

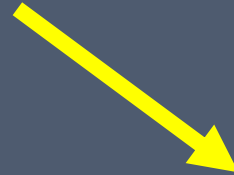
HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 5 – RECONSTRUCTING THE NT PART II (CRITICAL EDITIONS AND MANUSCRIPT WITNESSES)

Dan Leiphart

FROM GOD TO US

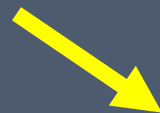
INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION



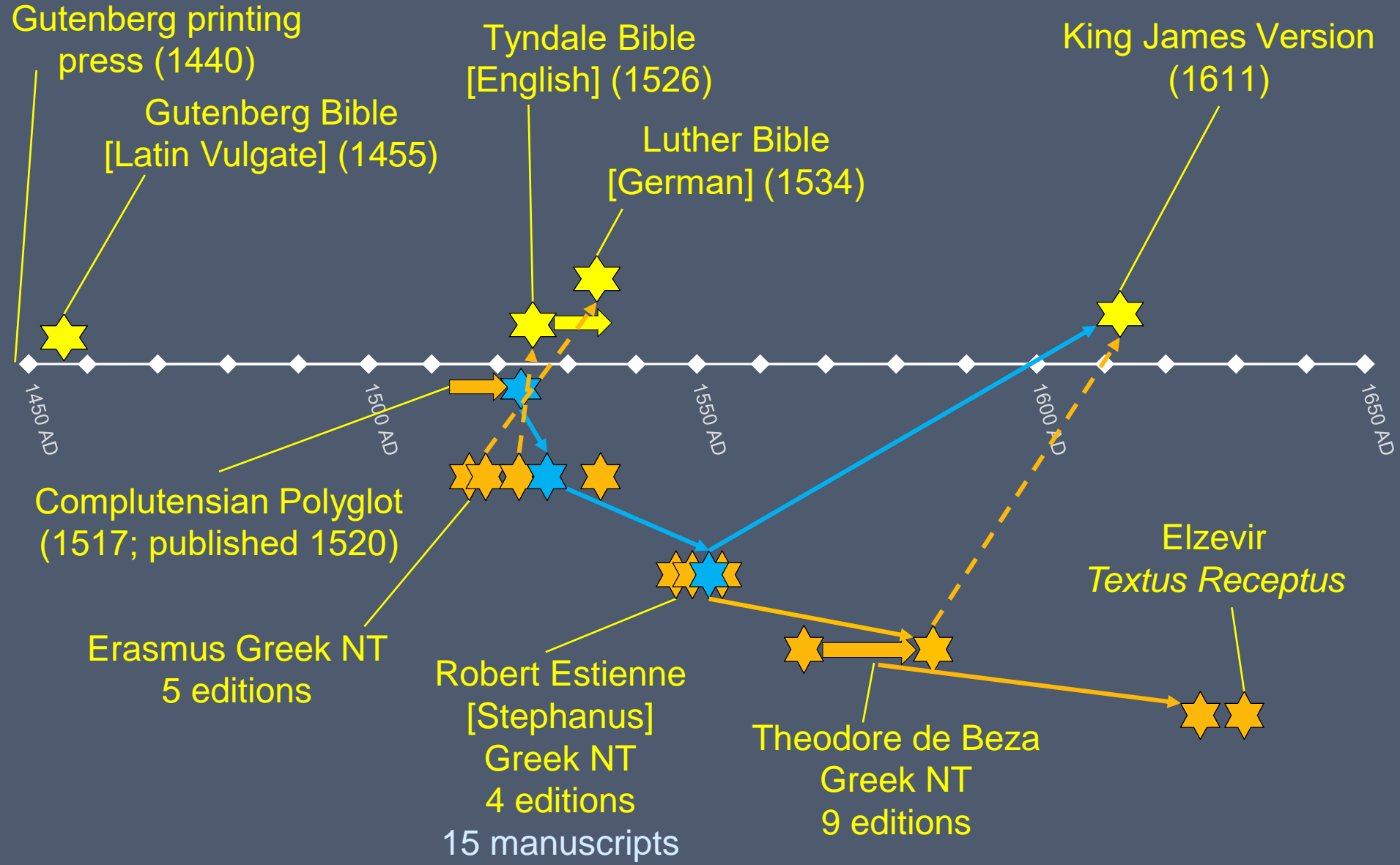
TRANSLATION

Transmission of the Bible

Reconstructing the Greek Text of the New Testament

(Formation of the Critical Texts)

Early Printed Bibles



John Mill (1645-1707)

- English theologian and fellow at Queen's College, Oxford
- Produced an epic Greek NT edition in 1707
- Prefixed a prolegomena which contained valuable information on 32 printed editions of the Greek NT and 100 manuscripts and all patristic citations from all church fathers of any importance.
- Prolegomena includes an index of variants from 3,041 of ~8,000 verses (a total of ~30,000 variants)
- Despite all the noted variants, his edition basically reproduced Stephanus' 1550 text

Edward Wells (1667-1727)

- English mathematician and theological writer
- Published a Greek NT at Oxford which deviated from Elzevir's text 210 times (almost always agreeing with 19th century text critics), drawing from John Mill's variant readings
- Credited with the first complete NT that moved away from the *Textus Receptus* in favor of readings from the more ancient manuscripts
- His edition was largely ignored by his contemporaries

Richard Bentley (1662-1742)

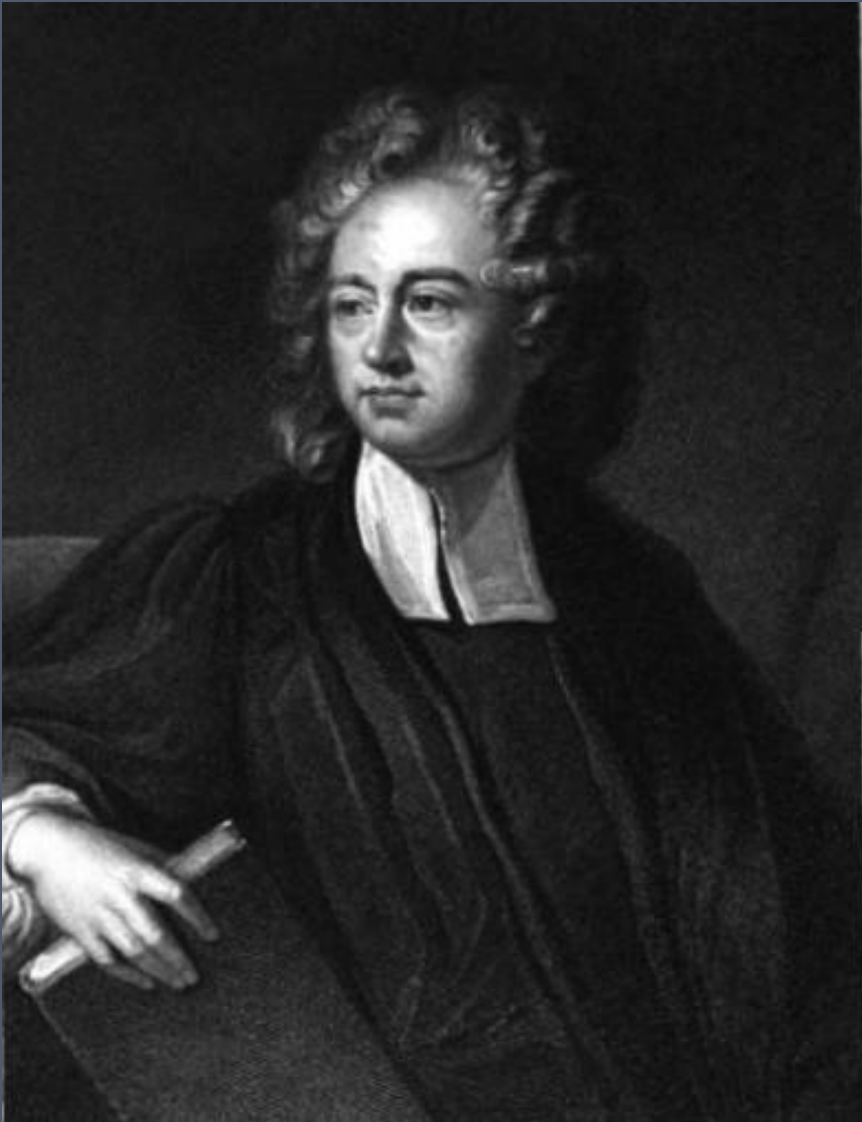


Image from Wikipedia

- English classical scholar & master of Trinity College, Cambridge
- Set out to reproduce the Greek NT of the 4th century, collected more manuscript evidence
- Swiss theologian Johann Jakob Wettstein had collated manuscripts for Bentley and published a Greek NT edition in 1752 (Elzevir's text but includes preferred readings from older manuscripts in the margins) – he was sent into exile for allegedly denying the divinity of Christ because of his textual studies

Johann Albrecht Bengel (1687-1752)



Image from Wikipedia

- German theologian, studied at Tübingen
- Greatly disturbed by Mill's ~30,000 variants, resolved to study the transmission of the text
- Concluded that the manuscript variants did not shake any article of evangelic doctrine
- Formulated a canon of textual criticism that has basically been approved by all text critics since (1725)
 - Said **manuscripts should not be counted but weighed**, classified in "companies, families, tribes, nations" (first to divide up = Asiatic & African)
 - *Proclivi scriptioni praestat ardua* (**the difficult is to be preferred over the easy reading**)
- Published a Greek NT in 1734, which mostly did not deviate from the *Textus Receptus* but included an apparatus with his collated variants and preferred readings

Johann Jakob Griesbach (1745-1812)



Image from Wikipedia

- German biblical text critic
- Professor of NT at University of Jena
- Classified the NT manuscripts into three families: Alexandrian, Western and Byzantine
- Laid the foundation for all future work on the Greek NT
- Published his first edition of Greek NT 1775-1777
- Published 15 rules for textual criticism when evaluating variant readings
- First German scholar to abandon the *Textus Receptus* in many places and publish a Greek NT in the form to which his investigations had brought him.

Johann Leonhard Hug (1765-1846)

& Johannes Martin Augustinus Scholz (1794-1852)



Image from Wikipedia

- Roman Catholic scholars
- Hug – professor at University of Freiburg im Breisgau
- Scholz – pupil of Hug's and professor at University of Bonn
- Hug postulated that at the end of the 3rd century the NT text degenerated into what is now called the Western Text
- Scholz traveled extensively through Europe and Near East and added 616 minuscule manuscripts to those known in what was the first comprehensive list of extant manuscripts
- He was the first to emphasize the geographical provenance of the manuscripts
- His 1836 Greek NT was chiefly the *Textus Receptus* but in 1845 he retracted his views toward the superiority of the earlier manuscripts

***Karl Lachmann* (1793-1851)**



Image from Wikipedia

- German philologist and critic
- Produced one of the first complete breaks from the *Textus Receptus* with 3 editions of the Greek NT
- His was the first with NT that rested wholly on a critical text with evaluations of variant readings
- His 1831 edition contained a list of deviations from the *Textus Receptus* and was constructed for the first time directly on ancient manuscripts and not an earlier printed edition

Lobegott Friedrich Constantin von Tischendorf (1815-1874)



Image from Wikipedia

- Sought out and published more manuscripts and produced more critical editions of the Greek Bible than any other single scholar
- Studied theology at Leipzig
- Stated, “I am confronted with a sacred task, the struggle to regain the original form of the New Testament” at age 25
- His 8th edition of 1872 contained a rich apparatus of all the variants that he or his predecessors had found in the manuscripts, versions and fathers
- This edition varies from his 7th in 3,572 places because of his discovery of Codex Sinaiticus in between
 - Discovered at St Catherine’s monastery in Mt. Sinai in 1844, published in 1862, oldest complete Bible (~350 AD)

Westcott-Hort Critical Edition (1881)

