

## History of the Text - Psalm 119:160

God has always used one language! The Oxford English Dictionary lists **500,000 English** words, compared to only 185,000 German words and 100,000 French words. English is the official language in 59 / 195 countries of the world (30%). The second most is French in 29 countries (15%). English is studied and learned in 116 / 195 countries (59%). The second most is French in 35 countries (18%).

**In 1408, the Roman Catholic Church issued the Constitutions of Oxford, which state that no Scripture is ever to be printed in English, and if you were caught with an English Bible, you would be burned at the stake.**

In 1450, Johan Gutenberg of Germany invented the printing press. This invention opened up great new possibilities for the distribution of God's Word. William Tyndale was born around 1484. He attended Oxford and Cambridge where he became skilled in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. He then studied Greek under Desiderius Erasmus (the great Greek scholar largely responsible for preparing the Textus Receptus). **Erasmus taught him the importance of translating the Bible into the common languages so that everyone could read them.** Tyndale is known as "the Father of the English Bible." In 1536, he was burned alive. His last words were, "**Lord, open the King of England's eyes.**" What a powerful 7-word prayer that was later answered!

Until 1522, there had never been a time in history when the 27 books of the New Testament were in one binding. Erasmus was the first to print a Greek New Testament from the **Majority Text**, or the Antiochene line of manuscripts. Robert Stephanus broke the New Testament into verses in 1551. The preface of a 1633 edition says, "so you hold the **text**, now **received** by all, in which is nothing corrupt." This is where the term "Textus Receptus" comes from, meaning the "Received Text." The Received Text is that which travels north from Jerusalem to Antioch, heading for England. Upon arrival in England, it would be ready for translation into the language through which God has chosen to spread His Gospel today - English!

King James I (1603-1625) appealed to the English bishops to nominate learned Greek and Hebrew scholars for the translation committee. All of the previous translations had been limited by being the work of an individual or a small number of people. This committee would represent a large number of outstanding scholars. There were 54 men on six different committees. **William Tyndale had died to provide the people a translation of the Bible in English. Now, King James was authorizing one. Truly, the Lord had opened the King of England's eyes!**

The other text which we must investigate is the **Minority Text**, or the Alexandrian line of manuscripts. This is the text which is found to be untrue to the beloved doctrines of Scripture such as the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, the Trinity, and others. This **Minority Text** was the basis for the critical Greek Text of Brooke Foss Wescott and Fenton John Anthony Hort. The Wescott and Hort Text is the text used in all "modern" translations (this text was used for the Nestle-Alland Greek Text in 1898, which to date has had 28 revisions, the most recent being in 2012).

**When comparing the men who were behind the King James Bible versus those that were behind all of the modern translations, the choice is clear!**

**1 THE TWO CITIES**

Dr. Jack Moorman, who spent many years in researching the question of Bible versions, has stated that the transmission of the Greek text of the New Testament is essentially a "tale of two cities", viz., Antioch and Alexandria. Dr. Moorman writes: "Just as surely as the King James text was woven into the spiritual life of Antioch in Syria, so was the modern versions text in Alexandria. Today a person must decide whether he is more comfortable with a Bible whose roots go back to one or the other of these two cities...certainly Antioch has by far the most glorious heritage."

**ANTIOCH:** Here was the springboard for the Gentile church. It became the center for Gentile Christians just as Jerusalem was for the Jews. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Antioch was the center for the outreach of the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Many of the disciples also visited Antioch. Antioch was the heartbeat of Christianity.

**ALEXANDRIA:** The place where most of the modern texts and translations originated, had no such glory. It is true, however, that Alexandria became a center of intellectualism. Such men as Clement and Origen were active in this area. It was also noted as a place where every deviant sect was represented. Religious corruption and false doctrines were prevalent including Gnosticism, Arianism, pagan philosophy, etc. Alexandria was the place where the intellectuals of Christianity were attracted.

**2 THE TWO ESSENTIALS**

Since God has inspired his Word has He also preserved His Word? Has He preserved it for every generation?

