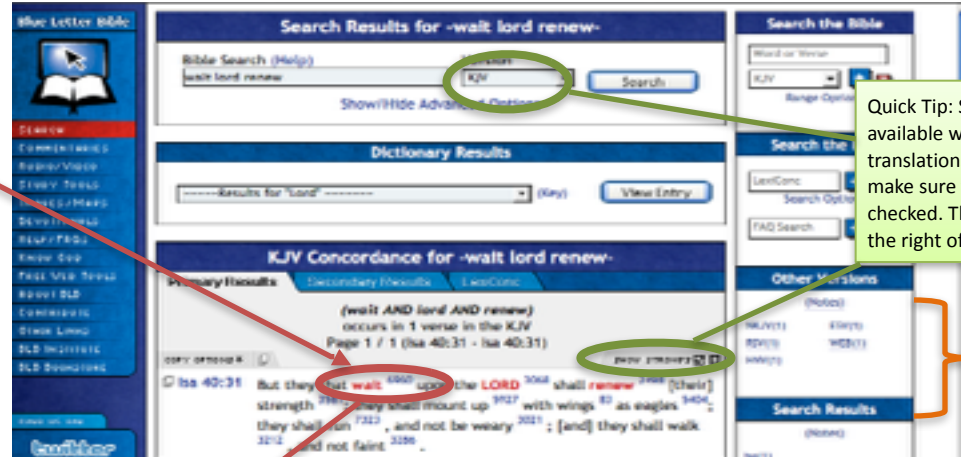
- Vulgate version of the Bible was a complete translation into Latin by Jerome
- Vulgate Sample, Gen 1:3
 - Latin Vulgate
 - dixitque Deus fiat lux et facta est lux
 - Literal English
 - And God said: Be light made. And light was made.

From <http://www.latinvulgate.com/>

Quick and Easy Bible Word study using www.blueletterbible.com

While reading Isaiah 40:31, you decide to investigate the word "wait". To look up that word, click on the Strong's number (that is, click on "6960," which is a hyperlink to that word)

A wealth of information appears, including original Hebrew word (Greek for NT), pronunciation, definition, and all other uses of that same word in the Bible



Quick Tip: Strong's numbers are only available when viewing the KJV or NASB translations. Select either KJV or NASB, and make sure the "Show Strong's" checkbox is checked. The Strong's number will display to the right of each word

Try displaying other versions of the Bible verse to see how others made the translation of the same text:



[Isa 40:31 KJV] - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

[Isa 40:31 NKJV] - But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew [their] strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

[Isa 40:31 NLT] - But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

[Isa 40:31 NIV] - but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

[Isa 40:31 NASB] - Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

[Isa 40:31 YNG] - But those expecting Jehovah pass [to] power, They raise up the pinion as eagles, They run and are not fatigued, They go on and do not faint!

Word Study: “Another”

- Hbr 7:15 KJV – And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth *another*²⁰⁸⁷ priest,
- *G2087 Strong's: Heteros, another, other*

Word Study: “Another”

- Rev 16:7 KJV – And I heard *another*²⁴³ out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments.
- *G243 Strong's: Allos, another, other*


Greek vs English

- *Heteros* and *Allos*, both translate in English to “Another,”
 - *Allos* means “another of the same sort;”
 - *Heteros* expresses a qualitative difference and means “another of a different sort.”
- John 14:16 - Christ promised to send “another Helper”
 - *Allos*, “another like Himself,” not *heteros*
- Rom 7:23 - Paul says “I see a another law”
 - *Heteros*, a law different from that of the spirit of life (not *allos*, “a law of the same sort”)
- Acts 7:8 - After Joseph’s death “another king arose,”
 - *Heteros*, one of quite a different character

Definitions and Roots of Common Words

- Joshua 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- Choose : to decide
- Decide – same root as incise, scissors





The Old Testament

The O.T.

- Rom 3:1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? 2 Much in every way! Chiefly because ***to them were committed the oracles of God.***

Language, Script, and Moses

- Widely-held belief that Moses could not have written the first 5 books of the O.T. because **writing was unknown at that time**
- Archaeology now shows that ancient writings predated Moses by centuries
- Ancient writings in alphabetic script have been located within 50 miles of Mt Sinai
- At least 5 different systems of writings were known at the time of Moses

First Biblical Accounts of Writings

- First person mentioned doing writings is Moses
 - Amalek memorial, Ex 17:14
 - Covenant at Sinai, Ex 24:4
 - Ten Commandments, Ex 34:27-28
 - Israel in the wilderness, Num 33:2
 - Book of the Law (kept in Ark of the Covenant), Deut 31:9, 24
 - The Song in Deut 33, Deut 31:22
- Moses credited with authoring the Torah (also known as the Pentateuch) - the first 5 books of the O.T.
 - Josh 8:31, 2 Kings 14:6, Ezra 6:18, Mk 12:26, Lk 2:22, Jn 7:19

O.T. History Summary

- Started with Moses and the first 5 books
- Joshua also wrote in the book of the law of God (Josh 24:26)
- Became the practice of other men of God who wrote both history and prophecy (1 Sam 10:25, Jer 36:2)
- Later writers referenced their predecessors (Dan 9:2, Neh 8:1)
- Assembled into the O.T. around the time of Ezra
- **Josephus** wrote that no book was added to the Hebrew Scripture after the time of Malachi

The Moabite Stone

- Until recently, the earliest known example of Hebrew writing
- Mesha, king of Moab, recorded his war with the kings of Israel and Judah about the year 890 B.C.
- It was found by a German missionary, Herr Klein, in 1868.
- Before it was acquired by the Louvre it was broken, and large portions of it have never been recovered.
- Fortunately a paper “squeeze” had been taken of it before it was broken, and from this the text can be restored.
- Written using what is known as the Semitic alphabet common to the Phoenicians, Aramaeans and Hebrews.



2Kings 3:1-27 inscribed in the Moabite Stone,
From www.katapi.org.uk/BibleMSS/Ch1.htm

The Ras-Shamra Tablets

- Found during excavations at a place called Ras-Shamra, on the coast of north-west Syria in 1929
- The site identified as the Phoenician city of Ugarit, a settlement from the second millennium B.C.
- In the ruins was a library containing quantities of clay tablets bearing cuneiform writing
- Not the ordinary Babylonian cuneiform, but was *alphabetic* - an archaic form of Hebrew
- The texts included literary and religious writings, and included names familiar to us from the Old Testament (Terah, the father of Abraham)

Rosetta Stone

- Tower of Babel confused languages
- Rosetta Stone
- Stone has a single decree inscribed three times
 - Hieroglyphic, demotic (the common script), and Greek
- Discovered by Napoleon in 1799 in el-Rashid (Rosetta)
- British defeated Napoleon, took the Stone and many other of his antiquities
- Now in the British Museum since 1802*

Hebrew O.T. Manuscripts

- Codex Ben-Asher
 - At Aleppo, supposed to have been written in the tenth century, and held to be one of the best authorities for the text of the Old Testament
- Codex Laudianus, at Oxford
 - Containing the whole Old Testament except a large part of Genesis
 - Written in the tenth century and to contain a very important text
- De Rossi No. 634
 - Contains the Pentateuch
 - Written between the eighth and tenth century