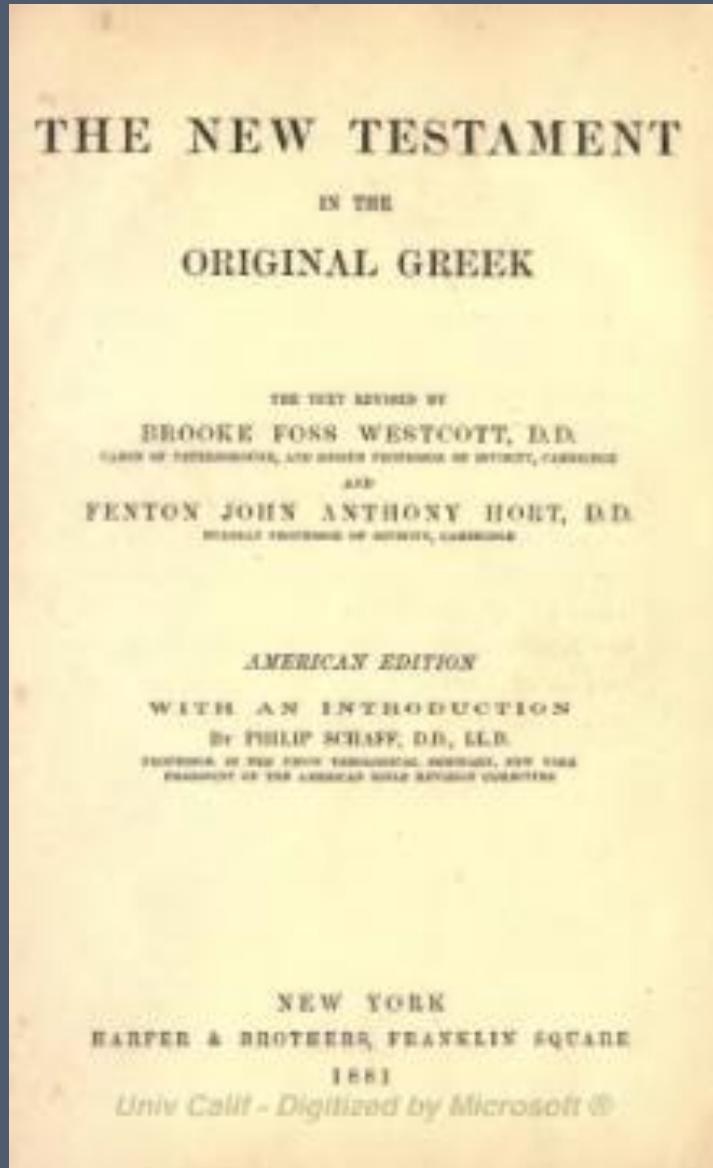
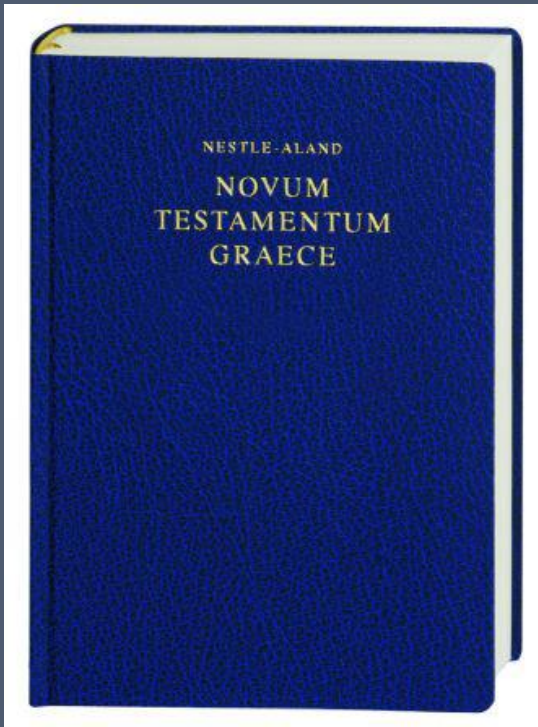


Image from Wikipedia

- Published by British scholars Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort
- Called *The New Testament in the Original Greek*
- Favors the Alexandrian Text found in the older manuscripts as opposed to the Byzantine Text of the newer manuscripts
 - *Codex Sinaiticus* and *Codex Vaticanus* of the 4th century are two most heavily trusted manuscripts
 - *Textus Receptus* is deemed less reliable
- Heavily relied on internal evidence when deciding between difficult readings (intrinsic and transcriptional probability)
- Demonstrated that the Byzantine text is the latest
- Basis for the 1885 Revised Version of the 1611 KJV – later followed by the American Standard Version (1901)

Nestle-Aland (*novum testamentum graece*) (1898-2012)



UBS GNT
committee



Images from Wikipedia

- Widely used edition attributed to the work of scholars Eberhard Nestle (1851-1913) and Kurt Aland (1915-1994) who led the editing work
- Nestle's first edition was published in 1898 combining the texts of Tischendorf, Westcott & Hort, and Weymouth
- 28th edition (NA28) published in 2012 – identical text to United Bible Society's 5th edition (UBS5)
- An eclectic text chosen by committee based on established textual criticism guidelines
- The NA text is the primary textual basis for most modern translations of the New Testament

ESV Textual Basis (2001)

The ESV is based on the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible as found in Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (5th ed., 1997), **and on the Greek text in the 2014 editions of the Greek New Testament (5th corrected ed.), published by the United Bible Societies (UBS), and Novum Testamentum Graece (28th ed., 2012), edited by Nestle and Aland.** The currently renewed respect among Old Testament scholars for the Masoretic text is reflected in the ESV's attempt, wherever possible, to translate difficult Hebrew passages as they stand in the Masoretic text rather than resorting to emendations or to finding an alternative reading in the ancient versions. In exceptional, difficult cases, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac Peshitta, the Latin Vulgate, and other sources were consulted to shed possible light on the text, or, if necessary, to support a divergence from the Masoretic text. **Similarly, in a few difficult cases in the New Testament, the ESV has followed a Greek text different from the text given preference in the UBS/Nestle-Aland 28th edition.** Throughout, the translation team has benefited greatly from the massive textual resources that have become readily available recently, from new insights into biblical laws and culture, and from current advances in Hebrew and Greek lexicography and grammatical understanding.

Bruce Metzger (1914-2007)



- American Bible scholar, translator and text critic
- Professor at Princeton Theological Seminary
- Widely considered one of most influential Bible scholars of 20th century
- Editor for the UBS Greek NT
- Contributor to the Revised Standard Version (RSV) – 1952
- Chairman for the translation committee for the NRSV (1989)
- Published many books on textual criticism, canon and development of the NT, including a commentary on the UBS committee's choices for important variants to the NT text



The Center FOR THE STUDY OF
NEW TESTAMENT Manuscripts

Dan Wallace (1952-)

- Professor of NT studies at DTS
- World-renowned expert in Biblical Greek & author of the widely popular *Greek Grammar: Beyond the Basics*.
- Founder and Executive Director at the Center for the Studies of New Testament Manuscripts (Sept. 2002)

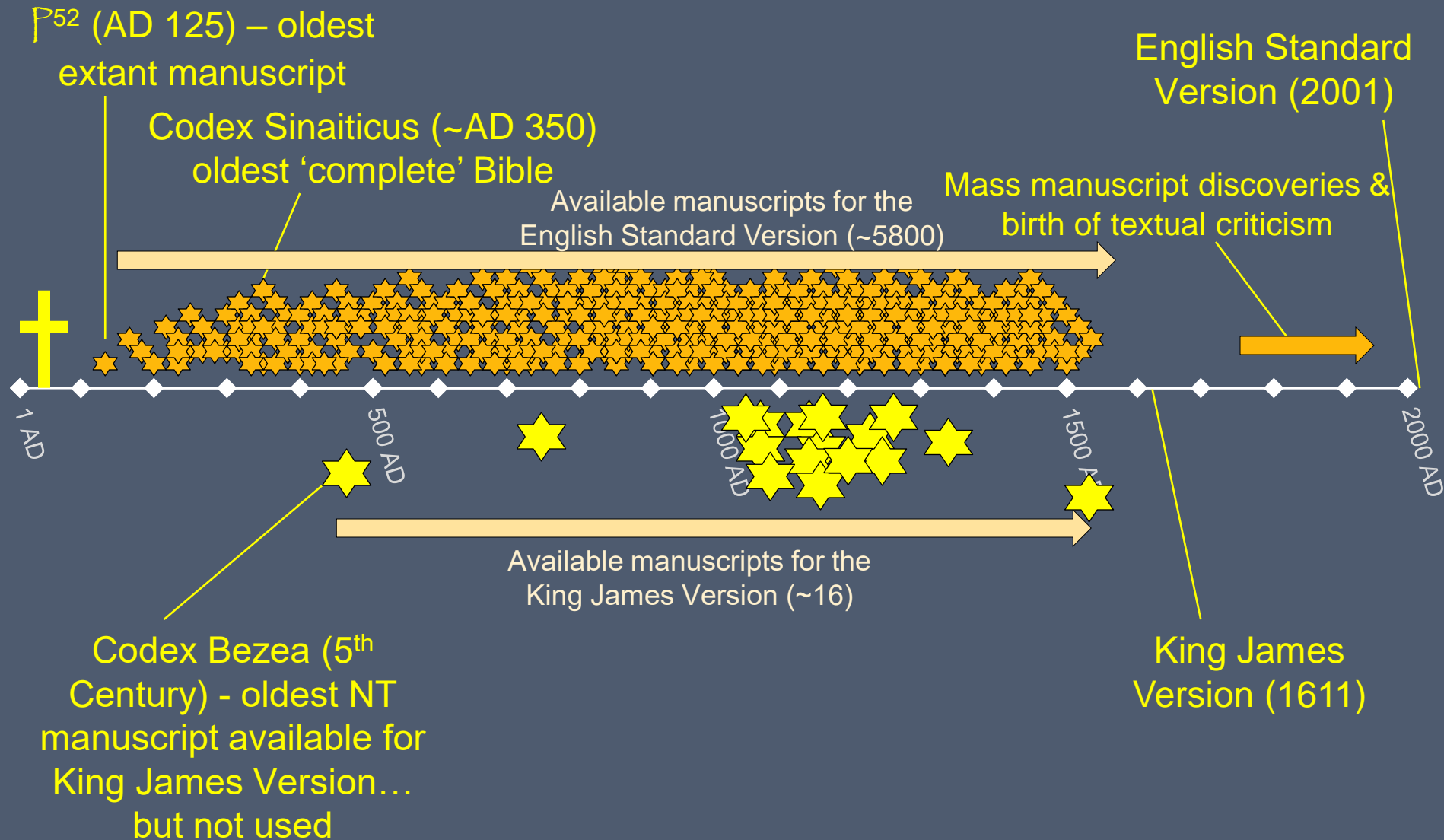
CSNTM Mission...

“To provide digital photographs of extant Greek New Testament manuscripts so that such images can be preserved, duplicated without deterioration, and accessed by scholars doing textual research.”

[The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts \(csntm.org\)](http://csntm.org)



Manuscript Age vs Discovery & Use



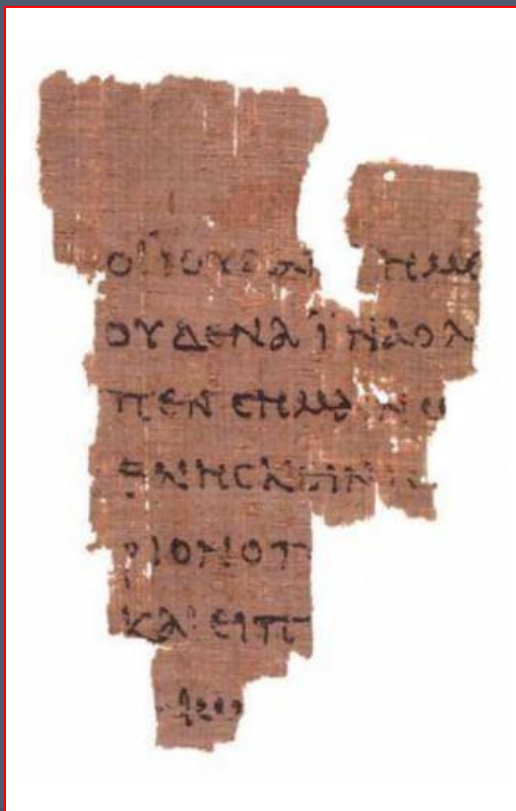
100 AD

Gospels				Acts	Pauline Epistles														Catholic Epistles	Revelation

By 100 AD all of the New Testament Books had been written. We currently do not have the autograph or any copies dating before 100 AD

125 AD

Gospels				Acts	Pauline Epistles												Catholic Epistles	Revelation



P52

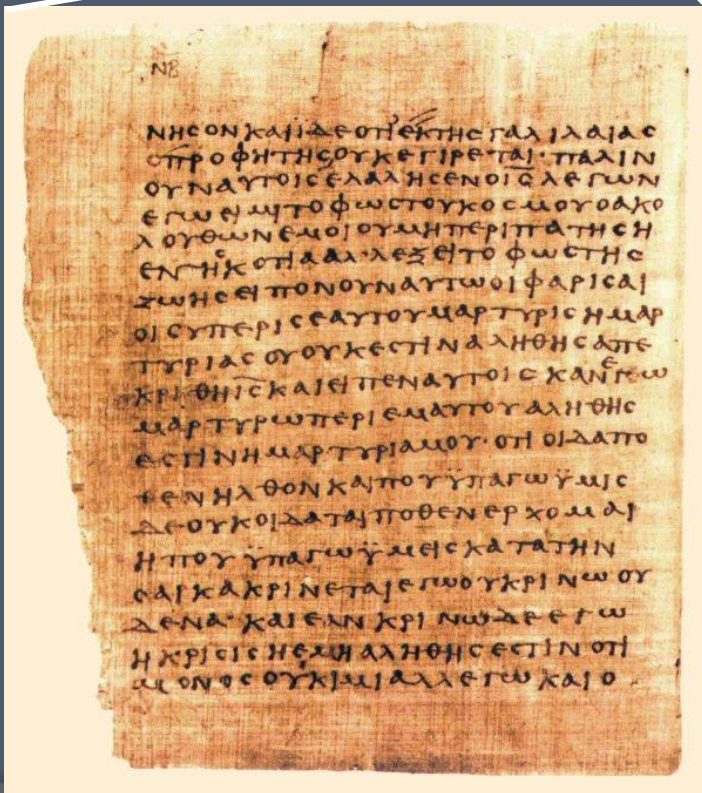
Date:
Text:

