# HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

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

## FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION

**CANONIZATION** 

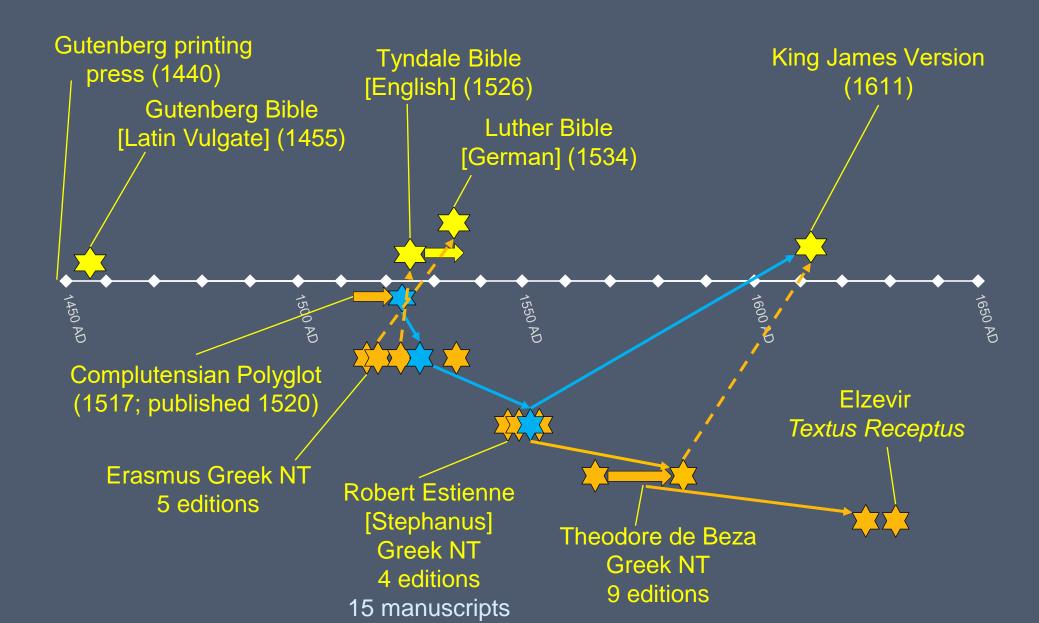
**TRANSMISSION** 



# Transmission of the Bible

# Reconstructing the Greek Text of the New Testament (Formation of the Critical Texts)

#### Early Printed Bibles



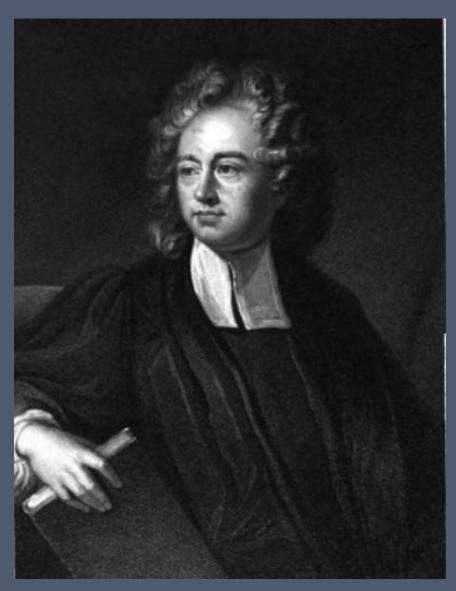
## John Mill (1645-1707)

- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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)



- English classical scholar & master of Trinity College, Cambridge
- Set out to reproduce the Greek NT of the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Image from Wikipedia

## Johann Albrecht Bengel (1687-1752)

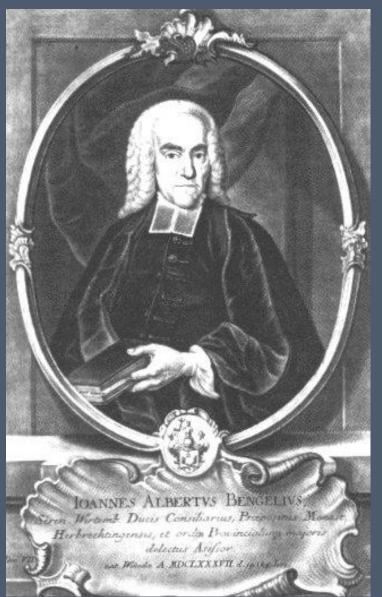
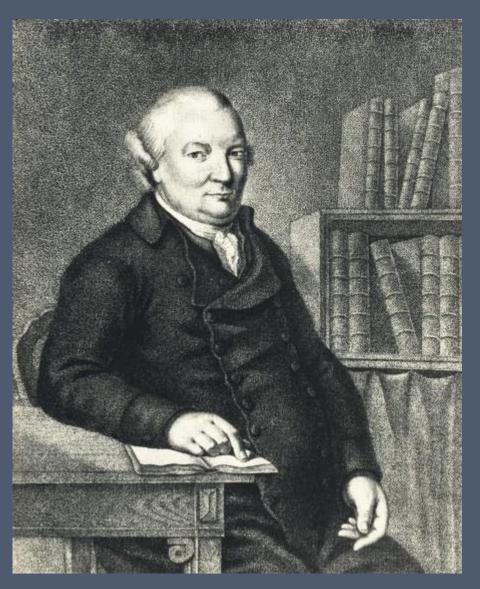


Image from Wikipedia

- German theologian, studied at Tubingen
- 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)



- 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.