O.T. Books

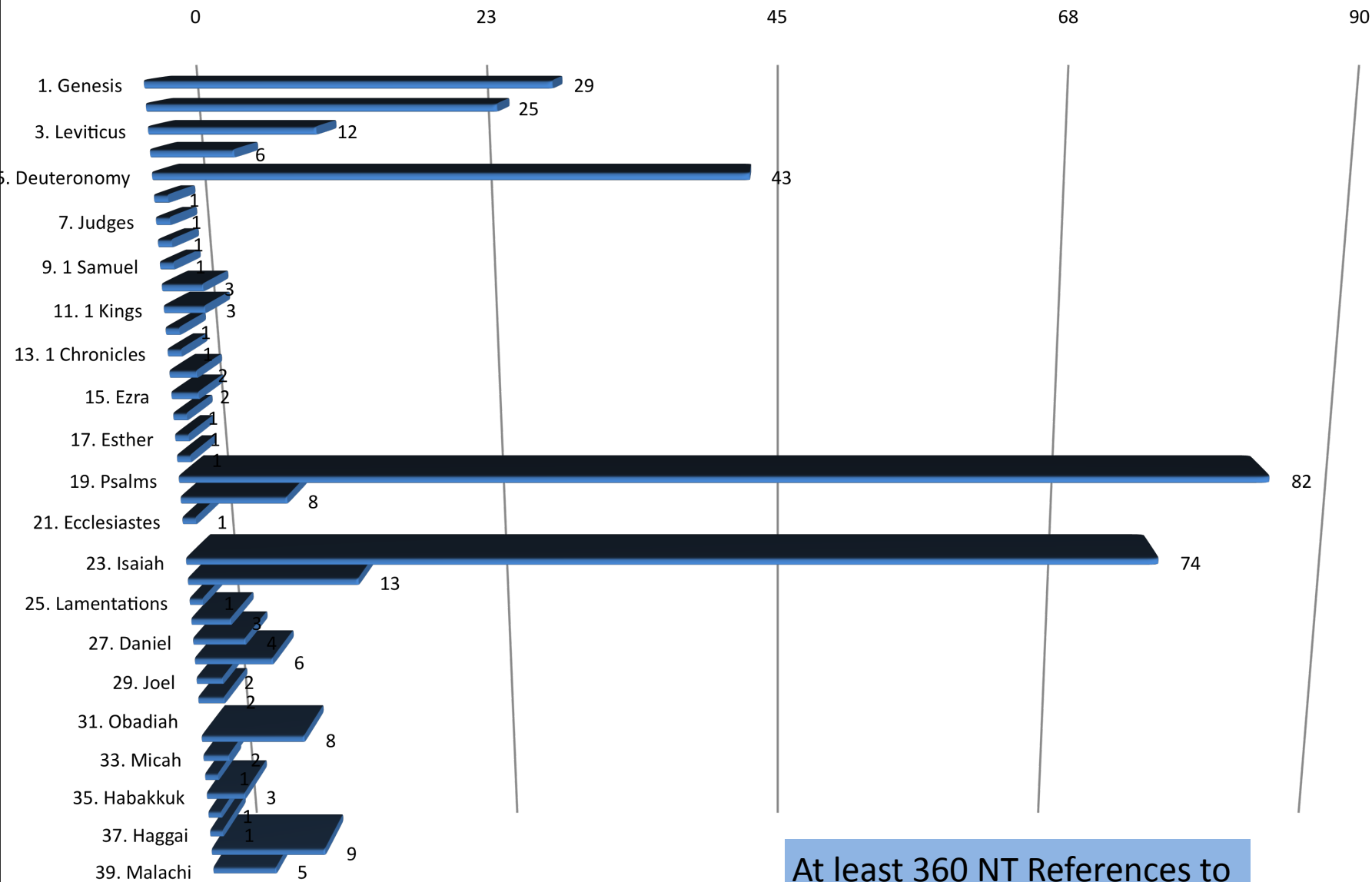
- Old Testament collection of writings were put together in their present forms between the ninth and the second centuries **B.C.**
- The process of their adoption as canonical authority is indicated by the classification which the Jews themselves made of them
- This classification is into three groups

Books of the O.T.

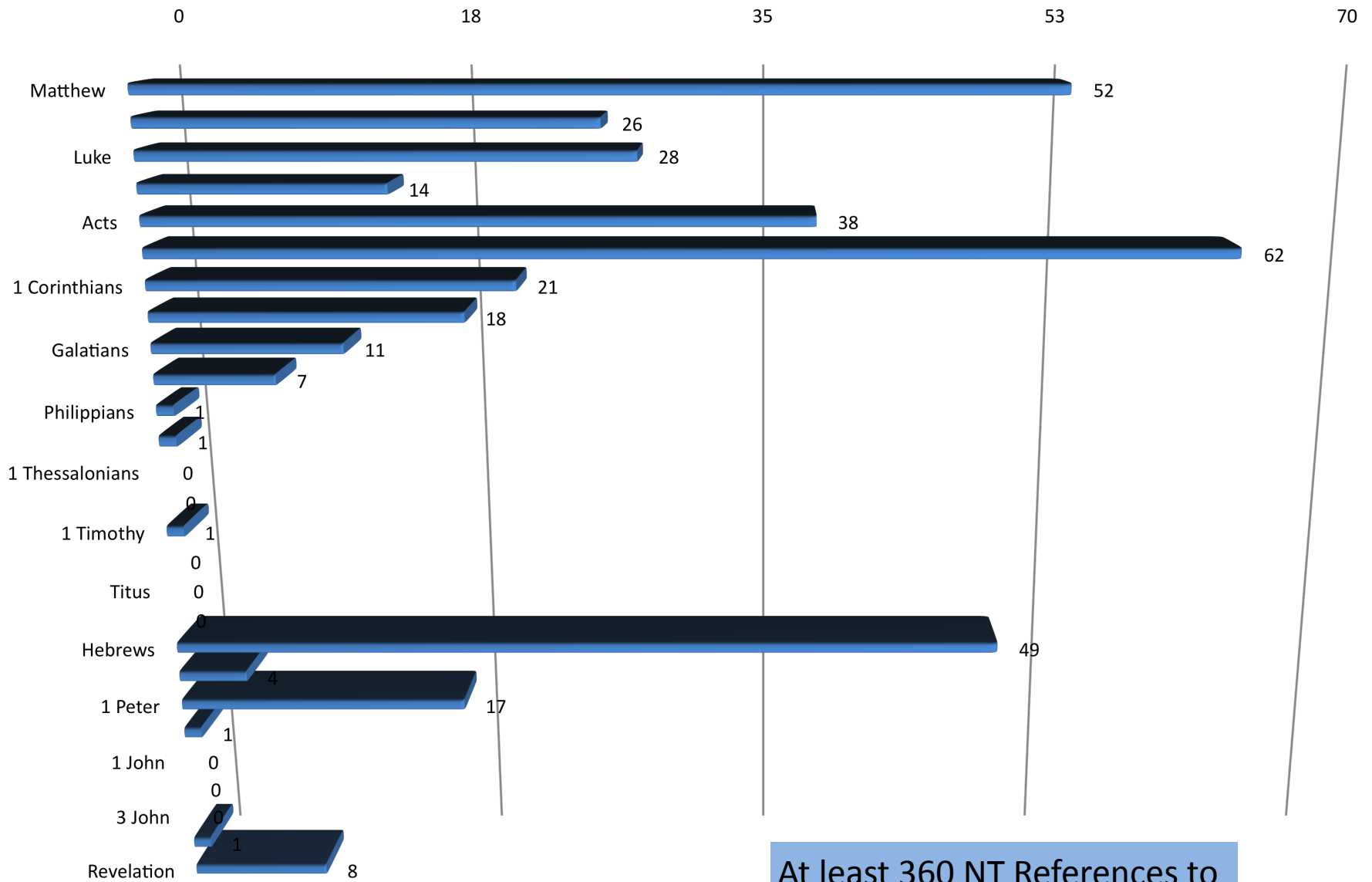
- Classified into 3 groups,
 1. The Law: included the five books of Moses, which we now call the Pentateuch
 2. The Prophets
 - Made up of the historical books of “Former Prophets”
 - Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel,, 1 and 2 Kings
 - And books known as “the Latter” Prophets.
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the **twelve Minor Prophets**
 3. The Hagiographa, or sacred writings
 - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Daniel, Esther, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah
- O.T. books divided into reading-lessons
 - Paragraphs, and verses (very nearly corresponding to our modern verses) were made in very early times
 - They are indicated in the manuscripts by blank spaces of greater or lesser size.