II (~125 A.D.)
John 18:31-33; 37-38

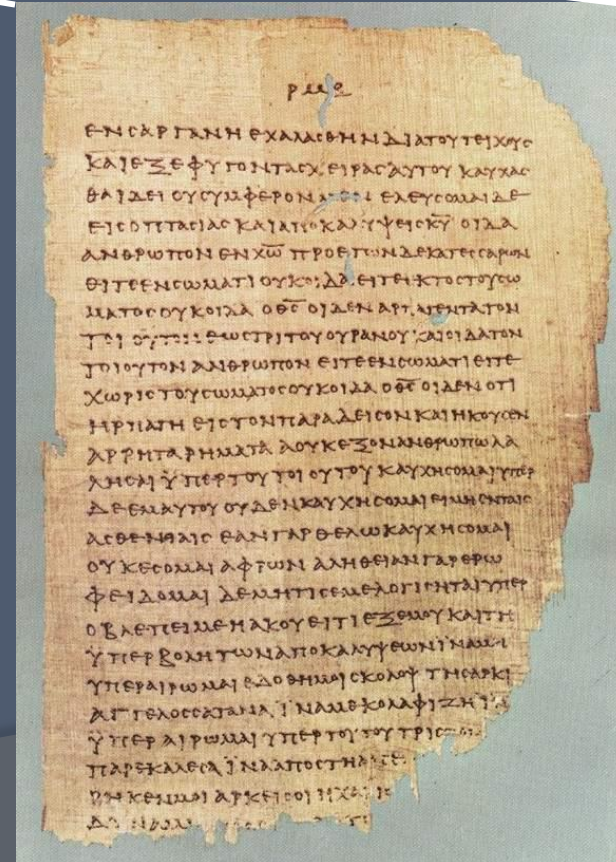
**Oldest existing
New Testament
manuscript!**

200 AD

Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	Catholic Epistles	Revelation
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	James 1 Peter 2 Peter Jude	Revelation



P66



P46

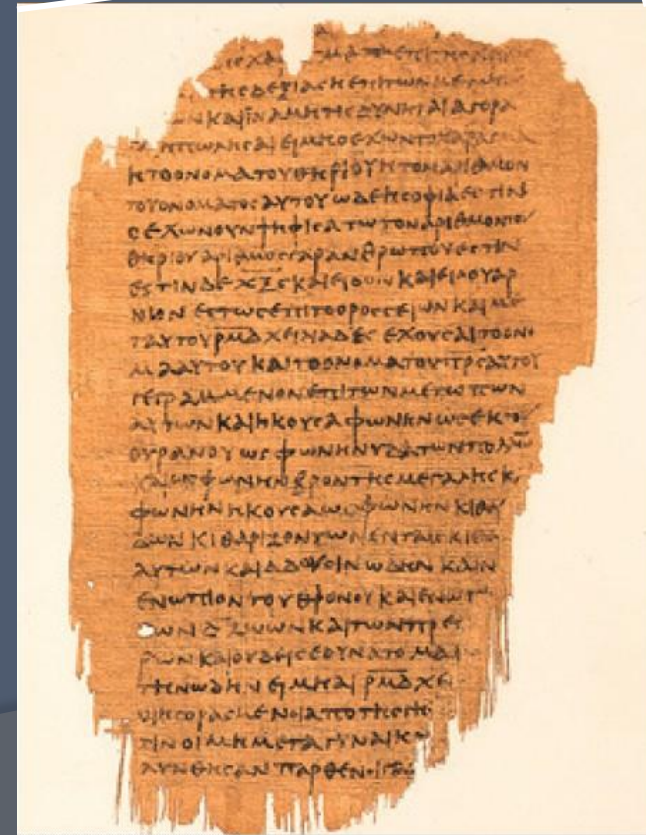
250 AD

Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	Catholic Epistles	Revelation
				

P45



P47



300 AD

Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	Catholic Epistles	Revelation
				

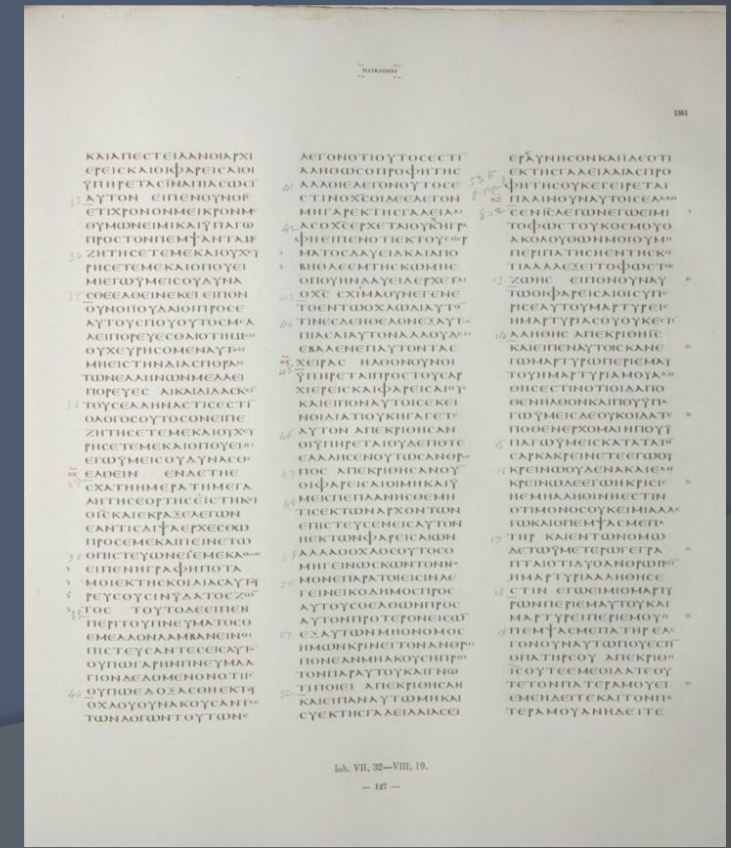
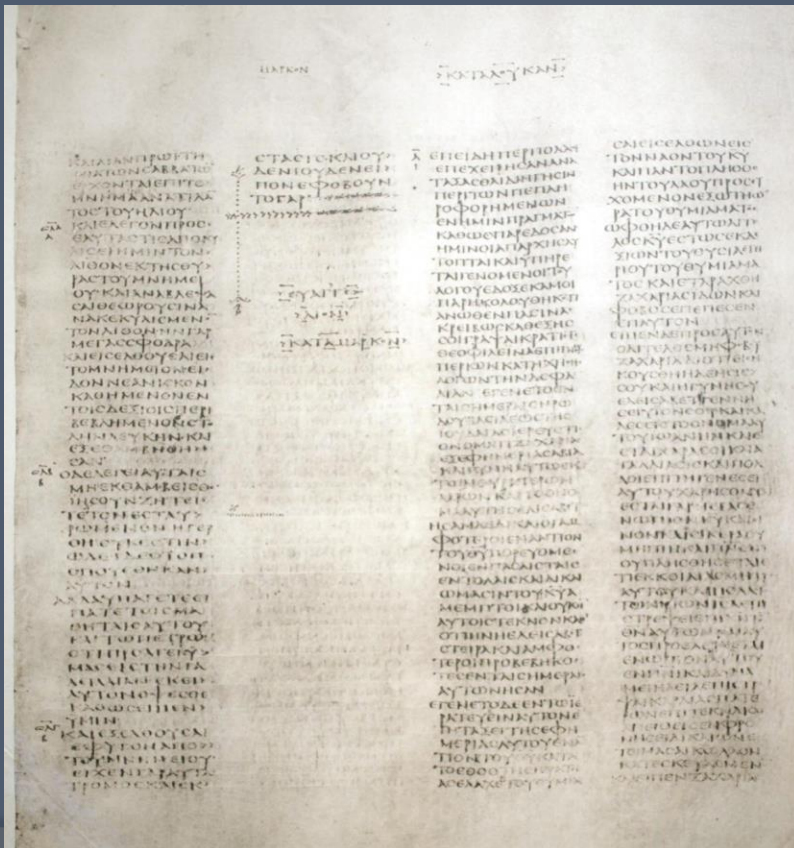


P72

350 AD

Gospels				Acts	Pauline Epistles										Catholic Epistles	Revelation

Oldest
existing
~complete
New
Testaments
Sinaiticus &
Vaticanus



Comparison of NT Witnesses to Other Historical Works

Biblical Manuscripts Compared to Selected Ancient Sources					
Author	Ancient Source	Date of Original	Earliest Manuscript	Gap from Original	Manuscript Copies
Plato	<i>Dialogues/Tetralogies</i>	4th cent. BC	3rd cent. BC	c. 150 years	c. 210-240
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	9th cent. BC	c. 400–415 BC	c. 450 years	c. 1800+
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	5th cent. BC	2nd–1st cent. BC	c. 450 years	c. 100+
Thucydides	<i>History of the Peloponnesian Wars</i>	5th cent. BC	3rd cent BC	c. 200 years	c. 185
Demosthenes	<i>Orations/Speeches</i>	4th cent. BC	1st cent. BC	c. 300 years	c. 440+
Aristophanes	Assorted works	448–385 BC	AD 900	c. 1,300 years	10
Sophocles	<i>Plays</i>	5th cent. BC?	3rd cent. BC	c. 200 years	c. 220+
Julius Caesar	<i>The Gallic Wars</i>	58–44 BC	9th cent. AD	c. 900 years	c. 250
Tacitus	<i>Annals of Imperial Rome</i>	AD 58–120	9th–11th cent. AD	c. 800–1000 years	c. 33+
Suetonius	<i>The Twelve Caesars</i>	AD 118–120	9th cent. AD	c. 800 years	c. 8+
Pliny, the Elder	<i>Natural History</i>	1st cent. AD	5th /14th–15th cent. AD	c. 400–1500 years	c. 200
Greek New Testament Manuscripts		AD 45–100	AD 117–325	30–300 years	5,856
Non-Greek New Testament manuscripts (translations)					18,000+
Total New Testament manuscripts					c. 24,000
Old Testament scrolls and codices (in various collections)⁴					c. 42,000
Total biblical manuscripts					c. 66,000+
Source: Adapted and updated from H. Wayne House and Joseph M. Holden, <i>Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences</i> (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), Chart 43.					

Manuscript Types

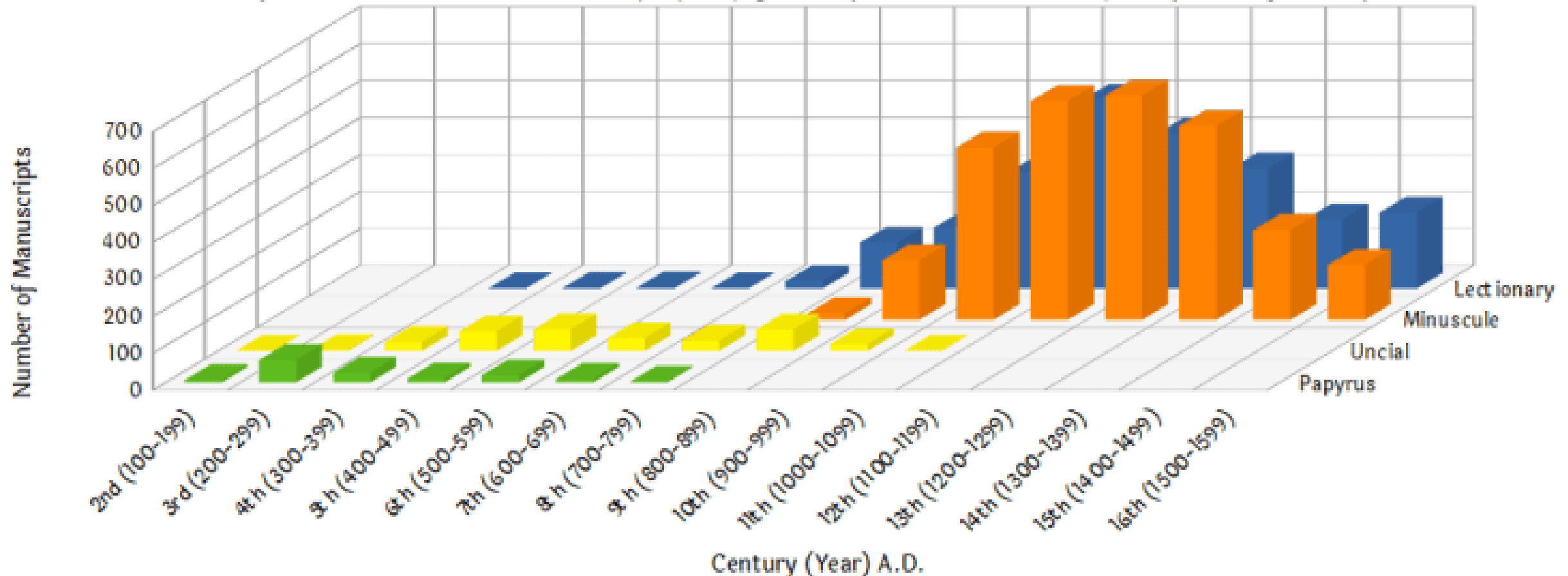
Greek NT manuscripts are catalogued into four main types:

