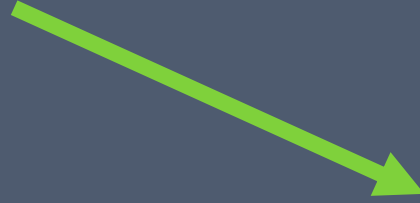# HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

Dan Leiphart

FROM GOD TO US
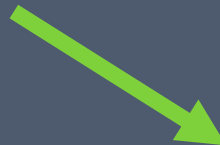
INSPIRATION

CANONIZATION

TRANSMISSION

TRANSLATION

Transmission of the Bible

Reconstructing the Greek Text of the New Testament

Constantine the Great (272-337 AD)

- Roman Emperor of Illyrian-Greek origin (306-337 AD)
- First Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity
- Called the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD
- Moved capital from Rome to Byzantium (Constantinople) in 330 AD
  - Center of gravity of the whole empire now shifted east
  - Bishop of Constantinople now had all the honor of the Bishop of Rome
  - After death of Theodosius the Great, the Roman Empire was divided for the final time into western (Latin-speaking) and eastern (Greek-speaking) halves (395 AD)

Image from Wikipedia

Roman Empire Divided (395-476 AD)

THE ROMAN EMPIRE c. 400 C.E.
- East Roman Empire
- West Roman Empire

Image from http://lukensocialstudies.weebly.com/beginning-of-the-byzantine-empire.html

Fall of Rome, Rise of Byzantine *(476 AD)*

Boethius *(480-524)*

- Roman senator and philosopher
- Worked on revitalizing the relationship between the church in Rome and the church in Constantinople
- One of the last Greek speakers in the West

Image from Wikipedia

- Empire again had a single emperor but had little power in the West which was mostly ruled by various Germanic tribes
- This was now a permanent separation between the Greek East and the Latin West
- The number of people who spoke both Greek and Latin now dwindled, and communication grew much more difficult
- Language, culture and the Church were now naturally divided
- In the East, this marked the beginning of the Byzantine Empire

Byzantine Empire Begins (476 AD)

ATLANTIC OCEAN

FRANKS

SUEBIS

VISIGOTHS

BYZANTINE

Black Sea

Constantinople

EMPIRE

Mediterranean   Sea

Borders of Justinian's empire
Byzantine Empire in 527 A.D.
Justinian's conquests

Image from
https://www.blinklearning.com/Cursos/c1013849_c56043979__The_Byzantine_Empire.php

East-West Schism *(1054 AD)*

Hagia Sophia *(537-pres.)*

- Roman/Byzantine church originally built in 360, burned down in 532
- Greek-speaking orthodox church
- Converted to Roman Catholic Latin-speaking cathedral 1204-1261
- Converted to Muslim mosque in 1454

Image from Wikipedia

- Justinian I (Byzantine Emperor from 527 to 565 AD) took back much of the western part of the Roman Empire, but established caesaropapism (the emperor had charge over the church). This did not sit well with the Church in Rome
- Much of the other points of conflict were border disputes, theological issues, governance & canonical issues
- Mutual excommunication of both East and West churches occurred in 1054 AD

The Great Schism *(1054 AD)*

Image from https://www.britannica.com/event/Schism-of-1054

The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204 AD)

The Entry of the Crusaders in Constantinople, by Eugène Delacroix
Image from Wikipedia

- Called by Pope Innocent III
- Originally meant to recapture Jerusalem from the Muslims
- Instead they ended up sacking the Byzantine Christian city Constantinople
- A retaliation from the massacre of the Roman Catholics (Latins) in Constantinople (1182 AD)
- Severely weakened the Byzantine Empire
- Established the Latin Empire as Baldwin of Flanders was crowned emperor in the Hagia Sophia
- Constantinople recaptured by the East in 1261 AD

Byzantine Empire *(476-1453 AD)*

Fall of Constantinople (1453 AD)

Benjamin Constant L'Entrée du sultan Mehmet II à Constantinople le vingt-neuf mai 1453
Image from Wikipedia

- The Byzantine Empire ended after nearly 1,000 years on April 6, 1453
- Ottoman armies led by 21 year-old Mehmed the Conqueror
- Many Christians slaughtered
- The event generally marks the end of the Middle Ages
- The Hagia Sophia converted to a mosque
- Constantinople (Istanbul) remains a Muslim city to this day

Current Events

So, with the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 and its fall to the Ottomans in 1453, many Greek-speaking Christians fled to Western Europe for refuge.

meanwhile…

Stephen Langton *(1150-1228)*

Image from Wikipedia

- English Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church
- Archbishop of Canterbury (1207-1228)
- Credited with dividing the Bible into the standard modern arrangement of chapters

The Rise of the Humanists

- Definition – the study of the humanities (of classical antiquity)
- Started in late 13th century in Western Europe
- At its core was using the study of classical texts to alter contemporary thinking – drawing back to Rome and Greece
- Humanists sought to create a citizenry able to speak and write with eloquence and clarity and thus capable of engaging in the civic life of their communities and persuading others to virtuous and prudent actions – accomplished through the study of the humanities (grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy)
- Most humanists were Christians and sought to "purify" the church rather than to do away with it
- By 1500 Humanism was the dominant form of education, and its teaching helped fuel the Protestant Reformation

