

Two Rivers of Greek Manuscripts

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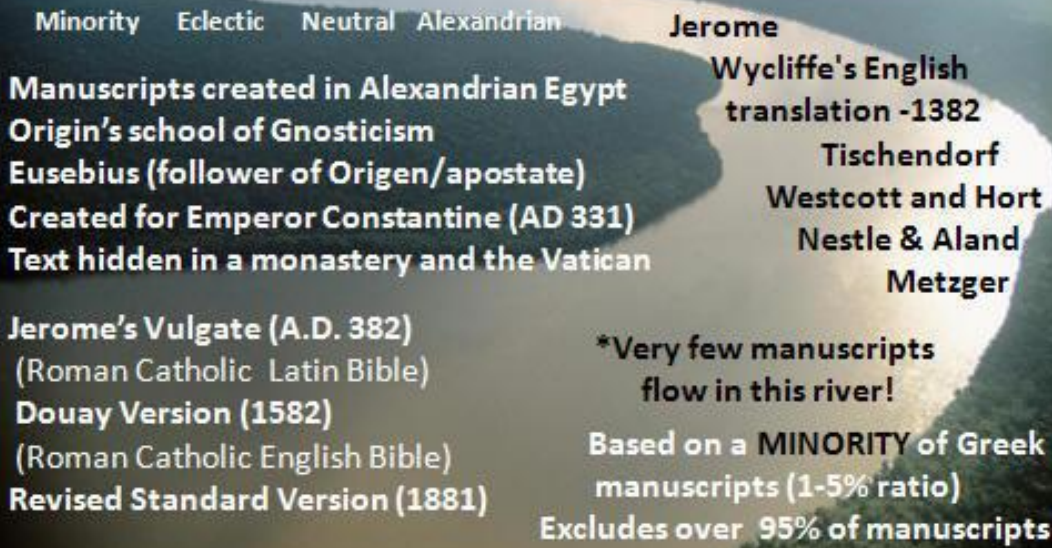
Below is one way to view the differences between the history of the manuscripts behind the King James Version and the manuscripts which are behind the modern or more recent versions which followed the King James Bible. The pictures are of two rivers of manuscripts, one polluted and the other free from pollution. The pictures allow us to visualize some of the major differences between the Received Text which is the basis for the King James Version and the Critical Text which is the basis of the modern versions.



The Received Text River has a rich history behind it. We see God's providential hand in preserving it and passing it along throughout the church generations. We will explain this in a moment.

Critical Text River = Modern Versions

Creating a new Greek text through alleged "scientific" means (critical analysis) of favoring only two older manuscripts (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) over 95 to 99% of other witnesses.



The manuscripts behind the Critical Text come from a different river or source, from different people, and was not the product of God's providential hand like the original Received Text. The manuscript debate will never be resolved between Christians today but we can see the two types of manuscripts flowing down two different rivers. The Received Text River is the unpolluted strain of manuscripts. There are over 5,600 Greek manuscripts compared together in an unpolluted river that have flowed down to us from the past centuries.

The majority of manuscripts discovered in the past as well as the present testify to the authenticity of the Greek text behind the King James Version known as the "Textus Receptus" which in Latin means "text" [textum] now "received" [receptum] by all. This became known as the Textus Receptus or Received Text. It was this text (the Church Text) that has come into our hands today through the providential working of God.

This Received Text was derived from Greek manuscripts from the Byzantine period (312–1453) known as the Traditional Text. 80% to 90% of the manuscripts behind the Received Text contain a text which closely resembles the Byzantine Text. We believe God did preserve this text for us today. It is the true Majority Text (taken from the majority of manuscripts). Throughout history God has kept a river of Greek manuscripts from being polluted or tampered with by the devil. God has preserved His own Word as He promised (Psalms 100:5; 119:152,160; Isaiah 40:8; Matt. 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25). God has promised to providentially keep the original text from loss and alteration of meaning. God has done this by keeping a river of manuscripts from being polluted by devilish corruption.

The Received Text is God's Preserved Word.

Why should we believe that the Received Text is God's preserved Word?

#1

Because it primarily uses the majority of manuscript evidence to authenticate itself (80% to 90% - 4,200 to 4,730 out of a possible 5,650 copies of manuscripts contain a Greek text which resembles the text behind to K.J.V.).

#2

Because it has been God's text used in the Protestant church as a whole from 1453 to 1881 (over 4 centuries or 400 years).

#3

Because copies of the original autographs will normally have the largest number of descendants. The manuscripts that were used were copied

over and over again. That is why we have the reproduction of thousands and thousands of manuscripts today to prove the authenticity of the text behind the King James Version of the Bible.

#4

Because we do not believe that this text which guided the true people of God through the years can be set aside by one manuscript in a monastery and one manuscript in the Pope's palace (Vatican).

#5

Because the Egyptian manuscripts (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) from which the new Bible versions are taken were discovered after the publication of the King James Version. God obviously wanted to settle His word before the real corruption set in by the corrupted texts.

This Greek text was the basis for:

- Revised Version of 1881
- All Bible versions which follows (American Standard Version, New American Standard, New International Version, etc.).
- New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness Bible)

All of liberalism and even the cults will cater to a text that is liberal, biased and corrupt. *The devil wants man to fish from the polluted stream of manuscript waters.* As a result of man's fishing in the wrong river, the Church has developed Bibles that are in some ways polluted. We have Bibles that are clearly adding to God's Word and deleting from God's Word. We have Bibles that have altered God's eternal Word.

