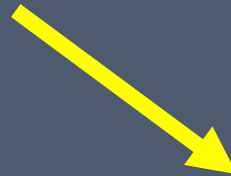


HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

*LESSON 6 – RECONSTRUCTING THE NT
(FROM THE PRINTING PRESS)*

FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION

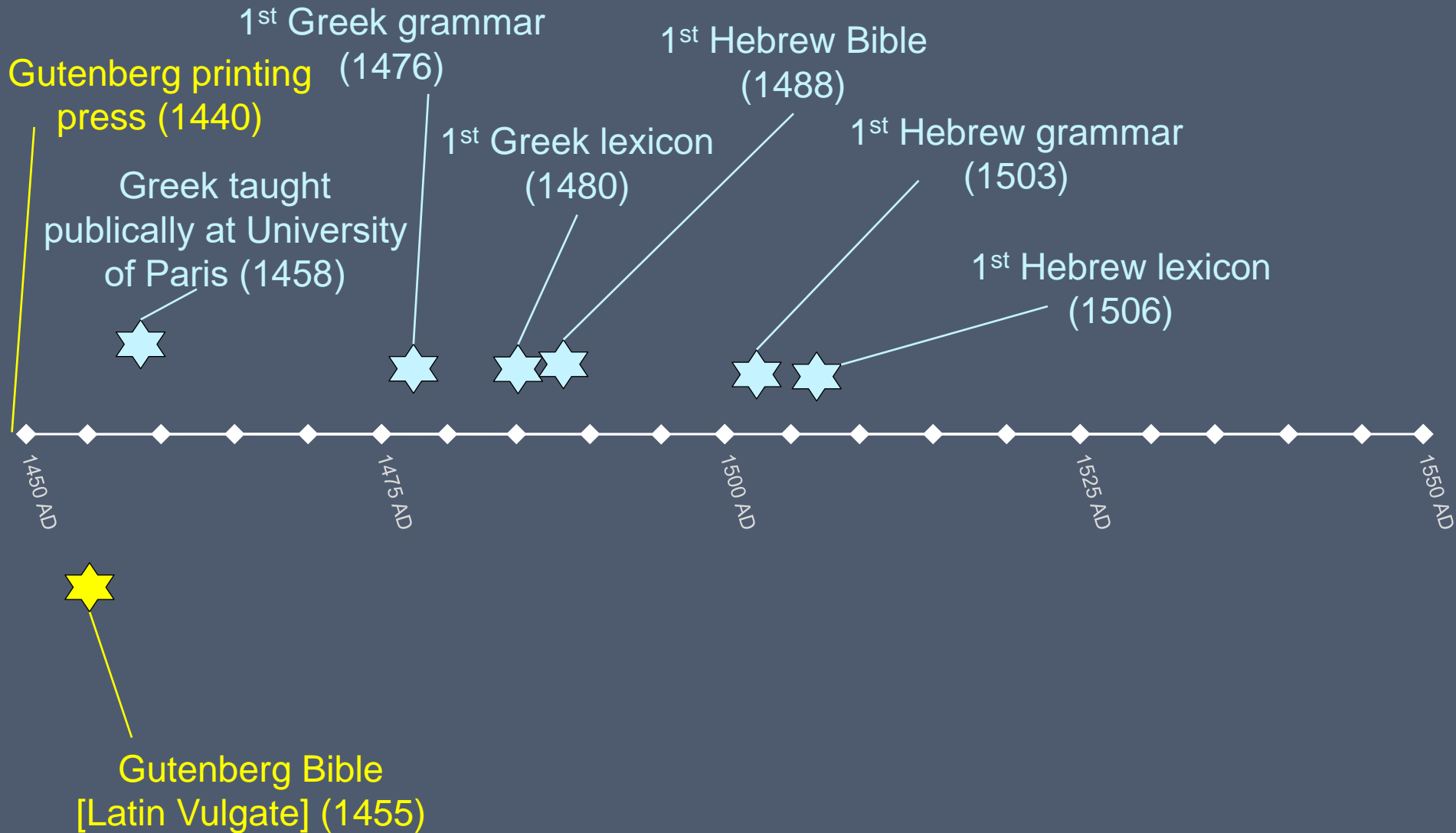


TRANSLATION

Transmission of the Bible

Reconstructing the Greek Text of the New Testament

Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials



Early Editions of the Greek NT

An edition is a compilation of a single text from multiple manuscripts through the process of textual criticism.

Most often, when someone refers to the original Greek, they are referring to the edition that is the textual basis for their translation.