- **Papyrus** (2nd-8th c.) written on papyrus
- **Majuscule** (3rd-10th c.) upper-case, no spaces, parchment, also called 'uncials'
- **Minuscule** (9th-15th c.) lower-case cursive, spaces, parchment
- **Lectionary** (8th-15th c.) maj. or min. readings

Types and Ages of NT Manuscripts

Greek New Testament Manuscripts, Age and Gregory-Aland Types

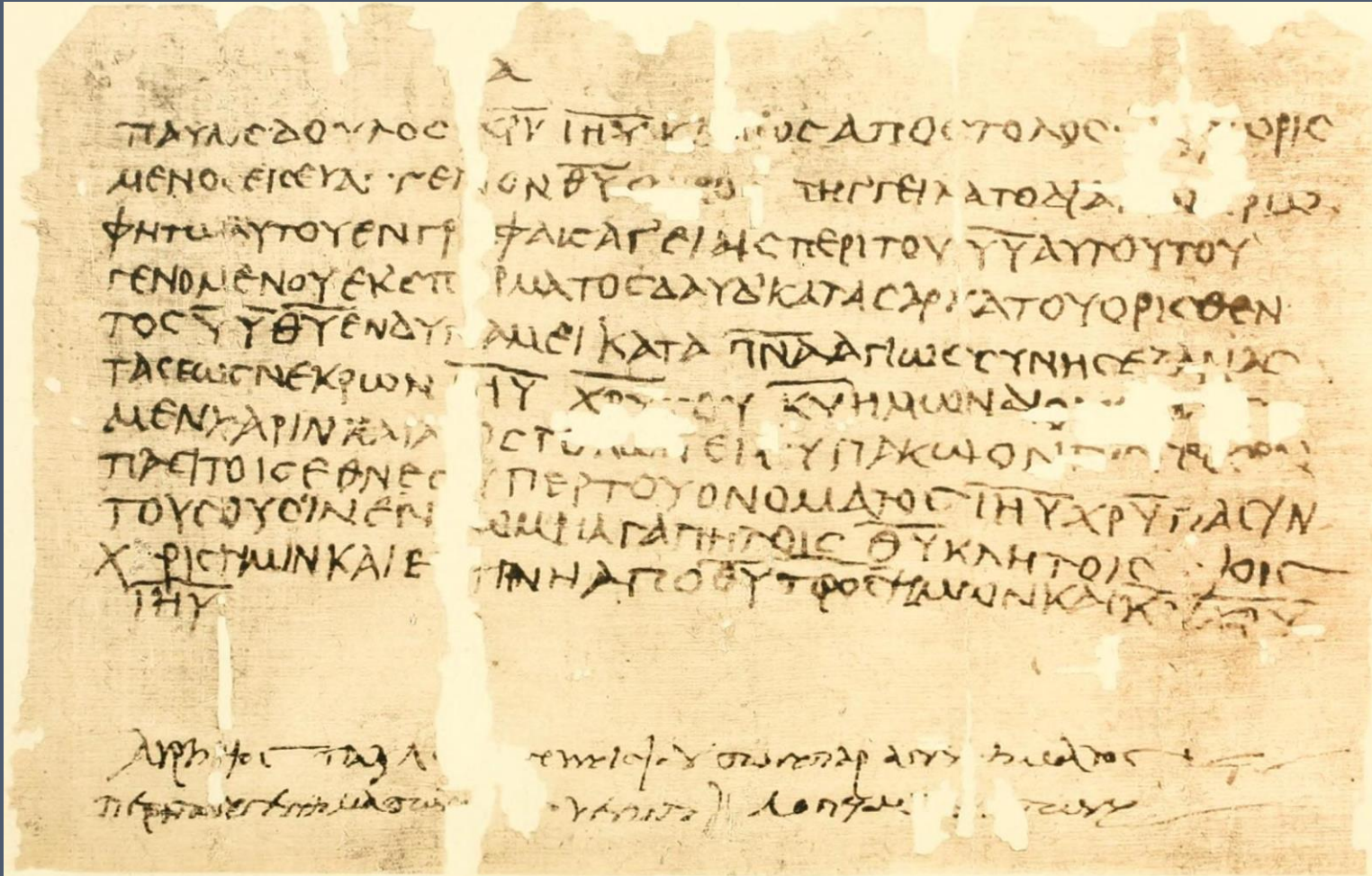
Data from: Brannan, Rick. New Testament Manuscript Explorer (Logos Bible Software, version 8.8; NTME 2015); Chart from: BibleQuestions.info



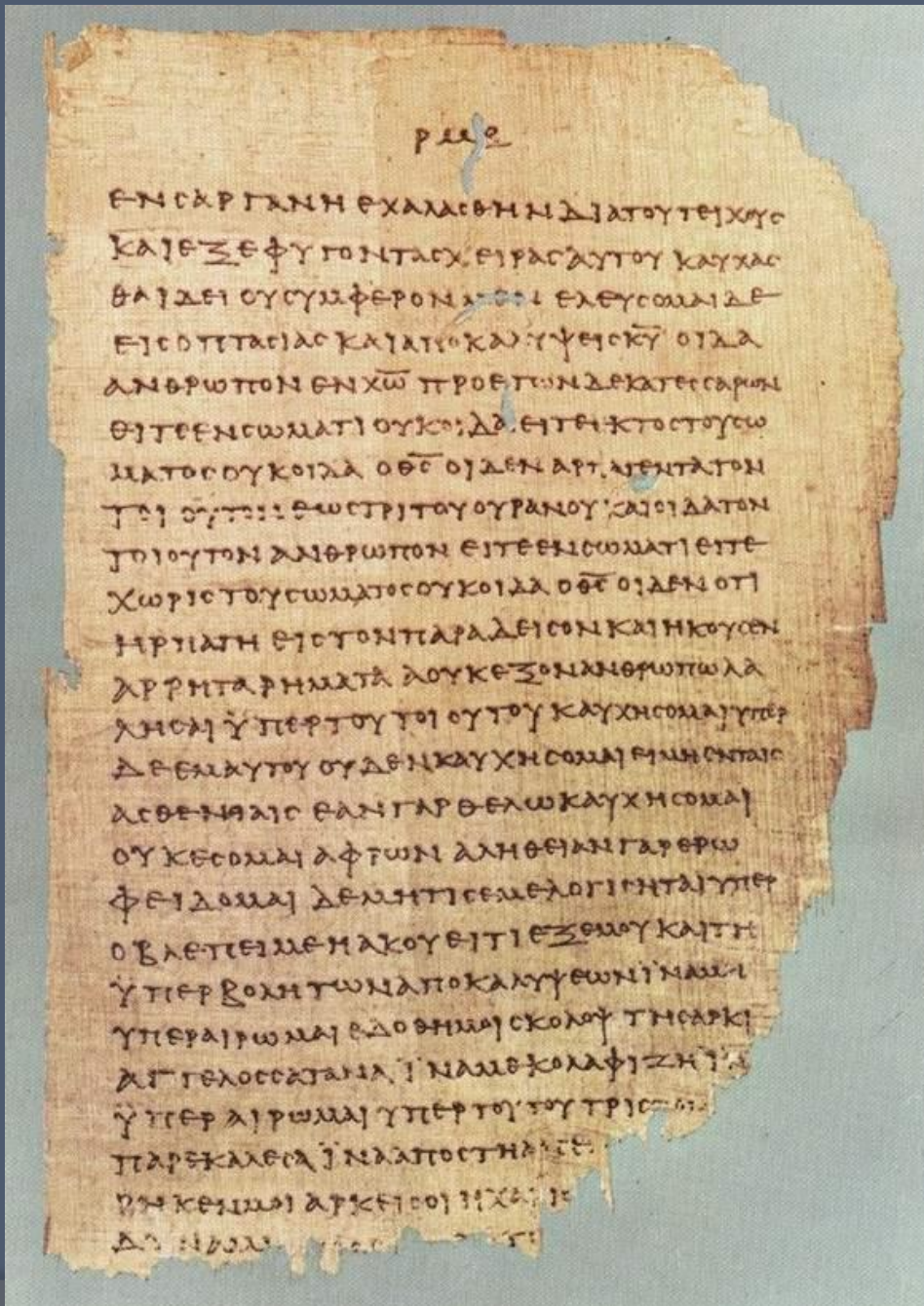
P10

Date: IV

Text: Romans 1:1-7



- Carelessly written, crude and irregular hand-writing, contains some irregular spellings
- Alexandrian text type
- Found bundled with a contract dated 316 AD



P46

Date:

II

Text:

Rom-1 Thess; Heb.

- One of the most significant Greek manuscripts
- Copied by a professional scribe
- Contains most of Paul's corpus (including Hebrews!) excluding the pastoral epistles
- Dated to about 150-175 AD (maybe only 100 years after Paul wrote!)
- Found in Egypt, this manuscript proves that Paul's letters were being copied and distributed among the churches all over the Mediterranean region and were held as authoritative

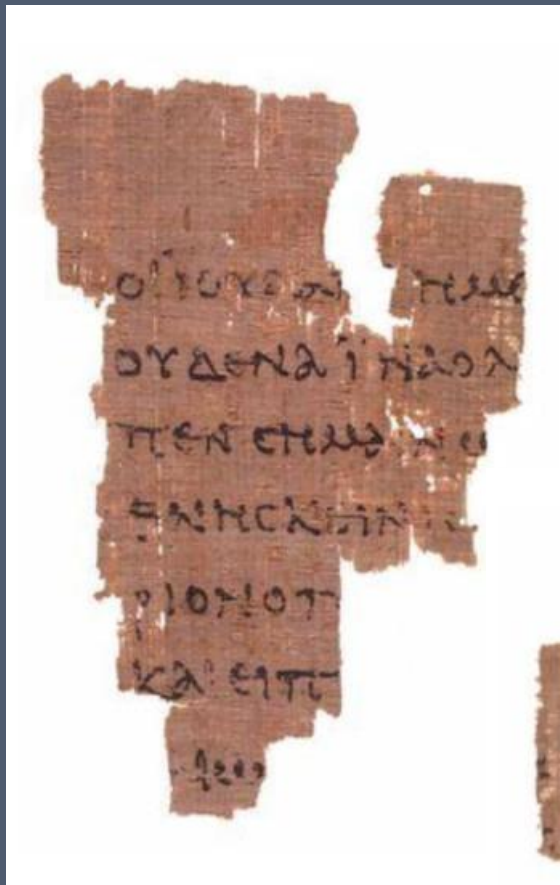
P⁵²

Date:

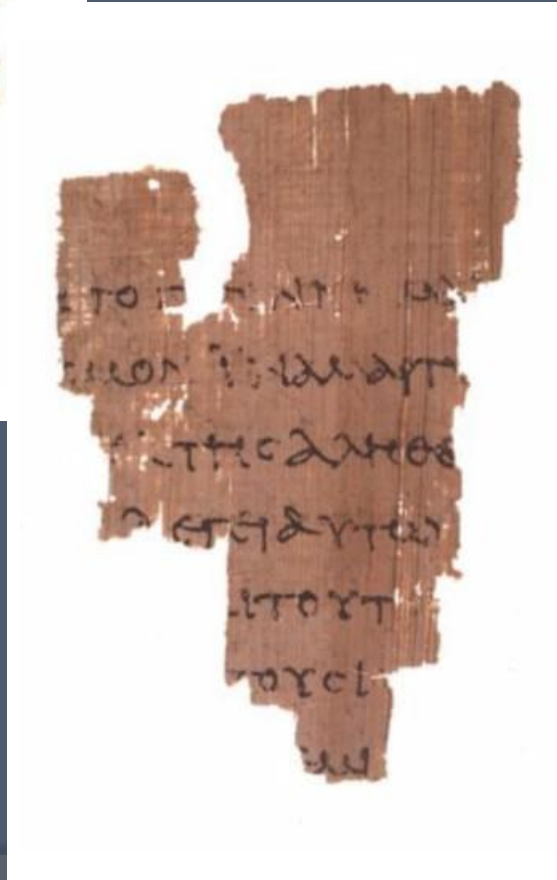
II (~125 A.D.)