Why do we reject the critical text behind modern versions?

#1

Because of the early dates of this text (4th and 5th centuries). These manuscripts are older than all the other manuscripts (thousands of them) because they were never used and dispersed abroad. They should have been read to pieces. Trustworthy Greek manuscripts wore out and were copied over (older does not mean better).

#2

Because the text has a corrupt foundation. It is derived from the Greek manuscript writings of the Alexandrian school. Men like Origen were liberal and trained in philosophy. They established these corrupted manuscripts and in Constantine's time Eusibius brought into being a Bible that was founded upon these corrupt Egyptian manuscripts. He was a follower of Origen. The Alexandrian Text was just that, the local text of Alexandria, which never really spread beyond Egypt.

#3

Because of the liberal scholarship behind the text. Practically all modern English translations have been heavily influenced by the previous findings of Griesbach, Lachmann, Tregelles, and Tischendorf (German rationalists) that showed interest in the Critical Text readings. Their findings eventually resulted in two other outright liberals developing a corrupt, Alexandrian Greek text. These men were Brooke Foss Westcott (1825-1901) and Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828-1892).

Their Greek text was primarily based on the findings of Tischendorf and would become the underlying Greek text of the Revised Version or English Revised Version (1881), an alleged revision of the 1611 King

James Version, and all other modern Bible versions, which stem from this textual stream.

This standard Greek text was then followed by other renditions, such as the Nestle and Aland and UBS Greek text (Bruce Metzger - another liberal), which were all derived from an Alexandrian text base (Greek texts discovered in Alexandrian Egypt). For the most part, these texts were not used by Christians or the Church as a standard, common, and received Greek text. They were seen as flawed and did not spread to ends of the earth as the Received or Majority Text. The preface to the original Revised Standard Version gives this following observation: "Many difficulties and obscurities, of course, remain." Do they ever!

Here are some quotes from John Anthony Hort.

"Evangelicals seem to be perverted rather than untrue."

"But the book that has most engaged me is Darwin. ... My feeling is strong that the theory is unanswerable."

"I have been persuaded for many years that Mary-worship and Jesus-worship have very much in common ..."

"I am inclined to think that such a state as Eden (I mean the popular notion) never existed."

"We dare not forsake the sacraments or God will forsake us."

Let me also share some additional quotes from Brooke Foss Westcott.

"It is very small, with one kneeling-place; and behind the screen was a 'pieta' (Mary and a dead Christ) ... Had I been alone I could have knelt there for hours."

"No one now I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, gives a literal history."

It's no wonder why the Critical Text with all of its liberal corruptions is accepted by liberal scholarship and the Roman Catholic Church. We have left the Word of God in the hands of the liberals and publishing houses of our day. Marketing the Bible to fit man's preferences has become the goal of our time. This is why we even have gender neutral Bibles being written.

#4

Because the manuscripts behind the modern versions represent less than 10% of the existing 5,650 manuscripts available.

#5

Because Vaticanus has been under lock and key in Rome. We have only the copies, which Rome decided to give the outside world.

#6

Because there are over 36,000 places where this text differs from the Traditional Text (Received Text). All of these changes take away from the reassuring truth that God has preserved His Word through the ages (Matthew 5:18).

#7

Because they question the truth about certain Bible doctrines such as the virgin birth, blood of Christ, and deity of Christ. The Greek text of Westcott-Hort (underlying all other Bible translations) differs from the

Received Text (underlying the KJV) in over 5,600 instances and this shows up in the translation. For instance, the Critical Text eliminates the last twelve verses of Mark, 1 John 5:7, it deletes John 7:53-8:1 and many other readings found in the Received Text, which have been accepted by Christians throughout the course of history.

Entire verses and sentences are completely deleted! Important words like "**Lord**", "**Jesus**", "**Christ**", "**blood**", "**repent**", and "**hell**" are omitted many times! References to Jesus as "**Lord**" have been taken away in **thirty-nine places**. The title "**Christ**" has been eliminated in **fifty-two** places. The name of "**Jesus**" has been eliminated in **eighty-seven** places. In all, about **178 references to Jesus by name**, referencing Him as **Lord**, or as **Christ**, have been deleted. Furthermore, **617 words spoken by Jesus Christ** have been deleted! This is not a coincidence.

For a more detailed explanation and look at the differences between the KJV (the Received Text Bible) and other Bible translations (Critical Text Bibles) you can read my study entitled: "Why I Still Use the King James Version." An even more exhaustive and in-depth study is "The King James Bible versus Other Bible Translations."

In summary, there is the **polluted stream** of manuscripts (Egyptian school — Vaticanus & Sinaiticus) and there is the **unpolluted stream** of manuscripts (Antiochan, Byzantine, Traditional, Majority, Received Text). Which will you choose? Which Bible will you follow? The Greek text behind the King James Version has been passed down through the Church generations and was obviously God's preserved text. It is this Greek text which has come from the river (flow) of literally thousands of accepted Greek manuscripts compared together, in contrast to the two or three manuscripts from which all the other versions are translated!

It is the Greek text, not the KJV English, but the Greek text behind the Bible that is the real issue and debate among evangelicals. Has God providentially preserved His Word through a specific text? Has God kept a text pure and free from defilement or corruption down through the centuries? We answer in the affirmative. God in His providence has kept a text pure that has been passed down through the church centuries and this text (Received Text) is represented in the King James Version.