[illegible]

- First printed Greek Bible (1514)
- Finished in 1517, published 1520
- Initiated and financed by Cardinal Francisco Jimenez (Ximenez) de Cisneros (1436-1517)
- Manuscripts and scholars assembled at Complutum near Madrid, Spain
- A 6-volume set (4 OT, 1 NT, 1 aids)
- OT – Hebrew, Latin Vulgate, LXX, Aramaic Pentateuch and Latin translation at bottom
- NT – Greek and Latin Vulgate
- 1st printed Greek New Testament
- 600 printed; 123 survive

Complutensian Polyglot (1517)

[illegible]

Brethren of the Common Life



- Started by Geert Groote (1340-1384) in Deventer, Netherlands
- Promoted a call to live a simple life
- Here Erasmus learned Greek at the first place it was taught in Europe at a lower level than a university (He mastered Greek at Oxford)
- Erasmus discovered New Testament notes of Lorenzo Valla, which encouraged him to continue the study of the NT
- Luther studied at the Magdeburg location of the school (1497) before going to the University of Erfurt
- John Calvin was also a student

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)



Portrait of Erasmus of Rotterdam (1524)
by Hans Holbein the Younger
Image from Wikipedia

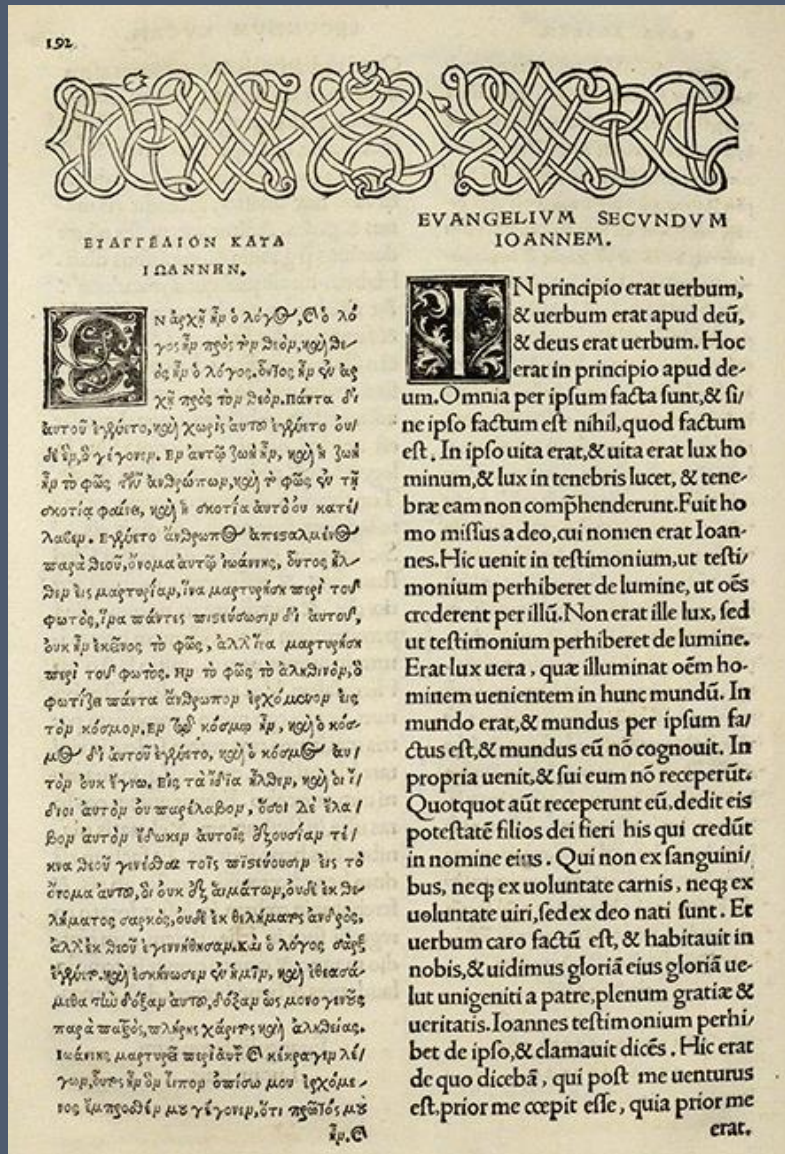
- Dutch humanist & Catholic priest
- Greek New Testament
 - 1st Edition (1516) – first published Greek NT
 - Revised Latin Vulgate with Greek text on left side
 - Rushed into print rather than edited; numerous errors
 - Sometimes back-translated Greek text from Latin when missing (i.e. last 6 verses of Revelation)
 - Used 7 manuscripts from the 12th – 15th centuries
 - 2nd Edition (1519)
 - Corrected errors in 1st edition
 - Added one more 12th century manuscript
 - Used by Martin Luther for his German translation
 - Criticized for not including 1John 5:7-8

