

“The Corruptible Seed”
I Peter 1:23

Introduction: The Alexandrian school of thought promotes making changes (improvements) that are often clearly unwarranted according to the vast majority of existing manuscripts. Such an approach to translation is destructive, for it undermines the timeless authority of the Bible while reducing the work of translating Bibles to merely translators’ preferences. Since 1880, over 200 English versions of the Bible have been published. Why is there a need to release so many new versions?

Body: The Alexandrian Text comes from Alexandria, Egypt. Like Antioch, Alexandria was a major copying center for Scripture; but because of the heretical and pagan teachings of Alexandria, the manuscripts were corrupted. Notice the corrupt seed of Alexandria.

I. Origen

- A. Around 200 AD, a man named Origen became the leader of a school in Alexandria. Origen’s “Revision” (his corrupted New Testament), would later have a marked influence on Jerome, editor of the Latin Vulgate.
- B. Origen and others from Alexandria made changes to manuscripts that have in turn corrupted Bibles and doctrine through the centuries, including the revised and modern Bibles of today. Out of the host of manuscripts that have survived (over 5,500), the Alexandrian manuscripts are a very small minority (fewer than 50).

II. Vaticanus and Sinaiticus

- A. The Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus are the two most prominent manuscripts used as the basis for many of the new versions of the Bible. Although both come from Alexandria, these two manuscripts differ with one another around 70% of the time.
- B. The Vaticanus Manuscript—This manuscript is the property of the Roman Catholic Church. Knowledge of its existence began to circulate in 1533, but it was not until after 1810 that scholars began to study it. It is believed that this manuscript dates back to AD 325.
- C. The Sinaiticus Manuscript—The Sinaiticus Manuscript was found in 1844 by Konstantin von Tischendorf, a Biblical manuscript expert. While visiting the Monastery of St. Catherine, at the foot of the traditional Mount Sinai, he found a basket of old sheets of parchment, molded with age. Tischendorf was informed that the two heaps of this parchment “had already been committed to the flames.” On his third visit in 1859, a monk presented Tischendorf with Sinaiticus. Tischendorf then worked out an arrangement with the monastery to present the manuscript to the Russian Czar in exchange for the promotion of one of the St. Catherine monks. Sinaiticus remained in St. Petersburg (later Leningrad) until 1933 when it was sold to the British Museum.
- D. “It is said that the Sinaiticus has been corrected and altered by as many as ten different writers. In Vaticanus is found the evidence of very sloppy workmanship. Time and again words and whole phrases are repeated twice in succession or completely omitted...The entire manuscript has had the text mutilated by some

person or persons who ran over every letter with a pen making exact identification of many of the characters impossible. Both manuscripts contain uninspired, anti-scriptural books which are not found in the Bible.” Samuel C. Gipp

III. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate

- A. Jerome, a Catholic monk, translated the Bible into Latin around AD 380. What is significant about this translation is that it deviated from the correct text of Antioch and was based upon the corrupted text coming from Alexandria: namely the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus manuscripts.
- B. The Roman Catholic Church, sponsor of the project, named Jerome’s Bible, The Vulgate. It seems as if the Roman Catholic Church wanted the people to give up the older, reliable Vulgate for the newer, corrupted Vulgate.
- C. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate became the authorized Bible of the Roman Catholic Church for the next 1,000 years.

IV. Wycliffe’s Bible

- A. John Wycliffe initiated a translation that would become the first complete English Bible. His desire was for the laity of his day to have a Bible they could read.
- B. Wycliffe did not know the original languages of the Bible, but he did know Latin, and therefore translated his Bible from Jerome’s Latin Vulgate. Because the Wycliffe Bible is based on Jerome’s Latin Vulgate, it is not a reliable Bible.
- C. In spite of the unreliable nature of the Wycliffe Bible, John Wycliffe whet the appetite of English-speaking people for a Bible in their native tongue.
- D. Wycliffe died in 1384, and consequently was not able to complete the Bible that bears his name. Two versions of the Wycliffe Bible exist: the first done under supervision of Nicholas Herefore, one of Wycliffe’s disciples, and the second completed under John Purvey, Wycliffe’s personal secretary.
- E. For translating the Bible into English, the Roman Catholic Church, through the Council of Constance (1414), condemned Wycliffe as a heretic and ordered his bones to be exhumed. In 1428, under decree from Pope Martin V, Wycliffe’s remains were burned and his ashes scattered in the Swift River.

