

## The New Testament Text

There is more manuscript support for the New Testament than for any other body of ancient literature. Over five thousand Greek, eight thousand Latin, and many more manuscripts in other languages attest the integrity of the New Testament...

Some variations exist in the spelling of Greek words, in word order, and in similar details. These ordinarily do not show up in translation and do not affect the sense of the text in any way. Other manuscript differences such as omission or inclusion of a word or a clause, and two paragraphs in the Gospels, should not overshadow the overwhelming degree of agreement which exists among the ancient records. Bible readers may be assured that the most important differences in English New Testaments of today are due, not to manuscript divergence, but to the way in which translators view the task of translation: How literally should the text be rendered? How does the translator view the matter of biblical inspiration? Does the translator adopt a paraphrase when a literal rendering would be quite clear and more to the point? The New King James Version follows the historic precedent of the Authorized Version in maintaining a literal approach to translation, except where the idiom of the original language cannot be translated directly into our tongue. The King James New Testament was based on the traditional text of the Greek-speaking churches, first published in 1516, and later called the Textus Receptus or Received Text. Although based on the relatively few available manuscripts, these were representative of many more which existed at the time but only became known later. In the late nineteenth century, B. Westcott and F. Hort taught that this text had been officially edited by the fourth-century church, but a total lack of historical evidence for this event has forced a revision of the theory. ..

Since the 1880s most contemporary translations of the New Testament have relied upon a relatively few manuscripts discovered chiefly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Such translations depend primarily on two manuscripts, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, because of their greater age. ... However, some scholars have grounds for doubting the faithfulness of Vaticanus and Sinaiticus, since they often disagree with one another, and Sinaiticus exhibits excessive omission.

A third viewpoint of New Testament scholarship holds that the best text is based on the consensus of the majority of existing Greek manuscripts. This text is called the Majority Text. ... The Majority Text is similar to the Textus Receptus, but it corrects those readings which have little or no support in the Greek manuscript tradition.

Today, scholars agree that the science of New Testament textual criticism is in a state of flux. ...., a small but growing number of scholars prefer the Majority Text, which is close to the traditional text except in the Revelation.

In light of these facts, ..., the editors decided to retain the traditional text ..and to indicate major Critical and Majority Text variant readings in the footnotes. ..

### New King James Footnotes

Where significant variations occur in the New Testament Greek manuscripts, textual notes are classified as follows:

1. NU-Text These variations from the traditional text generally represent the Alexandrian or Egyptian type of text described previously in "The New Testament Text." They are found in the Critical Text published in the twenty-sixth edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament (N) and in the United Bible Societies' third edition (U), hence the acronym, "NU-Text."
2. M-Text This symbol indicates points of variation in the Majority Text from the traditional text, as also previously discussed in "The New Testament Text." It should be noted that M stands for whatever reading is printed in the published Greek New Testament According to the Majority Text, whether supported by overwhelming, strong, or only a divided majority textual tradition. The textual notes reflect the scholarship of the past 150 years and will assist the reader to observe the variations between the different manuscript traditions of the New Testament. Such information is generally not available in English translations of the New Testament.

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## 1 AUGUST, 2010

### *Information for Visitors.*

- \* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- \* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

[Selections from..] **Preface to the New King James Version**  
Copyright 1997, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

### **Purpose**

In the preface to the 1611 edition, the translators of ... the King James Bible, state that it was not their purpose "to make a new translation...but to make a good one better." .. In harmony with the purpose of the King James scholars, the translators and editors of the present work have not pursued a goal of innovation. They have perceived the Holy Bible, New King James Version, as a continuation of the labors of the earlier translators, ...

### **Complete Equivalence in Translation**

Where new translation has been necessary in the New King James Version, the most complete representation of the original has been rendered by considering the history of usage and etymology of words in their contexts. This principle of complete equivalence seeks to preserve all of the information in the text, while presenting it in good literary form. Dynamic equivalence, a recent procedure in Bible translation, commonly results in paraphrasing ...

### **The Style**

.. Yet it is ..universally understood that our language, like all living languages, has undergone profound change since 1611. Subsequent revisions of the King James Bible have sought to keep abreast of changes in English speech. The present work is a further step toward this objective. Where obsolescence and other reading difficulties exist, present-day vocabulary, punctuation, and grammar have been carefully integrated. ...