Erasmus' Manuscript Witnesses (1516)

Manuscript	Content	Date
Minuscule 1 ^{ap}	the entire NT except Revelation	12th century
Minuscule 1 ^{rk}	Book of Revelation	12th century
Minuscule 2 ^a	Gospels	12th century
Minuscule 2 ^{ap}	Acts and Epistles	12th century
Minuscule 4 ^{ap}	Pauline epistles	15th century
Minuscule 7 ^p	Pauline epistles	12th century
Minuscule 817	Gospels	15th century

Erasmus (1466-1536) (cont'd)

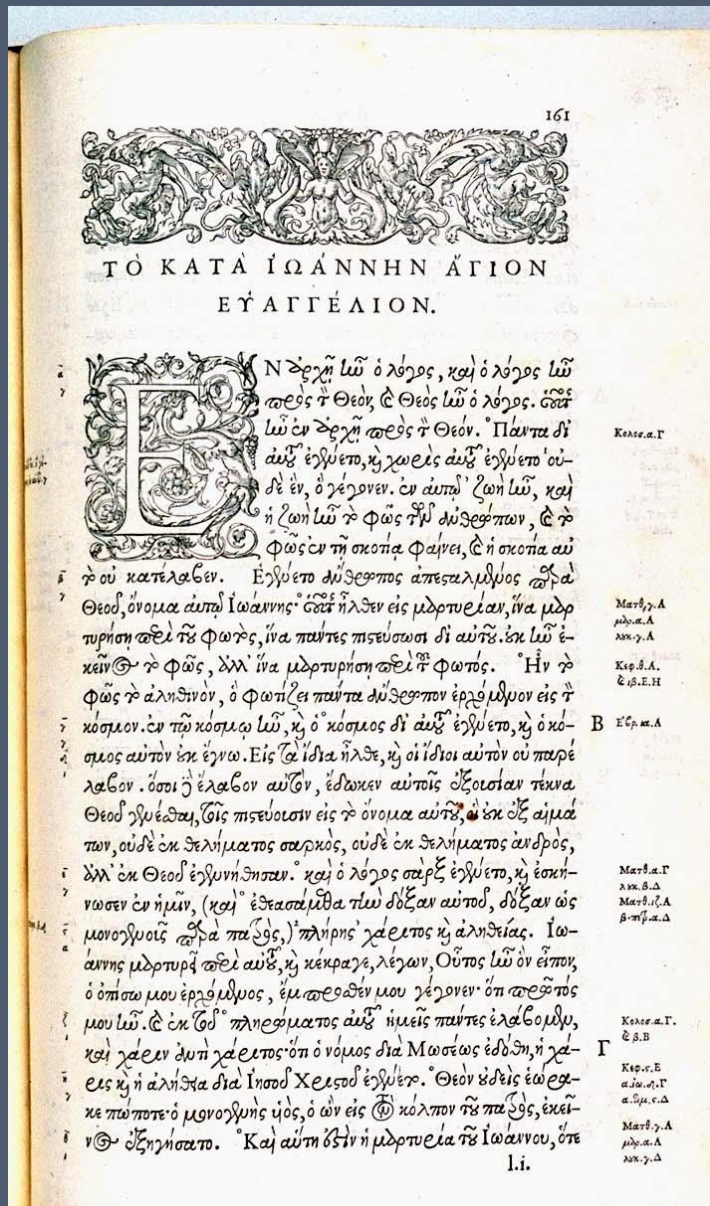
- Greek New Testament
 - 3rd Edition (1522)
 - Contained 1John 5:7-8 as a 16th century Greek manuscript was manufactured with it for him
 - Used by Tyndale in first English NT
 - 4th Edition (1527)
 - Contains Greek, Latin Vulgate & Erasmus' Latin
 - Improved Greek text using the Complutensian Polyglot
 - Basis for Stephanus' 1550 edition which was basis for King James Version
 - 5th Edition (1535)
 - Similar to 4th edition but without Latin Vulgate



Erasmus' Greek New Testament
Image from SMU

Robert Estienne (1503-1559)

