

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."

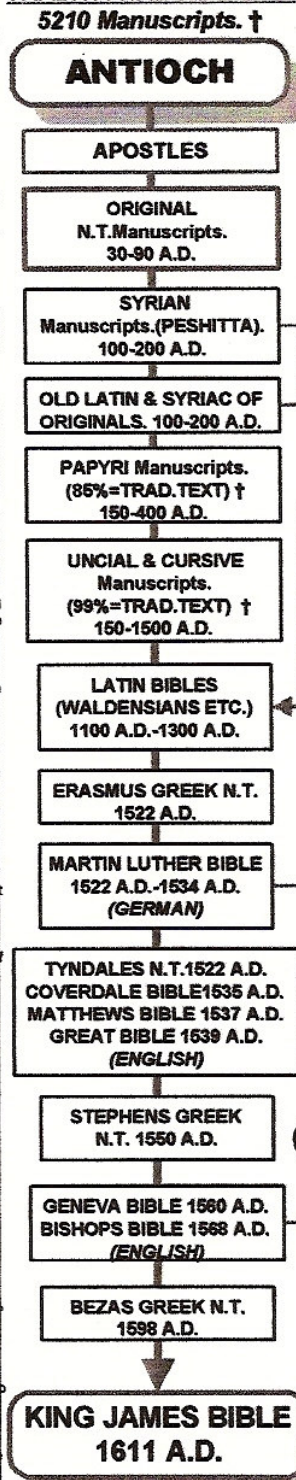
ANTIOCH: Here was the springboard for the Gentile church. It became the center for Gentile Christians just as Jerusalem was for the Jews. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Antioch was the center for the outreach of the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Many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

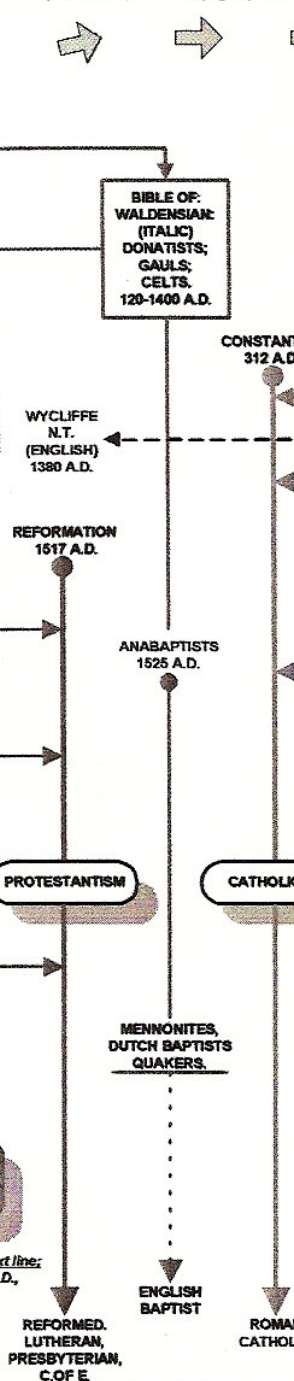
TRADITIONAL TEXT LINE



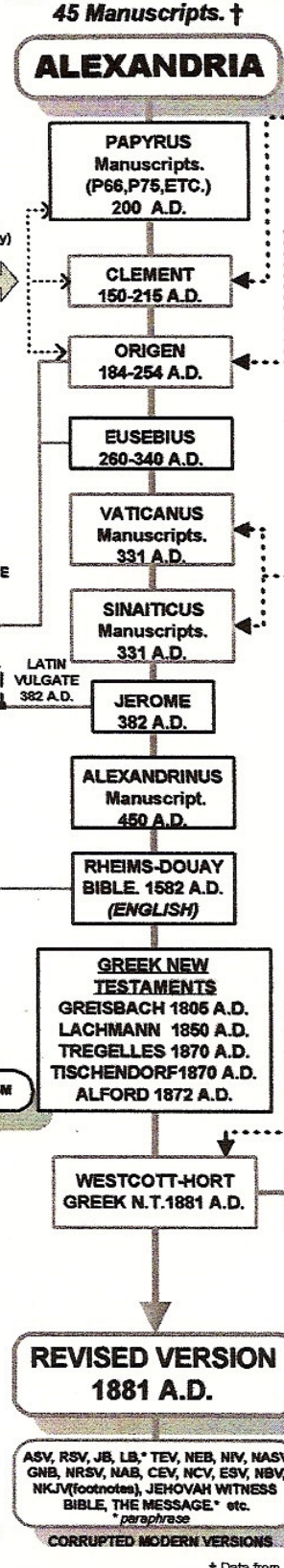
Other world-wide Bibles from the Traditional Text line: Olivetan (France) 1537 A.D., Valera (Spain) 1569 A.D., Diodati (Italy) 1607 A.D.

PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION OF THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

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



ALEXANDRIAN TEXT LINE



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.

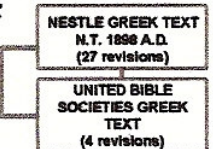
** Data from H.C. Hoskier's "Codex B and its Allies".