V. Douay-Rheims Version

- A. By the middle of the sixteenth century, there were many Protestant Bibles in several languages, especially in English. The Protestant Church of England was a Bible reading church. English speaking Catholics, on the other hand, had no approved English Bible of their own.
- B. Protestants could argue from their Bibles and quote their notes. Catholics had nothing to help them. So for the sake of the Catholic minority and in the hope of somehow bringing England back to the Catholic Church, church leaders decided the time had come for an approved Catholic English translation with proper notes.
- C. Work on the Catholic Bible began at a college in Douay, France. Because of the political reasons this college had to move to Rheims (also in France) and became known as the Douay-Rheims College.

- D. The New Testament was printed in 1582, followed by the Old Testament in 1609. The Douay-Rheims Bible was a literal translation of Jerome's Latin Vulgate with only occasional references to Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.
- VI. Westcott and Hort Greet Text
- A. Brooke Foss Westcott (1825-1903) and Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828-1892) were Anglican ministers who published a Greek New Testament in 1881. Based on the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus, the Westcott-Hort Greek Text became the standard for many Bibles, including the Revised Version, American Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, New International Version, and a host of other modern versions.
- B. Westcott and Hort were both members of the revision committee for the English Revised Version. Bit by bit they secretly, unsuspectingly introduced their own unpublished rendition of Alexandria's corruption of Scripture into the revision committee. By patient guidance they achieved the greatest feat in textual criticism.
- VII. The New International Version
- A. In 1973, the New York Bible Society (now the International Bible Society) completed the New Testament of a new version bearing the name New International Version.
- B. The entire Bible was released in 1978 and had nearly 65,000 fewer words than the King James Version (that equals removing over 30 complete books of the Bible).
- C. The NIV attacks the deity of Jesus Christ, the virgin birth, and takes out references to Christ's blood and hell.
- D. Guess who owns the printing rights to the NIV. It is Rupert Murdoch. He owns Fox and Bart Simpson. He bought out Zondervan. The Chicago Tribune called him the prince of darkness. (Read the Copyright Laws)
- E. John Stek served for nearly 45 years on the translation committee for the New International Version.
- F. The man appointed to be the Chairman of the Old Testament Committee of the NIV Committee on Bible Translation, Dr. Marten Woudstra, was a homosexual. Also, Virginia Mollenkott, who worked as the stylistic editor for the translation, is a lesbian. Why is the word "sodomite" missing from the NIV?
- G. The parent company to Zondervan (Harper Collins) who publishes the NIV also publishes The Joy of Gay Sex, and The Satanic Bible.
- VIII. The New King James Version
- A. The New King James Version was conceived by Arthur Farstad, a Baptist and a former editor at Thomas Nelson Publishers. The project was inaugurated in 1975 with two meetings (Nashville and Chicago) of 68 interested persons, most of them Baptists but also with some Presbyterians.
- B. Its publisher, Thomas Nelson Company, says its purpose is, "To Preserve the Integrity of the Original in the Language of Today...To preserve the authority and accuracy...of the original King James while making it understandable to 20th Century readers...To update with regard to punctuation and grammar; archaic verbs and pronouns...Up-to-date accuracy with regard to words whose English meaning has

- changed over a period of 3 1/2 centuries...The completed NKJV text is said to be 'Beautifully Clear' and 'Highly Readable'."
- C. If the Thomas Nelson Publishers were genuinely concerned about the purity of the Scriptures, would they continue printing the RSV and other corrupted modern Bible versions?
 - D. Dr. Arthur Farstad, chairman of the NKJV Executive Review Committee which had the responsibility of final text approval, stated that this committee was about equally divided as to which was the better Greek New Testament text-the Textus Receptus or the Westcott-Hort.
 - E. Dr. Jerry Falwell, a member of the NKJV overview committee, gives this new Bible his unqualified endorsement, stating that "It protects every thought, every idea, every word, just as it was intended to be understood by the original scholars."
 - F. Compare the NKJV to the KJV in Acts 4:27.
 - G. Compare the NKJV to the KJV in Acts 3:26.
 - H. Compare the NKJV to the KJV in II Corinthians 2:17.

Conclusion: Who am I? (C.I. Scofield)