

MY FINAL AUTHORITY IS THE AUTHORIZED VERSION (KING JAMES) BIBLE

What does FINAL AUTHORITY mean; give me a definition... - LAST WORD!

What is YOUR **Final Authority** on everything in this life? *Your opinion?* (That's the world's!)

What is YOUR guideline throughout this life?

Where do YOU run to check whether YOU are right or wrong?

How does God communicate to man?

THE SCRIPTURES – THE BIBLE

God wrote ONE Bible! Where is it today?

The ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS no longer exist, so...

WHERE IS THE WORD OF GOD TODAY?

There are over 100 different versions of the Bible available.

WHICH ONE IS THE TRUE AND **PERFECT WORD OF GOD?**

Do we have a **PERFECT** Bible in ENGLISH today?

These are questions we need to be able to answer.

We need to know WHERE IS THE BOOK we can trust!

How can we trust all the different versions completely, when they all differ from each other?

Are 'all' Bibles the same?

Millions of Christians believe, & rightly so, in the divine & verbal inspiration of the Bible: that the Holy Ghost motivated the minds of the prophets & apostles of old to pen every word of Scripture. Millions also believe in the providential preservation of the Bible: that God also preserved His word down through the ages; & that His work of preservation is as important as His initial work of inspiration. It would have been ridiculous for God to have given the Scriptures perfect at the beginning & then after a short period allow them to get corrupted for evermore!

As one pastor has written... 'The issue is not about inspiration of the Scriptures but PRESERVATION!'

Concerning providential (The care exercised by God) preservation the 'Westminster Confession of Faith 17 Century p23' says... '*The OT in Hebrew & the NT in Greek, being immediately inspired by God & by His singular care & providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical; so as in all controversies of religion, the Church is finally to appeal unto them.*' (If only this was true today!)

In the past most Christians accepted these facts, but of late there are a growing number who have strong reservations about divine preservation. They will allow that the original autographs, which of course no longer exist, were inspired, but they have strong reservations about divine preservation.

Heb 4v12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

What does the Bible say about itself?

Prov 30v5+6 - Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

1 Peter 1v23 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

[Psalm 119v89](#) - For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Who wrote the Bible?

2 Peter 1v21 - For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Tim 3v16-17 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

What has God promised to do with His Word?

Psalm 12v6+7 - The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Now just a couple of notes on the number '**Seven**' for interest – Someone has written 'The whole Word of God is founded upon the number seven. It stands for the seventh day of the Creation Week, & speaks of the Millennium Rest Day. It denotes completeness or perfection.'

In Lev 23v15+16 we read... ‘And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.’ The number seven & the Sabbath, which was the seventh day (Gen 2v1-3), is connected with the word ‘complete’.

The word ‘finished’ is also connected with the number seven. In Rev 10v7 we read... ‘**But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**’

'It is done' is another expression found in connection with the number seven – Rev 16v17 **'And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.'**

Note also

- 1) Regarding the Creation in the first 2 chapters of Genesis the word 'created' occurs seven times.
 - 2) God appointed seven days for the week (Exo 20v11)
 - 3) There are seven notes in the musical scale (C,D,E,F,G,A,B then it goes back to C) Man named the notes but God fixed the sounds.
 - 4) There are seven colours (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)
 - 5) Light broken down (i.e. through a prism) makes up seven colours, i.e. a rainbow; also seven colours (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet,) This is called refraction.
 - 6) In Gen 1v1 the number of Hebrew words is seven
 - 7) In the book of the Revelation the words 'this book' occurs seven times
 - 8) Revelation has seven seals, seven trumpets, seven vials etc.
 - 9) Noah took the clean beasts into the ark by sevens (Gen 7v2) Seven days after Noah went into the ark the flood came (Gen 7v9+10)
 - 10) Before Aaron & his sons entered their priestly work they were consecrated seven days. (Lev 8v31-36)

- 11) On the day of atonement the high priest sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat & before the mercy seat seven times (Lev 16v14). This is a picture of the completeness of the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 12) There are seven dispensations (Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise or Patriarchal, Law, Grace, Kingdom)
- 13) The Book of Life is mentioned seven times in the Bible
- 14) The **seventh** time Noah's name occurs is where it is said... '...Noah was a just man and **perfect** in his generations, and Noah walked with God.'
- 15) Revelation mentions the 'Lamb' (Jesus Christ) 28 times i.e. 4x7
- 16) In John, Jesus says 'I am' & 'I will' seven times each. In chapter 4 Jesus says seven things to the Samaritan woman & the seventh saying contains seven words '**I that speak unto thee am he'** (John 4v26)
- 17) Jesus uttered 7 sayings from the cross...

- Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Luke 23v34
- And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.** Luke 23v43
- When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. John 19v26+27
- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Mat 27v46 + And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Mark 15v34
- After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.** John 19v28
- When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19v30
- And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:** and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Luke 23v46

There are many, many more instances in the Scriptures regarding the number seven but I just wanted to press this home that the Bible (The Scriptures) are purified seven times. The Scriptures are COMPLETED, PERFECTED & PRESERVED by Almighty God!

[1 Peter 1v25](#) - But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

[Isa 40v8](#) - The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

[Mat 5v18](#) - For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

[Mat 24v35](#) – Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

(same verse found in [Mark 13v31](#) + [Luke 21v33](#))

Note the virgin birth is only recorded twice in the Gospels! –

[Ps 119v152](#) - Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

Is a miracle too hard for the God of miracles?	NO!
Was the creation too hard for God?	NO!
Was the worldwide flood too hard for God?	NO!
Was the parting of the Red Sea too hard for God?	NO!
Was the 40 years of manna too hard for God?	NO!
Was the virgin birth of Christ too hard for God?	NO!

Was the collection of the 66 books of the Bible written over a period of 1,700 years too hard for God?
NO!

Was overcoming the human nature of the sinful writers too hard for God? NO!
Is preserving the words of those writers too hard for God? NO!

Was KEEPING those words PERFECT in ONE version too hard for God! YES!?????? NO!!!

Inspiration is far harder to believe in than preservation! Yet the majority of Christians today do not believe that the word of God is PERFECT & WITHOUT ERROR!

(*I find that hard to understand!*)

Why would God give us the Scriptures perfect at the start but then after a period of time allow them to get corrupted? It doesn't make sense and goes against the nature of God! (*You know it doesn't make sense!*)

We need the perfect word of God far more today than Matthew, Luke, John, or Peter who saw Jesus Christ in the flesh!

If God has not preserved His words as He said He would in Ps 12v6+7, then He has done something that He has never done before. He has wasted His time! The inspiration of the original manuscripts was in vain if we do not have those very same words in English today.

How can we as fundamental Bible believers tell people from our pulpits that the Bible is 'infallible, without error, the very words of God' and then step out of the pulpit and allege to find mistakes in it?

As soon as YOU correct the Bible YOU become the Final Authority! (Remember that!)

Can God lie?

Titus 1v2 - In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Num 23v19 - God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

He has also promised to magnify His Word!

Psalm 138v2 - I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
(above what?)

What has Satan been trying to do to the Word of God?

2 Cor 2v17 - For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

2 Cor 4v2 - But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Gen 2v16-17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 3v1-4 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the

tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan will...

Question God's word & authority

Add to God's word

Take away from God's word

Distort & change God's word

Satan is against God in every way possible! Look at the record...

One God yet many 'gods'

One Christ yet many 'christs'

One Gospel yet 'many ways to heaven'

Christianity yet many 'religions & cults'

ONE BIBLE yet ??? (MANY BIBLES!!!) Do you get the picture?

This is what is happening & Christians just can't see it! Keith Green sung a song about the Church being 'asleep in the LIGHT!' & this is SO TRUE today!

What does God say about His Word?

Deut 4v2 - Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Prov 30v5+6 - Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Ecc 3v14 - I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Rev22v18-19 - For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

What should we do with the Word of God?

Phil 2v16 - Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Who are we trying to please?

Gal 1v10 - For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

(*Well I don't want to get involved with this issue it's too controversial!*) If every Christian took a 'back seat' on issues we would all get led 'up the garden path' on occasions. Sometimes we MUST 'stand up & be counted!' Time is running out; remember that!

Rom 3v4 - God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;

Middle verse of the Bible!

Psalm 118v8 - It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

We can see clearly from these verses that EVERY WORD of God is...