- Known as Stephanus in Latin
- Printer and former Catholic priest who converted to Protestantism
- Greek New Testament
 - 1st Edition (1546)
 - Based on Complutensian Polyglot and Erasmus' 3rd edition
 - 2nd Edition (1549)
 - 3rd Edition (1550) – *editio regia*
 - Used Complutensian Polyglot and 15 Greek manuscripts
 - First Greek NT to include a critical apparatus
 - Based on Erasmus' 4th edition
 - Became basis for *Textus Receptus*
 - **Standard Greek text until 1880**
 - 4th Edition (1551)
 - **First edition to include verse divisions**
 - Estienne indicates Protestant conversion



3rd Edition of Stephanus' Greek New Testament (1550)

Image from Wikipedia

Stephanus' Manuscript Witnesses (1550)

Table 2 Greek texts used by the *Editio Regia* (later known as the *Textus Receptus*)

Date (A.D.)	Text	Details of content
Fifth century	Codex Bezae	A mainly Western text type, ⁸ with many omissions, interpolations, and false readings, four Gospels (only Luke is complete), some of Acts and sections of 3 John.
Eighth century	Codex Regius	An Alexandrian text type, ⁸ with various omissions and interpolations, many readings of the Byzantine text type ¹⁰ and almost all of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 8 ¹¹	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of Acts, Paul's letters, the general letters and Revelation.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 42	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 237	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Eleventh century	Minuscule 2298	Contains Acts and the letters of Paul.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 38	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels, as well as Acts and Paul's letters.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 2817	A Byzantine text type, with almost the complete text of Paul's letters, ending at Hebrews 12:18.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 9	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Twelfth century	Minuscule 111	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Twelfth–thirteenth centuries	Minuscule 120	A Byzantine text type, with the complete text of the four Gospels.
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 4	A mixed text type, but dependent on the Byzantine, with almost the complete text of the four Gospels, but with gaps in the text (Mt. 2:9-20; Mk. 15:42–16:14; Jno. 1:1-13; 1:49–3:11).
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 5	A mixed text type, but dependent on the Byzantine, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.
Thirteenth century	Minuscule 6	A mix of the Alexandrian and Byzantine text types, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.
Fourteenth century	Minuscule 393	A Byzantine text type, with the entire New Testament except for Revelation.

Theodore de Beza (1519-1605)