Petrarch *(1304-1374)*

- Father of Humanism
- His re-discovery of the Roman politician Cicero's letters is credited with the birth of humanism
- Believed classical writings were not just relevant to his age, but could provide moral guidance which could reform humanity
- Worked at bringing together the classics and the Christians
- This helped propagate the great spread of humanism through Europe through the late 14th century
- A prime mover in the recovery of knowledge of writers of Rome and Greece, collected manuscripts, but knew no Greek
- Created the concept of the Dark Ages for the centuries preceding his era

Giovanni Boccaccio *(1313-1375)*

Image from Wikipedia

- Italian writer, poet and humanist
- Correspondent of Petrarch, whom he called his teacher
- Pushed for the study of Greek, housing Barlaam of Calabria, and encouraging his translations of Homer, Euripides and Aristotle
  - Barlaam, an Italian, moved to Constantinople in the 1320s and became a master of the Greek language (teaching some to Petrarch)
- Challenged the arguments of clerical intellects who wanted to limit access to classical sources to prevent any moral harm to Christian readers

Leontius Pilatus *(d. 1366)*

- Calabrian scholar and one of the first promoters of Greek studies in Western Europe
- **First professor of Greek in Western Europe (Florence)**
- Translated and commented on works of Euripides, Aristotle & Homer, including the Odyssey and the Iliad, into Latin
- Made a very literal translation of Homer into Latin prose which he gave to Boccaccio, who then sent it to Petrarch
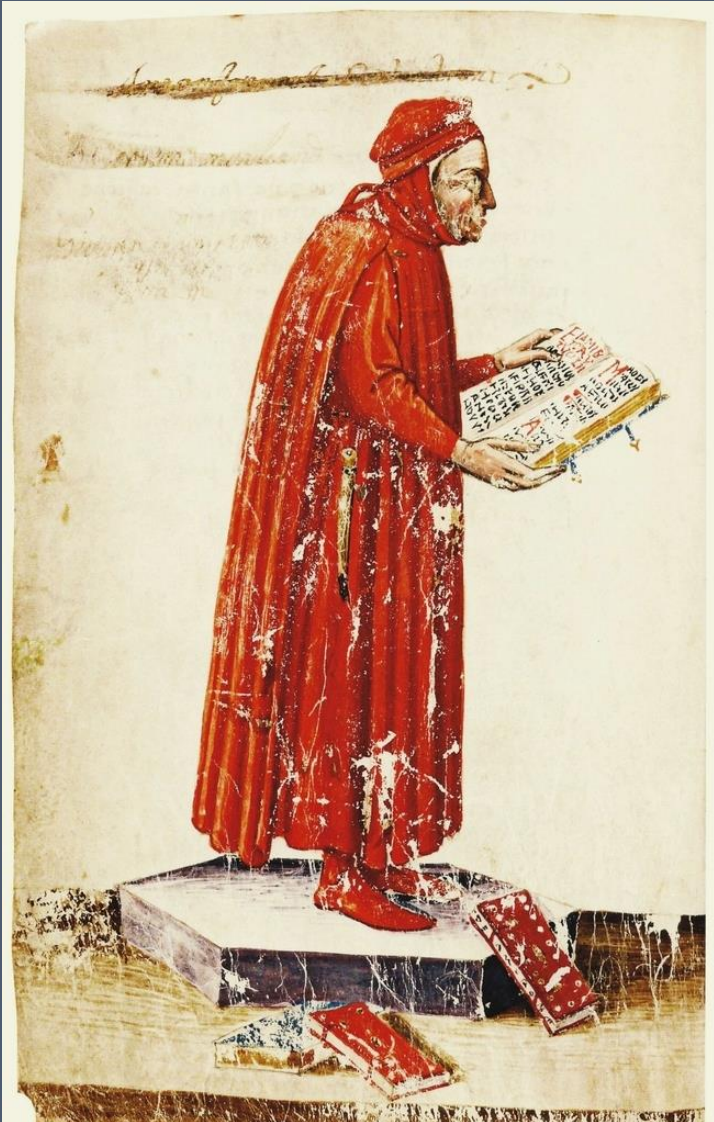
Coluccio Salutati (1331-1406)

Image from Wikipedia

- Chancellor in Florence, which he made the capitol of Renaissance Humanism
- Correspondent of Petrarch
- A skilled writer and orator, believed he must imitate antiquity not just reproduce it
- Amassed the largest library in Florence, pursued classical manuscripts
- Played important role in changing the Roman Catholic Church's view towards studying secular & pagan literature
- **Brought Byzantine scholar Manuel Chrysoloras to Florence in 1397 to teach one of the first courses in Greek since the end of the Roman Empire**

Manuel Chrysoloras *(1355-1415)*

Image from Wikipedia

- Born in Constantinople, sought aid in Venice in 1390 against the advance of the Muslim Turks, met Roberto de' Rossi, a follower of Salutati
  - Rossi was the first pupil of Chrysoloras and one of the first Florentines to read Greek
  - Rossi's acquaintance Giacomo da Scarperia travelled to Constantinople to study Greek with Chrysoloras in 1395 – he was one of the first humanists to study and translate Greek texts
- **Taught Greek grammar in Florence, Bologna, Venice and Rome**
- **His *Erotemata* was the first basic Greek grammar in use in Western Europe, published later in 1471 in Venice & studied by Erasmus at Oxford**

