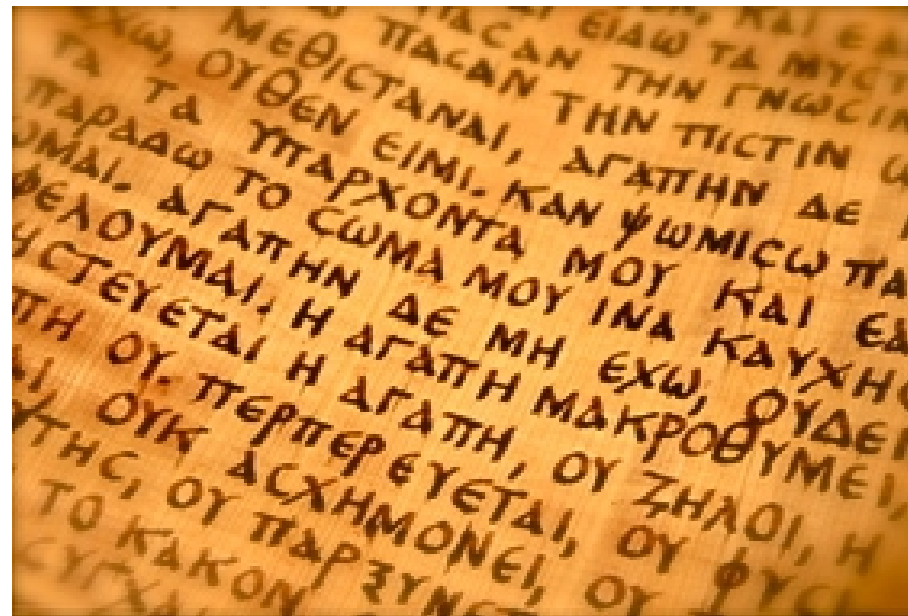


Has the Bible  
been changed  
over the centuries?



Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God”



Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God”

(Some manuscripts do not have *the Son of God*)

Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, **the Son of God**”

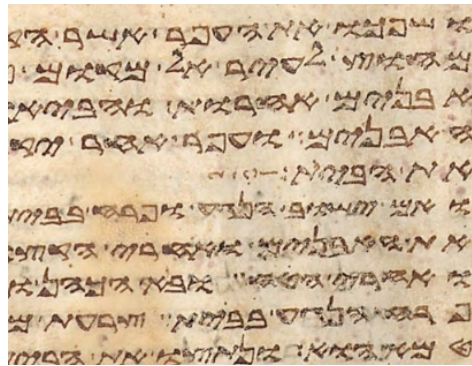
“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ”



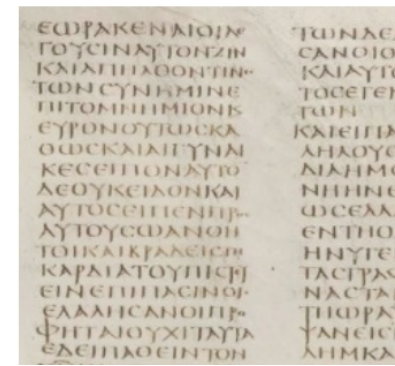
# Text Criticism



# Old Testament Sources



שוב קח־לך מִגִּלָּה אַחֶרֶת וּבָתֵּב  
עֲלֶיהָ אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הַקְּדָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר  
הָיוּ עַל־הַמִּגִּלָּה הַקְּדָשָׁה אֲשֶׁר שָׂרַף  
יְהוֹנָתָן מֶלֶךְ־יִשְׂרָאֵל: <sup>Jer. 36:28</sup> וְעַל־יְהוֹנָתָן  
מֶלֶךְ־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַאֲמֹר כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
שָׂרַפְתָּ אֶת־הַמִּגִּלָּה הַזֹּאת לְאֹמֶר מְדוּעַ