- 1) Holy
 - 2) Pure
 - 3) Incorruptible (i.e. It CANNOT perish!)
 - 4) Preserved

We are also told in Luke 4v4 - And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

So here comes the great question...

SO WHERE IS THE WORD OF GOD TODAY?

Let us first look at **THE 'ORIGINAL' AUTOGRAPHS...**

The original autographs (masters) were the handwritten scrolls penned by the inspired prophets & apostles. They were written on 'vellum' (the skins of clean animals, such as calf, goat or antelope) or papyrus. Vellum is more durable & costly than papyrus; but an entire antelope skin would only furnish 2 or 3 pages of a manuscript. Because of this fact the vast majority of manuscripts were written on papyrus. Papyrus is a reed-like water plant with thick fibrous stems from which a kind of paper was made in ancient times. The average papyrus scroll was about 10 inches in width & 30 feet in length. After years of constant use, being rolled & unrolled, the original autographs (master scrolls) especially those of papyrus became worn & began to fall apart.

Therefore before the original masters completely disintegrated they were carefully copied. God, who had inspired their production, then moved His faithful followers, first the Aaronic Priests & later the Masorites, to make copies of the originals. Thus began the work of providential preservation. If God didn't preserve His word then verses like Ps 12v6&7 & 1 Pet 1v25 are meaningless.

THE MASORITES

The Masorites were Jewish scholars who like their predecessors the Aaronic Priests, had the sacred task of copying the OT Hebrew Scriptures. "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God." Rom 3v1+2

W Scott has written

It is well known that among the Jews it was the profession of the Masorites, or doctors of tradition, to transcribe the Scriptures. We know to what extent these scholars carried their respect for the letter; and when we read the rules under which their labours were carried on, we understand the use that the providence of God (who had confided His oracles to the Jews) made of their superstition.

They reckoned the number of verses, words & letters in each book. They tell us, for instance, that the letter A occurs 42,377 times in the Bible; the letter B 38,280 times; and so on to the end. They were scrupulous of changing the position even of one letter, though evidently misplaced, but limited themselves to noting in the margin, supposing some mystery was involved.

They tell us which is the middle letter of the Pentateuch, as well as of each of the books of which it is composed.

They never allowed themselves to correct their manuscript; & if any mistake escaped them, they rejected the papyrus or the skin which they had blemished, & recommenced upon a fresh one; for they were equally interdicted from even correcting one of their own errors, & from retaining for their sacred volume a single parchment or skin in which an error had been made.

In his book God Wrote Only One Bible, Jasper James Ray confirms the fact about the faithfulness displayed by these ancient scribes in copying the Scriptures...

In making copies of the original manuscripts, the Jewish scribes exercised the greatest possible care. When they wrote the name of God in any form they were to reverently wipe their pen, & wash their whole body before writing 'Jehovah' lest that holy name should be tainted even in writing. The new copy was examined & carefully checked with the original almost immediately, and it is said that if only one incorrect letter was discovered the whole copy was rejected. Each new copy had to be made from an approved manuscript, written with a special kind of ink, upon skins made from a clean animal. The writer had to pronounce aloud each word before writing it. In no case was the written word to be written from memory.

A man said to me once that the 'perfect' word of God is ONLY found in Heaven! I said to him that God wouldn't reveal His 'perfect' word to mankind here on earth and then take it to heaven out of the reach of the human race once the 'original manuscripts' had perished! What good would it do us? How could we live by every word of God if it is in Heaven? (Mat 4v4) He was talking nonsense! Look at these interesting verses – [Deut 30v10-14](#)

There has never been a PROVEN ERROR found in the AUTHORISED VERSION of the Scriptures.

MANUSCRIPTS

A 'manuscript' is a hand written document, not one that is typed or printed. Currently there are between 5250 & 5400 extant (existing) manuscripts of the Scriptures or parts of it. Manuscripts fall into 2 categories...

- 1) **MASTERS** – These were the original autographs. There are currently **NO** original autographs or masters in existence. They have ALL long gone & since been replaced by copies.
- 2) **COPIES** – These are hand written copies of the masters or hand written copies of earlier copies. Some 5000+ hand written copies of the whole or parts of Scripture are still in existence.

Manuscripts produced by the early Christians fall into 3 categories...

