

The History of the King James Bible – Part 2 – Manuscript Records

Psalm 138:2 ***“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.”***

The modern versions give dual authority to God's name and His word – This is why those that read these versions are led by feelings, subjectivity, and not the sure word of God!

John 12:44-48 states His words have the final authority Jesus came not to judge but to save the world (V48) ***“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*** - Despite Jesus having love for the lost on the last day at the great white throne judgement His word will have the final say on their eternal destination!

Revelation 19:13 says Jesus Christ ***“...is called the Word of God.”***

The authorised bible we have today was made possible by collecting, studying, and comparing what are called manuscripts.

Copies of original writings are composed of the following manuscripts:

- **Minuscule** – Most numerous of the extant copies in possession – Oldest of this type were written on a material known as papyrus (sticks of reeds). – Most existing are worn fragments (pieces of the whole copy).
- **Majuscules (also known as uncial)** – Set-up in similar fashion to miniscule in layout but with uppercase letters – Difference is most are written in vellum which is made from calf skin (veal) – This shows why there are more majuscules manuscripts as they were more durable – They are rolled together and attached piece by piece into what is known as a codice (plural) – If only one scroll it is referred to as codex (singular) – **IMPORTANT** – This is what was found 1400AD in a Vatican monastery by a priest and it did not read as the authorised text and they only had two rolls of calf skins to go by!
- **Cursives** – Written in script form.
- **Lectionaries** – Portions of scripture written on the back of hymnals.
- **Versions** – Ancient versions from Greek to other languages – The oldest of these is referred to as “Peshitta” which is a translation into the Syrian language – The Syrians had their own bible in 150AD and in Latin by 157AD. These are around today in the Syrian and Latin languages that match the KJV!

Bible teachers are ignorant or dishonest when they say “The KJV is not based on oldest manuscripts”. You know why? It was based on the right manuscripts, and they were worn out by their use! – The garbage that nobody was using stuck around a while!

Jerome's Latin Vulgate was translated in 1482 but this was written to match the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church – The Latin that was changed in the “Vulgate” is a con and today is called “scholarship” despite a clear corruption to deny the people God's truth.

When early “church fathers” were quoting you KJV in letters written to one another you know that you have something that agrees with what was written at the very start (i.e. John Chrysostom, Augustine, Clement, Cyprian, Tertullian) - Though all after Chrysostom were crooked in their belief they certainly gave light to the scripture available in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd centuries.

Whilst it is true that we do not have the original NT in Greek from the Apostolic era or the generation after, when you piece together the 5400 manuscripts available you have the whole NT – Praise God for His preserving power!

The number of manuscripts that disagree with the KJV is tiny compared with those that are in agreement – That is weighty evidence for the authorised version.

- **Clay tablets and Stylus** – Sometimes referred to as “cuneiform writing” – Cuneus means a wedge which refers to a piece of pottery/clay and a sharp instrument used to wedge the

letters into it – Jer 17:1 refers to a sharp instrument used in such writing as “...**a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond ...**”

If an archaeologist comes to a ruined town and finds a monument with the 10 commandments engraved, he has found a portion of scripture as a type of manuscript.

Determining Age of Manuscripts

- **Papyrus and pen** – 1st century
- **Papyrus codices** – 4th-12th century
- **Vellum and parchment** – 4th-8th century
- **Flax and paper** – 8th-13th century
- **Linen paper** – 13th century – present.

Style of Script Age

Uncial – Used up to around 10th century AD – Compressed uncials used up to 9th century – Minuscules up to around 6th century.

Clauses - As materials became more readily available men began to have spaces between clauses (verb & subject) – This constitutes a complete thought and aided the reading of the scripture. This shows up at around up at approximately 300 AD.

Spaces – Words having a space between them show up approximately 5th century.

Full stops – Dots to end sentences show up in 5th century.

Commas – Jerome in 420 AD comes up with the comma.

Colons and semi-colons – 7th century.

Accents and breathings – 8th century.

Question marks – 10th century.

Text division

Text division first enters the gospels in 1st century – The Eusebian canons divided into sections writings (e.g. 4 gospels into one canon, epistles of Paul in another). This first shows up in the 4th century.

Paul's epistles further divided into separate letters in 458 AD by Euphalian.

Acts and general epistles divided in 590 AD.

Terms by Bible Critics as they worked on putting together Manuscripts

Gloss – A note describing a difficult word (something in the margin).

Colophon – A footnote placed at the end of a book.

Catenary – A group or chain of comments (Thompson chain note bible etc...)