

Evidence that The Bible is The Infallible Word of God

~ Ten Reasons to Believe ~

Lesson #6

Evidence for the Reliability of the New Testament • Part 2

• H A N D O U T •

► We now conclude our search for evidence that the N.T. is as reliable and trustworthy as the O.T. text with Part 2. Since we have already looked at the importance of the time gap between the original and the extant copies of the N.T. and have looked at the Greek Manuscripts, this study will cover the “**Versions**” and the “**Writings of the Church Fathers**.” Our goal is to see how these two sources of evidence stands up to the “science of textual criticism.”

2. THE VERSIONS

The Versions are translations which used the Greek New Testament to translate selected scripture passages into *other languages*.

Although ancient literature was *rarely* translated into other languages, **the New Testament was a huge exception.**

Q: Why would the New Testament be an exception when it came to translating sacred text to other languages when most other ancient literature rarely did it?

Q: Why are these Versions so significant to our search for reliability?

Q: How many extant Versions do we currently have?

Q: What language is represented in these Versions?

Q: How valuable are these Versions compared to the Greek manuscripts for reconstructing the original New Testament text?

The “VULGATE”

Q: What is the Vulgate and how did it come to be?

Q: What does the Vulgate add to our research regarding the trustworthiness of the N.T. Scripture?

3. THE WRITINGS OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

Q: Who are the Church “Fathers?” Are we talking about priests?

Q: How valuable are these writings to us today?

In the Late 16th century, an actual challenge was set up to test the true value of these Writings from the Church Fathers

Many scholars during the late 1600 and early 1700 were putting great value on these writings, even though, at the same time, there were those who scoffed at their value.

The advocates claimed that even if the N.T. Greek Manuscripts were destroyed the entire text of the New Testament could be reconstructed using only the Writings of the Church Fathers.

Sir David Dalrymple [1655 <> 1721] the First Baronet of Scotland took up the challenge to see if this could be true, while serving in Parliament around 1698.

Q: What was the outcome of Dalrymple's endeavor?

Q: Critics of the Bible point out is the that they can point to some 200,000 variants between the various manuscripts, thus undermining the reliability of the N.T. text. What is a Variant?

Q: Some variants are classified as accidental while others are classified as intentional. What caused these variants, especially the intentional ones?

Accidental:

Intentional:

Q: Considering that the critics claim the huge number of 200,000 variants, won't that number alone hinder the possibility of an accurate New Testament text?

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Q: How would you summarize the reliability of the New Testament text?

In closing, let's conclude with the opinion of a world renown expert regarding the Reliability of the New Testament Text:

► Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, [1863 <> 1952] was a biblical and classical scholar who held the posts of Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum. As the Museum's Paleographer, he spent his adult lifetime in the official capacity of studying and deciphering ancient documents. He brings to this discussion an expertise and authority like none other.

He wrote the following statement in 1936, regarding the trustworthiness of the New Testament text. It makes an excellent conclusion to our study on the Textual Reliability of the New Testament.

"It cannot be too strongly asserted that, in substance, the text of the Bible is certain; especially is this the case with the New Testament. The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world.

"The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be, in fact, negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially, as they were written, has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." [F.G. Kenyon, GBE, KCB, TD, FBA, FSA]



Next Time:

Lesson #7 • Ten Reasons to Believe Reasons # 4 thru #6



ADDENDUM

The following list of New Testament Church Fathers provides an overview of an important part of the secondary source evidence for the text of the New Testament (NT). The NT was quoted by early Christian authors, like Ignatius of Antioch, called the Church Fathers. The other most substantial component of secondary sources for the text of the NT is its early translations into other languages, like Latin. Translations of the NT are known as *versions*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>DOD</u>	<u>Language</u>
Acacius	Caesarea	366	Greek
Adamantius	Alexandria	300	Greek
Africanus	Jerusalem	240	Greek
Alexander	Alexandria	328	Greek
Ambrose	Milan	397	Latin
Ammonius	Alexandria	250 (III)	Greek
Ammonius	Alexandria	450 (V)	Greek
Amphilochius	Iconium	394	Greek
Anastasius	Sinai Peninsula	750 (VIII?)	Greek
Anastasius	Antioch	700	Greek
Andrew	Caesarea	614	Greek
Andrew	Crete	740	Greek
Ansbert	Rouen	750 (VIII)	Latin
Anthony	Padua	1231	Latin
Antiochus	Mar Saba	614	Greek
Aphraates	Assyria	367	Syriac
Apollinaris	Laodicea	380	Greek
Apringius	Beja	551	Latin
Arethas	Caesarea	914	Greek
Aristides	Athens	150 (II)	Greek
Arius	Alexandria	336	Greek
Arnobius	Gaul	460	Latin
Athanasius	Alexandria	373	Greek
Athenagoras	Athens	150 (II)	Greek
Augustine	Hippo	430	Latin
Basil	Caesarea	379	Greek
Beatus	Liébana	786	Latin
Bede	Northumbria	735	Latin
Caelestinus	Rome	350 (IV)	Latin
Caesarius	Arles	542	Latin
Caesarius	Nazianzus	369	Greek
Carpocrates	Alexandria	150 (II)	Greek
Cassian	Itinerant	435	Latin
Cassiodorus	Scylletium	580	Latin
Chromatius	Aquileia	407	Latin
Claudius	Turin	850 (IX)	Latin
Clement	Alexandria	215	Greek