- 1) **COPIES** – of masters or copies of earlier copies
- 2) **VERSIONS** – these ARE TRANSLATIONS OF scripture MADE DIRECTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES. For example from Hebrew or Greek into Syriac, Latin, German, English or French. (*A translation from Latin into English, or from English into Chinese, cannot strictly be called a 'version.' It is simply a translation of a translation: whereas a 'version' must be a translation from the original language*)
- 3) **CHURCH FATHERS** – Our third group is the early church fathers. These are the men who led the Christians in the first few centuries after the NT was completed. We have record of their early sermons, books & commentaries. They will be able to provide us with much information on disputed passages. Many may have seen the original autographs!

CHURCH FATHERS

Before the act of printing was known (before 1450 AD) the church fathers of the early Christian era wrote – by hand – their letters, sermon notes, commentaries & books. Their manuscripts contain many quotations from the original autographs or the earliest copies. Some fathers had actually seen the NT autographs or very early copies; and had personally hand-copied large portions of Scripture. The writings of these early elders help verify the original text & form a valuable source of information as to what the apostles wrote. Scripture tells us that Satan began his attack on the NT Scriptures very early, even before the first apostles died. Listen to Paul's testimony concerning this matter about corrupting the word of God; & of some who even wrote letters as though they were composed by the apostle himself...

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ. ([2 Cor 2v17](#))

The worst corruptions to which the NT has ever been subjected, originated within a hundred years after it was composed. The African Fathers, & the whole western, with a portion of the Syrian Church, used far inferior manuscripts to those employed by Erasmus, or Stephens thirteen centries later when moulding the TEXTUS RECEPTUS. (Encyclopedia Tatian)

Origen (185-254 AD) taught that the Lord Jesus Christ was a created being & NOT God (Encyclopedia Britannica pp 900-902, Vol 16 1936). Eusebius was a follower of the teachings of Origen, & Constantine commissioned him to make 50 copies of Greek Scriptures. Being of liberal scholarship, Eusebius introduced & injected into the Scriptures apocryphal writings, traditions, & even legendary myths (History of the Christian Church Vol 1 pp36-37)

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, **nor by letter as from us**, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ([2 Thes 2v2](#))

There were many church fathers who hand-copied the whole or portions of Scripture. Here are a few who greatly influenced the church, particularly in Europe... W Scott writes....

- 1) **Crysostom** – the most eloquent of the fathers spoke of the Scriptures as Divine Books.
- 2) **Polycarp** – who lived at an earlier date, having been personally instructed by the apostle John, spoke of the Bible as The Sacred Scriptures, as also the oracles of the Lord. Also in a brief epistle addressed to the Philippians, quotes from the NT about 50 times.
- 3) **Clement of Rome** – whom Paul styles his 'fellow-labourer' (Phil 4v3) termed the Scriptures The True Sayings of The Holy Spirit.
- 4) **Irenaeus** – of the 2nd Century, makes about 1200 citations or references from the NT.
- 5) **Tetullian** – also of the 2nd Century refers to or quotes from the NT about 2500 times.
- 6) **Clement of Alexandria** – another of the 2nd Century father's cites from or refers to the NT 800 times.

ANCIENT VERSIONS

Remember a 'version' is a translation made directly from the original Hebrew or Greek i.e. from Hebrew or Greek into Syriac, Latin or English; whereas a translation of a version into yet another language is simply called a translation. Bible versions were made in several languages within a few years of the NT's creation. This was a rarity in the ancient world for any book.

Josh McDowell writes... *Translation of a document into another language was rare in the ancient world, so this is an added plus for the NT. The number of copies of the versions is in excess of 18,000, with possibly as many as 25,000. This is further evidence that helps us establish the NT text. Even if we did not possess the 5,500 Greek manuscripts or the 18,000 copies of the versions, the text of the NT could still be reproduced within 250 years from its composition. How? by the writings of the early Christians. In commentaries, letters etc. these ancient writers quoted Biblical text, thus giving us another witness to the text of the NT.*

John Burgon has catalogued more than 86,000 citations of the NT in the writings of the early church fathers who lived before AD 325. Thus we observe that there is so much more evidence for the reliability of the NT text than any other comparable writings in the ancient world.