Lorenzo Valla *(1407-1457)*

Image from Wikipedia

- Italian humanist and Catholic priest
- Critical of current Latin style, desired a return to classical style with a foundation of analysis and inductive reasoning
- Valla used his critical acumen and classical Latin style to disprove the authenticity of "the Donation of Constantine" document which yielded the western half of the Roman Empire to the authority of the Roman Catholic Church
- His critical study of Jerome's Latin Vulgate called into question the church's system of penance and indulgences. He believed "repentance" would be a more accurate translation of the Greek word *metanoia* than Jerome's "penance." This was praised by the later Reformers.
- **His notes on the NT inspired Erasmus**

Constantine Lascaris *(1434-1501)*

- Greek scholar and grammarian
- Took refuge in Rhodes after the fall of Constantinople, then in Italy
- **There he published his *Grammatica Graeca*, probably the first book entirely in Greek issued from the printing press in 1476**
- Taught Greek to the Basilan Monks in Sicily

Image from Wikipedia

Theodore Gaza *(1398-1475)*

Op de Afbeeldinge van
THEODORUS GAZA
In Griekenland wierdt gy geplant, en 't heerlyk Romen
Wou met de wateren der kennisse u bestroomen:
Maar de Armoê gaf de groey aan uw verstand en bragt
Zo ver u, dat u elk om uw Geleerdheid agt:
Doch zo het lot aan u had meerder gunst gegeeven,
ô Gaza, uwen Naam wierd boven elks verheeven. *L.P.*

Image from Wikipedia

- Greek scholar and humanist
- Supported himself in Mantua, Italy after fleeing Thessaloniki ahead of the Ottomans by teaching Greek and by copying ancient Greek manuscripts
- **Became professor of Greek at the newly founded University of Ferrara in 1447** where many students were attracted by his fame including Demetrios Chalkokondyles (who taught Reuchlin and Grocyn)
- Produced superior translations of Greek classics to those before him
- Published a Greek grammar in four books in Venice in 1495, which was then partially translated by Erasmus in 1521, was a leading textbook for a long time despite being defective in many aspects

Demetrios Chalkokondyles
(1423-1511)

Image from Wikipedia

- Born in Athens, the last of the Greek humanists who taught Greek literature at the major universities of the Italian Renaissance
- Published the first printed edition of Homer in 1488
- Famous pupils:
  - Johann Reuchlin (Florence) – German humanist who focused his life on advancing German understanding of biblical languages, mastered Hebrew and published grammar in 1506, sister's grandson was P. Melanchthon
  - William Grocyn (Florence) – English humanist and first teacher of Greek at Oxford in 1492; friend of Erasmus

Early European Greek Professors

- Gregory Tifernas
  - Greek humanist from Italian city of Citta di Castello
  - Studied Greek classics under Manuel Chrysoloras
  - **First teacher of Greek at the University of Paris in 1458**
  - Taught Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples and Robert Gaguin (an associate of Erasmus)

- George Hermonymous
  - Greek scribe, diplomat, scholar and lecturer
  - First person to teach Greek at the College de Sorbonne in Paris
  - **Known as the teacher of Erasmus, Budaeus, Reuchlin and Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples**
  - Copied NT manuscript minuscules 30, 70, 287, 288 & 880

Johann Reuchlin *(1455-1522)*

Image from Wikipedia

- German-born humanist
- Learned Greek from Demetrios Chalkokondyles at Florence
- Scholar of Greek and Hebrew, focused his life on advancing German understanding of these language
  - Published several elementary Greek books
  - **Mastered Hebrew grammar and published *De Rudimentis Hebraicis* – grammar and lexicon – in 1506**
- His sister's grandson Philipp Melanchthon was like a son to him until the Reformation estranged them

Other Greek Firsts

- William Grocyn (1446-1519)
  - **First professor of Greek at Oxford in 1492**
  - Learned Greek from Demetrius Chalkokondyles
  - Friend of Erasmus
  - Spread new Greek learning to England

- Johannes Crastonis
  - **Published the first Greek-Latin lexicon (*vocabilista*) in 1480 in Modena, Italy**
  - Worked on a bi-lingual edition of the Psalms (Greek & Latin), published in 1481, the first ever printed version of the Greek Psalms
  - Translated and published Lascaris's Erotemata in 1480

God Working through the Renaissance

- The Roman Empire and Church was split between the Greek East and Latin West since ~400 AD
- Humanists in the West desired a revival of classical learning in the 1300s but had no knowledge of Greek
- Greek-speaking scholars in the East dispersed to Western Europe ahead of the Muslim invasion in the 1400s
- By the mid-late 1400s Greek language courses were now being taught in Western Europe by the Eastern scholars
- After 1440, the printing press made it possible for the publication of biblical language study material (grammars & lexicons)
- In the late 1400s to early 1500s, the humanists, now with their mastery of the biblical languages, educated minds such as Melanchthon, Luther, Calvin and Erasmus and helped fuel the Reformation

The Printing Press (1440)

•Invented in 1440 by the German Johannes Gutenberg

•First print was the Gutenberg Bible (1455), a copy of Jerome's Latin Vulgate.