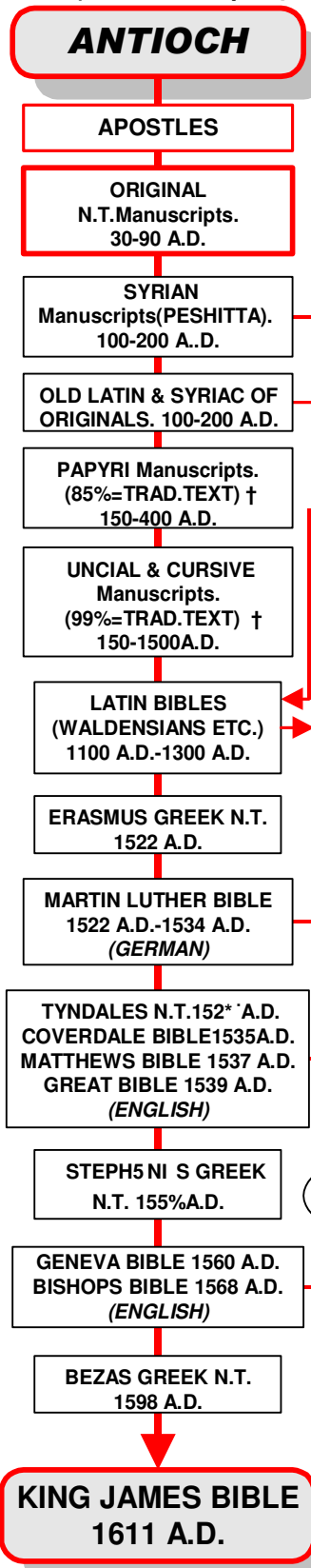
The Westminster Confession (1646) states: "The Scriptures were immediately inspired of God and under His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages."

The Bible has the final say in the matter: "The words of the Lord are pure words...Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, Thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12: 6,7).

If we accept the **Inspiration** of Scripture we must also accept that every word has been and will be **Preserved** through the ages in the church. Both together are essential doctrines.

**TRADITIONAL TEXT LINE**

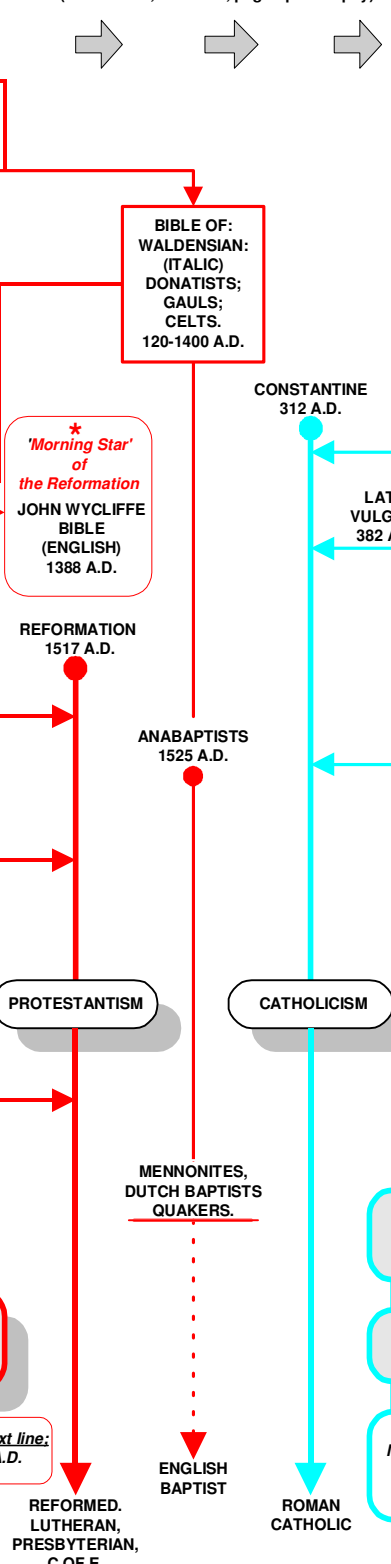
ΑΨ (ΨΨ) Manuscripts †



*Other world - wide Bibles from the Traditional Text line: Olivetan(France)1537A.D., Valera(Spain)1569A.D. Diodati(Italy)1607A.D.,*

