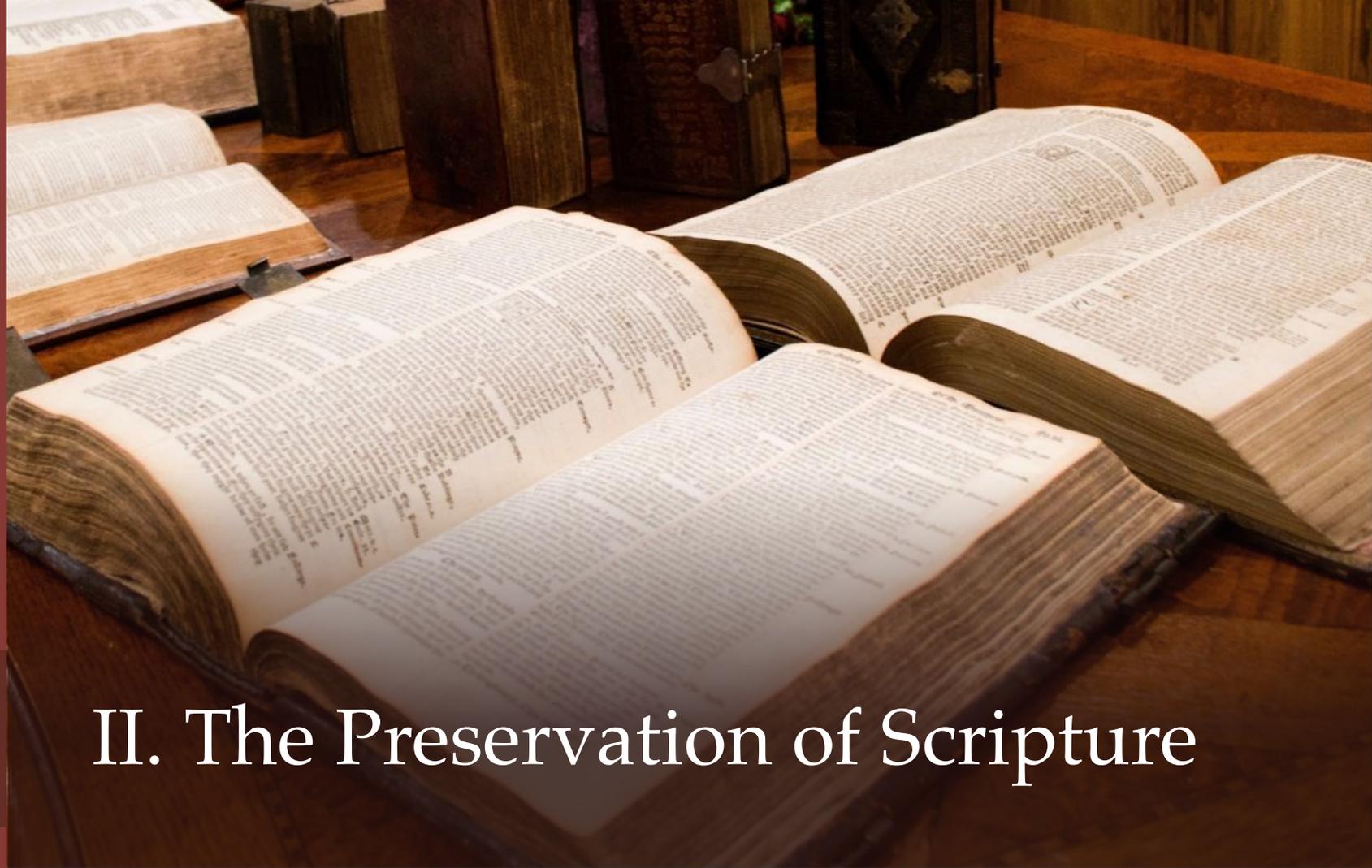


Inerrancy, Preservation, and Translation of Scripture (Part 2)

Tom Pennington | October 16, 2016



II. The Preservation of Scripture

The Original Autographs

The Bible's History:

- Written over 1500 years: 1445 BC. to 95 AD.
- Written by over 40 different authors.
- 66 books (OT – 39; NT – 27)

The Bible's Process:

- The Bible was originally written in three languages.
 1. Hebrew – the OT.
 2. Aramaic – half of Daniel (2:4b—7:28) and two parts of Ezra were written in Aramaic.
 3. Greek – the NT.
- None of those original autographs exist today.
- Copies of the originals were meticulously made.