### **The Old Testament Text**

The Hebrew Bible has come down to us through the scrupulous care of ancient scribes who copied the original text in successive generations. By the sixth century A.D. the scribes were succeeded by a group known as the Masoretes, who continued to preserve the sacred Scriptures for another five hundred years in a form known as the Masoretic Text. .. The Septuagint (Greek) Version of the Old Testament and the Latin Vulgate also were consulted. In addition to referring to a variety of ancient versions of the Hebrew Scriptures, the New King James Version draws on the resources of relevant manuscripts from the Dead Sea caves. In the few places where the Hebrew was so obscure that the 1611 King James was compelled to follow one of the versions, but where information is now available to resolve the problems, the New King James Version follows the Hebrew text. Significant variations are recorded in footnotes.



# Discipleship Series

## Why use the NKJV?

The NKJV is based on the best text. It will take three steps to explain why the NKJV is based on the best text:

### 1. An explanation of \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Galatians 6:11)** "See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!"

**(Galatians 6:18)** "Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."

**(2 Timothy 3:16-17)** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

**(1 Peter 1:23-25)** "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, [24] because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, [25] But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."



Figure 1: 7Q5, AD 50



Figure 2: P52 117-138 AD

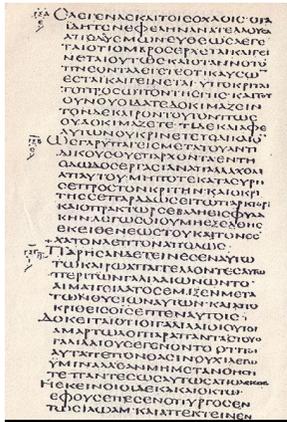


Figure 3: Gospels  
Codex Alexandrinus  
Byzantine Text, 400 AD

There are two families of manuscripts:

- ◆ B \_\_\_\_\_ family
- ◆ A \_\_\_\_\_ family



Figure 4: Codex Sinaiticus 360 AD



### 2. An Explanation of the \_\_\_\_\_,

**(1 Timothy 3:16)** "... God was manifested in the flesh, ...." ["God" changed to "He" in critical text]

**(Colossians 1:14)** "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." ["through His blood" left out of critical text]

**(Mark 1:2)** "As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." ["As it is written in the Prophets" changed to "As it is written in Isaiah the prophet" in Critical text]

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

Figure 5

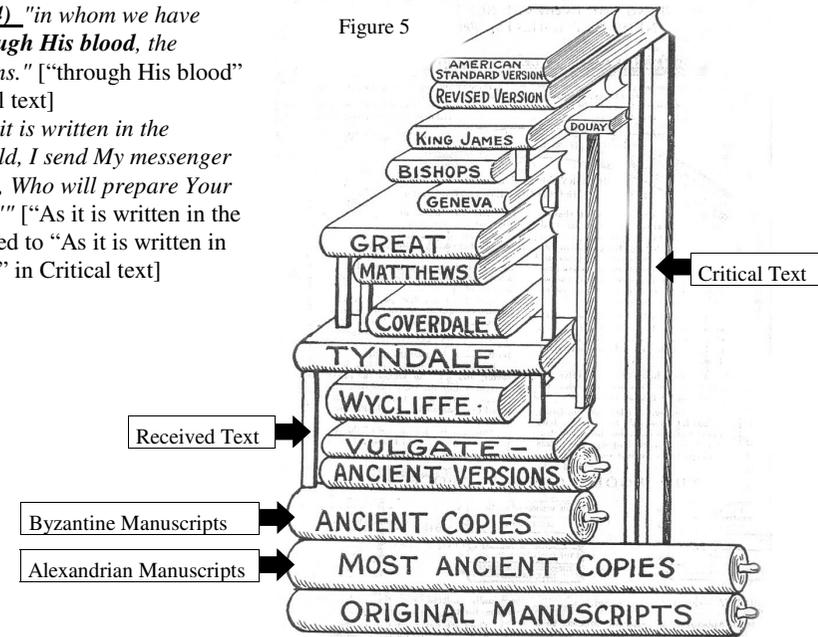
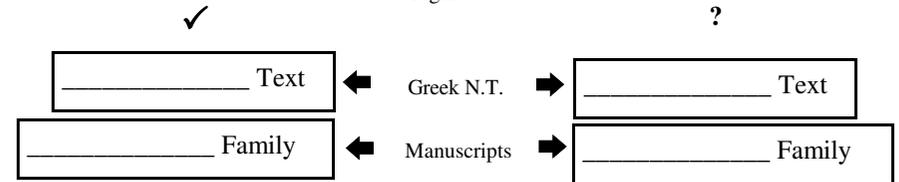


Figure 6



### 3. Evaluation of \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Acts 8:37)** "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.""

**(Hebrews 4:12)** "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