A total of 43 other manuscripts indicate some support for this text compared to 5210 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

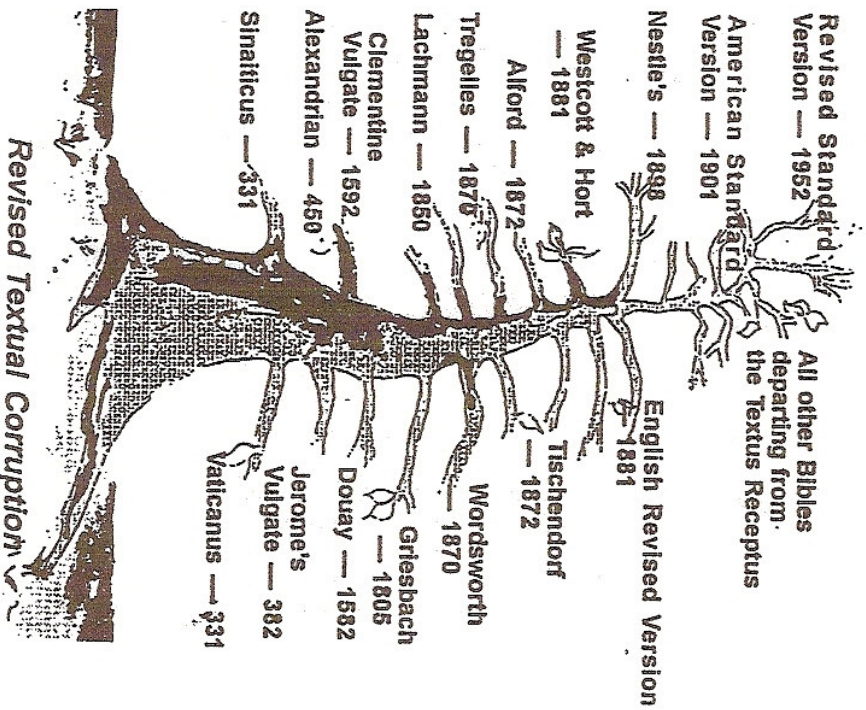
VERSES: Omitted=20

* 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.

† Data from Jack Moorman's "Forever Settled."

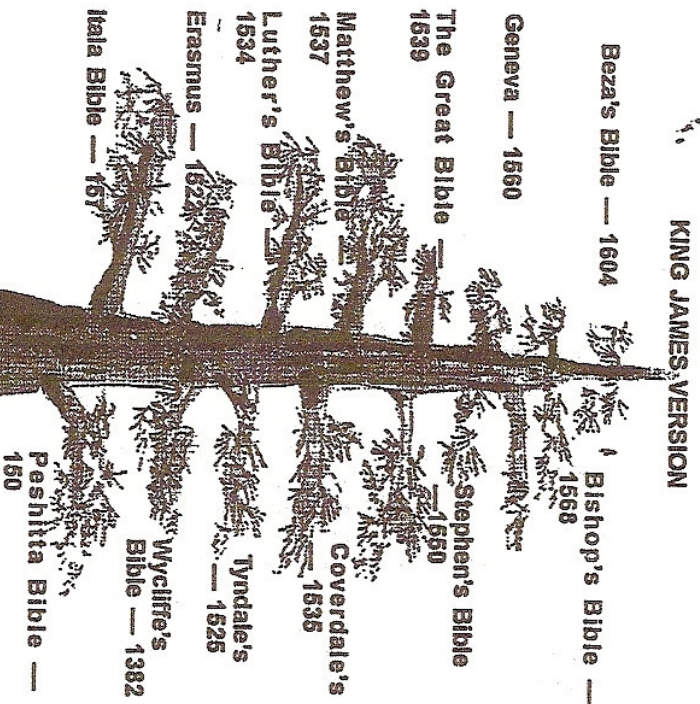
THE CORRUPTED TREE BEARS CORRUPTED FRUIT



Revised Textual Corruption

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit." Matthew 12:33

THE GOOD TREE — Produced from pure and strong stock



"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Psalm 119:142

Conversation In A 'Bible' Bookstore

by David Daniels

"Hello. May I help you?"

"Yes. I'm looking for a Bible I can use in my church. Could you help me?"

"I'd be happy to. I would recommend the NIV. It is our most popular seller."

"Do you know the story of the Ethiopian eunuch?"

"Sure."

"Well, the only verse that tells us what we need to do before baptism is in Acts 8:37. It's really important that my Bible states this clearly. Would you read it to me?"

"Certainly..." (The helpful employee looks and looks.) "Uh, it's not there."

"What's not there?"

"I'm sorry, but there is no verse 37..."

"Well, I don't want a Bible that is missing something that important. Let's try another Bible."

"Well, we have another popular one, the Revised Standard Version."

"My Bible has to be clear about the virgin birth of Christ. Would you please check Isaiah 7:14?"

"Hmm. It says 'a young woman shall conceive...'"

"Then forget the Revised Standard! What other Bibles have you?"

"Well, we are very proud of the New American Standard. It's called 'the most literal' version."

"Alright, then let's look up John 6:47. It's the one place where Jesus tells us to believe in Him to have eternal life."

"Wait! It only says 'he who believes has eternal life.' It doesn't say who to believe in."

"My old occultic friends would love that. They believe, but not in Jesus Christ. So much for the NASV."

"Let's try again. When I witness to Jehovah's Witnesses, I like to use Revelation 1:11, where Jesus says, 'I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.' What do you have left?"

"Here's our New Living Translation. Let me see. Huh? It says, 'Write down what you see...' No 'Alpha and Omega' here."

"All I see left is an old American Standard. Would you look up 1 John 5:7? It tells us the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost are one God."

"I'm very sorry. It says, 'And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth.' There's no Trinity here."

"Well, then, I'll just stay with my Bible. It has everything I mentioned to you."

"What Bible is that?"

"God's preserved words in English: The King James Bible."

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THE BIBLE contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

CHRIST is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at judgement, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- taken from the front of a Gideon Bible

My Old Bible

*Though the cover is worn
And the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears;
Yet more precious than gold
Is this Book worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my fears.*

*This old Book is my guide,
Tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens the mind
As I read it and heed it each day.*

*To this Book I will cling,
Of its worth I will sing,
Though great losses and crosses be mine;
For I cannot despair,
Though surrounded by care,
While possessing this blessing Divine.*

Anonymous