Text:

John 18:31-33; 37-38



recto: John 18:31-33



verso: John 18:37-38

**Oldest
New Testament
manuscript**

P66



Date:
Text:

Middle II
most of John



Note the article in John 7:52 signifying, “search the Scriptures and you will see that the prophet does not come from Galilee.”



This early manuscript, and most others, does not contain the pericope of the adulteress (John 7:53-8:11) signifying it is not in John’s original.

P⁷⁵

Date: 175-225 AD

Text: Luke 3:18-24:53; John 1-15

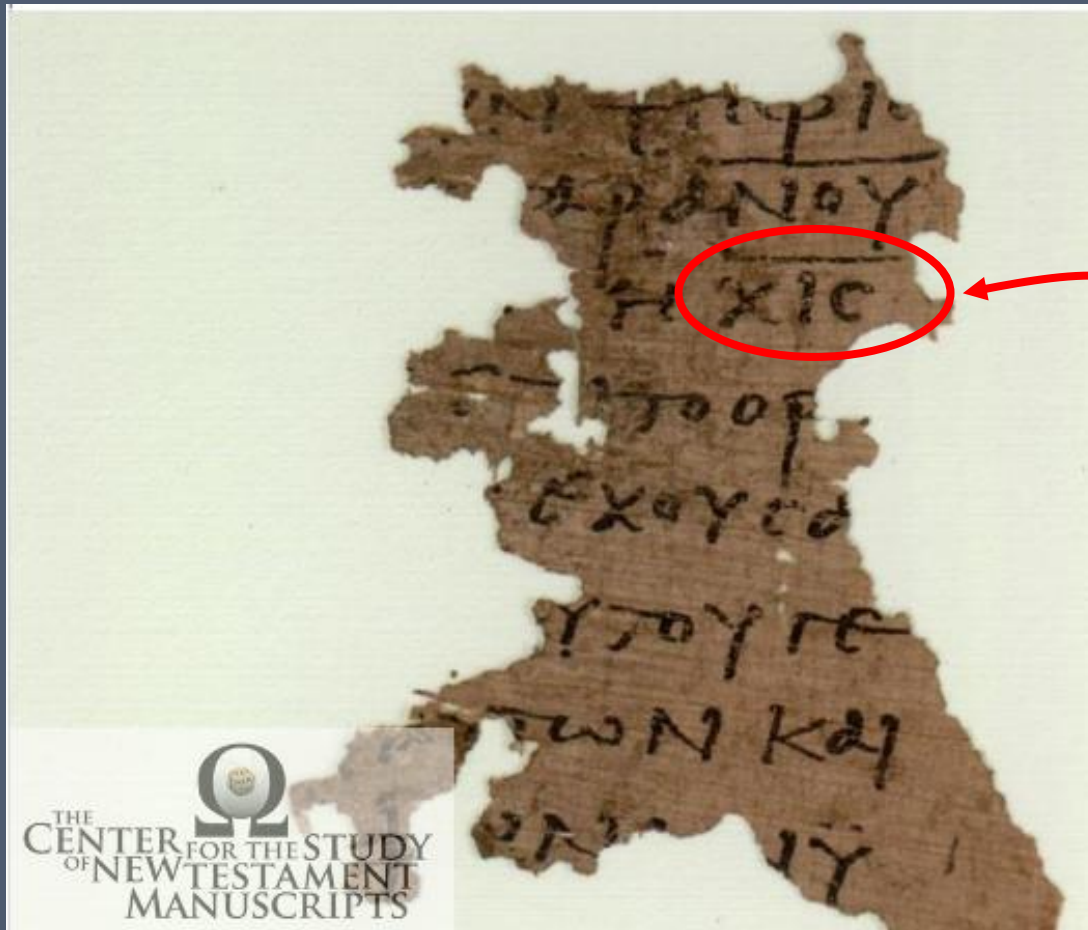
- Oldest manuscript of Luke
- John 10:7 – Jesus says “I AM the Shepherd of the sheep,” instead of the Door
- Luke 16:19 includes a name for the rich man – *onoma Neues* (name N[in]evah)
- Missing the *pericope adulterae* (John 7:53-8:11)

End of Luke,
beginning of John

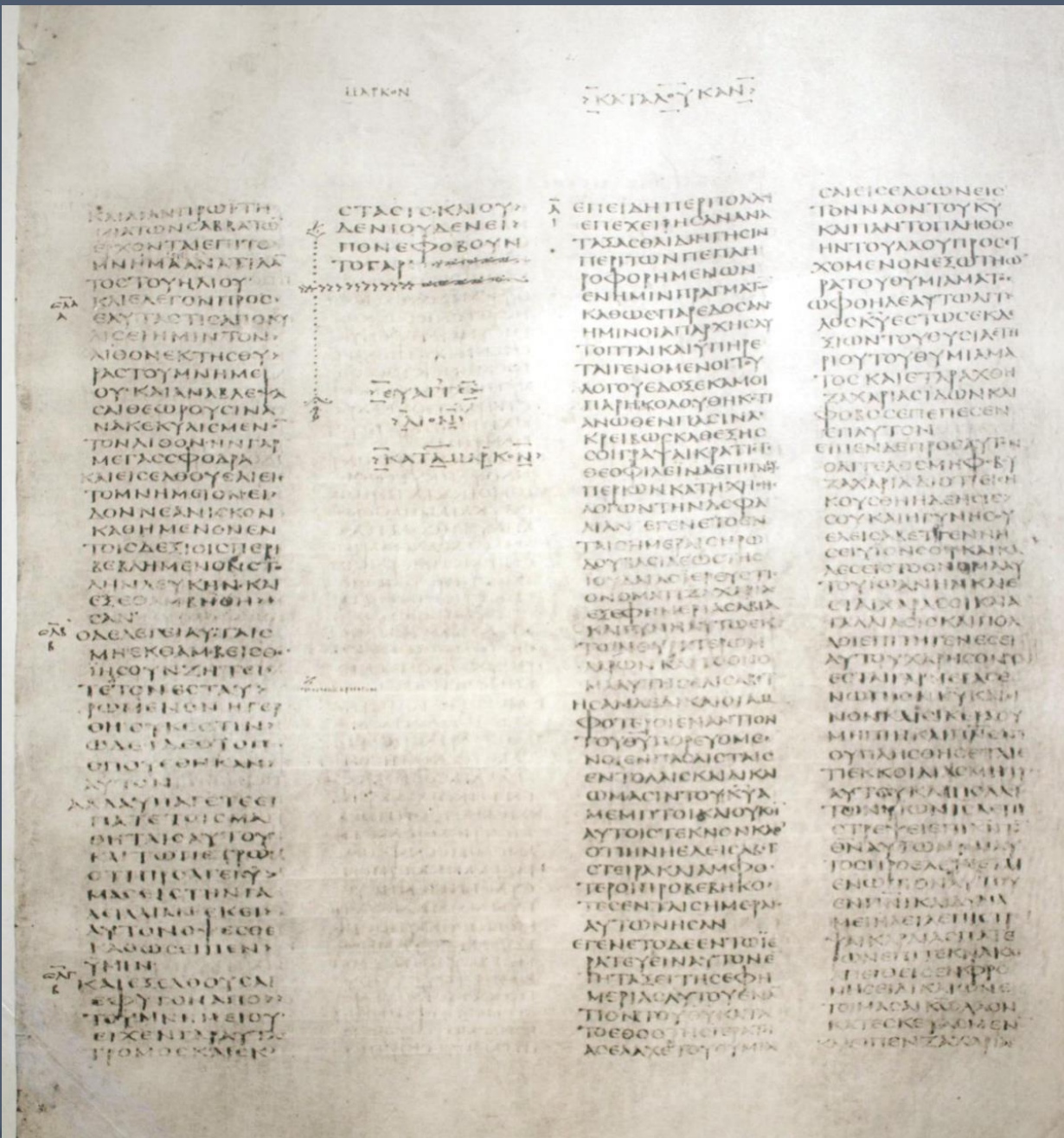
Image from Wikipedia

P¹¹⁵

Date: Late III – early IV
Text: Fragments of Revelation



Revelation 13:18 where the text is one of the few [Codex C & a witness known to Irenaeus] to say the number of the Beast is 616 [ἑξήκοντα ἑξά] instead of 666 [ἑξήκοντα ἑξά].



Mark 16:2 – Luke 1:9

Ⲭ – Codex Sinaiticus

Date: 4th century (~360 AD)

Text: nearly complete Bible

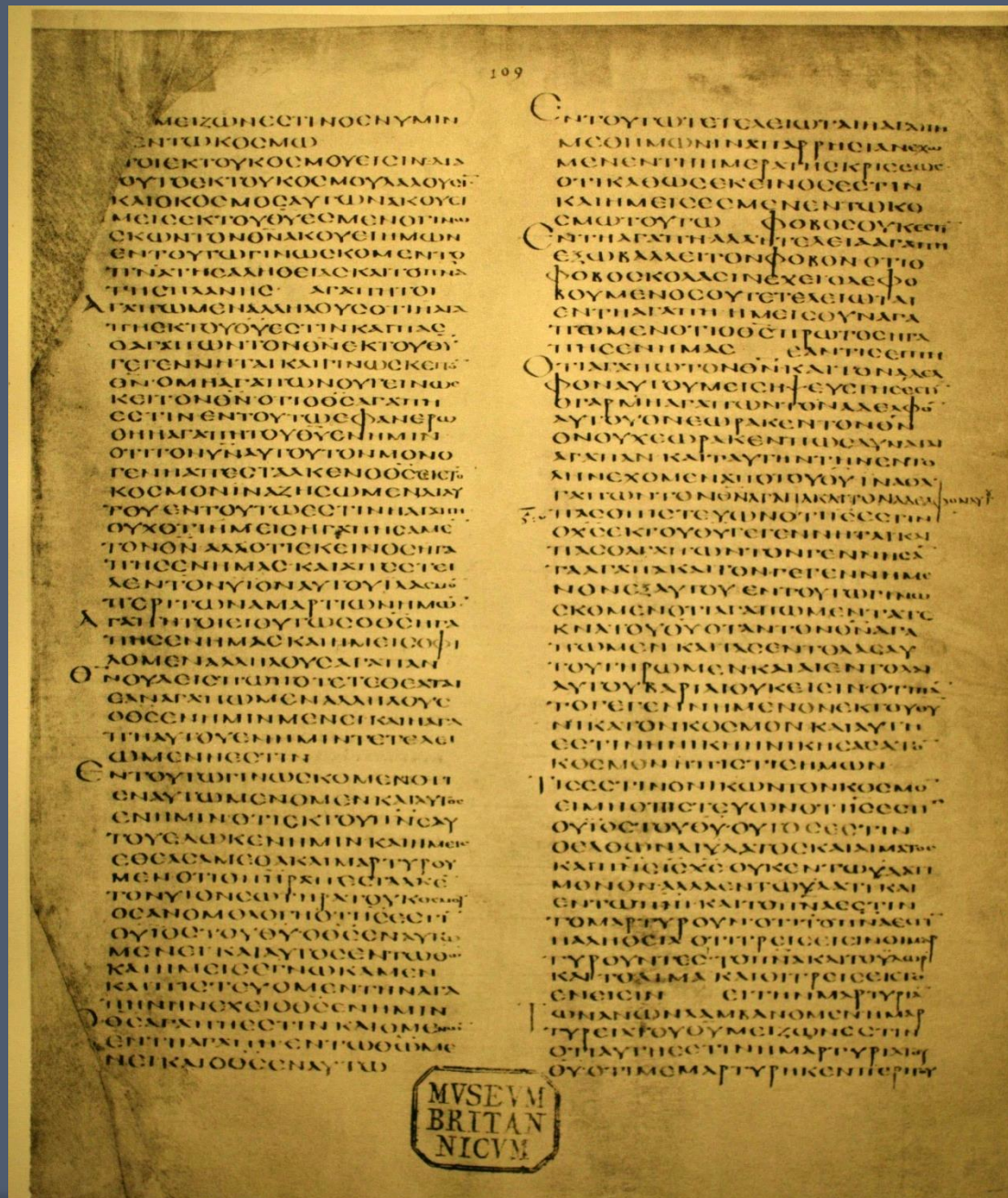
- Alexandrian text uncial ms. written on parchment (calf & sheep skins)
- Includes most of OT, some Apocrypha, all the NT and Epistle of Barnabas & Shepherd of Hermas
- re-discovered by Constantin von Tischendorf at St. Catherine's Monastery in Egypt in 1844
- One of the most important witnesses to the NT

A – Codex Alexandrinus

Date: 5th century

Text: nearly complete Bible

- One of the most important witnesses to the NT
- Uncial manuscript written on vellum
- Mixed Byzantine, Alexandrian & Western text types
- Includes most of OT and NT and several Apocryphal books (incl. 1 & 2 Clement)
- Ms moved Alexandria to Britain in 1621, now in British Museum