Torah

- Torah means “teaching” or “law”
- The Torah – 1st of 3 parts of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)
- Divided into the 5 Books of Moses (or Pentateuch)
 - Genesis: “Creation”
 - Exodus: “Departure”
 - Leviticus: Regulations that apply to the Levites service in the Temple
 - Numbers: Censes of Israelites in the wilderness of Sinai and later on the plain of Moab
 - Deuteronomy: “Second law,” refers to Moses repeating the commandments before his death
- Unique language used for the Torah dates back over 6,000 years



At least 360 NT References to the OT



At least 360 NT References to the OT

Septuagint

- The Greek version of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint
- Translation of the Pentateuch was done in Alexandria, where many Jews only knew Greek
- ~ 200 years before the birth of Christ
- This version was later called the Septuagint because the translation was done by seventy (Latin *septuaginta*) men
- Often referenced using the Roman numerals VXX (meaning 70)
- Apostles use of the Septuagint
 - N.T. quotations of the Old Testament show that the apostles often used the Septuagint
 - Generally known to those in the Church



Sample Source Texts

- Codex Sinaiticus
 - 400 large parchments written over 1600 years ago
 - Contains the Christian Bible in Greek, including the oldest complete copy of the New Testament
 - New Testament, complete in the original vernacular language (koine)
 - Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, adopted by early Greek-speaking Christians (Genesis to 1 Chron are missing)
 - The text of both the Septuagint and the New Testament has been heavily annotated

Codex Sinaiticus

Most Visited - Getting Started - Latest Headlines - Fox News - eBay - Aurtiva - SpaceFlightNow - Google Maps - Wikipedia - Popular - Imported from PC - Bible Study Tools - Woodworking - Rush

Codex Sinaiticus - See The Manus... +

HOME ABOUT CODEX SINAITICUS ABOUT THE PROJECT SEE THE MANUSCRIPT GO TO: [BOOK]

choose a passage: Genesis Chapter 21 Verse 26
choose a page: Quire: 3 Folio: 3
display options: Image Translation Transcription Physical Description

Genesis, 21:26 - 22:17 library: SC file: sc01e10

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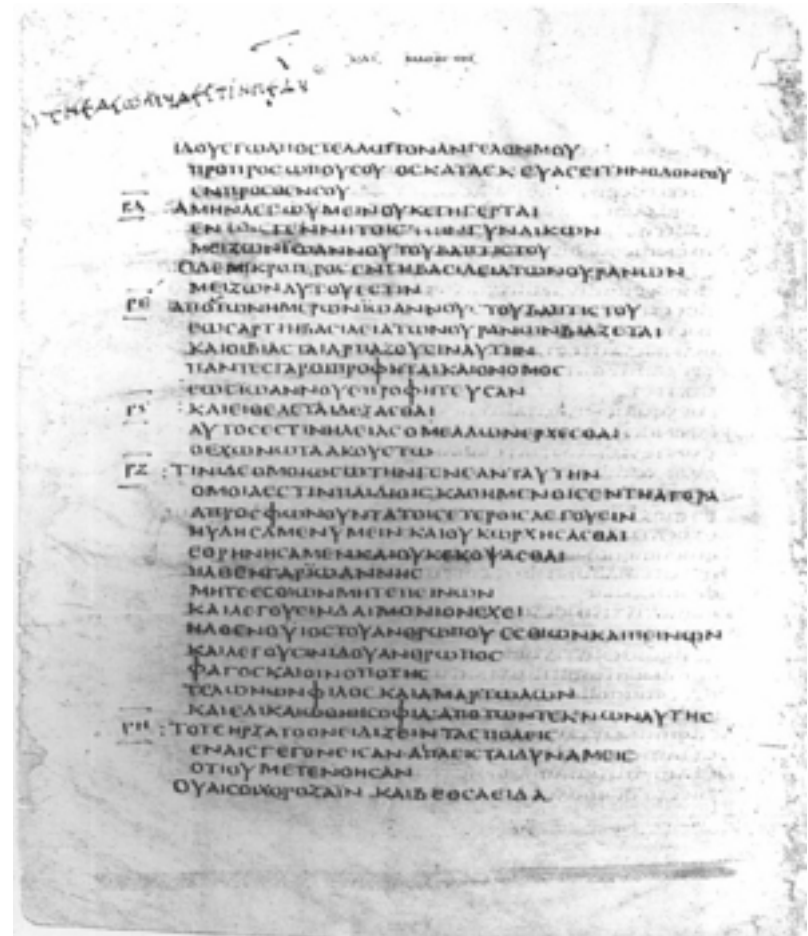
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Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis

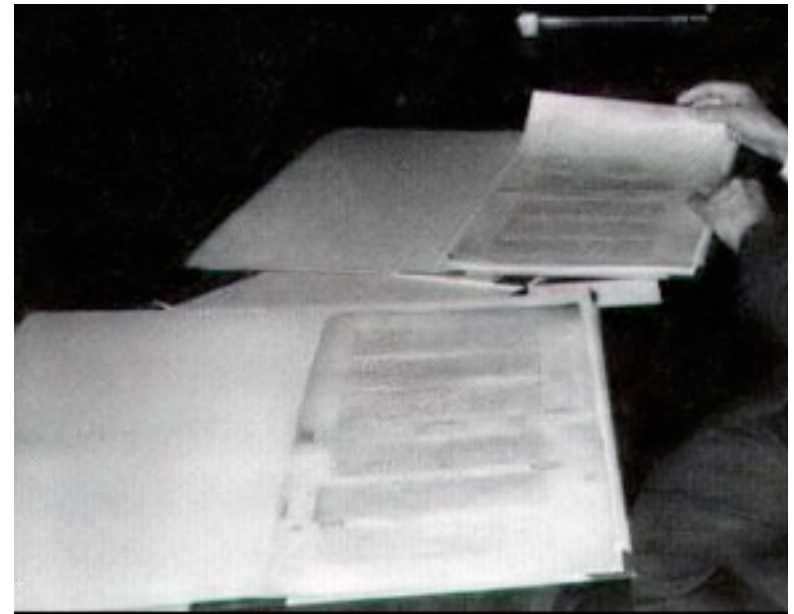
- The Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis is so called because
 - Belonged to Theodore Beza
 - In 1581 given to the University of Cambridge (Latin Cantabrigia), where it is now kept
- The codex is a Greek and Latin “diglot”
 - Greek text being on the left hand page
 - Latin on the right
- It contains only the four Gospels and the Acts, with some gaps from age
- From the fifth or sixth century