The Number of Existing Manuscripts

Old Testament

- 3000 manuscripts of the Hebrew OT; 1500 of the LXX.

New Testament

- 25,000 manuscripts of the NT, incl. Greek manuscripts , early translations (like Latin, Syriac, and Coptic), and quotations in the early church fathers.
- Cf. 2nd largest number for an ancient document: Homer's Iliad with only 643 manuscripts.
- 5700 surviving Greek manuscripts.
- Cf. Less than 20 each for the majority of the classical Greek and Roman works.

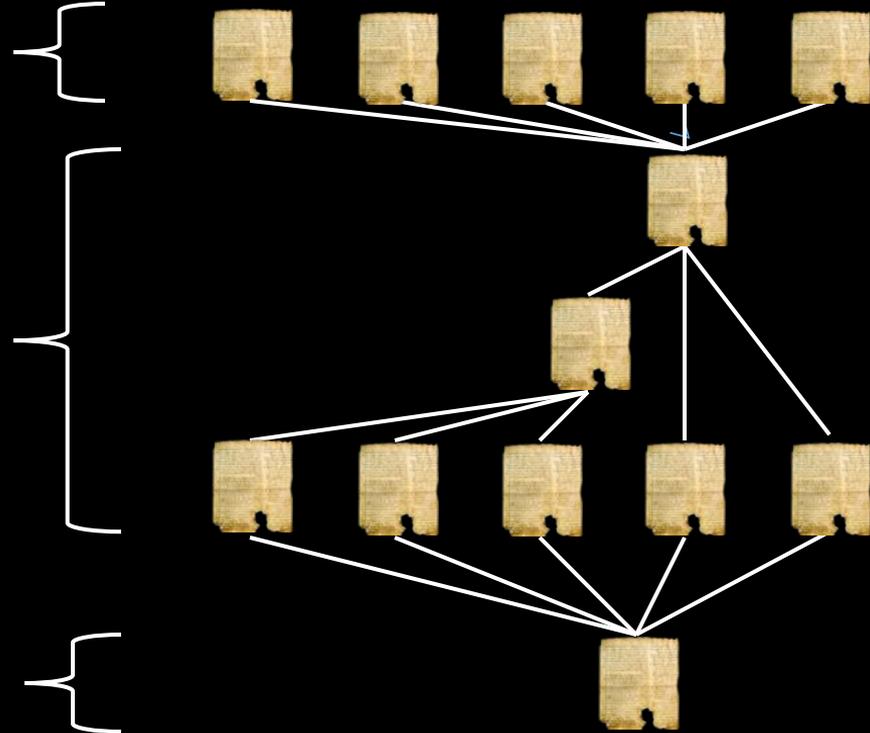


The Manuscript Process

The Original Autographs

Thousands of
Manuscript Copies

Modern Greek Testament
(from comparing all Greek
manuscripts)



The Dates of the Existing Manuscripts

Time gap between the events and the earliest manuscript

- The Iliad – 400 years
- The earliest manuscripts that we have of most of the classic Greek and Roman works were copied 700 to 1400 years after the originals were written.
- The NT – within 30 years we have a fragment; within 100 years we have copies of complete NT books; within 150 years of the events we have manuscripts for most of the NT.