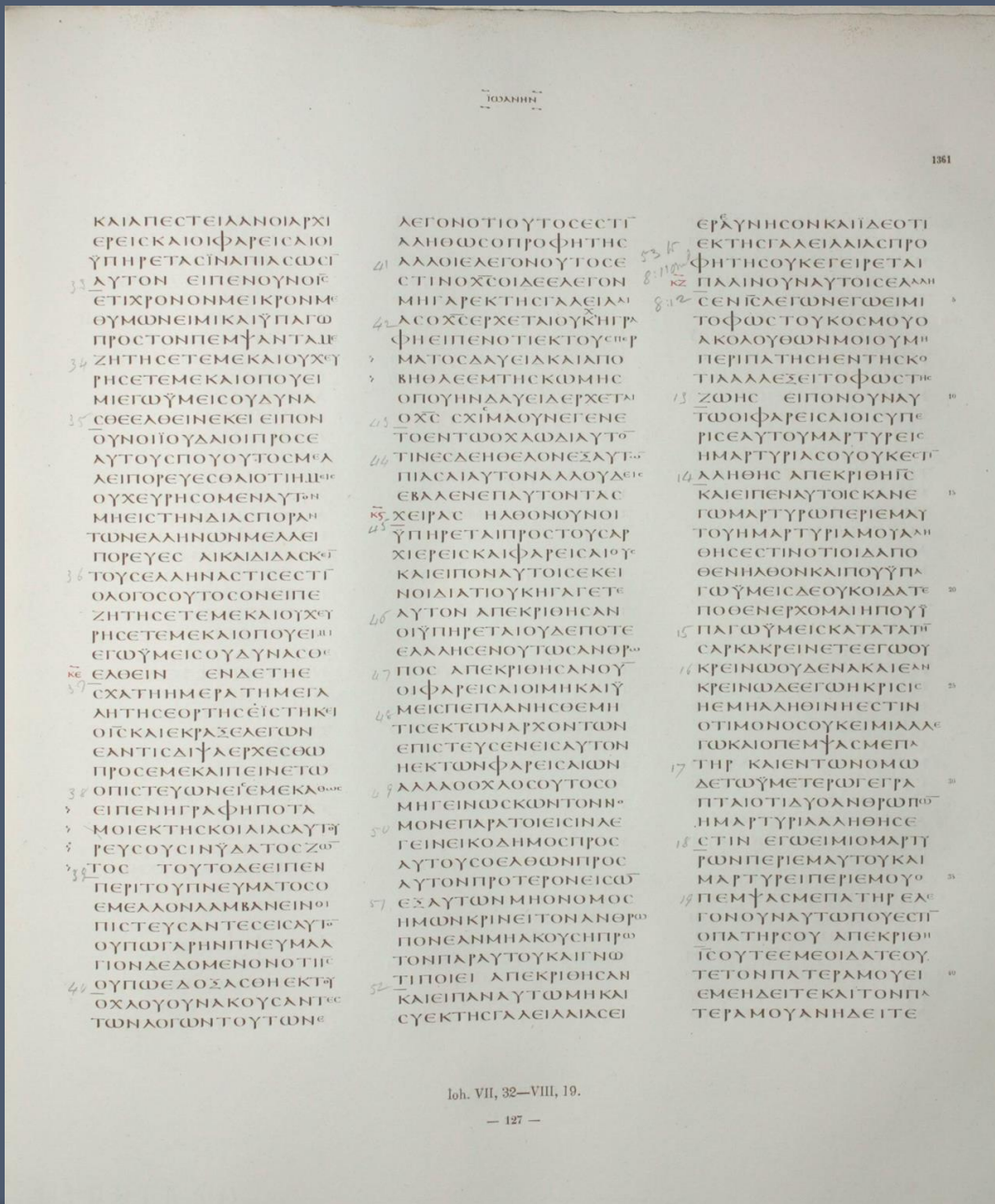


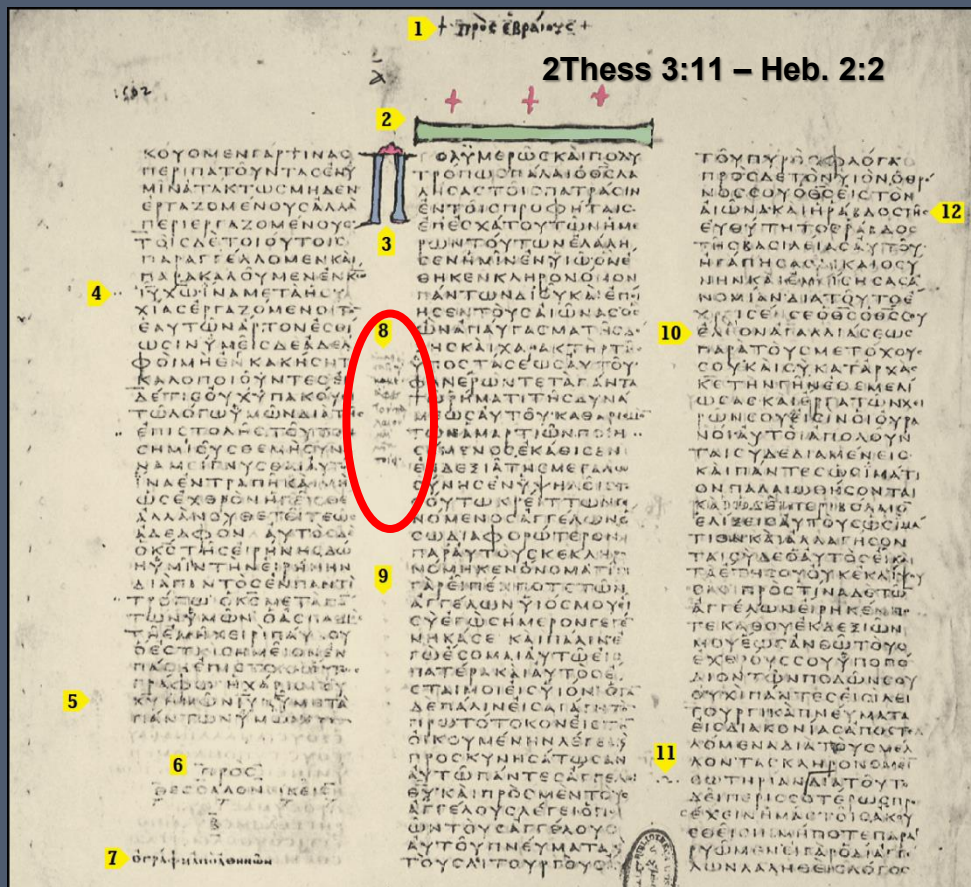
B – Codex Vaticanus

Date: 4th century

Text: nearly complete Bible

- One of the most important witnesses to the NT
- Uncial manuscript written on thin, delicate vellum
- Alexandrian text type
- Contains most of OT, NT and Apocrypha
- Ms kept in the Vatican since 15th century



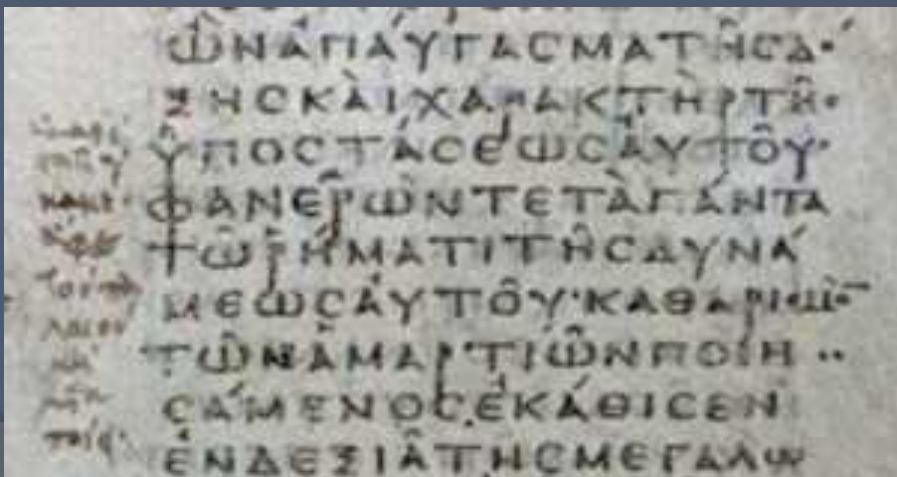


B – Codex Vaticanus

Date: 4th century

Text: nearly complete Bible

- Original copyist at Hebrews 1:3 wrote “He manifests [*phaneron*] all things”
- A later corrector erase the mistake and wrote in “He bears [*pheron*] all things”
- A still later editor erased the 2nd editor’s correction and replaced with the original error.
- This last editor then wrote in the margin “ἀμαθέστατε καὶ κακέ, ἄφες τὸν παλαιόν, μὴ μεταποίει” (“You fool and knave, can’t you leave the old reading alone, and not alter it!”)



C – Codex Ephraemi

Date: V

Text: most of NT

A palimpsest which was scraped off in the 12th Century and overwritten with a Greek translation of 38 sermons of St Ephraem, a Syrian church father of the 4th Century.

The biblical text was then edited in the 6th & 9th Century

Image from CSNTM

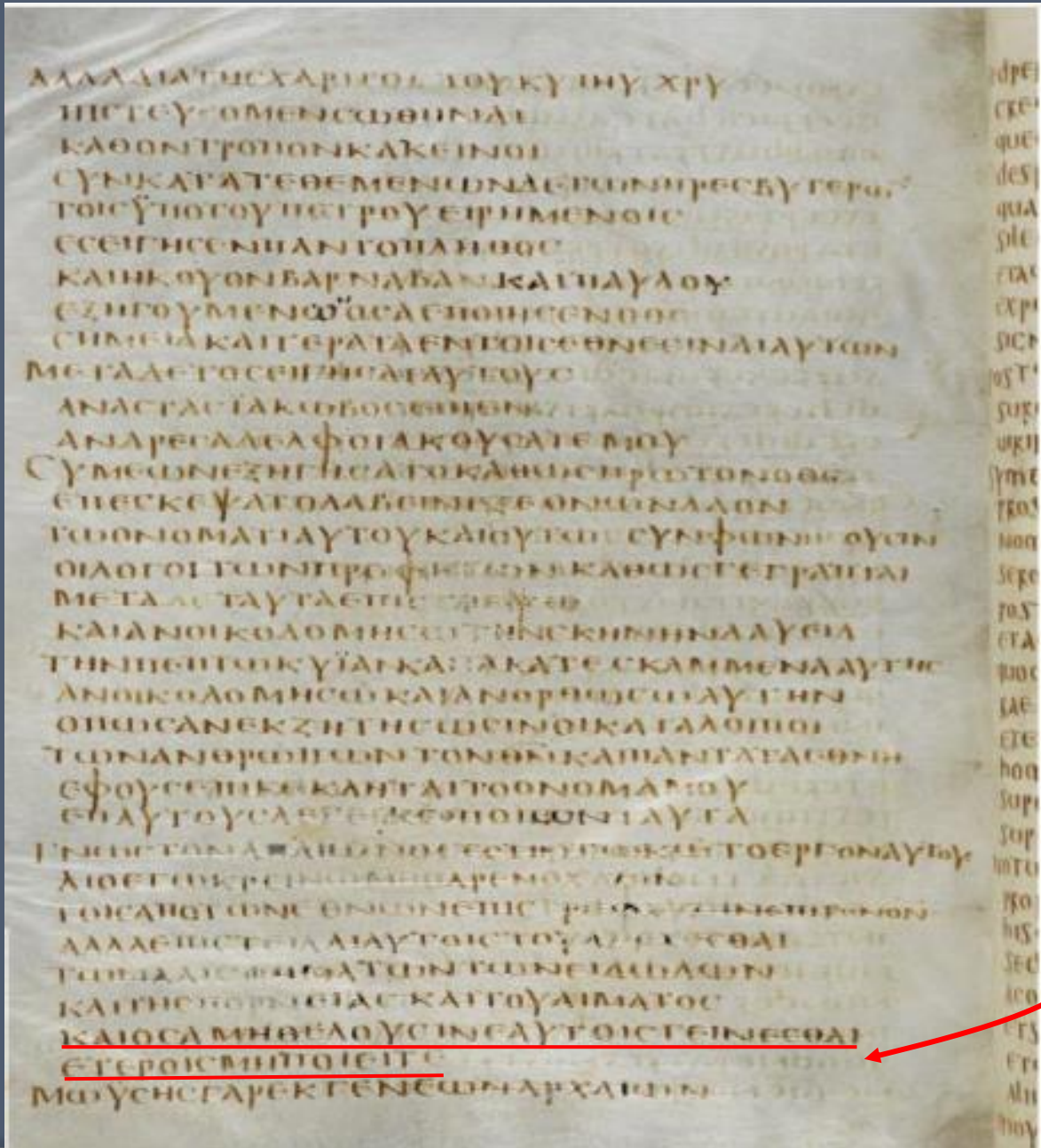


D – Codex Bezae

Date: 5th Century

Text: Gospels and Acts

The primary example of the “Western Text,” this codex is quite different than most others. Acts is about 10% longer. An example is here in Acts 15:20 where after the four prohibitions of the Jerusalem Council of 50AD, the negative golden rule can be found.