Matthew 11:10-21 of Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis, From Bible-Researcher site, <http://www.bible-researcher.com/codex-d1.html>

Codex Vaticanus

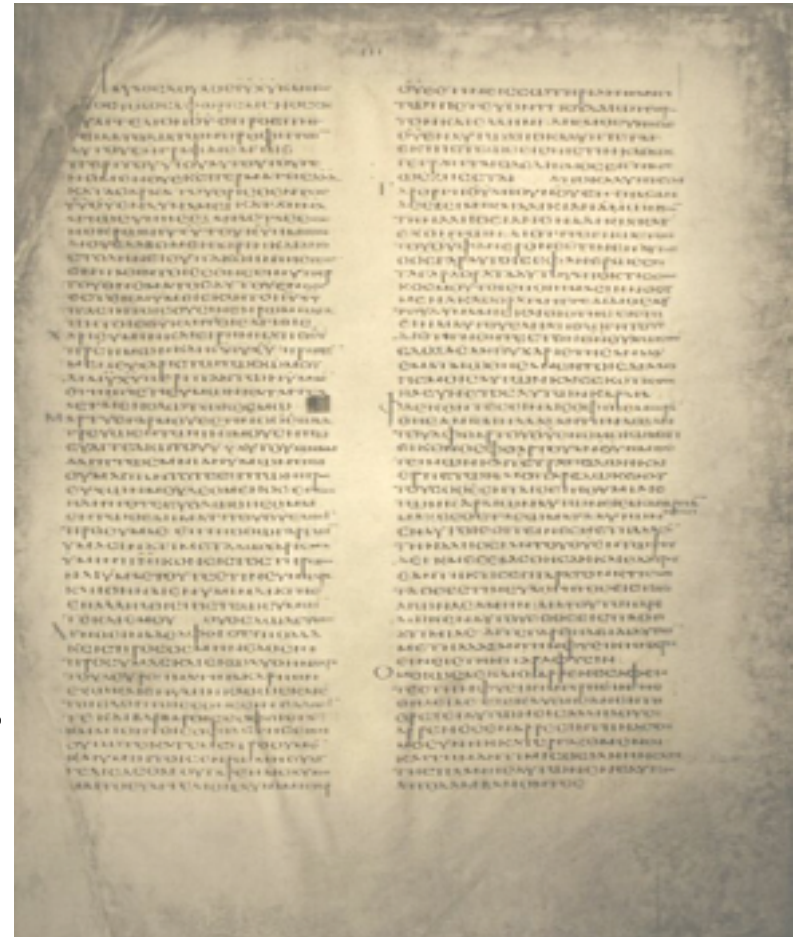
- 4th Century Codex on parchment, 733 old parchment pages
- Cover and binding are gone (individual pages)
- First 45 chapters of Genesis are missing
- 10 pages of the Psalms are missing, as are the end the second part of Hebrews
- Epistles and Revelation are missing



Heading (top) and Folios of the Codex Vaticanus (bottom), from <http://www-user.uni-bremen.de/~wie/Vaticanus/index.html>

Codex Alexandrinus


- From Egyptian city of Alexandria
- From the 5th century.
- The text
 - Written in uncial script (Greek)
 - Arranged in two columns on the page
 - Contains the entire Greek Bible
 - Minus Matt 1:1 - 25:6, John 6:50 - 8:52, and 2 Cor 4:13 -12:6
 - At the end are added some early Christian writings commonly used in teaching
 - First Epistle of Clement, 2nd Epistle of Clement up to 12:4.
- The codex was sent as a gift to King James I of England
 - Same King James who commissioned the King James version
 - Received in England in 1627



Romans 1:1-27 of Codex Alexandrinus, From Bible-Researcher site: <http://www.bible-researcher.com/codex-a.html>

Textus Recepticus and “Majority” text

- *Textus Receptus*, (“TR”) -- the Greek text that stands behind the New Testament of the King James Version.
 - Earlier text
- “Majority text”--the form of the Greek text found in the “majority” of other manuscripts
 - Later text, with the “majority” of supporting texts
 - The doctrine of preservation
- TR and Majority differ in about 2,000 places



The New Testament

Papyrus

- Contains Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer) on the back and Psalm 90 from the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament
- At time of N.T., Codex and parchment became more widely used than papyrus and scrolls



Dead Sea Scrolls

- In 1947, 800 manuscripts and 60,000 fragments discovered in 11 caves west of the Dead Sea by shepherds
- **Many** of the documents contained Biblical texts
- Parts of all the books of the Old Testament were found (except Esther)
- ***The complete book of Isaiah***
- Placed in these caves around the middle of the first century **A.D.** - undisturbed for 1900 years

Not a single teaching or doctrine of the Bible we have is altered

How was “Canon” determined?

- How were the books of the NT assembled
 - Many ancient writings
 - Which ones were selected, how and why?
 - Which were omitted and why?

Who Determined Scripture?

- In 367 an influential bishop named Athanasius published a list of books to be read in the churches under his care
 - Precisely those NT books we have in our Bibles today
- Irenaeus (born 130) lived in days before anyone felt it was necessary to list the approved books.
 - He quotes as Scripture all of the books and only the books that appear in the list published on another continent and sixty years later by Origen
- How did the men who published these lists decide which books should be called Scripture?

VERY IMPORTANT: Not a matter of “examining all written documents to decide which are really Scripture,” but rather a documentation of that which had already been taught

How did the early elders of the churches decide what to teach?

- They received the writings of the apostles and their closest companions, and the writings endorsed by them
- The entire Old Testament was received by the implicit endorsement of the apostles
- The Gospel of Matthew was written by an apostle
- The Gospel of Mark was written by the apostle Peter's closest disciple
- The Gospel of Luke was written by Luke, the apostle Paul's close companion
- The Gospel of John was written by an apostle
- The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, Paul's close companion
- Thirteen letters were received from Paul
- The epistle to the **Hebrews** was received as from Paul
- The epistle of James comes from the brother of the Lord, who exercised authority in Jerusalem with the apostles
- The epistle of Jude was from another brother of the Lord
- The two epistles of Peter are from an apostle
- The three epistles of John are from an apostle, who also wrote the Revelation.

How did the early church elders know that these writings were not forgeries?