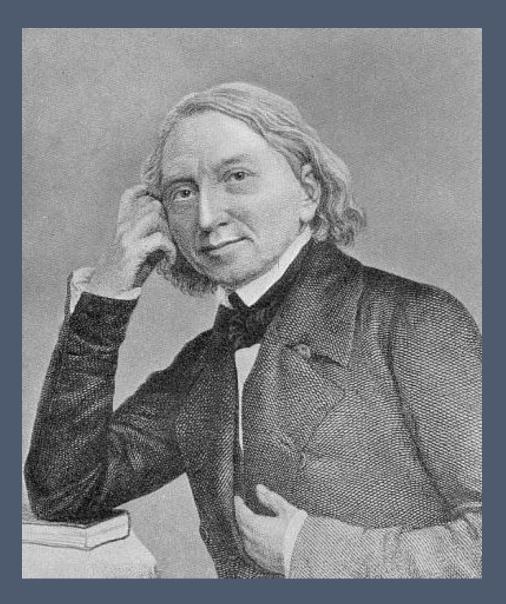
#### Johann Leonhard Hug (1765-1846)

#### & 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

- 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)



- 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> in 3,572 places because of his discovery of Codex Sinaiticus in between
  - Discovered at St Catherine's monestary in Mt. Sinai in 1844, published in 1862, oldest complete Bible (~350 AD)

#### Westcott-Hort Critical Edition (1881)

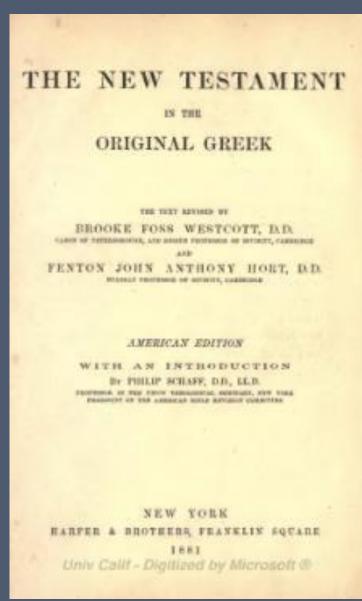
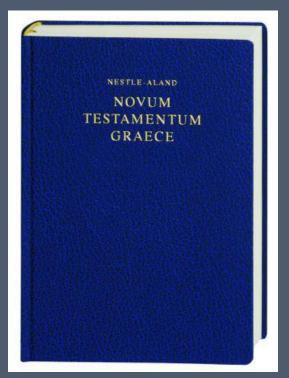


Image from Wikipedia

- 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

- 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
- 28<sup>th</sup> edition (NA28) published in 2012 identical text to United Bible Society's 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**UBS GNT** committee



Images from Wikipedia

#### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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



#### Dan Wallace (1952-)



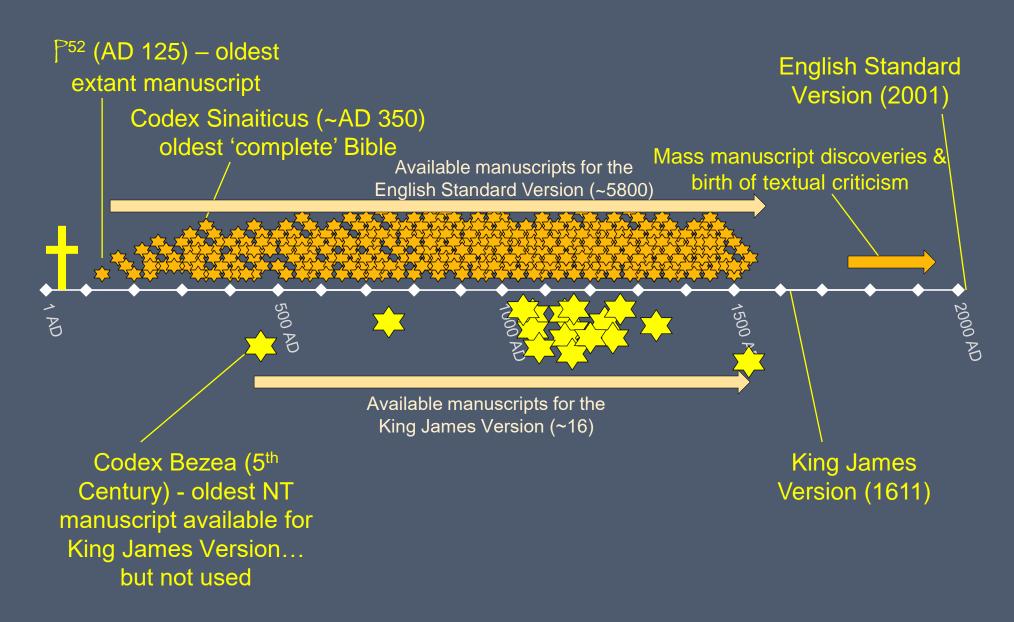
- Professor of NT studies at DTS
- World-renowned expert in Biblical Greek & author of the widely popular Greek Grammar: Beyond the Basics.
- Founder and Executive Director at the Center for the Studies of New Testament Manuscripts (Sept. 2002)