Kap – Codex Mosquensis

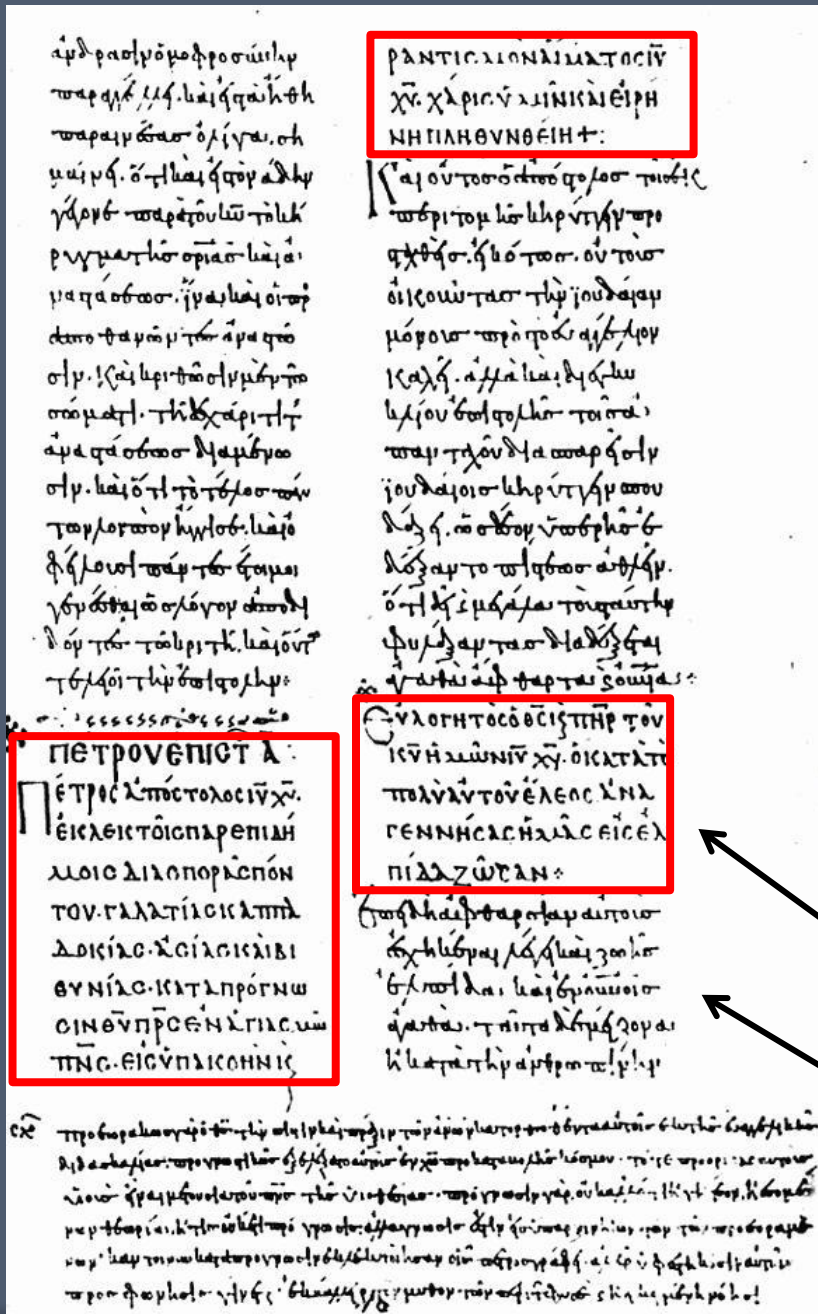
Date: 9th Century

Text: Acts, Paul, Catholic epistles

The biblical text is written in majuscule script. It is separated into paragraphs by comments written in minuscule script. At the foot of the page are *scholia* (explanatory notes), attributed to John Chrysostom (c. 349-407 AD) [Metzger]

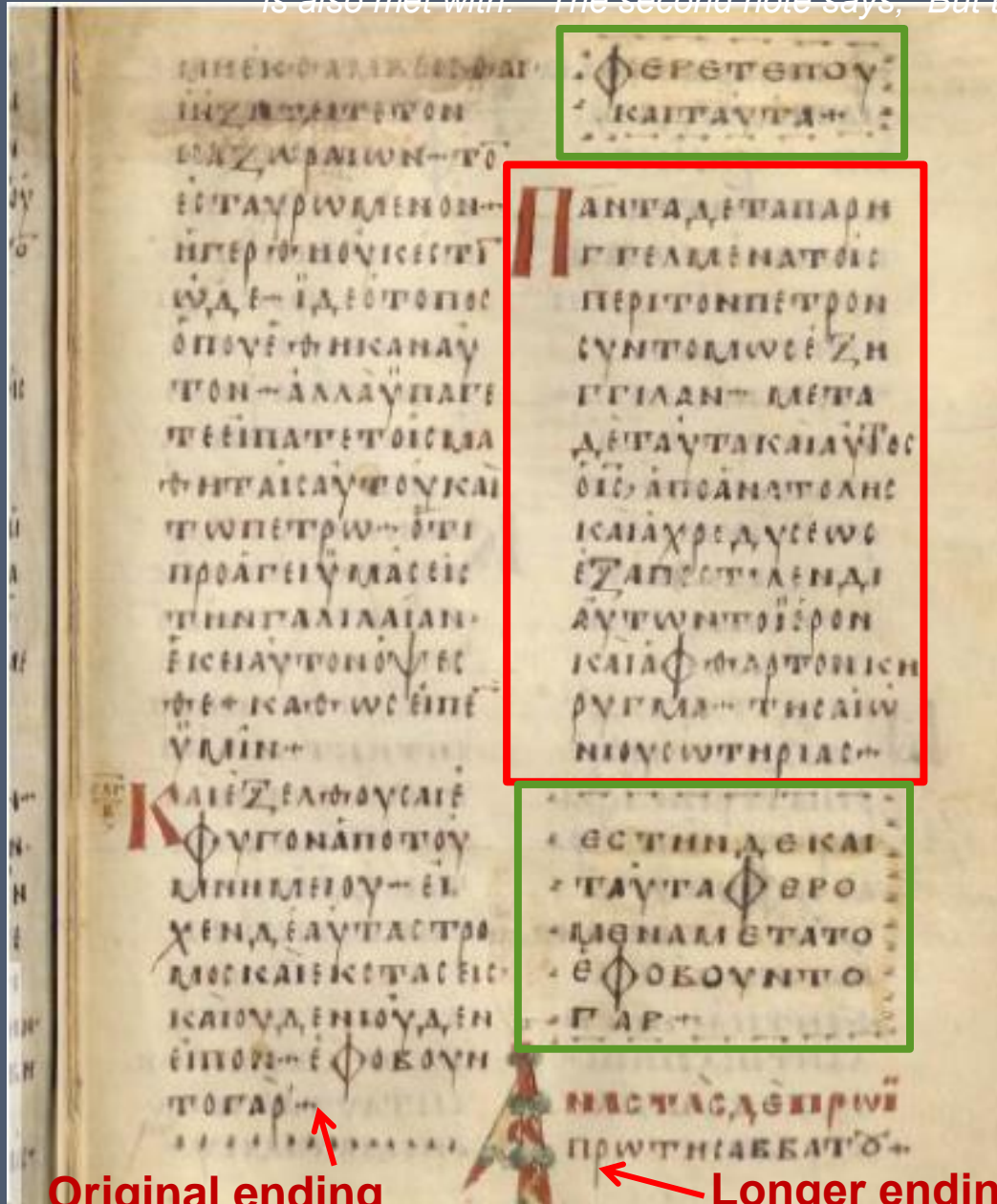
Biblical text

Commentary



Beginning of 1 Peter

Scribal notes in green boxes. He was uncertain which ending to use so he included both. First note says "Something to this effect is also met with." The second note says, "But this also is met with after the words 'for they were afraid'."



Original ending
of Mark

Mark 16:6-9

Longer ending
of Mark

L – Codex Regius

Date: 8th Century

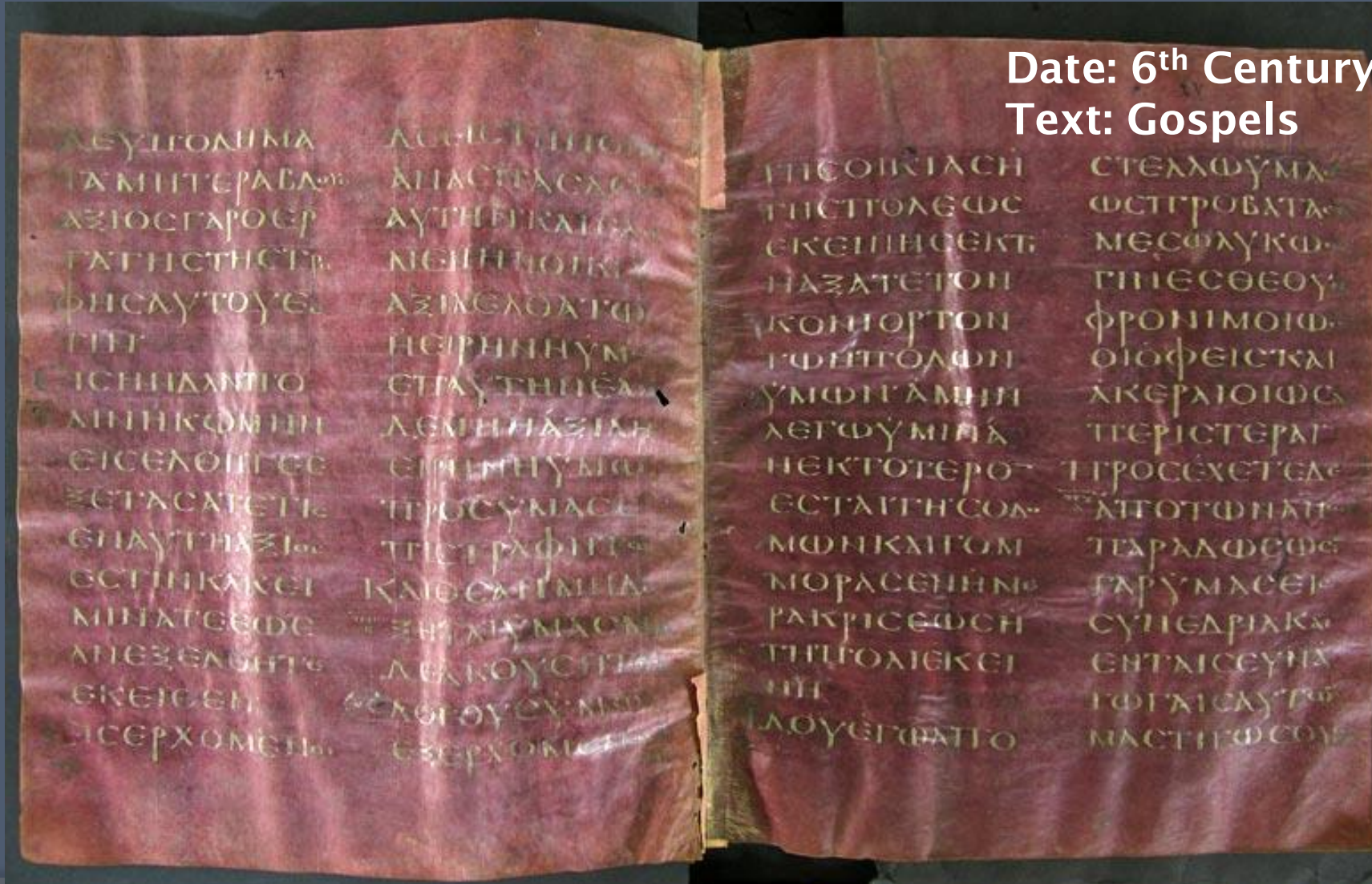
Text: Gospels

Written badly by a scribe who committed many ignorant blunders (Metzger), the text is Alexandrian. One of the few witnesses to a shorter ending of Mark after 16:8. It also contains the longer traditional ending found in the King James Version.

"But they [the women] reported briefly to Peter and those with him all that they had been told. And after this, Jesus Himself sent out by means of them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation." (short ending of Mark highlighted in red box)

Image from CSNTM

N – Codex Petropolitanus Purpureus



Date: 6th Century
Text: Gospels

W – Codex Washingtonianus

Date: 4th or 5th Century

Text: Gospels

A text with Western, Byzantine & Alexandrian readings. The gospels are in the “Western” order of Matthew, John, Luke & Mark – disciples first. This manuscript is most famous for the so-called Freer Logion found after Mark 16:14.