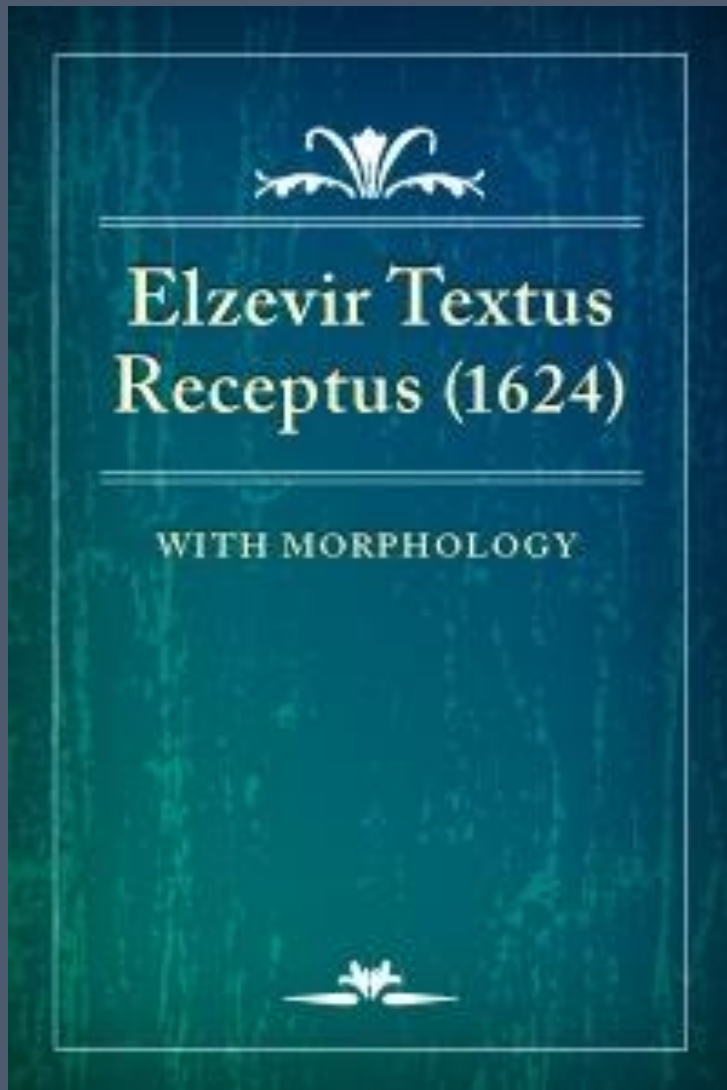


Theodore de Beze

Image from Wikipedia

- Successor and disciple of John Calvin at Geneva Academy
- Published nine editions of the Greek New Testament
 - 1565 edition
 - Parallel Greek text with Vulgate and his own translation
 - 1582 edition
 - Made use of Codex Bezae (D) [5th century] and Codex Claromontanus (D²) [6th century], but used sparingly because they differed too much from the Erasmus and Complutensian texts
 - Still primarily based on Stephanus' 1550 edition
 - 1589 edition
 - Used by King James translators

Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevir (1592-1652)



- Dutch printers Bonaventure and his nephew Abraham
- Printed seven editions of the Greek NT
 - 1624 Edition
 - Drew mainly from Beza's 1565
 - 1633 Edition
 - The *Textus Receptus*
 - Preface reads in Latin, "*Textum ergo habes, nunc ab omnibus receptum: in quo nihil immatatum aut corruptum damus.*"
 - Trans. "...the text now received by all, in which we give nothing changed or corrupted."
 - *Textus Recptus* (Received Text) comes from this blurb.
 - Almost identical to Stephanus' 1550 edition, basis for KJV

London Polyglot (1657)