**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)

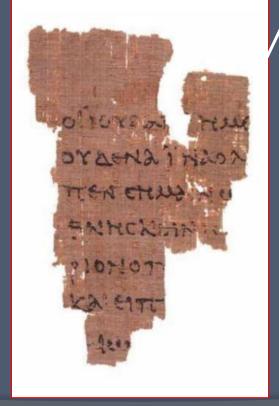
#### Manuscript Age vs Discovery & Use



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

Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	Catholic Epistles	Revelation



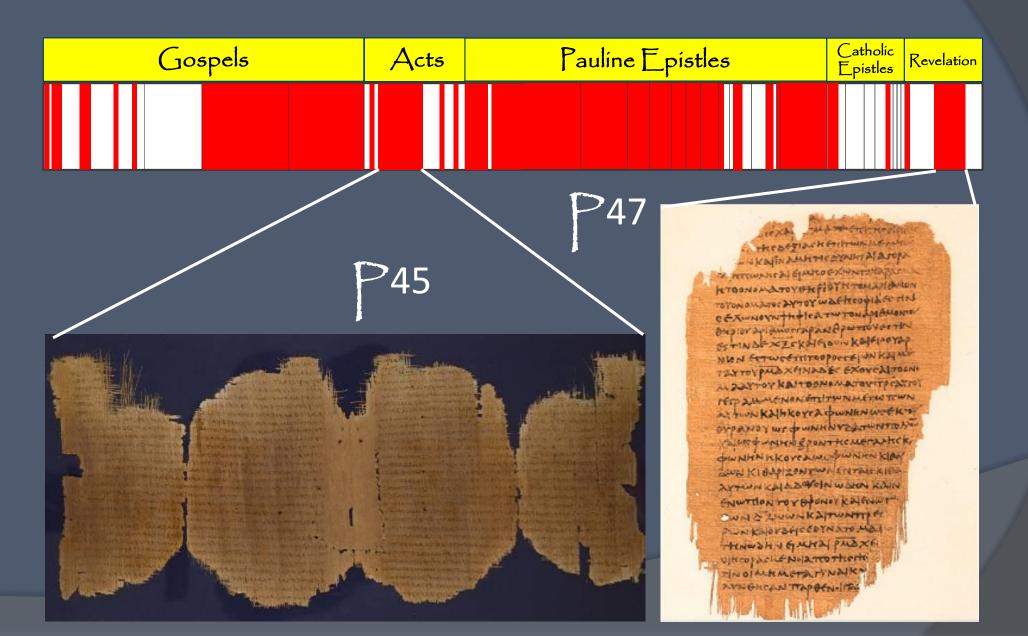
P52

II (~125 A.D.) Date: Text:

John 18:31-33; 37-38

**Oldest existing New Testament** manuscript!







Catholic Epistles Pauline Epistles Gospels Acts Revelation

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**Oldest** existing ~complete New **Testaments** Sinaiticus & **Vaticanus** 

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loh. VII, 32-VIII, 10.