WHY DID THE EARLY CHURCHES OF THE 2ND & 3RD CENTURIES & ALL THE PROTESTANT REFORMERS OF THE 15TH, 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES CHOOSE TEXTUS RECEPTUS IN PREFERENCE TO THE MINORITY TEXT?

The KJV / AV came from the Majority Text, or the proven Received Text. Most modern Bibles come from the Minority Text, which conservative & fundamental Bible scholars believe to be corrupted texts of the agnostics & Constantine!

Answer...

- 1) Textus Receptus is based on the vast majority (90% some say as high as 97%) of the 5000+ Greek manuscripts in existence.
- 2) Textus Receptus is not mutilated with deletions, additions & amendments, as is the Minority Text.
- 3) Textus Receptus agrees with the earliest versions of the Bible: Pershiita (AD 150) Old Latin Vulgate (AD 157) The Italic Bible (AD 157) etc. These Bibles were produced some 200 years before the minority text was chosen which underlines ALL modern versions since the RSV 1881.
- 4) Textus Receptus agrees with the vast majority of the 86,000+ citations from Scripture by the early church fathers.
- 5) Textus Receptus is untainted with Egyptian philosophy & unbelief.
- 6) Textus Receptus strongly upholds the fundamental Christian doctrines such as creation, the virgin birth, the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection, the Blood etc.
- 7) All of the Apostolic Churches used the Received Text.
- 8) The churches in Palestine used the Received Text
- 9) Dr Scrivener & Dean Burgon both agree that, during the first 100 years after the NT was written, the greatest corruptions took place to the Received Text used by the early church.
- 10) The Peshitta Syriac Version was based on the Received Text.
- 11) Papyrus #75 used the Received Text.
- 12) The vast majority of extant NT manuscripts all used the Received Text. This includes about 99% of them, or about 5,210 of the 5,255 manuscripts.
- 13) The Greek Orthodox Church used the Received Text.
- 14) The present Greek Church still uses the Received Text.
- 15) The churches of the Reformation all used the Received Text.
- 16) Martin Luther's German Bible (1522) used the Received Text.
- 17) William Tyndale's Bible (1525) used the Received Text.
- 18) The Coverdale Bible (1535) used the Received Text.
- 19) The Matthew's Bible (1537) used the Received Text.
- 20) The Great Bible (1539-41) used the Received Text.
- 21) The Geneva Bible (1557-60) used the Received Text.
- 22) The Bishop's Bible (1568) used the Received Text.
- 23) The Beza Greek NT (1598) used the Received Text. That is the Greek Text that the King James Bible was based on, using the 1598, 5th edition of Beza.
- 24) The King James Bible (1611) used the Received Text.
- 25) The Received Text in the NT is the Received Text – the text that has survived in continuity from the beginning of the NT itself. It is the only accurate representation of the originals we have today.

Over 5000 Greek manuscripts of the NT exist today ranging from small fragments containing 2 or 3 verses to nearly entire Bibles. Their ages vary from the 2nd to the 16th century. 90% of all existing manuscripts agree with one another so miraculously that they are able to form their own unique text.

THE MINORITY TEXT

There are other existing Greek texts which are referred to as the 'minority Texts' simply because they represent only about 5% of existing manuscripts. Another 5% are Neutral Texts: sometimes agreeing with the majority text & at other times with the minority text.

The Minority Texts are also known as the **ALEXANDRIAN TEXTS** because they were produced in Alexandria in Egypt. The Minority Texts were rejected by the early Christians & also by all the Protestant Reformers of the 16th & 17th centuries. The Reformers, who were well aware of the existence of the Minority Texts, considered them unfit for translation purposes.

WHY DID THE EARLY CHRISTIANS & PROTESTANT REFORMERS REJECT THE MINORITY TEXTS?

- 1) The Minority Texts were the work of unbelieving Egyptian scribes who did not accept the Bible as the word of God or Jesus as the Son of God!

- 2) The Minority Texts abound with alterations, often a single manuscript being amended by several different scribes over a period of many years; something the Aaronic priest & the Masorites would never have tolerated when making copies of the Scriptures.
- 3) The Minority Texts omit approximately 200 verses from the Scriptures!
- 4) The Minority Texts contradict themselves in hundreds of places
- 5) The Minority Texts are doctrinally weak & often dangerously incorrect!