Samaritan  
Pentateuch

Masoretic  
Hebrew Text

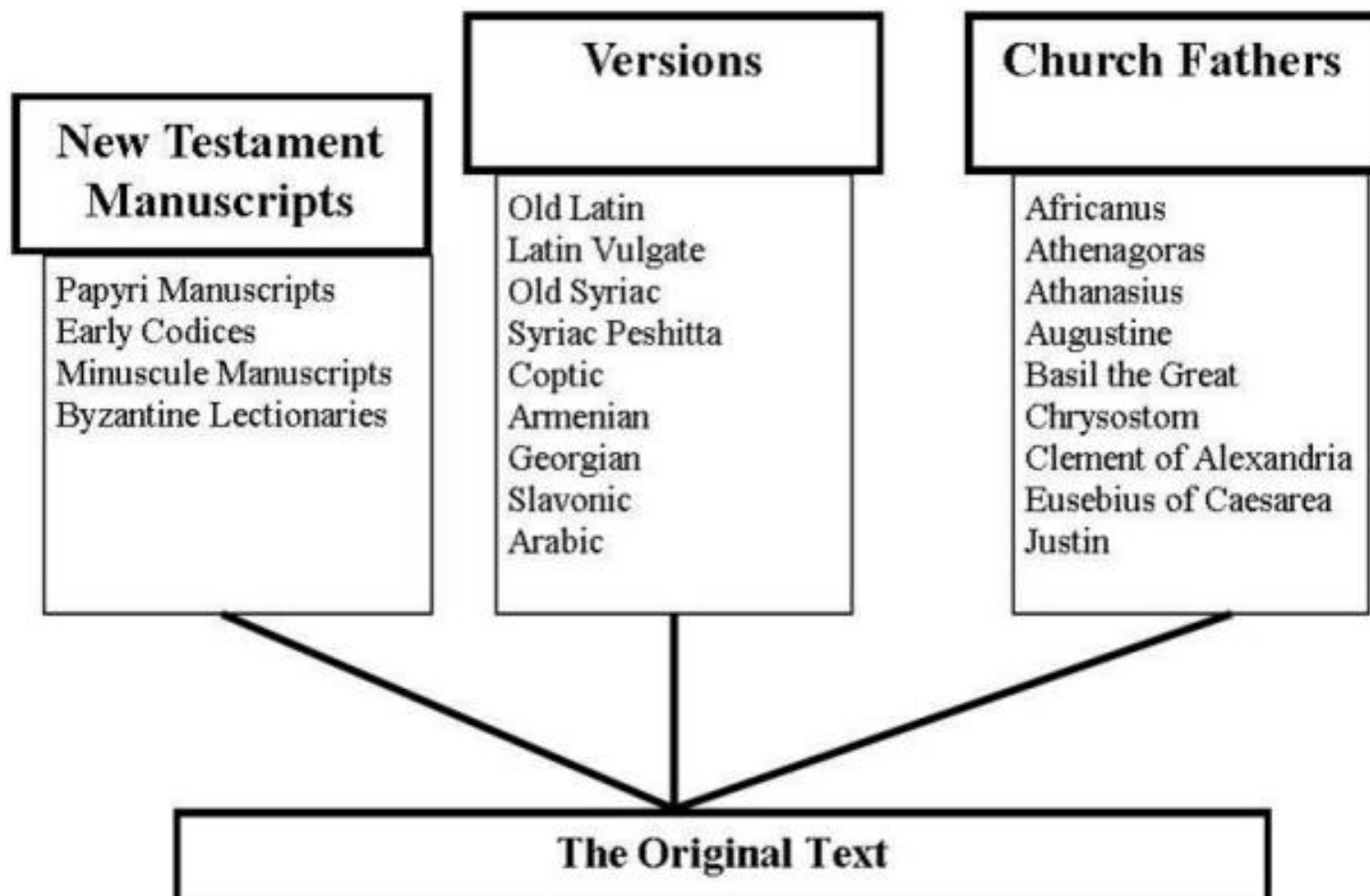
Septuagint  
Greek Version



Dead Sea Scrolls

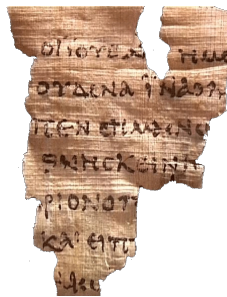


# New Testament Sources



# External Evidence

- Quantity of manuscripts
- Age of manuscripts
- Geographical diversity of manuscripts
- Reliability of manuscripts





# Internal Evidence

Which variant reading  
best explains the other?

<sup>1</sup> 1 {C} Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ Ν<sup>1</sup> B D L W 2427 // Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ A Δ f<sup>1</sup>  
f<sup>13</sup> 33 180 205 565 579 597 700 892 1006 1010 1071 1243 1292 1342 1424 1505 Byz  
[E F G<sup>supp</sup> H Σ] Lect eth geo<sup>2</sup> slav (υἱοῦ θεοῦ or υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ it<sup>a</sup>, aur, b, c, d, f, ff<sup>2</sup>, l, q, r<sup>1</sup> vg  
syr<sup>p, h</sup> cop<sup>sa<sup>miss</sup>, bo</sup> Irenaeus<sup>lat 2/3</sup>; Ambrose Chromatius Jerome<sup>3/6</sup> Augustine Faustus-Mile-  
vis) // Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ κυρίου 1241 // Χριστοῦ Ν\* Θ 28<sup>c</sup> syr<sup>pal</sup> cop<sup>sa<sup>ms</sup></sup> arm geo<sup>1</sup>  
Origen<sup>gr, lat</sup> Asterius Serapion Cyril-Jerusalem Severian Hesychius; Victorinus-Pettau  
Jerome<sup>3/6</sup> // omit 28\* (Irenaeus<sup>gr, lat 1/3</sup> Epiphanius omit also Ἰησοῦ)

Matthew 14:24

“and the boat was already  
a considerable distance from land”



Matthew 14:24

“and the boat was already  
a considerable distance from land”

“and the boat was already  
in the middle of the lake”

Matthew 14:24

"and the boat was already  
a considerable distance from land"

"and the boat was already  
in the middle of the lake"

Mark 6:47

"the boat was was in the middle of the lake"



Matthew 14:24

“and the boat was already  
a considerable distance from land”

“and the boat was already  
in the middle of the lake”

Mark 6:47

“the boat was was in the middle of the lake”

Which variant reading  
best explains the other?