#### Comparison of NT Witnesses to Other Historical Works

Biblical Manuscripts Compared to Selected Ancient Sources							
Author	<b>Ancient Source</b>	Date of	Earliest	Gap from	Manuscript		
		Original	Manuscript	Original	Copies		
Plato	Dialogues/Tetralogies	4th cent. BC	3rd cent. BC	c. 150 years	c. 210-240		
Homer	Iliad	9th cent. BC	c. 400-415 BC	c. 450 years	c. 1800+		
Herodotus	History	5th cent. BC	2nd-1st cent.	c. 450 years	c. 100+		
			BC				
Thucydides	History of the	5th cent. BC	3rd cent BC	c. 200 years	c. 185		
	Peloponnesian Wars						
Demosthenes	Orations/Speeches	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	Plays	5th cent. BC?	3rd cent. BC	c. 200 years	c. 220+		
Julius Caesar	The Gallic Wars	58-44 BC	9th cent. AD	c. 900 years	c. 250		
Tacitus	Annals of Imperial	AD 58-120	9th-11th cent.	c. 800-1000	c. 33+		
	Rome		AD	years			
Suetonius	The Twelve Caesars	AD 118-120	9th cent. AD	c. 800 years	c. 8+		
Pliny,	Natural History	1st cent. AD	5th/14th-15th	c. 400-1500	c. 200		
the Elder			cent. AD	years			
Greek New Testament Manuscripts		AD 45-100	AD 117-325	30-300 years	5,856		
Non-Greek New Testament					18,000+		
manuscripts (tra	anslations)						
Total New Testament manuscripts c. 24,000							
	c. 42.000						
	c. 66,000+						
Source: Adapted and undated from H. Wayne House and Joseph M. Holden, Charts of Analogotics and Christian Evidences							

Source: Adapted and updated from H. Wayne House and Joseph M. Holden, *Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), Chart 43.

## Manuscript Types

### **Greek NT manuscripts are** catalogued into four main types:

**Papyrus** 

Majuscule

written on papyrus

(3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> c.) upper-case, no

spaces, parchment,

also called 'uncials'

lower-case cursive,

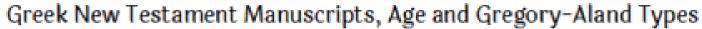
spaces, parchment

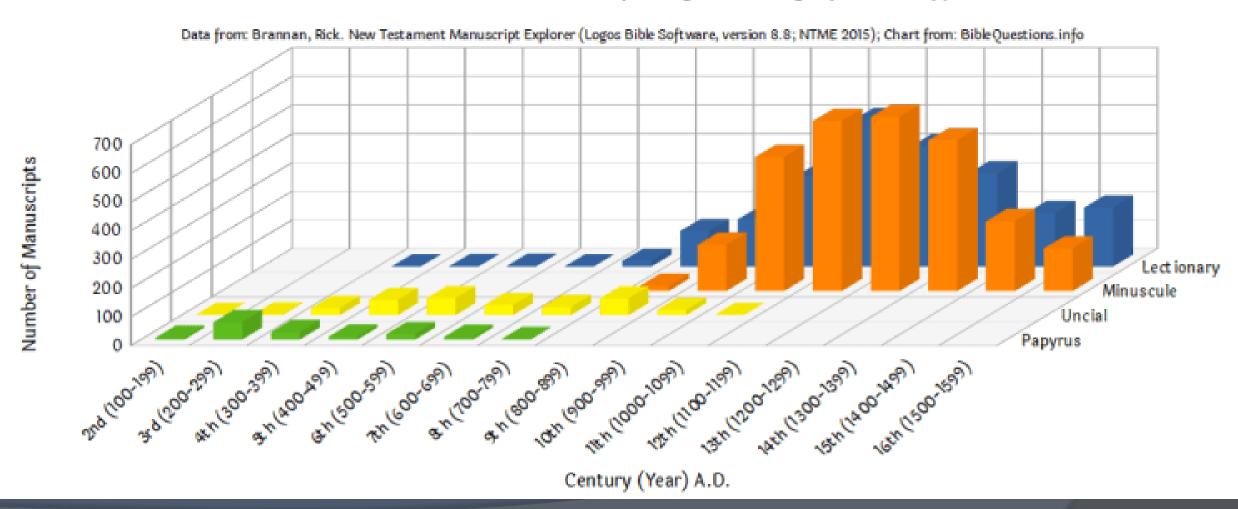
maj. or min. readings

Lectionary

Minuscule

#### Types and Ages of NT Manuscripts





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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

EMCKPTANH EXAMONNA JATOYTEJAYO KAIEZERY FONTACK EI FACASTOS KASKAC BAJAET CYCYDDEPONA COL EXEYCODAIAE EJEDTETACIAC KAJATYOKA) TYCICKY OTALA ANAPORTON ON XW TOPOSTON DE KATERCAPUNI BITEFHEWHATIONKO: AD. FITHKTOCTOYOW LLATOR DY KOIZA O BE O JAEN APT WENTATON I of outsit amelbitalohburol saloi bylon שווים ודמנושט בודם אוסוושף פונה ומסדיף ווים דים ווים דים ווים בודים ווים בודים ווים בודים XWPICTOYCUMATOCOYKOIDA OOT OIDEN OT Нетати етотонтарадется катикоусы APPHTAPHUATA DOYKEZONAHOPWIWAA THEN I LEGION LOI CLICK KYLHCONY LINES TEENTHALLA CATEMENTAL XH CONNI WITH CHLOSIC ACOE HAZIC GANTAPOENWKAYXHOUNI OY KECOMAI A FUN ANHOGIAN TAPEPOU DEIZONAI DEMATTICEMENOTICHTAINTE OBJETTELLEH AKOYETTIE SOUY KAITH YTIEF BOXHTWHATTOKANYEWNIHMEN THEFALLWHAI CAO SHIMA CKONOT THEATK ATTENOCONTAINA I NAME KONA OTZHIL A LICE & Lawry Luch tol. tol Lbic. 227 HAPSKAKER I MAAHOUTHANDE. no kenual appeared the is An alboration of the