The two most prominent manuscripts of the Minority Text which most modern translations are based upon are...

- 1) CODEX SINAITICUS (ALEPH)
- 2) CODEX VATICANUS (B)

CODEX SINAITICUS (ALEPH)

This Codex was produced in the 4th Century. The Sinaiticus is a manuscript that was found in 1844 in a rubbish bin in St Catherine's Monastery near Mt Sinai, by a man named Tishendorf.

It contains nearly all the NT plus adds the 'Shepherd of Hermes' & the 'Epistle of Barnabas' to the NT. The Sinaiticus is extremely unreliable, proven by examining the manuscript itself. John Burgon spent years examining every available manuscript of the NT. He writes in regard to Sinaiticus... *On many occasions 10, 20, 30, 40 words are dropped through very carelessness. Letters, words or even whole sentences are frequently written twice over, or begun & immediately cancelled. On nearly every page of the manuscript there are corrections & revisions, done by 10 different people. Some of the corrections were made about the same time that it was copied, but most of them were made in the 6th & 7th century.*

CODEX VATICANUS (B)

The 2nd major manuscript of the Minority Text is known as Codex Vaticanus often referred to as B. This codex was also produced in the 4th Century. It was found over a thousand years later in 1481 in the Vatican library in Rome, where it is currently held! Would God hide His word from the people for over 1000 years and then allow the Roman Catholics to preserve & keep it! You are JOKING!

Again there are many errors, omissions, insertions & amendments with this manuscript. Again it is totally unreliable!

Sam Gipp writes regarding this manuscript... *This codex omits many portions of Scripture vital to Christian doctrine. Vaticanus omits Gen 1v1 – Gen 46v28, Psalms 106- 138, Mat 16v2+3, Rom 16v24, the Pastoral Epistles of Paul, Revelation & everything in Hebrews after 9v14.*

It seems suspicious indeed that a manuscript possessed by the RC church omits the portion of Hebrews which exposes the mass as totally useless! (i.e. Heb 10v10-12)

Burgon writes... *In the Gospels alone, Codex B (Vaticanus) leaves out words or whole clauses no less than 1491 times!*

Barry Burton writes... *Vaticanus & Sinaiticus disagree with each other over 3000 times in the Gospels alone!*

Vaticanus in the Gospels alone leaves out 237 words, 452 clauses & 748 whole sentences. The Vaticanus was available to the KJV translators but they did not use it because they knew it was unreliable!

Dr D.A. Waite sums up the controversy between defenders of the KJV / AV & exponents of the modern versions of the Bible thusly... 'Those of us who hold to the MAJORITY TEXT (or RECEIVED TEXT, or TRADITIONAL TEXT, or TEXTUS RECEPTUS, or BYZANTINE TEXT, as it is variously called) as being closest to the TRUE copies of the original manuscripts of our Greek NT...believe that this text. - & this text

alone – should be used as the basis for any NT translation of our Bibles. Yet, with the exception of the AV / KJV of 1611, ALL other NT versions make use of another Greek text known as the MINORITY TEXT. We're talking about English translations now! Martin Luther's German NT is based on the MAJORITY GREEK TEXT as are ALL of the foreign language translations put out by the Trinitarian Bible Society (England) The most 'distinguished' & almost 'worshiped' representatives are UNCIALS (written with capital letters) from the 4th Century AD; namely the Vatican Manuscript ('B') & the Sinai Manuscript ('Aleph'). On these two exalted 'chieftains' hang the hopes & dreams of all those who, with those who 'codified' them into their Greek Text for the NT (heretics & modernists by our present Biblical Standards), B.F. Westcott (1825-1901), & F.J.A. Hort (1828-1892) all but worship & adore these extremely corrupt & unreliable, tampered with, & doctored manuscripts!

OLDEST & BEST

Bible students are often told that Codices Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are older & better than other manuscripts: the implication being that they must, therefore, be more accurate. But this conclusion is wrong. We have already seen how Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are corrupt beyond measure. They are older, but older than what? They are older than other Greek manuscripts of the NT. But they are not older than the earliest versions of the Bible: the Peshitta, Italic, Waldensian & the Old Latin Vulgate: versions which agree with the Majority text. These ancient versions are some 200 years older than Aleph & B.