- The churches did not just “find them” or receive them from strangers
- Documents were hand-delivered by friends of the apostles to elders who also knew the apostles personally
- Forgeries would be obvious, especially if the writing promoted strange doctrines



Chapters and Verses

- Original manuscripts did not contain the chapter and verse divisions
- Old Testament began to be sectioned before the Babylonian Captivity (586 BC)
 - The five books of Moses were put into a 154-section reading program to be used in a three-year cycle
- By the time of the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, the N.T. had been divided into paragraphs
 - The divisions were different from the modern Bible
- Archbishop **Stephen Langton (in 1205)** and Cardinal Hugo de Sancto Caro both created different schemes for Bible divisions in the early 13th century
 - Modern chapter divisions are based on Archbishop Langton's system
- Robert Stephanus was the first to number the verses within each chapter
 - His verse numbers entered printed editions in 1551 (New Testament) and 1571 (Hebrew Bible)
- **How did people reference verses prior to the numbering system?**

Apocrypha

- Apocrypha means “hidden writings”
- Not considered Christian “Canon”
- Writings that were considered as useful, but not divinely inspired
- Referred to as the New Testament Apocrypha
- Important because they provide an ancient context and setting for the composition of the canonical books
- They establish linguistic conventions in the canonical texts
- The 4th century Codex Sinaiticus includes with the Old and New Testaments the Epistle of Barnabas and The Shepherd of Hermas.
- The apostles never quote from these writings, and there is no reason to believe that they regarded them as Scripture

Bible in Latin

- The Old Latin versions
 - ~Two hundred years after the apostles
 - Many churches throughout the world in which the people did not understand Greek
 - New translations of both the Old and New Testaments were made into Latin for use in the churches
 - Latin OT not translated directly from the Hebrew, but from the Greek Septuagint
- The Vulgate
 - Meaning “common”
 - “Vulgar” comes from the same Latin word
 - The variety of Old Latin translations and copies created confusion
 - Jerome was asked to look into the matter and to make a trustworthy translation
 - Jerome wisely revised the Latin versions from the Hebrew itself
 - He expressed his opinion, that it was a mistake to include the Apocryphal books just because they happened to be included in copies of the Septuagint
 - There was some resistance to Jerome's version, and to his exclusion of the Apocrypha
 - Latin translations of the Apocryphal books were later added to it, and in that form it became the version commonly used in the churches for a thousand years
 - This version came to be called the Vulgate, or "common" Bible

Protestant vs. Catholic views of the Vulgate

- Luther and Calvin knew Hebrew and Greek, and they did not believe that the Vulgate should be regarded as an authoritative version
 - They also were aware of how the Apocryphal books came to be in the Vulgate, and so they rejected them
- The Roman Catholics declared that the Vulgate is an authoritative version and not to be departed from
- This idea of a uniquely authoritative version (like the “King James Only” movement) has created many problems

Number of N.T. Manuscripts

- Due to archeological discoveries, today we have more (and older) manuscripts than the KJV translators
- 230 of today's manuscripts were created prior to year 600 A.D.

Greek Manuscripts	5,300
Latin Vulgates	10,000
Others	9,300
Total	24,600

In Addition to N.T. Manuscripts...

- More than 32,000 quotations of the New Testament Bible are found in other ancient (non-Biblical) documents, all written prior to 325 A.D.
- These quotations are almost enough to compile a complete New Testament Bible
- Why is the “prior to 325 A.D.” so significant?

Early Church Councils

- Often referred to as the “ecumenical” Councils
 - Nicea I
 - Constantinople I
 - Ephesus
 - Chalcedon

First Council of Nicea

- A council of Christian bishops convened in Nicea (present-day Turkey) by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in A.D. 325
- The Council was historically significant as the first effort to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom
- Main four-point agenda was
 1. Discussion and settlement of the Christological issue of the relationship of Jesus to God the Father
 2. Construction of the first part of the Nicene Creed
 3. Settling the calculation of the date of Easter; and
 4. Promulgation of early canon law*

Constantinople I

- Recognized as the Second Ecumenical Council
- Held in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) from May to July 381
- The Council of Nicea did not end the controversy which it had been called to clarify
 - Up until about 360 A.D., theological debates mainly dealt with the Divinity of Jesus vs His humanity
 - However, because the Council of Nicea had not clarified the divinity of the Holy Spirit it became a topic of debate
- Affirmed the original Nicene creed of faith as true and an accurate explanation of Scripture
- This council also developed a statement of faith which included the language of Nicea, but expanded the discussion on the Holy Spirit

Ephesus

- The First Council of Ephesus was the third ecumenical council of the early Christian Church, held in 431 at the Church of Mary in Ephesus, Asia Minor
- The council was called amid a dispute over the teachings of Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople

Chalcedon

- Fourth Ecumenical Council held in 451 A.D. at Chalcedon (modern-day Turkey)
- The Council repudiated the idea that Jesus had only one nature, and stated that Christ has two natures in one person
- Agenda
 - The judgments issued at the Second Council of Ephesus in 449 A.D. (still controversial issue)
 - The alleged offences of Bishop of Alexandria
 - The definition of the Godhead and manhood of Christ
 - Many disputes involving particular bishops

Council Summary

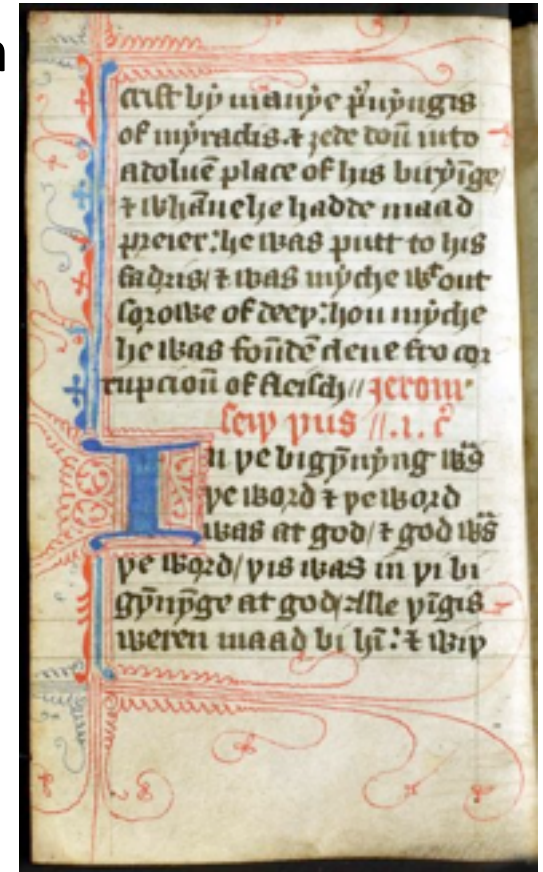
- None of the Councils made any changes to Scripture “Canon”
- Discussions of complex issues
- Reprimands of heretical teachings
- Scripture “Canon” was not determined at any of the Councils