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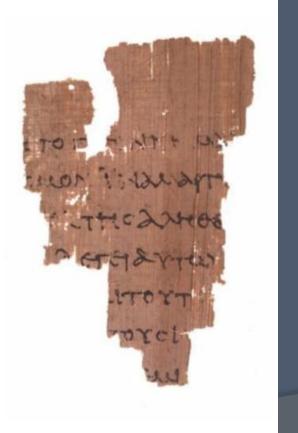
Rom-1Thess; Heb.

- 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





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



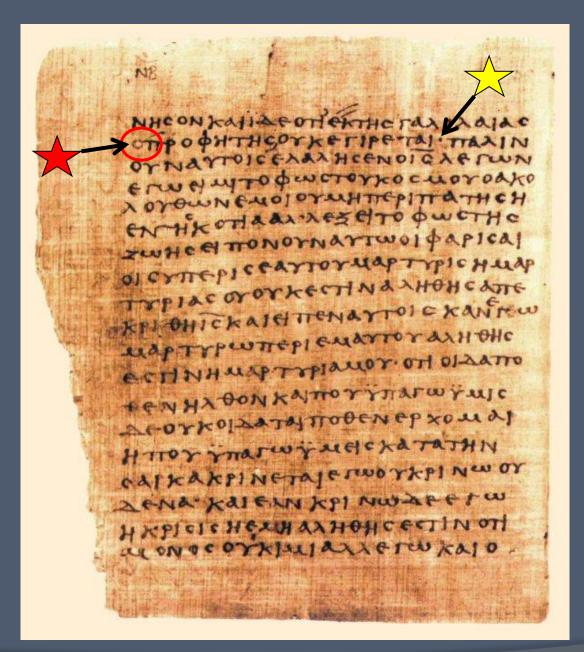
recto: John 18:31-33

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Oldest
New Testament
manuscript

verso: John 18:37-38



P66

Date: Middle II

Text: most of John



Note the article in John 7:52 signifying, "search the Scriptures and you will see that <u>the</u> 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.

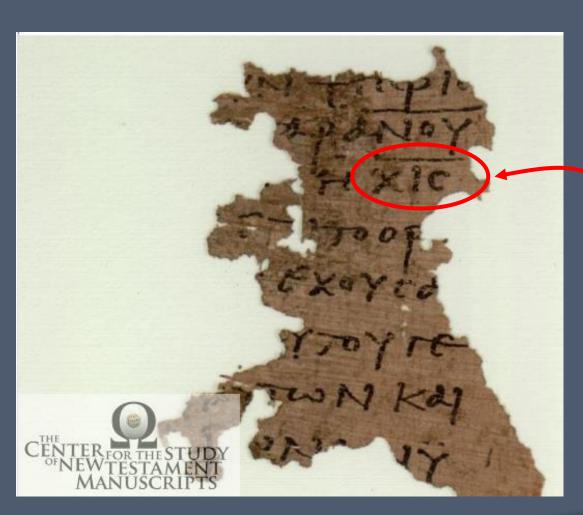
Date: 175-225 AD

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

## 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 [ $\overline{\chi}$ IS] instead of 666 [ $\overline{\chi}$ S].

#### KAMAMITOUFTH CTACICKNIOY, MATONCABBATO LENIOY LENEIT EXONTMETITO HONEGOBOYN TOTAP . Water and MHHMAANATIAA シャンシンシンシンシン TOCTOYH XIOY EX KALENELONLINOC. EXYTECTICATION MICELH MINITON MOONEKTHOOY PACTOYMNHMEL YEN ALTES OY KAILMARAGYA CHECOPOYCINK , 7 NO 111 NAKEKYAICMEN: TONKIOONNINTA METACCODATA KAIEICEAGOYEAIEH TOMNHMGIONED LONNEANICKON KARHMENONEN TOICKETIOICHEM KEKNHMENORICT-AHMASY KHNIKH CI CO MEHOHEL ON ONENEIGIAY: THE MHEKOAMREICO. THEOTN ZH TEL TETCHECTAY PEDMENON HEEF OHETRECTIME CACILECTOR CHOTESHERM ARAKYHATETEEL PLATETUICHA BHILLICATION FA! TWITE CPOS! OTHING XLEIN'S MACCICTHNIA ACIALIAN EKGI ANTONO- ECOE PAGOCHITENT EN THIN KALESCHOOTEN ESPYTON AFTON TOTAL HARIOY EIXENEMATIC PROMOCKATER?