Even if the Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are older than other Greek manuscripts doesn't mean they are more accurate! It is like someone saying 'You will find the greatest TRUTH being preached in the oldest & most beautiful cathedrals in the world!'

Now if God has preserved His words perfect BUT ONLY in Greek, then He has restricted their usage to an elite number of scholars. (2 Pet 3v9 Not willing that ANY should perish! He wants everyone one to come to repentance unto salvation!)

Jesus went past the 'religious, scholarly minority i.e. the Pharisees' and took His words to the 'common people!'

If God's words are 'locked up' in the Greek Text, then education is a prerequisite (*something that is required before something else is possible*) to having the word of God and knowing what it says!

This type of Philosophy was eliminated by Peter & John as we read in [Acts 4v13](#) - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Today too much emphasis is put on 'education', it is treated as a 'god!'

I love that verse in [Ps 119v99](#) – I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

The Common Language

Many opponents of the infallibility of the AV say that if God put a perfect Bible in English, He is also obligated to put one in every other language i.e. German, French, Japanese etc.

Unfortunately for them, this argument will not stand. There were many languages on this earth at the time that God chose to put it into Hebrew.

There were hundreds of languages on this earth also, when God chose Greek for His NT.

God was going to take His message to the Gentiles, so He furnished it in the common language of the day i.e. Greek.

When would the two Testaments be combined into one perfect Book?

When God chose the English language to be the common language to the entire world, as seen today! It is either first or second language to most countries today!

What about putting God's word into 'modern English'?

Many claim today that since the AV was printed in the common English of that day, the Bible should be retranslated into the common English of today, but this is not a valid claim. It must be remembered that the English used in the AV was not only the common language, but it was also the English language in its PUREST form!

The English language has DEGENERATED from what it was in 1611 to what it is today. Those claiming to put the Bible in 'modern English' are actually, though possibly not intentionally, trying to force the pure words of God into the degenerated vocabulary of today!

What a disgrace to God's word!

ARCHAIC LANGUAGE

Many claim that the KJV uses archaic language. Is this objection justified? Think about this for a moment... every department of human learning uses language peculiar to that particular field. Biology, botany, geology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, music, medicine (illus. of Physiotherapy), law etc. all use strange sounding words, phrases & expressions which a novice would call archaic & hard to understand!

The English of the KJV is not the English of the early 17th Century. To be exact, it is not the type of English that was ever spoken anywhere. It is Biblical English, which was not used on ordinary occasions even by the translators who produced the KJV. As H Wheeler Robinson (1940) pointed out, one need only compare the preface written by the translators with the text of their translation to feel the difference in style. And the observations of W A Irwin (1952) are to the same support. The KJV, he reminds us, owes its merit, not to 17th Century English – which was very different – but to its faithful translation of the original. Its style is that of the Hebrew and of the NT Greek. Even in their use of thee and thou the translators were not following 17th Century English usage but Biblical usage, for at the time these translators were doing their work these singular forms had already been replaced by the plural 'you' in polite conversation.

THEE & THOU

We also hear a lot about the words 'ye' 'thee' & 'thou' in the King James Version: and that these should all be replaced by the word 'you'. Everyone knows that the word 'you' is a uni-plural word like 'sheep' or 'fish'. It may refer to one or many depending on the context. Believe it or not the word 'you' is used over 950 times in the KJV NT alone! – but not exclusively! There are times when it is necessary to make the difference i.e. either talking to a single person or group, or making a judgment on a town, nation or individual. (Read Luke 22v31-35 also John 3v7 - Marvel not that I said unto thee (Nicodemus), Ye (all of you people & all of us!) must be born again.)

Inspiration v Preservation

Sam Gipp writes... 'Today it is widely taught and accepted that God wrote the originals perfectly, but that there is no perfect translation. Yet, **there is no Scripture that teaches any such thing!** This teaching is based on logic, man's logic. Christian educators of today say that it is absurd to believe that God could use sinful men to translate His word perfectly. Such a supposition of a perfect translation is no more absurd than the teaching that God used sinful men to write the Bible perfectly in the originals! Every argument for inerrant, infallible **inspiration** applies also for inerrant, infallible **preservation**. It is the same God!'