The Dead Sea Scrolls: Isaiah



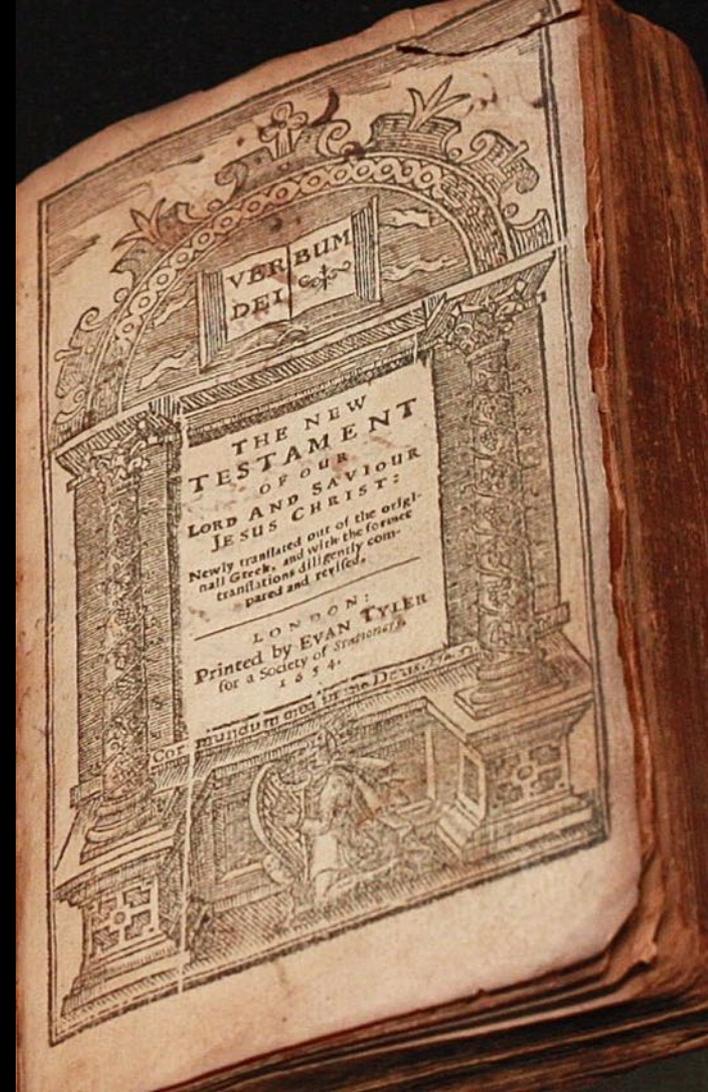
The Families of Existing Manuscripts

1. The Alexandrian Text
2. The Western Text
3. The Caesarean Text
4. The Byzantine Text (aka. The Majority Text)



The Primary Debated Passages

- Mark 16:9-20
- John 7:53—8:11
- 1 John 5:7-8





III. The Translation of Scripture

Need for Modern Translations

C.S. Lewis: “we must ... get away from the Authorized Version, if for no other reason, simply because it is so beautiful and so solemn. Beauty exalts, but beauty also lulls. Early associations endear but they also confuse. Through that beautiful solemnity the transporting or horrifying realities of which the Book tells may come to us blunted and disarmed and we may only sigh with tranquil veneration when we ought to be burning with shame or struck dumb with terror or carried out of ourselves by ravishing hopes and adoration.”



Primary Translation Philosophies

- 1. Formal equivalence** – word for word equivalence as much as possible.
 - KJV; NASB; ESV
- 2. Dynamic equivalence** – idea or concept equivalence
 - NIV; NEB; NLT
- 3. Paraphrase** – the author's interpretation of the original
 - J.B. Philips translation; The Living Bible; The Message

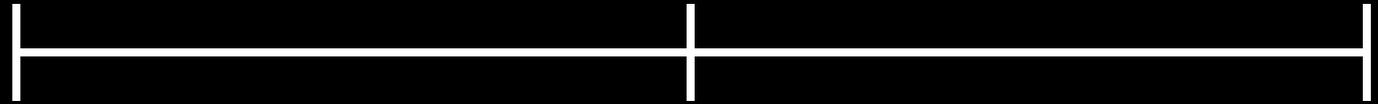


Translation Continuum

**Formal
Equivalence**

**Dynamic
Equivalence**

Paraphrase



NAS ESV

KJV

NKJV

NIV

NLT

Phillips;
The Message;
Living Bible





NAS – We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of *you* in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

ESV – We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

NIV – We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.³ We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

NLT – We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Th 1:2 NLT)

Phillips – We are always thankful to God as we pray for you all, for we never forget that your faith has meant solid achievement, your love has meant hard work, and the hope that you have in our Lord Jesus Christ means sheer dogged endurance in the life that you live before God, the Father of us all.

The Practical Results of Jesus' High View of Scripture

1. He read it all, and expected others to read it.

- Luke 24:27 - beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- Matt. 12:10 - "Have you not even read this Scripture: 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.'

2. He memorized it and used it against temptation.

- Matt. 4:4, 7, 10 - "it is written..."



The Practical Results of Jesus' High View of Scripture

3) He believed it could be understood, studied it, and rebuked others for not understanding it.

- Luke 2:46 - After three days they [his parents] found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
- John 17:8 - the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.



The Practical Results of Jesus' High View of Scripture

4) He obeyed it and expected us to as well.

- John 15:10 - "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- Luke 8:21 - "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."
- Luke 11:28 - blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

5) He taught it as the focus of His ministry, and demanded that people place themselves under its authority.

- Mark 1:14, 21-22, 38-39; 2:2