•Between 158-180 copies made

•49 copies survive today (21 complete)

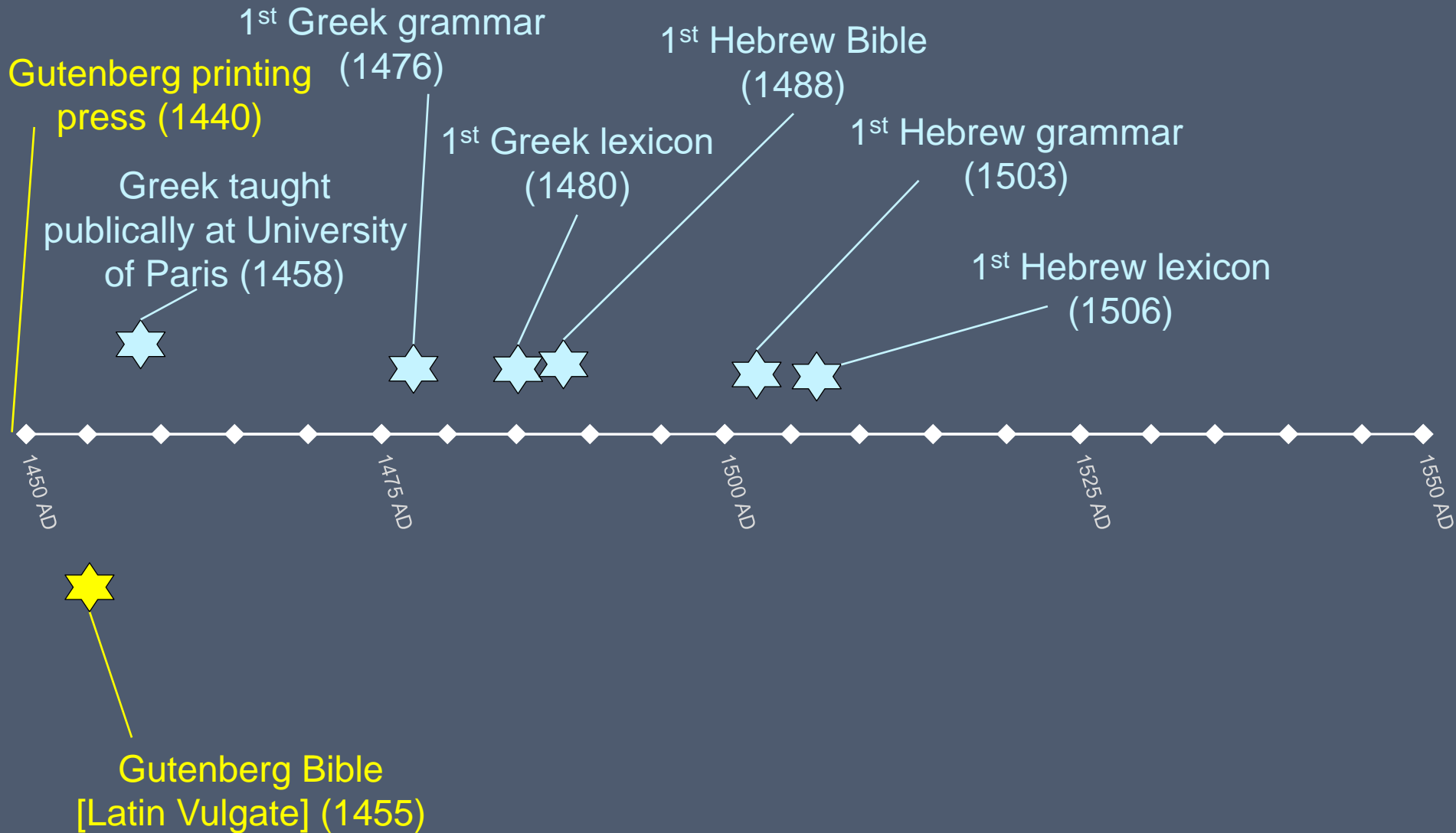Beginning of Genesis

Gutenberg Bible (1455)

Date: 1455
Text: entire Bible from Jerome's Latin Vulgate

- Between 158-180 copies made
- 49 copies survive today (21 complete)

Early Printed Bibles, Editions & Other Materials

1st Greek grammar (1476)

1st Hebrew Bible (1488)

Gutenberg printing press (1440)

1st Greek lexicon (1480)

1st Hebrew grammar (1503)

Greek taught publically at University of Paris (1458)

1st Hebrew lexicon (1506)

1450 AD

1475 AD

1500 AD

1525 AD

1550 AD

Gutenberg Bible [Latin Vulgate] (1455)

Early Editions of the Greek NT

An <u>edition</u> 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.

