

#FYI2017: Manuscript Errors in the Bible?

1) Definitions

- Autograph: “The _____ or _____ of the biblical documents, that is, the material that the _____.” [1]
- Manuscript: “An old document or book _____ in the times before printing was invented.” [2]
- Variant: “Any difference from a _____.” [3]
- Textual Criticism: “The discipline that attempts to determine _____ of any documents ...” [4]

Question: Do we have the autograph of the Old & New Testament?

Answer: _____

2) NT Manuscripts vs Classical Texts

- Copies of NT manuscripts
 - Greek: _____ [5]
 - Latin: _____ [6]
 - Slavic: _____ [7]
 - Armenian: _____ [8]
 - Coptic: _____ [9]
 - Syriac: _____ [10]
- Copies of Classical Texts
 - [Refer to page 7 of THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TEST by Josh D. McDowell & Clay Jones (Updated 08.13.14) which is attached to this notes]

Question: Is Bart Ehrman right that variants in manuscripts > words in the NT? [11] [12]

Answer: _____

3) NT Words vs Variants

- Question: How many words are there in the NT?
Answer: _____ [13]
- Question: How many variants are there in NT manuscripts?
Answer: _____ [14]

4) Types of Variants

- a) Not _____ and not _____
 - Unlikely _____, and they _____ of the text

- “_____ and _____ are the vast majority, accounting for at least 75% of all variants.” [15]
- e.g. John’s name
- b) _____ but not _____
 - Could be _____ but make no _____ to the text
 - e.g. Luke 2:16
- c) _____ but not _____
 - Do _____ of the text, but they are unlikely _____
 - e.g. Luke 6:22
- d) _____ and _____
 - Good chance of _____ and they _____ of the text
 - “These comprise less than _____ of all textual variants.” [16]
 - e.g. 1 John 1:4, Romans 5:1, 1 John 1:4, Romans 5:1, 1 John 5:7*, Mark 16:9-20*, John 7:53-John 8:11*

Question: What happens if we do not have any NT manuscripts?

Answer: We have quotations of the _____ which would allow us to _____ [17] / _____ [18] the New Testament

5) Conclusion

- We can take heart knowing the following things:
 - a) The Bible we have today is _____ (i.e. we have plenty of _____)
 - b) There is an entire field of study dedicated to discovering the _____
 - c) There is no conspiracy to _____
 - d) The _____ variants have no impact on _____ [19]

“For most practical purposes, then, the current published scholarly texts of the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament are the _____.” [20]

Endnotes:

- [1] Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (1994), p.96
- [2] Definition of “manuscript” from the Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press
- [3] Daniel B Wallace, “The Number of Textual Variants: An Evangelical Miscalculation.” Danielbwallace.com. Accessed October 6, 2017.
<https://danielbwallace.com/2013/09/09/the-number-of-textual-variants-an-evangelical-miscalculation/>
- [4] Justin Taylor, “An Interview with Daniel B Wallace on the New Testament Manuscripts” TheGospelCoalition.org. Accessed October 6, 2017.
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2012/03/21/an-interview-with-daniel-b-wallace-on-the-new-testament-manuscripts/>
- [5] Robert D Marcello, “National Library of Greece Summer Recap.” CSNTM.org. Accessed October 6, 2017.
<http://www.csntm.org/News/Archive/2015/9/28/NationalLibraryofGreeceSummerReca>
- [6] J. K. Elliott, “The Translations of the New Testament into Latin: The Old Latin and the Vulgate,” *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt, Widmen Dieses, et., al., eds.* (1992), p.224
- [7] Henry R. Cooper, *Slavic Scriptures: The Formation of the Church Slavonic Version of the Holy Bible* (2003), p. 170, fn 61
- [8] Bruce Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, 4th Edition (2005), p.117
- [9] Karlheinz Schüssler, *Biblia Coptica: Die Koptischen Bibeltex te Band 3* (2004)
- [10] Bruce Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, 4th Edition (2005), p.98
- [11] Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus* (2005), p.90
- [12] Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus* (2005), p.7
- [13] Edward D. Andrews and Don Wilkins, *The Text of the New Testament: The Science and Art of Textual Criticism* (2017), p.335
- [14] Daniel B Wallace, “The Number of Textual Variants: An Evangelical Miscalculation.” Danielbwallace.com. Accessed October 6, 2017.
<https://danielbwallace.com/2013/09/09/the-number-of-textual-variants-an-evangelical-miscalculation/>
- [15] Justin Taylor, “An Interview with Daniel B Wallace on the New Testament Manuscripts” TheGospelCoalition.org. Accessed October 6, 2017.
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2012/03/21/an-interview-with-daniel-b-wallace-on-the-new-testament-manuscripts/>
- [16] J. Ed Komoszewski, et al, *Reinventing Jesus* (2006), p.63
- [17] Harold Greenlee, *Introduction To New Testament Textual Criticism* (1993), p.54

[18] Bruce Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, 4th Edition (2005), p.126

[19] D A. Carson, *The King James Version Debate* (1979), p.56; see also Philip W. Comfort, *The Complete Guide to Bible Versions* (1991) & Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus* (2005), p.252

[20] Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (1994)