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O KINENZAKANIA

#### **X** – Codex Sinaiticus

4th century (~360 AD) 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

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#### A – Codex Alexandrinus

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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# **B** - Codex Vaticanus

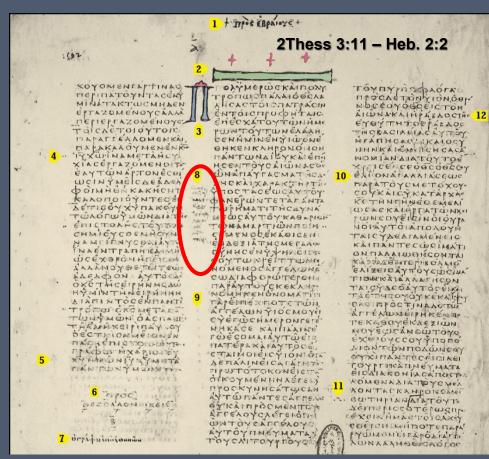
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> century

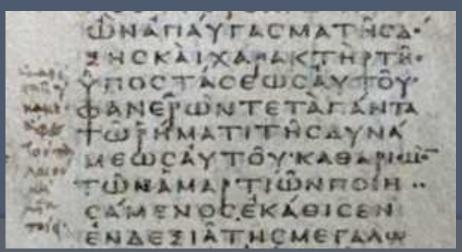
Text: nearly complete Bible

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> century

loh. VII, 32-VIII, 19.

- 127 -





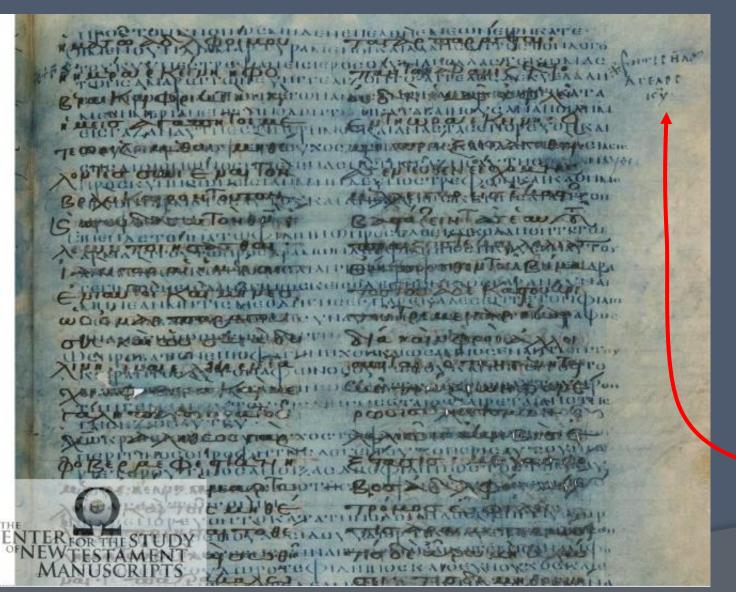
## **B** – Codex Vaticanus

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



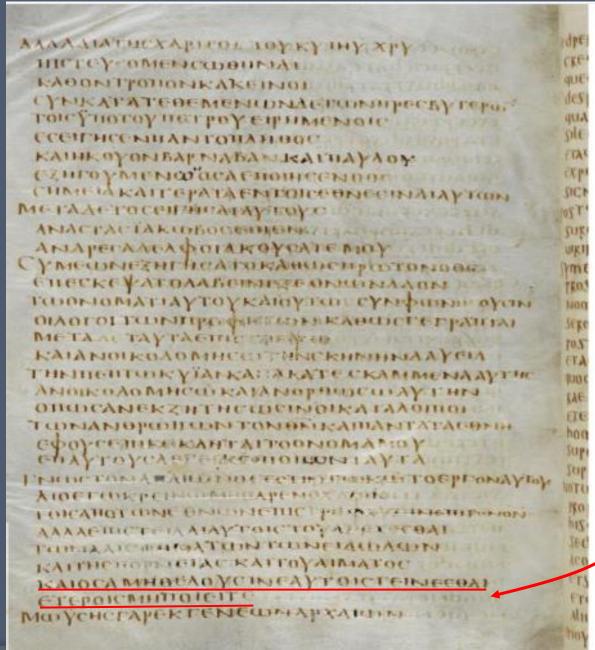
Date: V

**Text: most of NT** 

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

The biblical text was then edited in the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Century

Image from CSNTM



#### D - Codex Bezae

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Image from CSNTM

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K<sup>ap</sup> – Codex Mosquensis