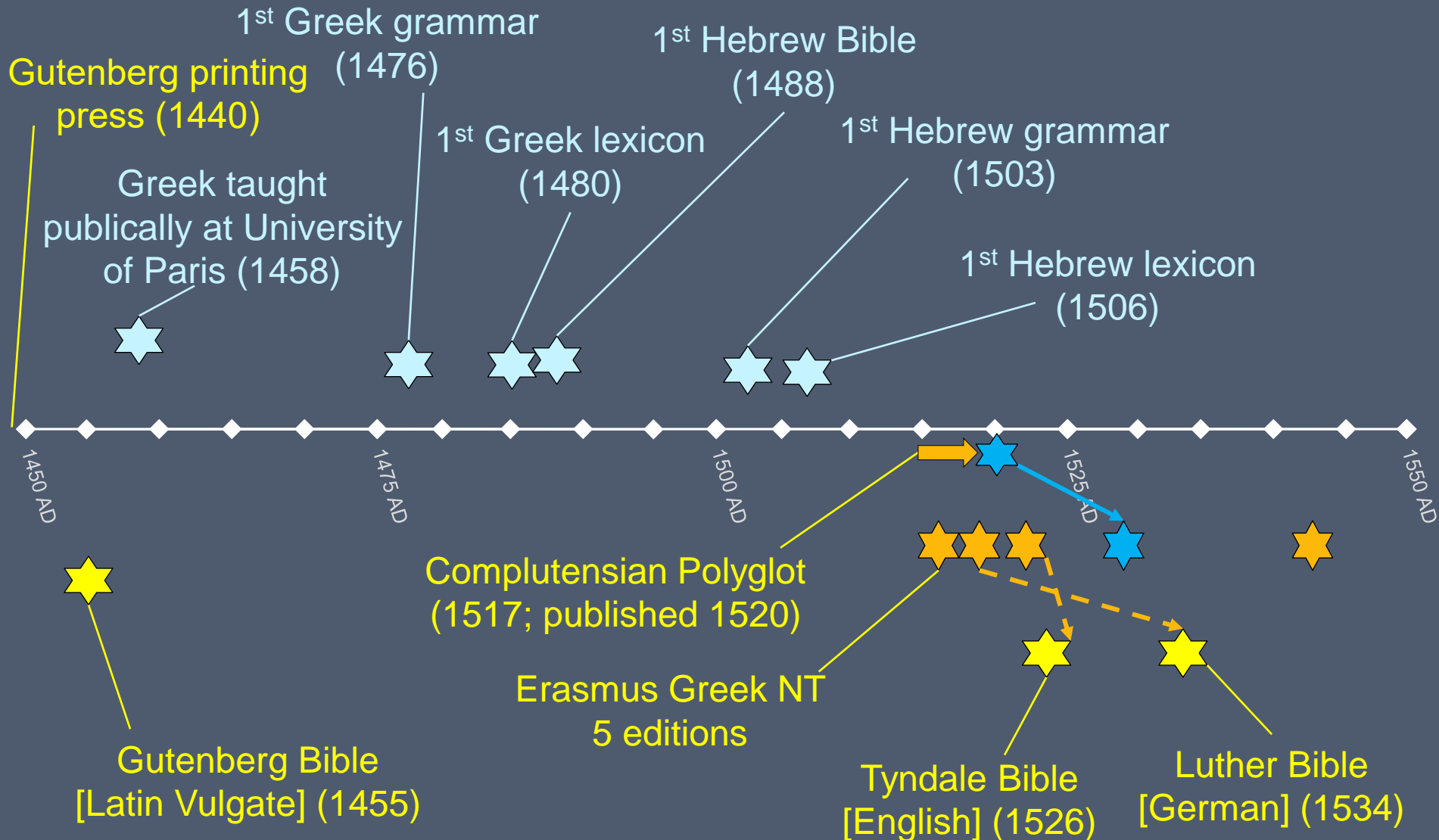


- Edited by Brian Walton (1600-1661)
- Published in London in 1657
- Contains NT in Greek, Latin (both Vulgate and version by Arius Montanus), Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic and Persian (Gospels)
- Uses Greek text of Stephanus (1550) with slight alterations
- Readings of Codex Alexandrinus (A), recently presented by Cyril Lucar in 1627, are at the foot of the page
- A 6th volume contains an appendix with a critical apparatus of variant readings from 15 authorities

