From God to Us: Inspiration to translations

Where did my NIV come from?

- **Inspiration** [God spoke to prophet]
- **Canonicity** [Books collected]
- **Copied by Scribes**: Text Criticism
- **Translation** into English

KJV [NKJV], NASB, NIV, NRSV, NLT, ESV, DASV

Inspiration

2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21

Advantages of Written records

- Orality of Jesus
- Preservation
- Precision
- Propagation

Why the Formation of the NT Canon?

- Death of the apostles as eyewitneses
- Geographical spread of Christianity (unity/diversity/preservation)
- Heresy Pressures: Motanism, Gnosticism, Marcion (deletes OT)
- Pastoral concerns: which documents are from God to help people in Xn life
- Persecution: which books do you die for?

Basis of Books collected: Key Questions--Canonicity

- Is it inspired?
- Does it agree with previous revelation?
- Is it prophetic/apostolic?
- Was it received by the people of God?—by apostles, church—
- Is it dynamic? Does it come with the power to change lives?

Circulation and Collection problems

Early Church process of recognizing canon
Muratorian Canon, Eusebius (ca. 325 AD)

Sinaiticus:

Church Councils:

Church fathers:

Text Criticism: Copies and Scribes, Manuscripts

External Evidence

Copies: types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Papyri</th>
<th>Uncials</th>
<th>Miniscules (TR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 120‐300</td>
<td>AD 300‐500</td>
<td>AD 500‐1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P52, P46</td>
<td>A, B, к, D</td>
<td>1059, 1087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#96</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>2,812</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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External Evidence Amounts

5,700 Greek Manuscripts – some as early as 125 AD within 30 years of apostles,
Wallace just announce fragment from Mark from 1st century AD ????

10,000 Latin Vulgate (ca. 400 AD → )

1,000 early versions (Coptic, Syriac…)

Million quotes from church father quotes

Lectionaries (church readings texts)

Compare Plato = 7 manuscripts (900 AD)

Aristotle = 5 (1100 AD)

4 Manuscript Families

Alexandrian Family: Uncials; Caesarean Family; Western Family

Byzantine (Textus Receptus TR) or Majority Text—9th century AD; miniscule, KJV
Rules of Evaluating manuscripts

Earlier the better

Wider geographical spread better

Family type: Alexandrian best, Byzantine the worst

Types of Copyist Errors

Errors of Sight

– Similar letters: s / o; in English r, v; o and 0 (zero)

– Homoeoteleuton: same endings so skipped

– Haplography: written 1x should be 2x

– Dittography: written 2x should be 1x

– Metathesis: thier elabon// ebalon

– Fusion: CHRISTISNOWHERE

– Fission: Am 6:12 with oxen NIV//[with oxen the sea GNB BBQRYM // BBQR YM

Errors of sound: lite/light; αὐτῶν =αὐτόν

Errors of mind

– Substituting a synonym

– Harmonizing corruptions

– Conflation: Title of Revelation

Rules for evaluating variants

More difficult reading is preferred

Shorter reading preferred

Reading best fits style of writer preferred

3 Big NT Examples

Mk 16:8ff—gone in some mss.

Jn 8—floating → Luke 21:38ff

1 Jn 5:7—added later

No major doctrine effected
New Testament Literature: Lecture #4 [Hildebrandt] 1/31/17  4

Translations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MT (Hebrew)</th>
<th>LXX</th>
<th>Papyri</th>
<th>Uncials</th>
<th>Miniscules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800 AD</td>
<td>250 BC</td>
<td>120-300 AD</td>
<td>300-500 AD</td>
<td>500 AD→</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DSS

Qumran

100 BC

Vulgate (Latin)

Jerome AD 400-1400

Wycliffe (1380) / Tyndale (1536), KJV 1611

NIV, NRSV, ESV, NLT, etc.

English Bible

**Early:** John Wycliffe (1330-1384); Gutenberg Printing press (1450); Tyndale (1494-1536); Great Bible (1539) chained in churches; Geneva Bible (1560); King James Bible (1611)

**Modern Eclectic Text:** NIV (1973); NRSV (1989) based on the RSV (1952); NLT (1996), ESV (2002)—RSV based; The Message (2002) E. Peterson; DASV 2011 (free online text/audio); NET Bible