Date: 9th Century

Text: Acts, Paul, Catholic epistles

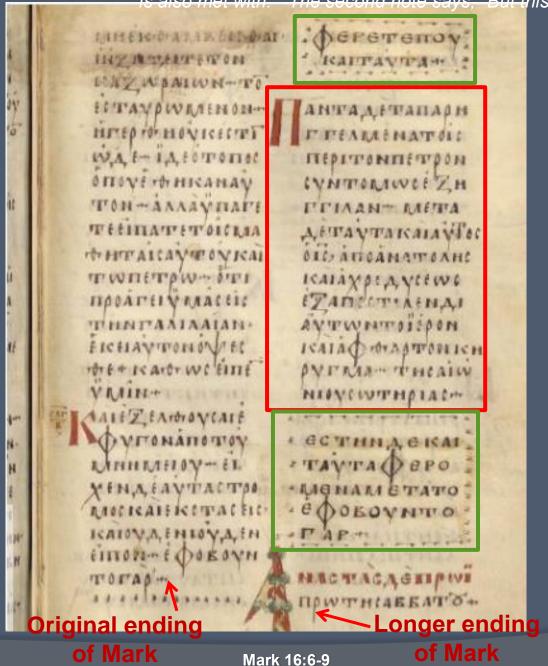
The biblical text is written in majuscule script. It is separated into paragraphs by comments written in minuscule script. At the foot of the page are *scholia* (explanatory notes), attributed to John Chrysostom (c. 349-407 AD) [Metzger]

**Biblical text** 

Commentary

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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':"



#### L - Codex Regius

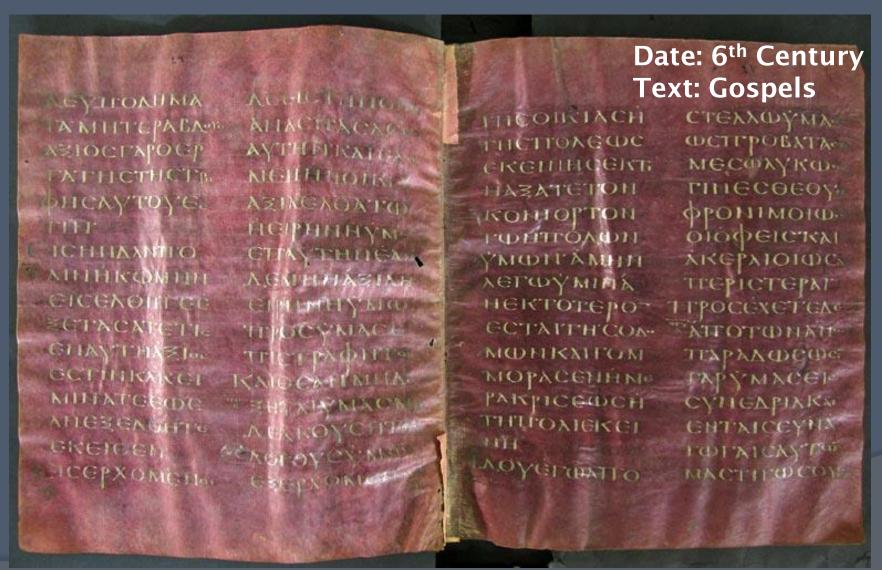
Date: 8th Century

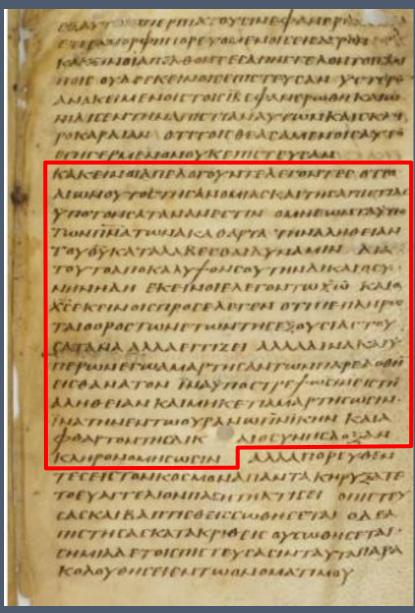
**Text: Gospels** 

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)

#### N – Codex Petropolitanus Purpureus





#### W - Codex Washingtonianus

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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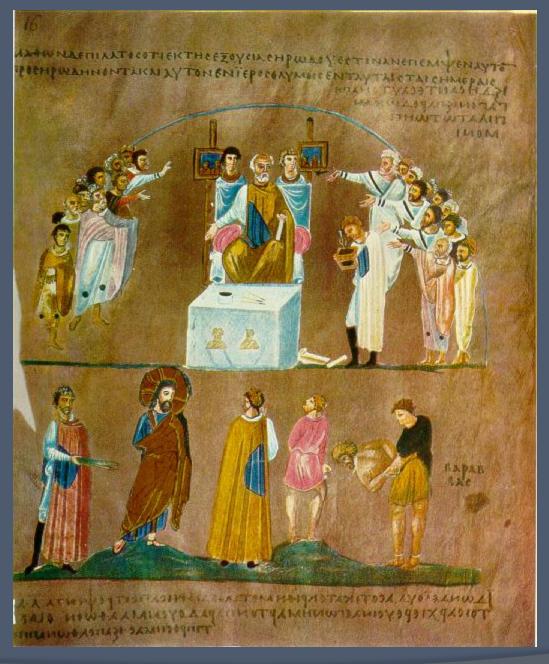
### △ - Codex Sangallensis