The Counterfeits

God's Truth	Satan's Counterfeit	Satan's ULTIMATE Counterfeit
One God	Many 'gods'	Satan is 'god' of this world
One Christ	Many 'anti-christs'	THE Antichrist
One Church	Many false 'churches'	ONE Ultimate church (Rome)
One Bible	Many false 'Bibles'	ONE Ultimate 'Bible'

The subject of 'Bible Versions' is huge, therefore we are not able to go into any real depth in the time we have, but I just want to give you a few more helpful pointers...

Questions for the AV (KJV) critics...

- 1) Since you're smart enough to find 'mistakes' in the AV, why don't you correct them all and give us a PERFECT Bible?
- 2) Where is the perfect & preserved word of God today? Can you send me a copy!
- 3) Can a translation be inspired? (OT - Gen 42 - 45 (Joseph spoke Egyptian see Gen 42v23) yet words recorded in Hebrew. NT - Acts 21v40 + 22v2 - spoken in Hebrew but written in Greek)
- 4) If God could overshadow sinful men to produce the PERFECT INSPIRED Originals why couldn't He do it for the PERFECT PRESERVED Copies? Where does it say He couldn't?
- 5) If God framed the worlds by His spoken word (Heb 11v3) why couldn't He keep his words perfect for us today? Who says he can't?

Mistakes, omissions & errors in modern 'perversions'

NIV

Mat 18v11
Mark 9v44+46
Acts 8v37

Other omissions

Mat 17v21
Mat 23v14
Mark 7v16
Mark 11v26
Mark 15v28
Luke 17v36
Luke 23v17
John 5v4
Acts 15v34
Acts 28v29

Other errors

Col 1v14
2 Pet 1v19
2 Sam 21v19
Mic 5v2
Isa 14v12
Isa 9v3

NKJV

Gen 22v8
Isa 9v3
Jam 5v16
2 Tim 2v15
2 Cor 2v17
Acts 12v4
Eze 23v6
Rom 1v18
1 Tim 6v10+20
1 Thes 5v22
Col 1v1-3
Ecc 12v11
Ecc 5v8

Gal 2v20
Dan 3v25
Eph 3v14
Jam 1v10

No Hell in OT
No Calvary in NT

In his book Defending the King James Bible, Donald Waite writes on p41 as follows... *The Westcott & Hort Text changes the Textus Receptus in over 5,600 places... My own personal count, as at August 2 1984, using the Scrivener's Greek NT referred to above, was 5,604 changes that Westcott & Hort made to the Textus Receptus in their own Greek NT text.*

Of these, 5,604 alterations, I found 1,952 omissions, 467 additions & 3,185 changes!

In these 5,604 places that were involved in these alterations, there were 4,366 more words included, making a total of 9970 Greek words that were involved.

This means that in a Greek Text of 647 pages (such as Scrivener's text) this would average 15.4 words per page that were changed from the Received Text!

Questions & Answers see Sam Gipps – The Answer Book!

- 1) What about 'Archaic' words (p 11)
- 2) Don't the 'Best Manuscripts' support the New Versions? (p 30)
- 3) Don't we need 'Perfect' Bibles in other languages? (p 32)
- 4) Where was the Bible before 1611? (p 60)
- 5) What about 'Italicised' words? (p 52)
- 6) Can a 'Translation' be inspired? (p 88)
- 7) Can a 'Translation' be as good as the originals? (p 90)
- 8) Is it Wrong to call the Holy Spirit 'it'? (p 97)
- 9) Dead Sea Scrolls? (p 102)
- 10) Do 'New Manuscripts' support the AV? (p 110)
- 11) Aren't modern translations 'easier' to understand? (p 112)

This is a massive subject where there are hundreds of books been written about it. We have only 'scratched' the surface, but I hope you can see the importance of reading and studying the AV. It is the word of God without a single 'proven' error in it.

CONCLUSION – The Authorised Version is the PERFECT & PRESERVED WORD OF GOD. IT IS WITHOUT ERROR!

NEVER...

- 1) **Correct it (let it correct YOU!)**
- 2) **Change it (Let it change YOU!)**
- 3) **Add to it**
- 4) **Take away from it**

BUT, read it, study it & LIVE it!

It is MY Final Authority in all matters of faith & practice!

Amen