The Many Versions of the English Bible

Early English Translations

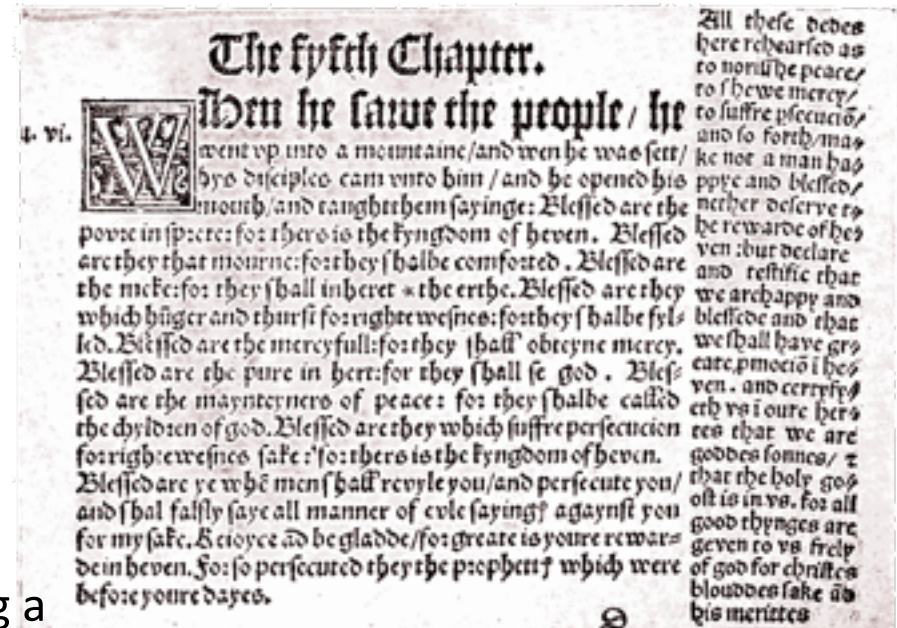
- **John Wycliffe** translations into Middle English
- 1382 to 1395
- Wycliffe's idea was to translate the Bible into the language of the people
- Compare Gen 1:3
 - **Latin** Vulgate: **Dixitque Deus fiat lux et facta est lux**
 - Early Wyclif: **And God seide, Be maad liȝt; and maad is liȝt**
 - Later Wyclif: **And God seide, Liȝt be maad; and liȝt was maad**
 - King James: **And God said, Let there be light: and there was light**



Beginning of the Gospel of John from a 14th century copy of Wycliffe's translation, From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyclif%27s_Bible

Early English Translations, Con't

- Tyndale's Bible, 1525
 - Tyndale's N.T. translated from the original Greek, and not from the Latin
 - The leaders of the Church, however, declared against the translation
 - Archbishop Warham issued a mandate for its destruction
 - The **bishops paid to buy up all copies they could** from the printers, and the books were solemnly burned
 - Tyndale used all the money he made from the book sales and began printing a revised edition



Tyndale's New Testament - 1525, From www.katapi.org.uk/BibleMSS/Ch1.htm



Early English Translations, Con't

- Matthew's Bible, 1537
 - Really the completion of Tyndale's work
 - Tyndale had only published the **Pentateuch, Jonah, and the New Testament**
 - John Rogers, a disciple of Tyndale
 - Don't know if "Thomas Matthew" was an assistant of Rogers, or was Rogers himself
 - Tyndale's name on the title-page would have made it impossible for Henry VIII to allow it (he rejected Tyndale's New Testament)
 - No doubt that Rogers was responsible for it, and that "Thomas Matthew" has no other known existence
 - The Bible consisted of
 - Tyndale's version of Genesis to 2 Chronicles,
 - Coverdale's for the rest of the Old Testament,
 - Tyndale's New Testament according to his final edition in 1535
 - It was dedicated to Henry VIII

Early English Translations, Con't

- The Great Bible, 1539-1541
- Taverner's Bible, 1539
- The Geneva Bible, 1557-1560
- The Bishop's Bible, 1568
- The Rheims & Douai Bible, 1582-1609

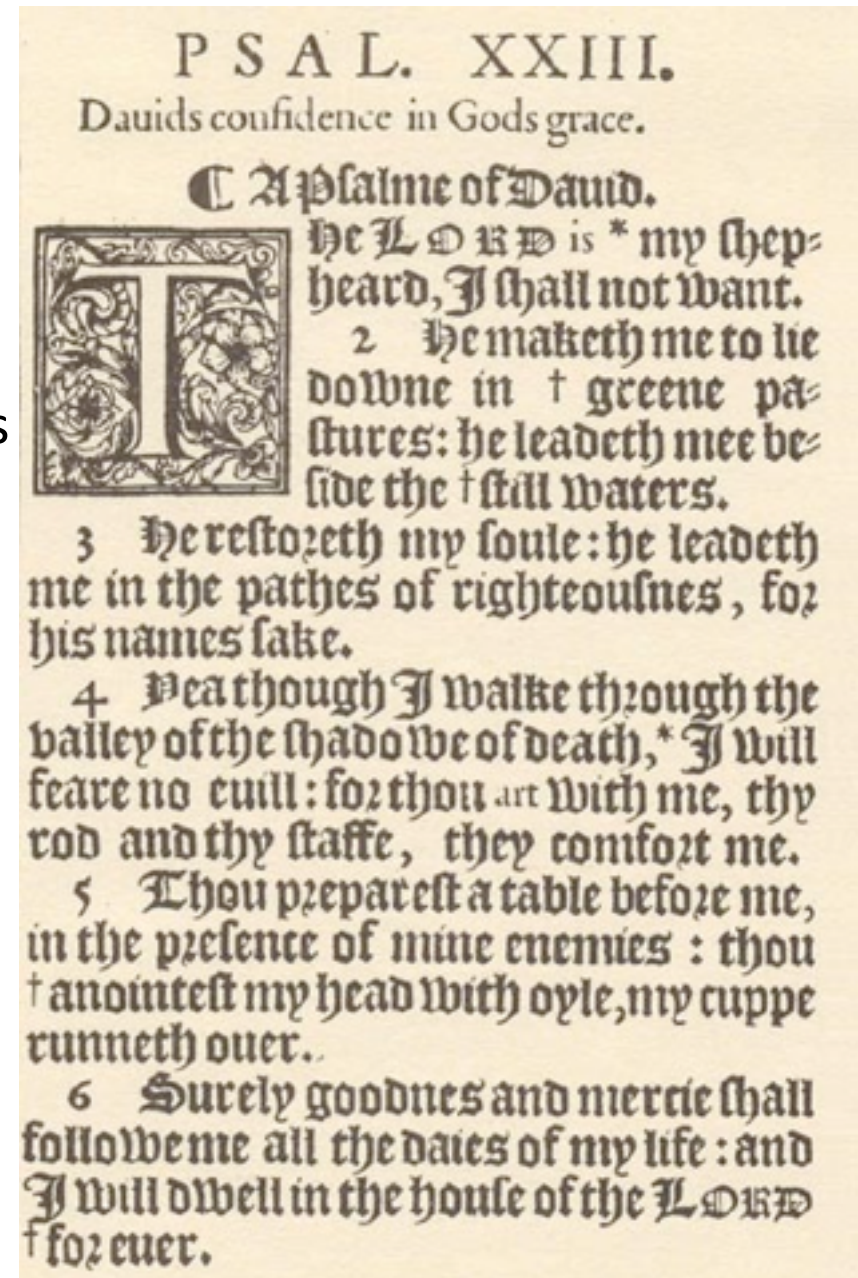
All these were before the KJV

KJV

- First widely-distributed English translation of the Bible
- Translated from 1604 to 1611 (hence, the “1611 translation”)
- Very limited resources available to the KJV translators
 - They had 12 ancient manuscripts (*Textus Recepticus*).
- Since that time, hundreds of additional manuscripts have been found
 - Many newly-discovered manuscripts are far older than those available to the KJV team