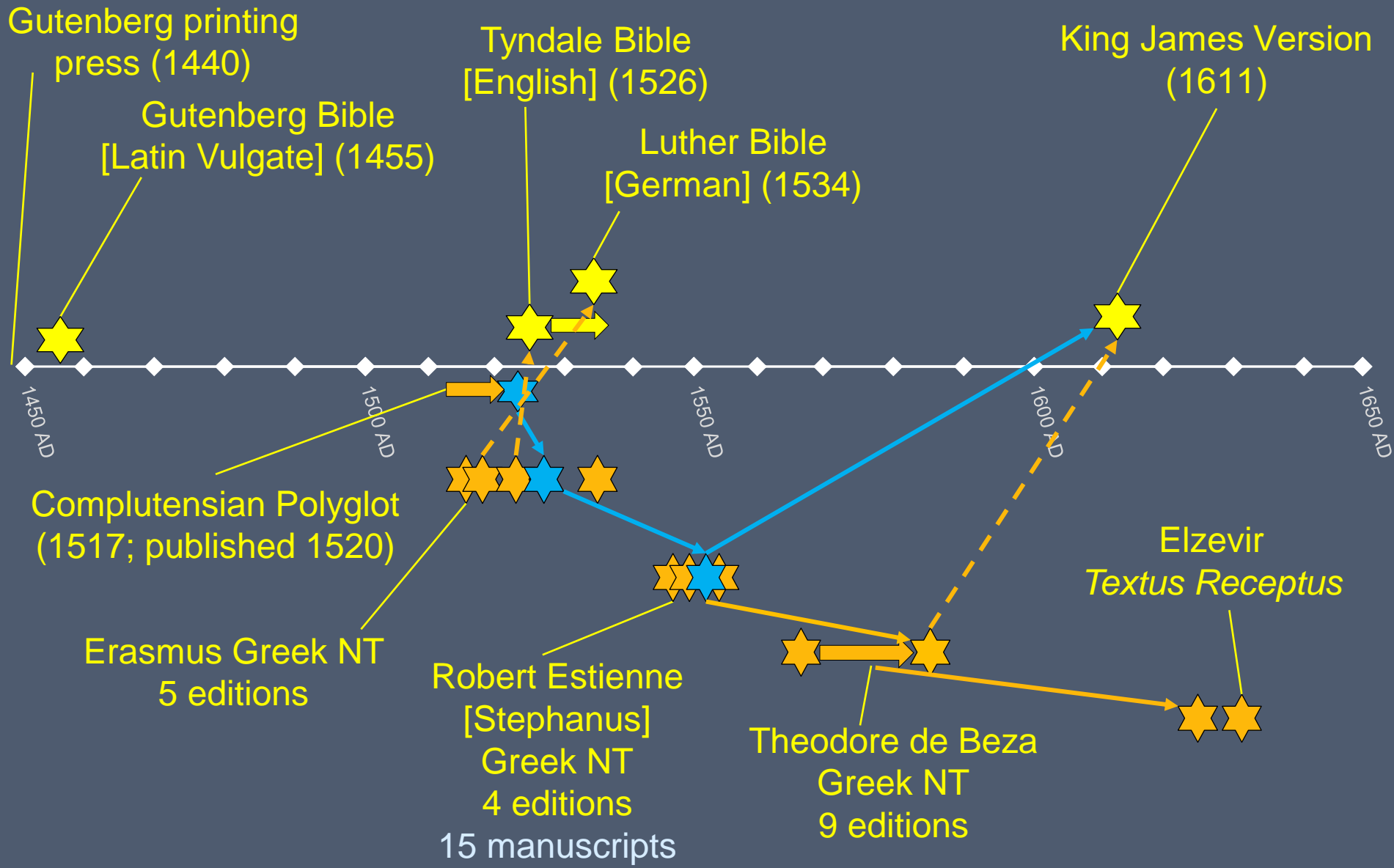
Image from

http://www.adamandeveseedgatheringministry.com/christmas_and_holy_word_page

Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials



Early Printed Bibles



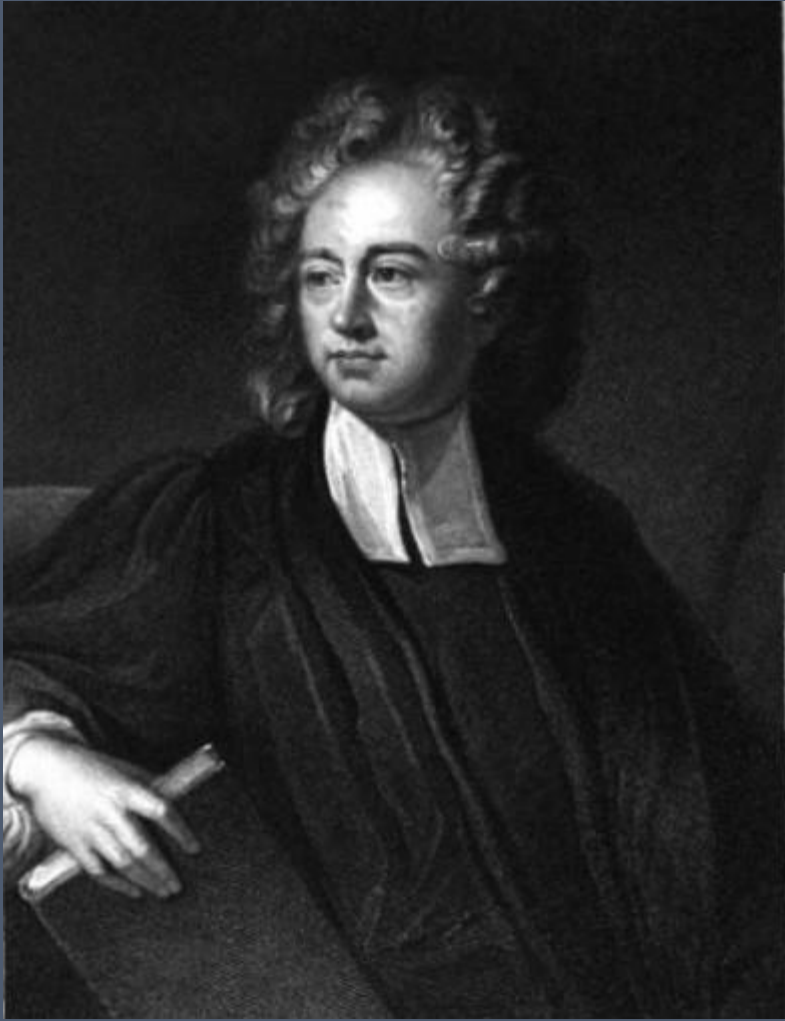
John Mill (1645-1707)

- English theologian and fellow at Queen's College, Oxford
- Produced an epic Greek NT edition in 1707 (*Novum testamentum græcum, cum lectionibus variantibus MSS. exemplarium, versionum, editionum SS. patrum et scriptorum ecclesiasticorum, et in easdem nolis*)
- 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)



- English classical scholar & master of Trinity College, Cambridge
- Set out to reproduce the Greek NT of the 4th century
- Collected ~2,000 Pounds from subscriptions for the new edition, but despite amassing new evidence from manuscripts, Bentley died and his literary executor returned the funds
- 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 compiled from the extant manuscripts, 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 (1775-1812)
- 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)**



- 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)



- German philologist and critic
- Produced one of the first complete breaks from the *Textus Receptus* with 3 editions of the Greek NT (1831, 1842, 1846)
- 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)