COMPLUTENSIAN POLYGLOT. Deut. xxxii, 35-46

UPPER PART : HEBREW, VULGATE, SEPTUAGINT (WITH INTERLINEAR LATIN TRANSLATION)
LOWER PART : CHALDAIC, WITH LATIN TRANSLATION. IN THE LEFT-HAND MARGIN ARE
GIVEN HEBREW AND CHALDAIC ROOTS. PHOTOGRAPHED FROM ONE OF TWO COPIES
OF ORIGINAL EDITION (600 COPIES) IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Deuteronomy 32:35-46

Complutensian Polyglot (1517)

Date: 1517
Text: entire Bible

- First printed Greek Bible (1514)
- Finished in 1517, published 1520
- Initiated and financed by Cardinal Fransisco 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

Image from Wikipedia

Complutensian Polyglot (1517)

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 1eap	the entire NT except Revelation	12th century
Minuscule1rK	Book of Revelation	12th century
Minuscule 2e	Gospels	12th century
Minuscule 2ap	Acts and Epistles	12th century
Minuscule 4ap	Pauline epistles	15th century
Minuscule 7P	Pauline epistles	12th century
Minuscule 817	Gospels	15th century

Erasmus *(1466-1536) (cont'd)*

Erasmus' Greek New Testament

Image from SMU

- 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

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

Image from Wikipedia

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

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,[9] 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.

Stephanus' Manuscript Witnesses (1550)

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 (D^2) [6th century], but used sparingly because they differed too much from the Erasumus and Complutensian texts
    - Still primarily based on Stephanus' 1550 edition
  - 1589 edition
    - Used by King James translators
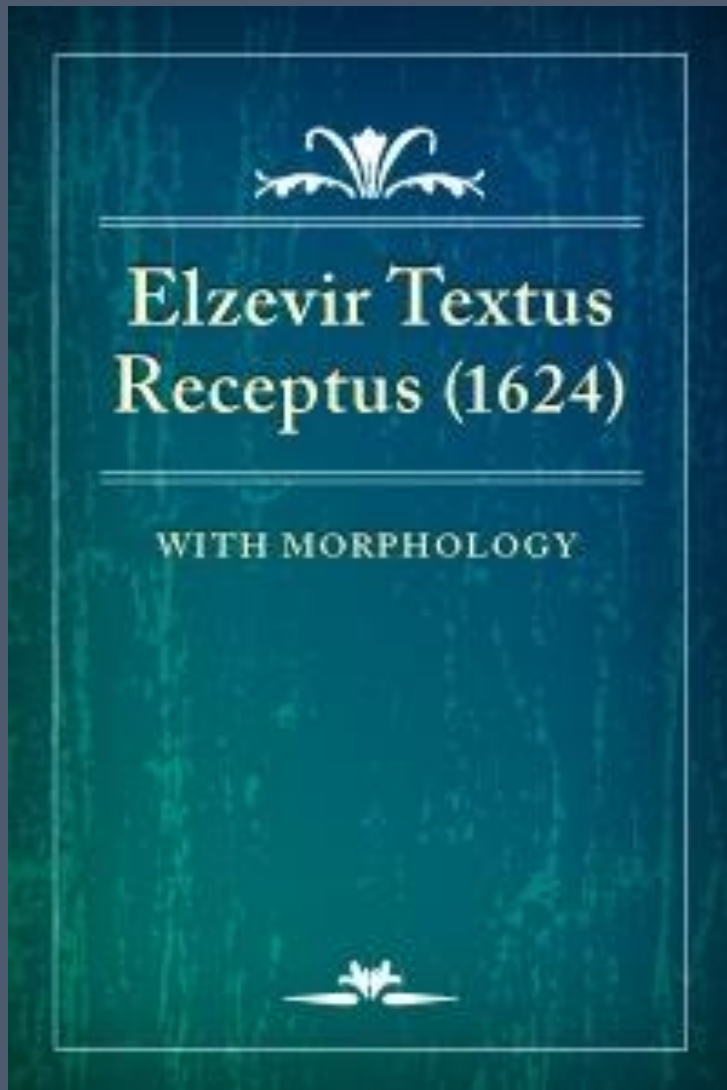
Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevir *(1592-1652)*

Elzevir Textus Receptus (1624)