KJV

- 1611 Edition, authorized by King James (hence, the “Authorized” version)
- Important ancient Greek manuscripts had not yet been discovered
 - Aleph, a 4th century AD codex, was discovered in 1859 at Mt. Sinai
 - Codex Vaticanus from 4 AD was not made available until a photographic facsimile was published in 1889
- Dead Sea Scrolls had not been discovered yet (1947)
- Today’s KJV is updated with more modern spellings and punctuation



More Recent English Versions

- The Authorized King James Version of 1611
 - Updated until 1769
 - Not thoroughly updated until the Revised Version in 1885.
 - Revised Standard Version (1952)
 - The New Revised Standard Version (1989)
 - The English Standard Version (2001)
- Late twentieth century, Bibles increasingly appeared that were much less literal in their style
- In 1946, the New English Bible was intended to enable readers to better understand the KJV Bible

J. B. Phillips

- 1958 - J. B. Phillips produced an edition of the New Testament letters in paraphrase
- *The Letters to Young Churches*
- Intended for members of his youth group so could understand what the New Testament authors had written

The Living Bible

- Published in 1971 by Kenneth N. Taylor
- Based on the literal American Standard Version of 1901
- Intended for his children who had trouble understanding the literal (and sometimes archaic) text of the KJV
- Although intended for children, it was later positioned for adults who wanted to better understand the Bible

Young's Literal Translation

- Robert Young, 1862 (revised 1887)
- Literal Translation is a strictly literal translation of the original Hebrew and Greek texts
- **Why it's important**

The Trouble with Translations

- Gen 3:1-5
- Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

The Trouble with Translations

- Genesis 3:22 YLT And Jehovah God saith, `Lo, the man was as one of Us, as to the knowledge of good and evil; and now, lest he send forth his hand, and have taken also of the tree of life, and eaten, and lived to the age,' --

Dynamic Equivalence

- The Living Bible created a demand for a new approach to translating the Bible into contemporary English called “dynamic equivalence”
- Attempts to preserve the *meaning* of the original text in a readable way
- 1976 Good News Bible
 - One of the best selling English Bibles in history
- In 1996, a new revision of Taylor’s Living Bible was published: the New Living Translation
 - A full paraphrase from the original languages

NIV

- Zondervan wanted to create something in between the KJV and the less formal Good News Bible
- The goal of this was to create a Bible that would be scholarly yet not overly formal
- The result of this project was the New International Version (1978)
- Not “word-for-word,” but “thought-for-thought”

The Message

- Created by Eugene H. Peterson
- Published in segments from 1993 to 2002
- A paraphrase of the original languages
- According to the Introduction:
 - Its “contemporary idiom keeps the language of the Message (Bible) current and fresh and understandable”
- Peterson realized this was exactly what he had been doing in his thirty-five years as a pastor, “always looking for an English way to make the biblical text relevant to the conditions of the people.”

Comparing English Versions

Psalm 23

- King James Version

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

- New International Version

1. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
3. He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- The Message

1. GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
2. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.
3. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.
4. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

New American Standard Bible

- NASB, also informally called New American Standard Version (NASV)
- English translation of the Bible
- The N.T. was first published in 1963. The complete Bible was published in 1971
- The most recent edition of the NASB text was published in 1995
- Copyright and trademark to the NASB text are owned by the Lockman Foundation
- The New American Standard Bible is widely regarded as the most literally translated of 20th-century English Bible translations
- NASB is a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901
- This translation was an alternative to the Revised Standard Version, which was also a revision of the ASV, but considered by many to be theologically liberal

New King James Version

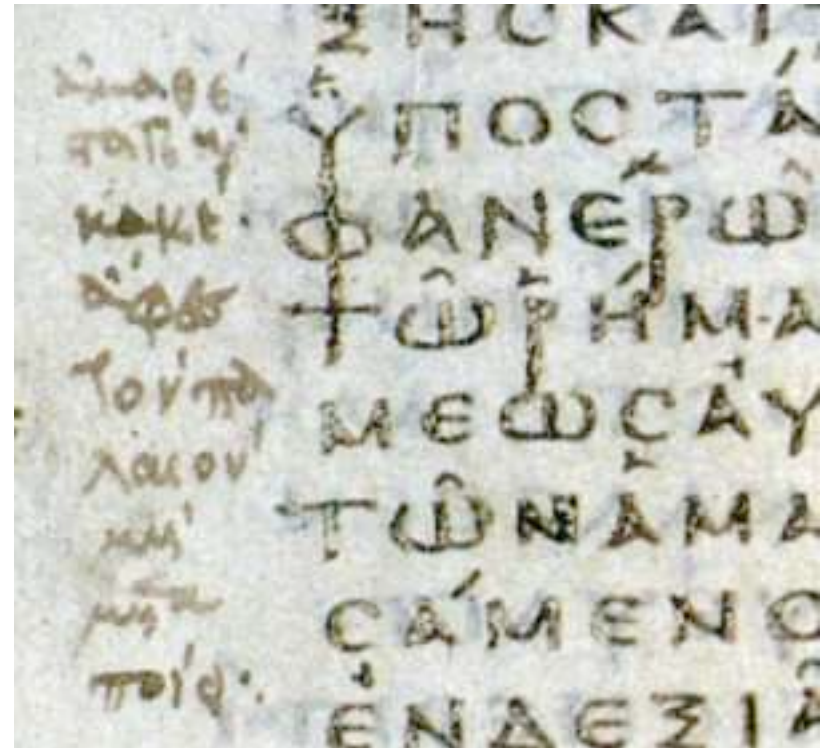
- NKJV is a modern translation of the Bible
- Originally known as the Revised Authorized Version, but the NKJV title is now used universally.
- The NKJV was published in three stages:
 - New King James Bible, New Testament; 1979
 - New King James Bible, New Testament and Psalms; 1980
 - New King James Version of the Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments; 1982
- Aim of its translators was to
 - Update the vocabulary and grammar of the King James Version
 - Preserve the classic style and beauty of the 1611 version
 - "Complete equivalence" in contrast to "dynamic equivalence" used by many other modern translations
- It indicates where more commonly accepted manuscripts differ
- This is the version from which our Pastor reads

NKJV Markings and Notes

- **Italic** text (sometime square brackets)
 - Not found in original text, but added for clarity in English
 - John 13:19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am [He].
- **Aram** - Aramaic
- **“NU-Text”** – Greek N.T.
 - Published by Nestle-Aland Greek N.T. (N) and by United Bible Society (U)
 - Mark 1:14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
 - Footnote: NU-Text omits *of the kingdom*
- **“M-Text”** – Majority Text
 - Mark 6:44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.
 - Footnote: M-Text omits *about*.
- **MS, MSS** – Manuscript, Manuscripts
 - Luke 24:40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.
 - Footnote: Some printed New Testaments omit this verse. It is found in nearly all Greek MMS.
- **Vg** – Vulgate, Ancient translation of the Bible into Latin
 - 2Tim 1:18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day--and you know very well how many ways he ministered [to me] at Ephesus.
 - Footnote: *To me* is from the Vulgate and a few Greek MMS
- **LXX** – Septuagint – O.T. in Greek

Why are there so many versions?