<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>DOD</u>	<u>Language</u>
Cyprian	Carthage	258	Latin
Cyril	Alexandria	444	Greek
Cyril	Jerusalem	386	Greek
Diadochus	Photiki	468	Greek
Didymus	Alexandria	398	Greek
Dionysius	Alexandria	265	Greek
Ephraem	Syria	373	Syriac
Epiphanius	Salamis	403	Greek
Eugippus	Naples	533	Latin
Eulogius	Alexandria	607	Greek
Eusebius	Caesarea	339	Greek
Eustathius	Antioch	337	Greek
Euthalius	Alexandria	450 (V)	Greek
Faustus	Riez	490	Latin
Faustus	Milevum	400 (IV-V)	Latin
Fulgentius	Ruspe	533	Latin
Gaudentius	Brescia	406	Latin
Gelasius	Cyzicus	475	Greek
Gennadius	Massilia	505	Latin
Gennadius	Constantinople	471	Greek
Gildas	Rhuys	570	Latin
Gregory	Elvira	392	Latin
Gregory	Nazianzus	390	Greek
Gregory	Nyssa	394	Greek
Gregory	Neocaesarea	270	Greek
Hilary	Pictavium	367	Latin
Hippolytus	Rome	235	Latin
Ignatius	Antioch	110	Greek
Irenaeus	Lugdunum	202	Latin
Isidore	Pelusium	435	Greek
Jacob	Nisibis	338	Syriac
Jerome	Stridonium	420	Latin
John	Damascus	749	Greek
Julian	Eclanum	454	Latin
Julius I	Rome	352	Latin
Justin	Flavia Neapolis	165	Greek
Juvencus	Hispania	330	Latin
Leo	Tuscany	461	Latin
Leontius	Byzantium	550 (VI)	Greek
Lucifer	Cagliari	370	Latin
Macarius Magnes	Magnesia	400	Greek
Marius Mercator	Itinerant	450 (V)	Latin
Maternus	Cologne	348	Latin
Nestorius	Constantinople	451	Greek
Nonnus	Panopolis	431	Greek
Novatian	Rome	250 (III)	Latin
Oecumenius	Trika	550 (VI)	Greek
Optatus	Milevum	385	Latin
Origen	Alexandria	254	Greek
Orosius	Gallaecia	418	Latin
Orsius	Tabenna	380	Greek
Pacian	Barcelona	392	Latin
Paulinus	Nola	431	Latin
Pelagius	Itinerant	412	Latin
Palladius	Leinster	431	Latin
Pamphilus	Caesarea	310	Greek

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>DOD</u>	<u>Language</u>
Papias	Hierapolis	150 (II)	Greek
Photius	Constantinople	895	Greek
Pierius	Alexandria	309	Greek
Polycarp	Smyrna	156	Greek
Porphyry	Gaza	250 (III)	Greek
Possidius	Calama	450 (V)	Latin
Primasius	Hadrumetum	552	Latin
Priscillian	Ávila	385	Latin
Proclus	Constantinople	446	Greek
Procopius	Gaza	538	Greek
Ptolemy	Alexandria	150 (II)	Greek
Rufinus	Aquileia	410	Latin
Rupert	Liège	1135	Latin
Salvian	Gaul	480	Latin
Sedulius	Hibernia	850 (IX)	Latin
Serapion	Thmuis	362	Greek
Severian	Jableh	408	Greek
Severus	Antioch	538	Greek
Socrates	Constantinople	439	Greek
Sozomen	Constantinople	450	Greek
Sulpicius	Gaul	420	Latin
Synesius	Cyrene	414	Greek
Tatian	Antioch	150 (II)	Greek
Tertullian	Carthage	220	Latin
Theodore	Mopsuestia	428	Greek
Theodore	Heraclea	358	Greek
Theodore	Constantinople	826	Greek
Theodoret	Antioch	466	Greek
Theodotus	Byzantium	150 (II)	Greek
Theodotus	Ancyra	445	Greek
Theophilus	Antioch	180	Greek
Theophylact	Moesia	1077	Latin
Theotecnus	Caesarea	250 (III)	Greek
Titus	Bostra	378	Greek
Tyconius	Africa	380	Latin
Valentinians	Italy	150 (II)	Latin
Valentinus	Alexandria	160	Greek
Valerian	Cimiez	460	Latin
Victor	Antioch	450 (V)	Greek
Victor	Tunis	566	Latin
Victor-Vita	Africa	489	Latin
Victorinus	Pettau	304	Latin
Victorinus	Rome	362	Latin
Vigilius	Africa/Thrace	484	Latin
Zeno	Verona	372	Latin