WITH MORPHOLOGY

- 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
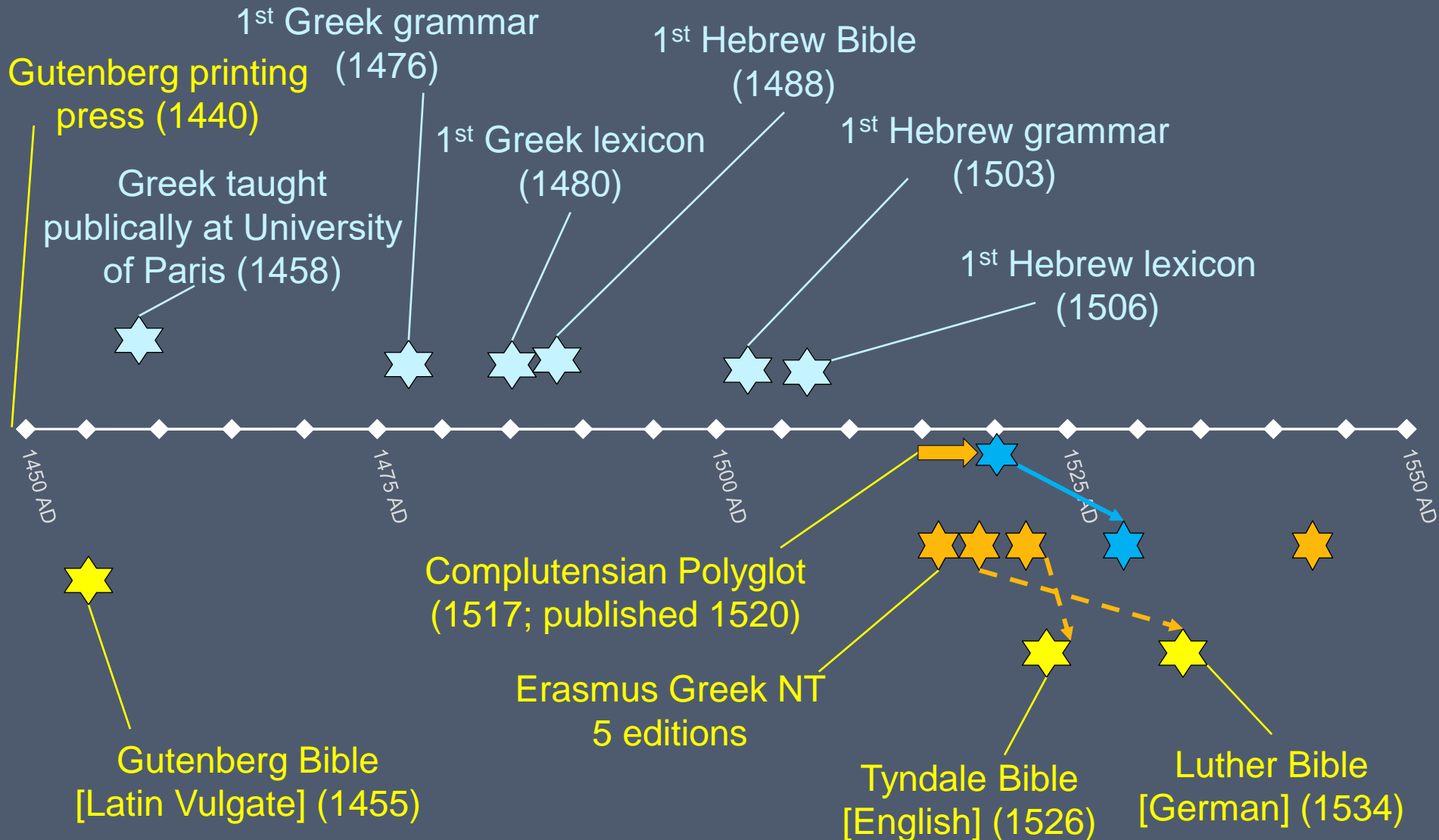
London Polyglot *(1657)*

2 John

- 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
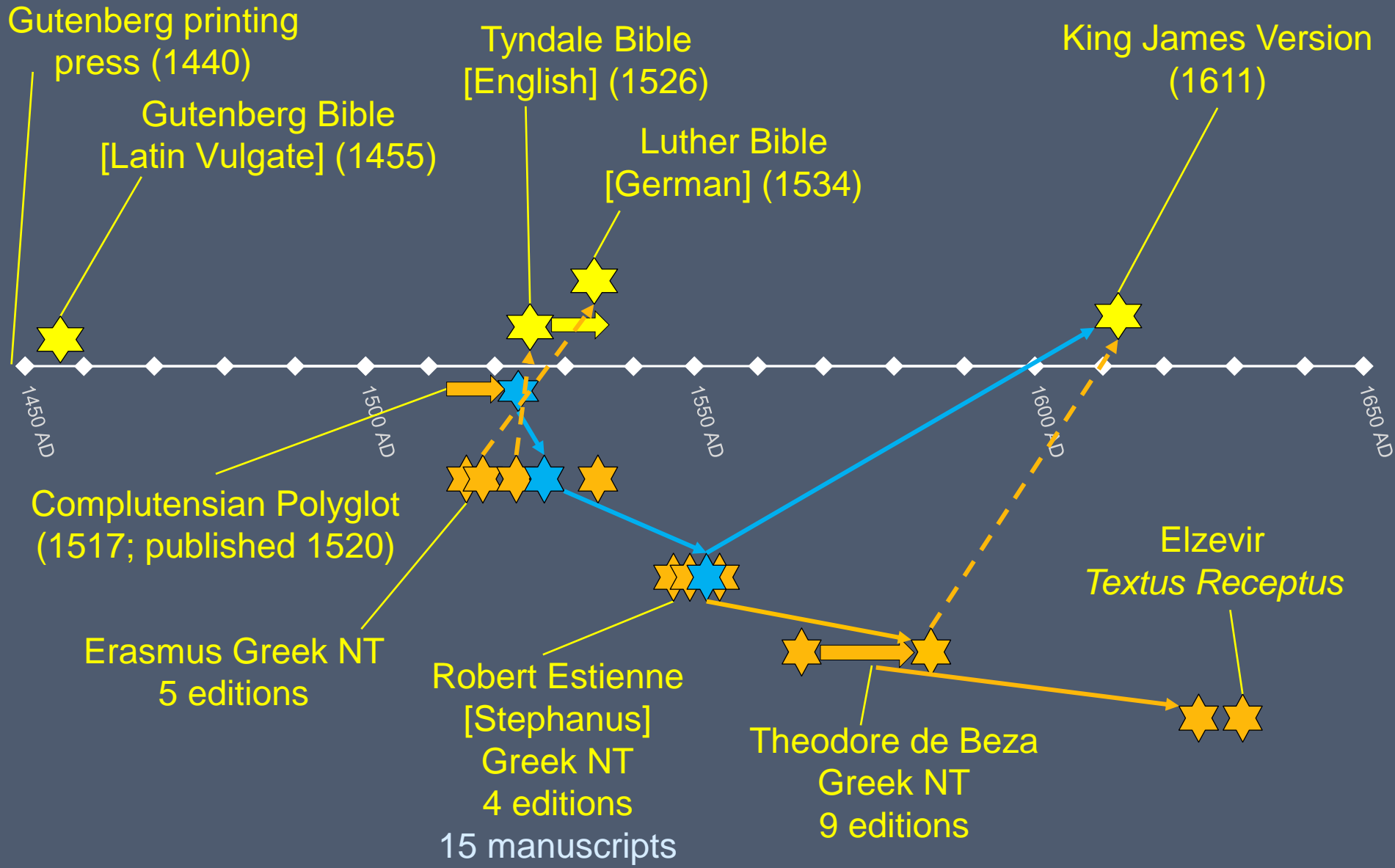- A 6th volume contains an appendix with a critical apparatus of variant readings from 15 authorities