- Differences between versions – strategy
 - *Translation*
 - *Transliteration*
 - *Paraphrase*
- *Sources*
- *Study Bibles*



Scribe's note in the margin of the Codex Vaticanus at Hebrews 1:3, from <http://www-user.uni-bremen.de/~wie/Vaticanus/note1512.html>

Why are some verses “missing?” from NIV?

- [Mat 17:21 NKJV] - However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”
 - [Mat 17:19-22 NKJV] - [19] Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" [20] So Jesus said to them, "Because of your *unbelief*; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ~~[21] However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.~~" [22] Now while they were *staying* in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,
 - Notes from NKJV: (17:20) NU-Text reads little faith, (17:21) NU-Text omits this verse, (17:22) NU-Text reads gathering together.
- [Mat 18:11 NKJV] - For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.
 - [Mat 18:9-14 NKJV] - [9] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast [it] from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. [10] "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ~~[11] For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.~~ [12] "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? [13] And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that [sheep] than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. [14] Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.
 - Notes from NKJV: (18:11) NU-Text omits this verse.
- [Mat 23:14 NKJV] - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.
 - [Mat 23:12-17 NKJV] - [12] And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. [13] "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in [yourselves], nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ~~[14] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.~~ [15] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. [16] "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged [to perform it].' [17] Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that *sanctifies* the gold?
 - Notes from NKJV: (23:14) NU-Text omits this verse, (23:17) NU-Text reads sanctified.

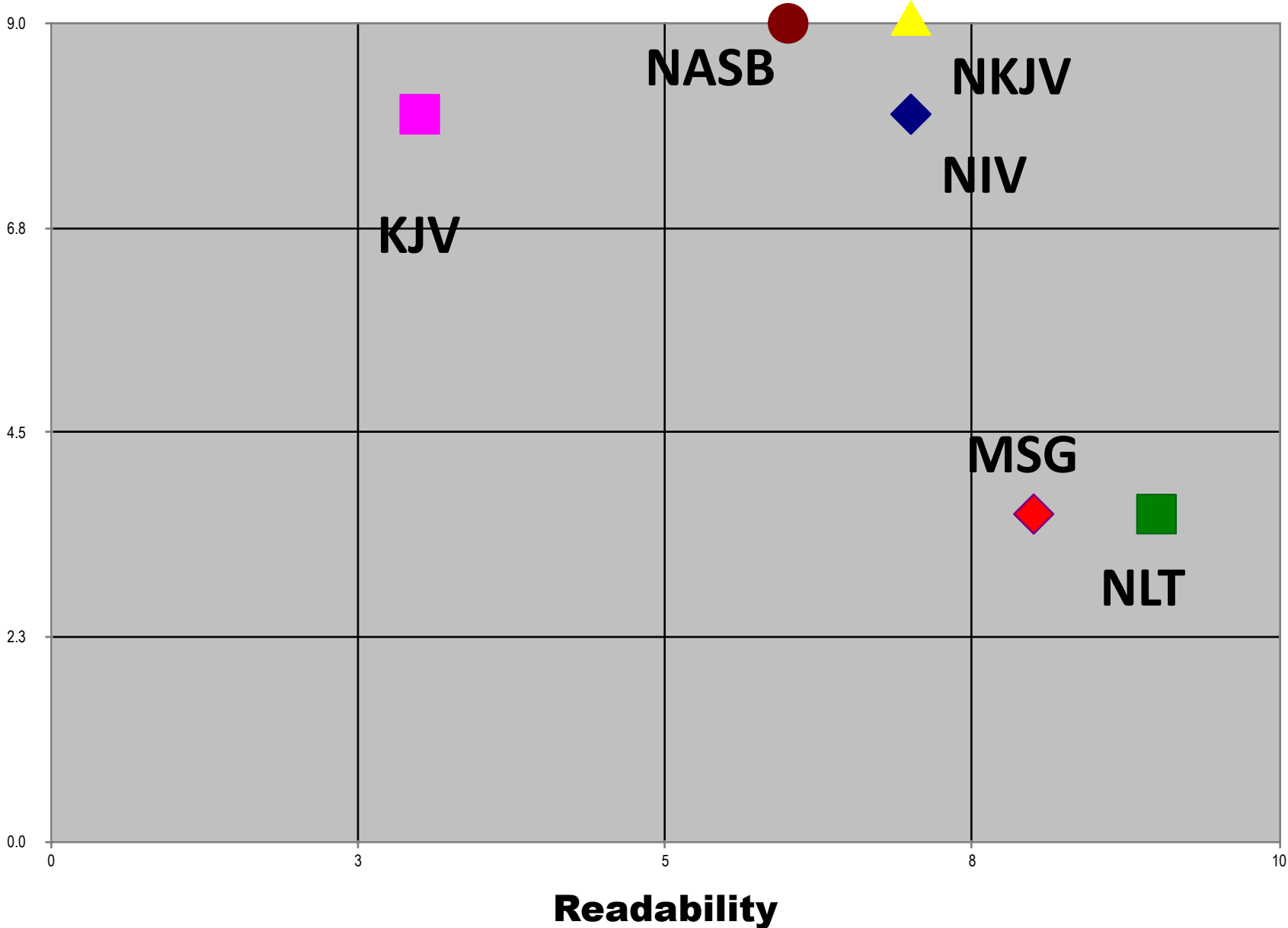
More NIV “missing” Verses

- [Mar 7:16 NKJV] - If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"
 - [Mar 7:14-19 NKJV] - [14] When He had called all the multitude to [Himself], He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: [15] There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. ~~[16] If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"~~ [17] When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. [18] So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, [19] because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated," [thus] purifying all foods?"
 - Notes from NKJV: (7:16) NU-Text omits this verse, (7:19) NU-Text ends quotation with eliminated, setting off the final clause as Mark's comment that Jesus has declared all foods clean.
- [Mar 9:44 NKJV] - where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'
- [Mar 9:46 NKJV] - where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'
- [Mar 11:26 NKJV] - But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."
- [Mar 15:28 NKJV] - So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."
- [Luk 17:36 NKJV] - Two [men] will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."
- [Luk 23:17 NKJV] - (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).
- [Jhn 5:4 NKJV] - For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.
- [Act 8:37 NKJV] - Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- [Act 15:34 NKJV] - However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.
- [Act 24:7 NKJV] – But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took [him] out of our hands,
- [Act 28:29 NKJV] – And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.
- [Rom 16:24 NKJV] – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.
- [1Jo 5:7-8 NKJV] - [7] For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; ~~and these three are one. [8] And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood;~~ and these three agree as one.

Which is the “Best” English Translation?

- Like asking, “What’s the best car?”
- Depends on what you want to do with it

Readability and Accuracy



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Throughout this compilation, where multiple sources provide the same material, the web source is listed