## Matthew 15:38

“The number number of those who ate was four thousand, besides **women and children**”

“four thousand, besides **children and women**”

Which variant reading  
best explains the other?



Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, **the Son of God**”

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ”

ΑΡΧΗ  
ΤΟΥ  
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ  
ΙΗΣΟΥ  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
ΥΙΟΥ  
ΘΕΟΥ



Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, **the Son of God**”

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ”

Which variant reading  
best explains the other?

Mark 1:1

“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ”

Mark 1:11

Mark 3:11

Mark 5:7

Mark 9:7

Mark 12:6

Mark 13:32

Mark 14:61-62

Mark 15:39

Matthew, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2  
Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1  
Thessalonians, Hebrews, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, Revelation



Has the Bible been changed  
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# Has the Bible been changed over the centuries?

- There is a **process**, a science called textual criticism
- Relatively **few** variants in the manuscripts
- Most variants are **trivial**
- Most variants are **easy** to explain
- Very, very, **very few** variants are both difficult and significant



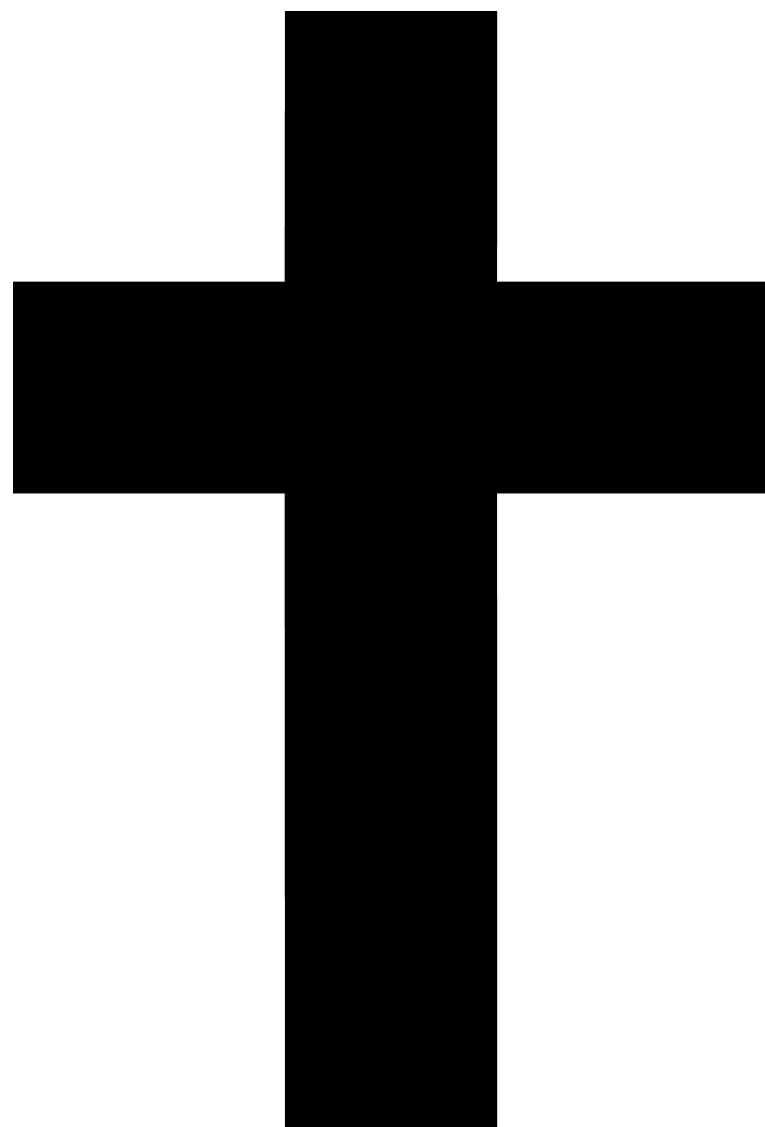
# Some major textual variants in the New Testament

- The ending of Mark's Gospel (Mk. 16:9-20)
- The woman caught in adultery (Jn. 7:53-8:11)
- Trinity proof-text (1 John 5:7-8)
- Ethiopian's confession (Acts 8:37)
- Jesus' sweating blood (Luke 22:43-44)

# Has the Bible been changed over the centuries?

- There is a **process**, a science called textual criticism
- Relatively **few** variants in the manuscripts
- Most variants are **trivial**
- Most variants are **easy** to explain
- Very, very, **very few** variants are both difficult and significant
- There is **no doubt** about the **GOSPEL**





The grass withers and the  
flowers fall,  
but the word of our God  
endures forever.

Isaiah 40:8