


*The*  
GOSPEL  
*according to*  
MARK



*The First & Second Letters of Peter | The Gospel According to Mark*

Mark 16:1-8

[SOME OF THE EARLIEST MANUSCRIPTS  
DO NOT INCLUDE 16:9-20]

# Understanding Textual Criticism

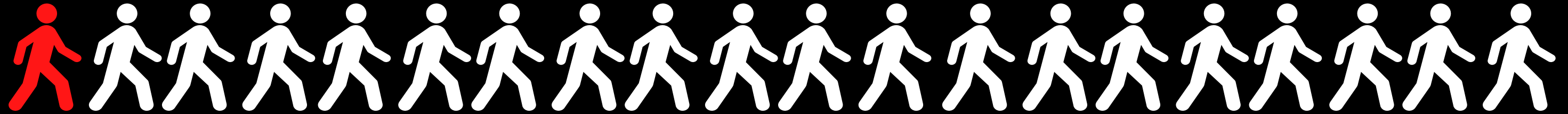
1. The New Testament was originally written in ancient Greek.
2. None of the original biblical documents still exist (as far as we know).
3. We do have a staggering collection of ancient handwritten copies.
4. The manuscripts are not identical to each other, and the differences are called variants.
5. Many Christian scholars have devoted their lives to carefully studying these copies.
6. Major differences like this one in Mark 16 are exceedingly rare—only one other instance.

# So what about 16:9-20? Is it original?

## Evidence FOR Accepting

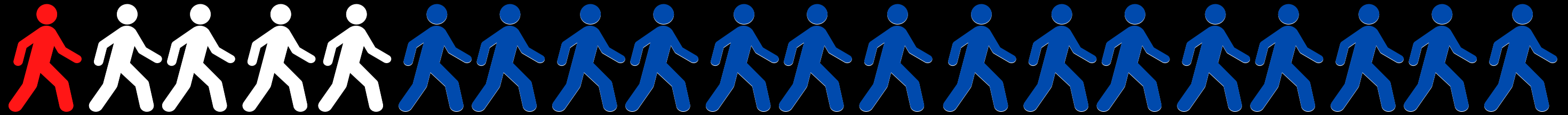
1. Mark 16:8 does seem like an awkward conclusion.
2. The content of 16:9-20 is true and consistent with the rest of Scripture.
3. Some of the earliest church leaders quoted these extra verses.
4. The vast majority of manuscripts include these extra verses (about 99% of them).

# Imagine a game of Telephone



The first person relays a message on to everyone who comes after him.

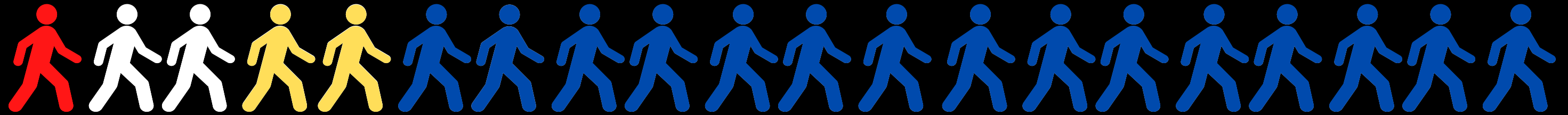
# Imagine a game of Telephone



After the first few people accurately relay the message, somebody tries to improve the message by adding a bit of content. From that point on, everyone includes the extra content. In time, this group becomes the majority.



# Imagine a game of Telephone



**In order to learn the right thing, you've got to go back to the very first people in line (or at least as early as you can).**



# Imagine a game of Telephone



Not only do the earliest copies we have access to **NOT** include the extra passage, but many of the ones that do specifically state that the authenticity of the extra passage is questionable.

# So what about 16:9-20? Is it original?

## Evidence AGAINST Accepting

1. The earliest and best manuscripts we have do not contain these extra verses.
2. Some of the other earliest church leaders never acknowledged these extra verses.
3. The passage seems to be written in a different style than the rest of the book.
4. Some of the very Greek manuscripts that contain the passage also include notes suggesting the section is not authentic.
5. Mark had a good reason for concluding his gospel account with 6:8

## The Main Point of Mark 16:1–8

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Jesus of Nazareth *was* crucified to death, he *was* buried in a tomb for three days, and he *did* rise to life—just like he said he would.

1. Jesus is alive and well.
2. Jesus is alive and active.