“And they excused themselves, saying, “This age of lawlessness and unbelief is under Satan, who does not allow the truth and power of God to prevail over the unclean things of the spirits [or: does not allow what lies under the unclean spirits to understand the truth and power of God]. Therefore reveal thy righteousness now” - thus they spoke to Christ. And Christ replied to them, “The term of years of Satan's power has been fulfilled, but other terrible things draw near. And for those who have sinned I was delivered over to death, that they may return to the truth and sin no more in order to inherit the spiritual and incorruptible glory of righteousness which is in heaven.”
(Freer Logion after Mark 16:14 – red box)

Mark 16:12-17

Image from CSNTM

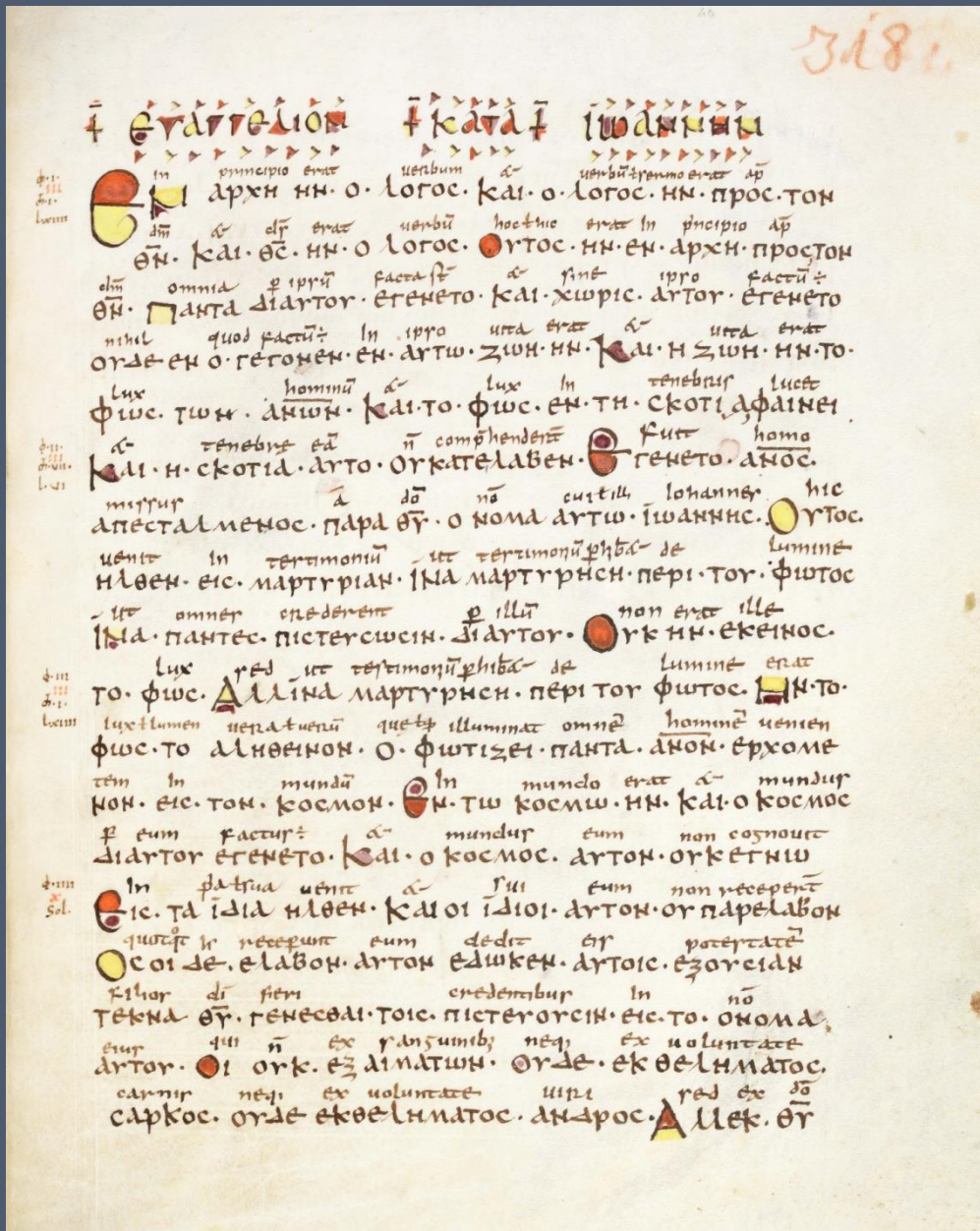
3181

Δ – Codex Sangallensis

Date: 9th Century

Text: Gospels

Greek-Latin interlinear



Beginning of John

Image from Wikipedia

Σ – Codex Rossanensis

Date: 6th Century

Text: Matthew & Mark

A 6th Century primarily Byzantine text. The earliest known manuscript with watercolor images depicting biblical events (pictured here is one of the seventeen: Jesus before Pilate)



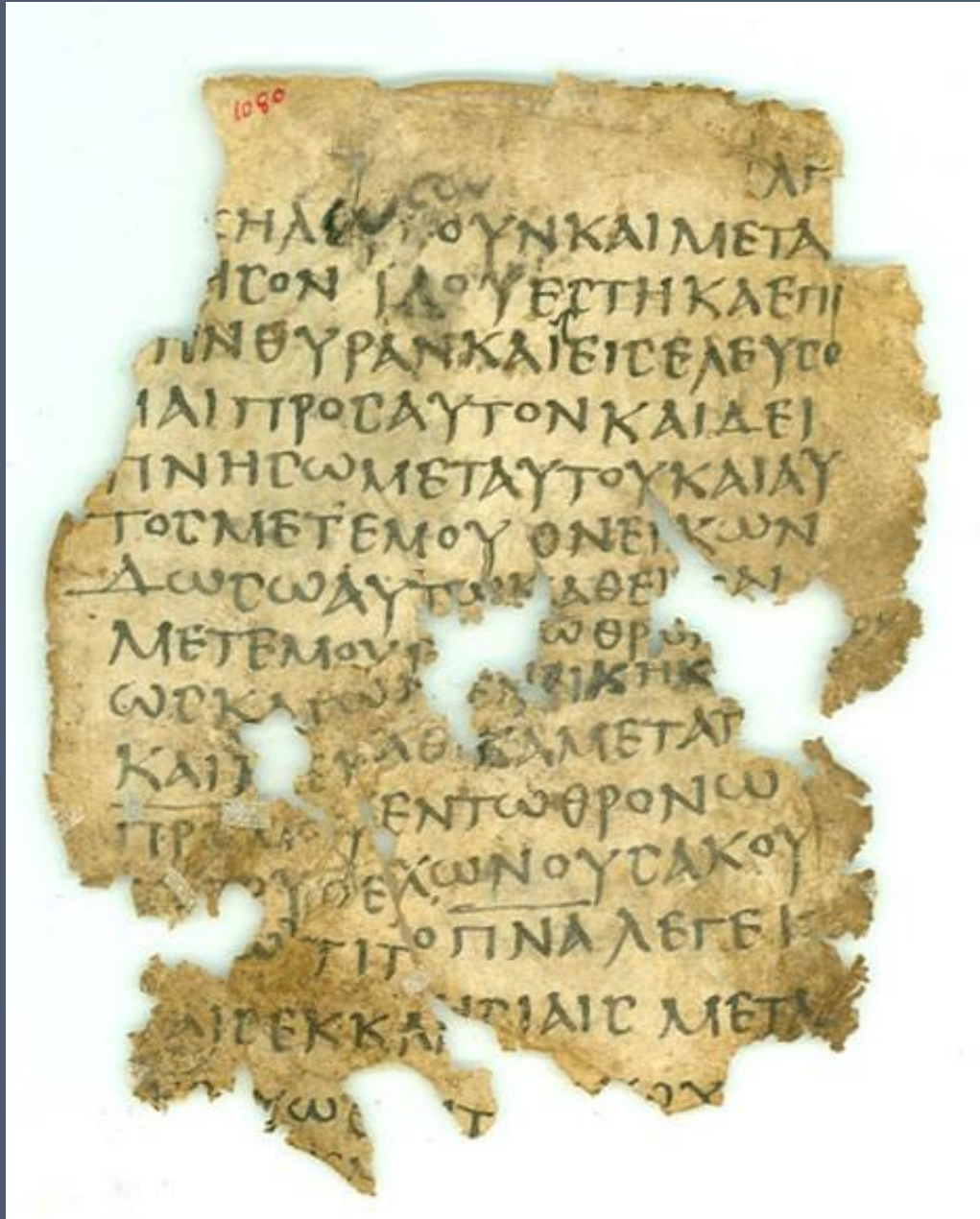
Jesus Before Pilate

0169

Date: 4th Century

Text: Revelation

A 3 ³/₄ x 2 ⁷/₈ inch “pocket edition”
of the Book of Revelation.





Beginning of Romans

MS 1424

Date: 9th Century

Text: entire NT

This 9th century minuscule is the earliest complete New Testament in minuscule script. Of the >5800 NT manuscripts only 60 or so are complete. In this manuscript the letters of Paul interestingly follow Revelation. A commentary surrounds the biblical text (see image). One of the more important minuscule manuscripts for textual criticism of the NT.



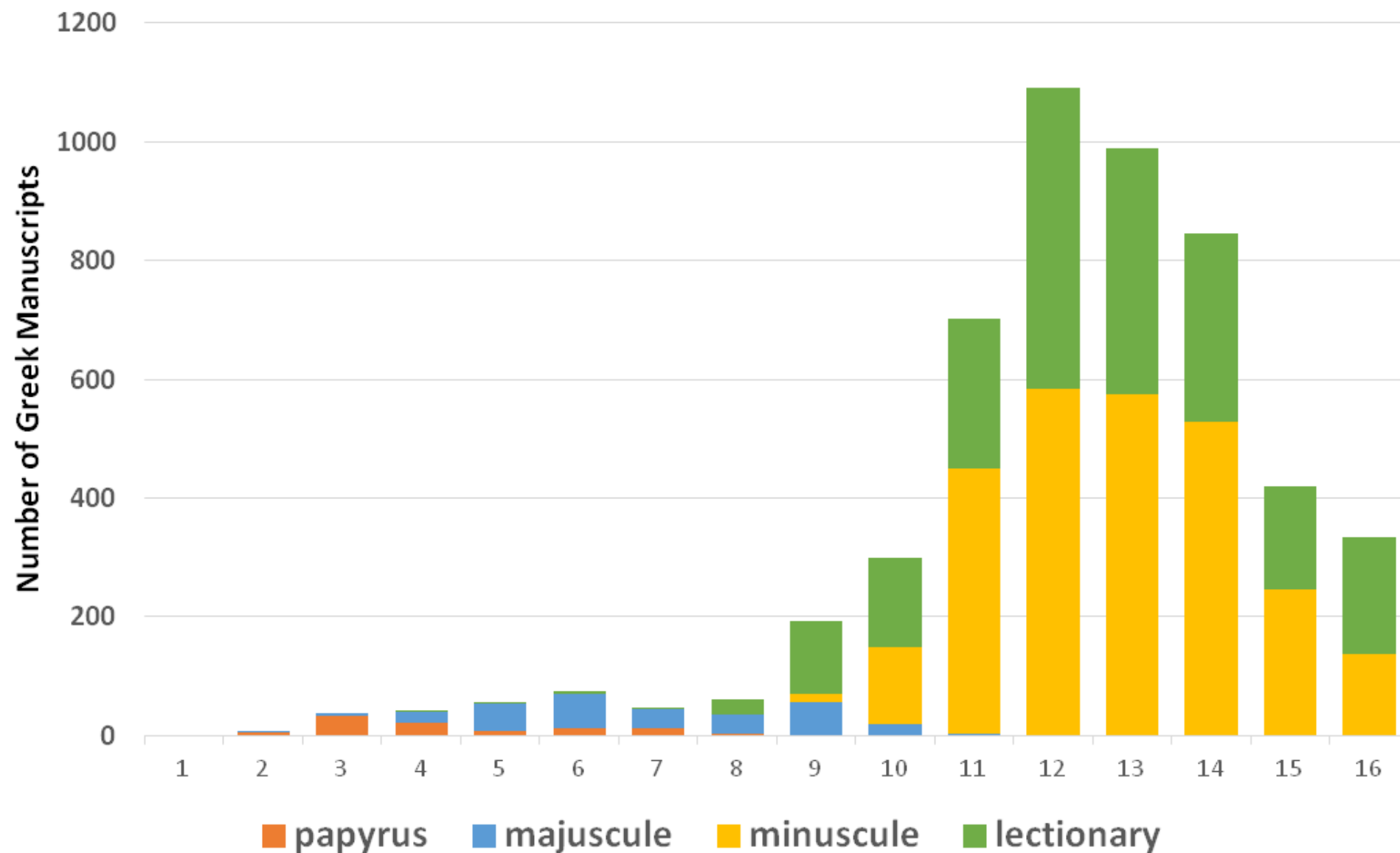
ℓ 183

Date: 10th Century

Text: Lessons from John, Matthew & Luke

This is a 10th century Byzantine lectionary written in majuscule script

Greek Manuscript Types by Century



Timeline of Biblical Witnesses