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1st Greek grammar (1476)

1st Hebrew Bible (1488)

Gutenberg printing press (1440)

1st Greek lexicon (1480)

1st Hebrew grammar (1503)

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1450 AD

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1550 AD

Complutensian Polyglot (1517; published 1520)

Gutenberg Bible [Latin Vulgate] (1455)

Erasmus Greek NT 5 editions

Tyndale Bible [English] (1526)

Luther Bible [German] (1534)

Early Printed Bibles

Gutenberg printing press (1440)

Gutenberg Bible [Latin Vulgate] (1455)

Tyndale Bible [English] (1526)

Luther Bible [German] (1534)

King James Version (1611)

Complutensian Polyglot (1517; published 1520)

Erasmus Greek NT 5 editions

Robert Estienne [Stephanus] Greek NT 4 editions 15 manuscripts

Theodore de Beza Greek NT 9 editions

Elzevir *Textus Receptus*

1450 AD

1500 AD

1550 AD

1600 AD

1650 AD

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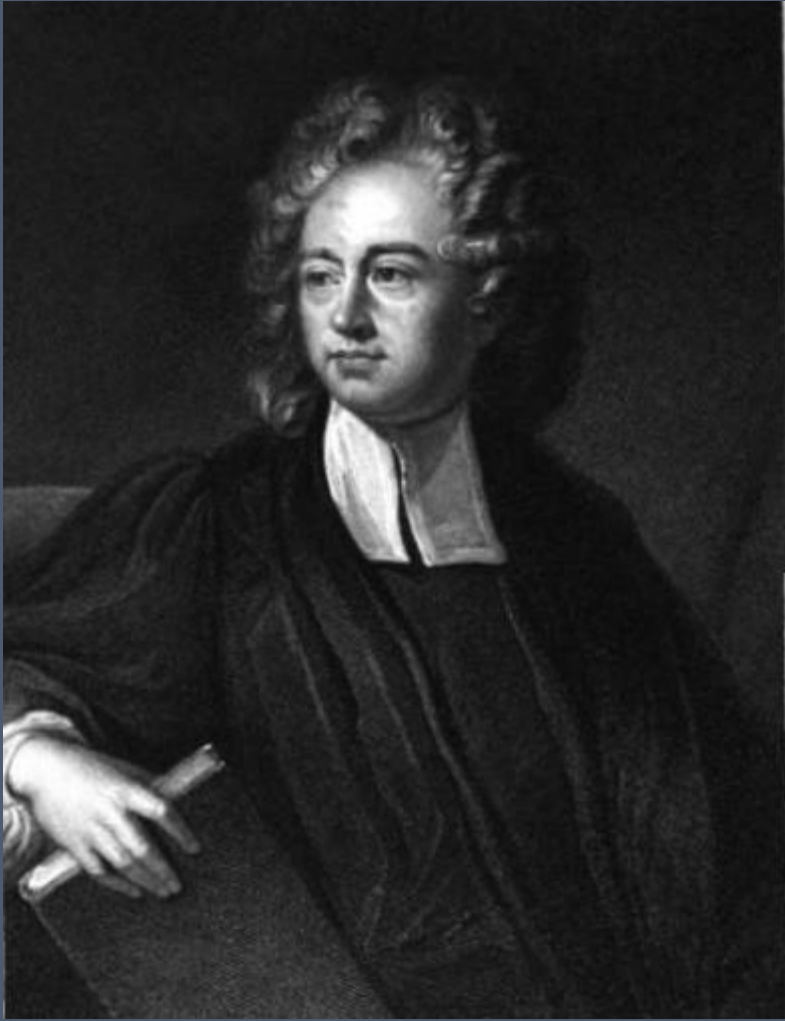
- English classical scholar & master of Trinity College, Cambridge
- Set out to reproduce the Greek NT of the 4th century
- Collected ~2,000 Pounds from subscriptions for the new edition, but despite amassing new evidence from manuscripts, Bentley died and his literary executor returned the funds
- Swiss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

J.M.AUGUSTIN SCHOLZ.