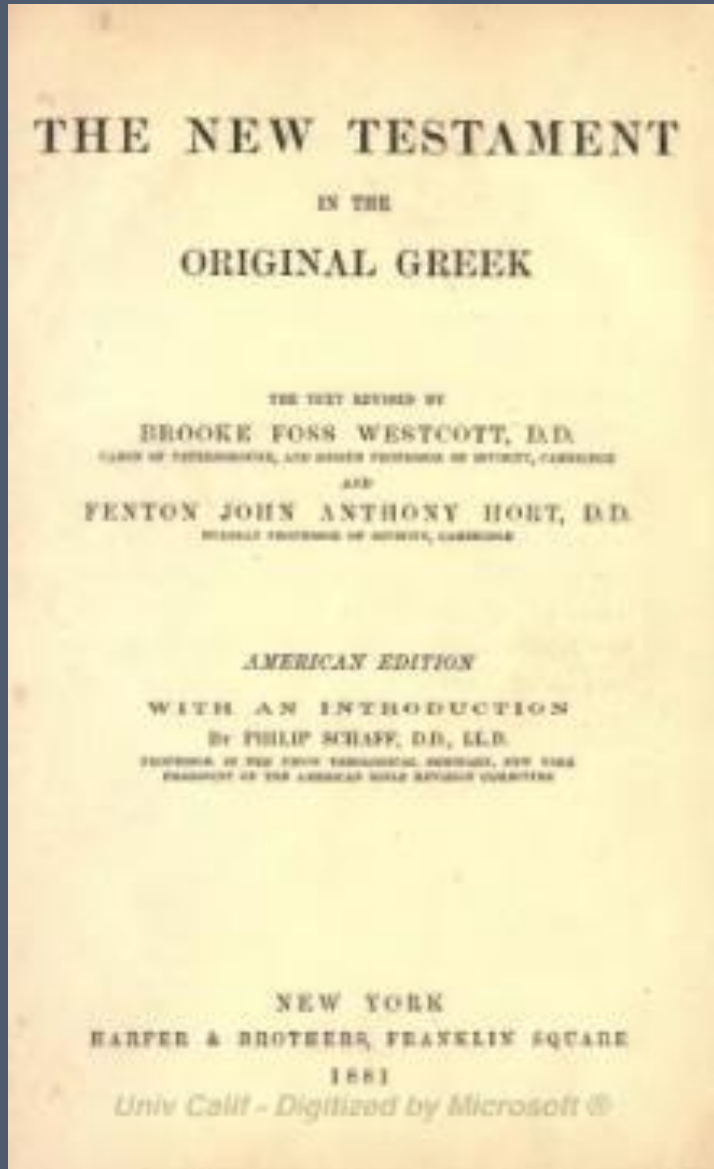
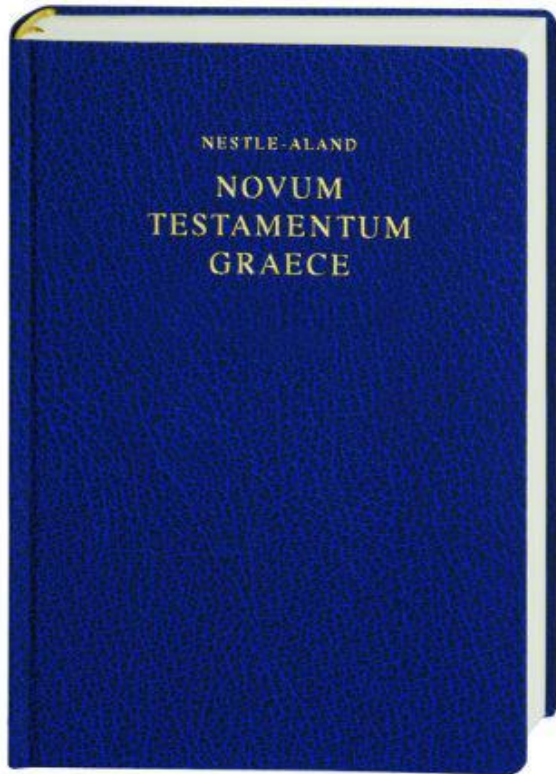


Image from Wikipedia

- Published by British scholars Brooke Foss Westcott (1825-1901) and Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828-1892)
- 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 Syrian (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 critical 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



Images from Wikipedia



UBS GNT
committee

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 textual critic
- Long time professor at Princeton Theological Seminary
- Widely considered one of most influential Bible scholars of 20th century
- Served on the boards of American Bible Society and United Bible Society
- Editor for the UBS Greek NT (basis for most modern translations)
- 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 \(csntm.org\)](http://www.csntm.org)

Manuscript Age vs Discovery & Use