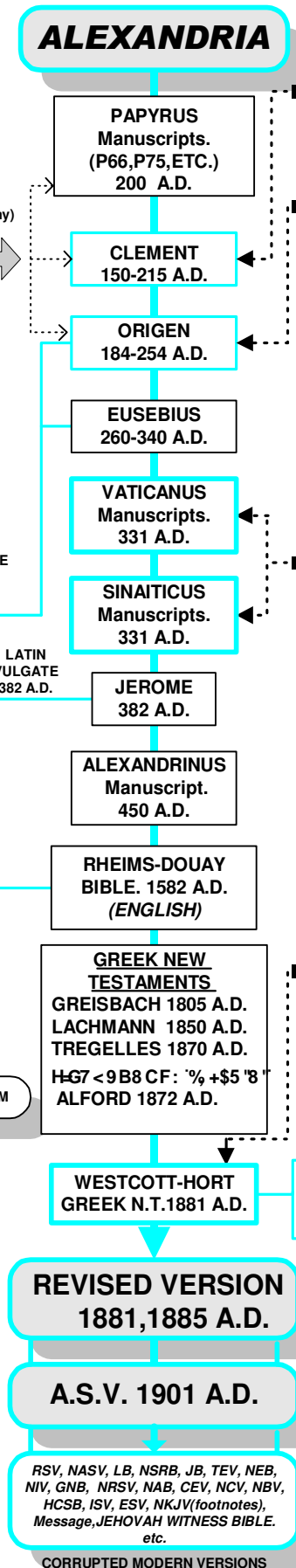
**PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION OF THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

CORRUPTION OF THE SCRIPTURES (Gnosticism, Arianism, pagan philosophy)



**ALEXANDRIAN TEXT LINE**

Α\* Manuscripts †



**3 THE TWO HERETICS\***

**CLEMENT:** He accepted Greek philosophy and the Apocrypha as divinely authoritative. He was head of the catechetical school at Alexandria and believed that salvation could be obtained through various means including baptism, faith and works, faith alone etc.

**ORIGEN:** He also became head of the catechetical school. A man of superior intellect he however denied the Bible's historicity, eternal punishment, the Holy Spirit's eternality, salvation by grace etc. He was given to the allegorizing of scripture.

\* Data from: "Final Authority" by William P. Grady.

**4 THE TWO FALSE WITNESSES\*\***

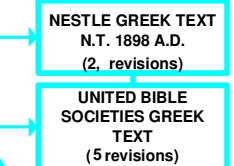
Discarded and hidden for 1500 years, these two corrupted manuscripts form the basis of all MODERN VERSIONS. They disagree with each other in over 3000 places in the Gospels alone. It is the VATICAN MSS. (which include the Apocrypha) that the translators mostly relied upon. Both had their roots in Alexandria and show the influence of Origen.

\*\* Data from H.C. Hoskier's "Codex B and its Allies".

A total of 1€ other manuscripts indicate some support for this text compared to 1i€€ which support the Traditional Text. † John W. Burgon states: "These are two of the least trustworthy documents in existence..." ("Revision Revised.")

**5 THE TWO APOSTATE REVISIONISTS**

**WESTCOTT&HORT:** Both were apostates. Westcott did not accept: Genesis 1-3; Bodily resurrection of Christ; Miracles and literal coming of Christ. Was partial to Romish ways. Hort did not accept the infallibility of Scripture. He also favored Darwin's theory of evolution. Both men did not believe in eternal punishment or the vicarious atonement. (Data from: "Life&Letters", 1896., 1903.)



**6 CHANGES COMPARED WITH THE TRAD. TEXT.\***

**GREEK WORDS:** Added=306. Omitted=2987

**VERSES:** Omitted = 20

\* Data from E.W. Fowler's "Evaluating Versions of the N.T."

**Note:** Most of these changes originate in the W-H text and most have been carried into the modern versions.