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)*

- 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

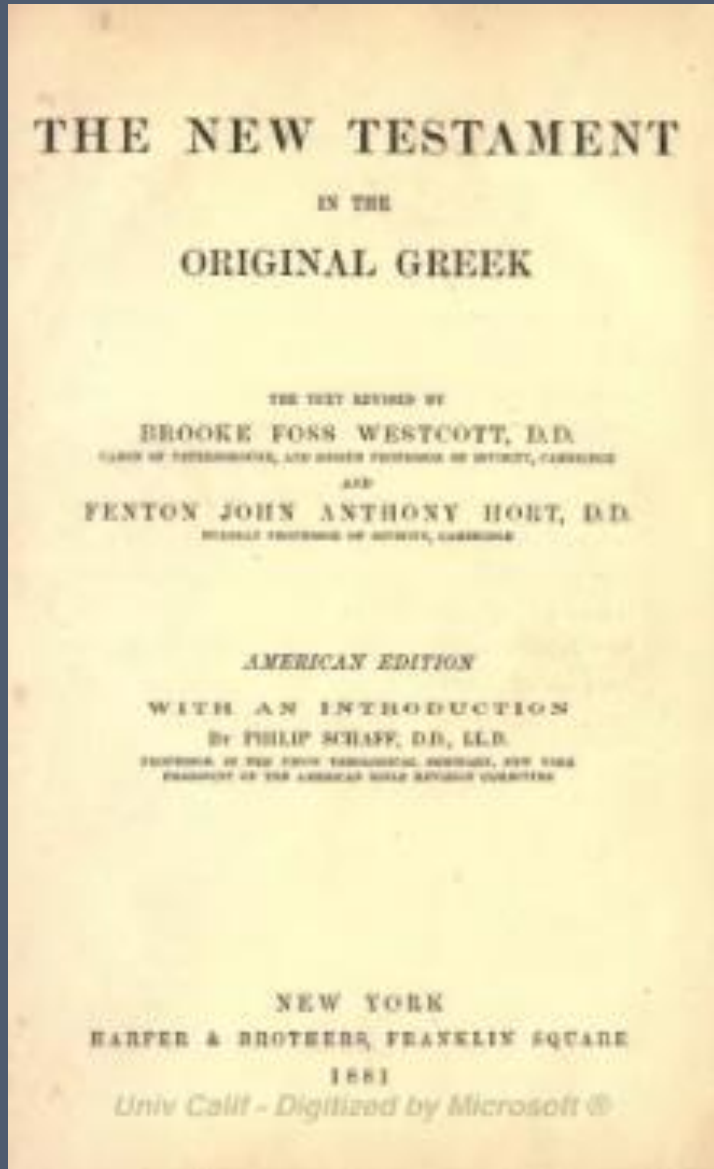# *Lobegott Friedrich Constantin von Tischendorf* *(1815-1874)*

- 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 monestary in Mt. Sinai in 1844, published in 1862, oldest complete Bible (~350 AD)

Westcott-Hort Critical Edition *(1881)*

THE NEW TESTAMENT

IN THE

ORIGINAL GREEK

THE TEXT REVISED BY

BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT, D.D.

FENTON JOHN ANTHONY HORT, D.D.

AMERICAN EDITION

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

By PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D., LL.D.

NEW YORK

HARPER & BROTHERS, FRANKLIN SQUARE

1881

Univ Calif - Digitized by Microsoft ®

- 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
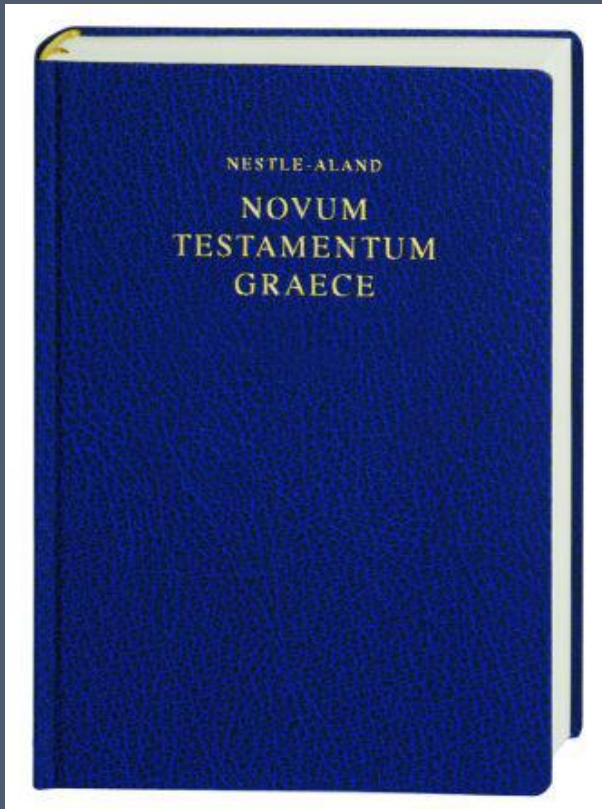
UBS GNT committee

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 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)