Date: 9th Century

Text: Gospels

Greek-Latin interlinear

318

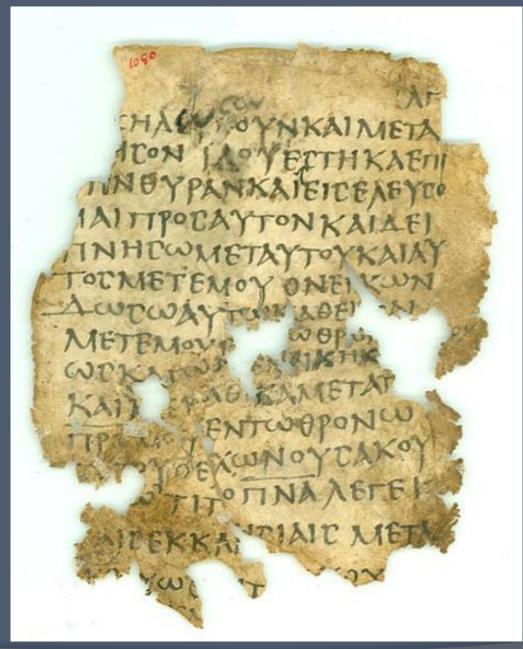


#### $\Sigma$ – Codex Rossanensis

Date: 6th Century

**Text: Matthew & Mark** 

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



0169

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Century Text: Revelation

A 3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 2 7/8 inch "pocket edition" of the Book of Revelation.



#### **MS 1424**

Date: 9th Century

Text: entire NT

This 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

Image from CSNTM



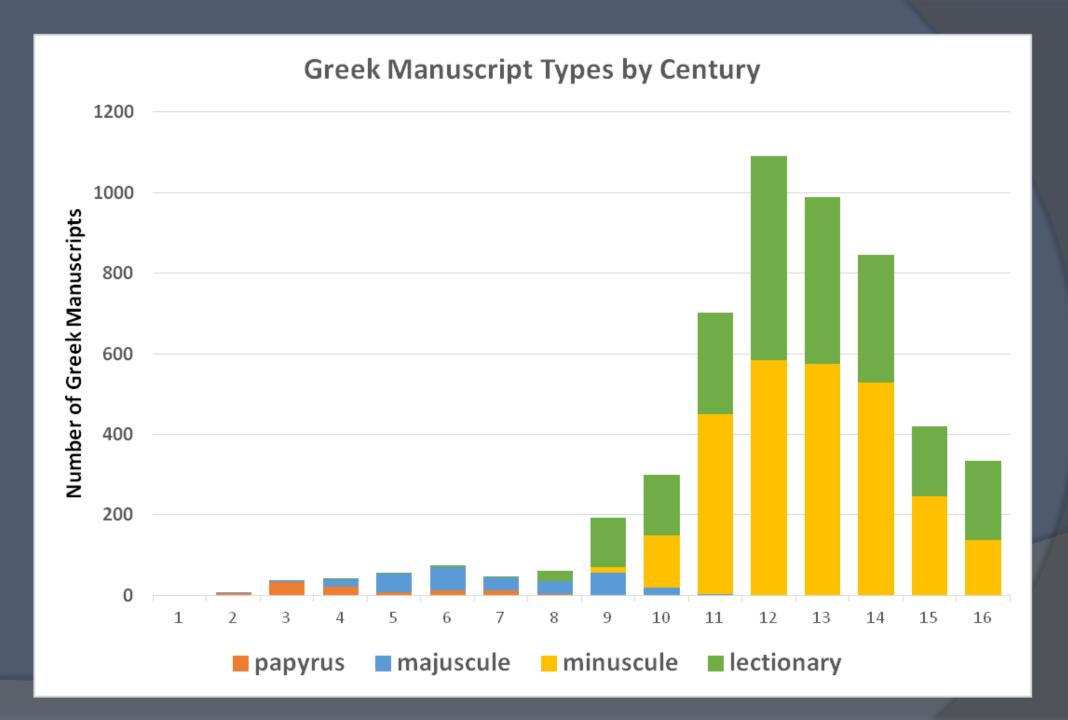
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Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Century

Text: Lessons from John, Matthew & Luke

This is a 10<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine lectionary written in majuscule script

Beginning of John Image from Wikipedia



### Timeline of Biblical Witnesses

