

A Short History of the Biblical Documents:

1. When we look at documents we operate on the assumption of faith. Faith is a faculty of knowledge coupled with the will. **Heb. 11:3**, “*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*” Faith informs our understanding.
2. The earliest Biblical documents were handwritten thus they are called “manuscripts” (mss.). There are currently 5,800 Greek New Testament today.
3. There has already been Satanic attempts at attacking the word of God even from the Garden of Eden.
 - 1) Gen. 3:1 “*...Yea, hath God said,*”
 - 2) 2 Thess. 2:2 “*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*”
 - 3) 2 Pet. 3:16 “*As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*”
4. The Old Testament was preserved and circulated by the nation of Israel (Rom. 3:2).
5. The New Testament was preserved and circulated by the churches.
 - 1) The Lord Jesus and His Apostles used the Old Testament Hebrew Text (Lk. 4:17-20; 24:44-46).
 - 2) The Lord Jesus pre-authenticated the canon via the apostles and His churches (Jn. 16:13-14).
 - 3) The churches received the words of God (Jn. 17:18; Acts 2:41; 8:14; 11:1; 17:11; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Jn. 1:4).
 - 4) The churches circulated the words of God among the churches (Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 4:13; 5:27; 2 Thess. 3:14).
 - 5) The churches had the complete canon (standard) of the words of God even until the lifetime of Pastor John (Rev. 22:18-19).
6. These handwritten manuscripts were compiled and edited into a printed form by textual critics like Erasmus, Beza, Elzevir brothers. They created what is called the “Textus Receptus” of the New Testament. (ca. 1516 – 1633). The Protestant Reformers used the TR and regarded them as God’s words.
7. More textual critics compiled and edited the Greek New Testament mss. But this time incorporating “older” mss. (Men like: Griesbach, Tischendorf, Tregelles, Wescott, Hort) (ca. 1806 – 1881). They created the Greek New Testament – Critical Text – the “Textus Criticus.”
 - 1) They did not operate on the basis of faith.
 - 2) They do not view the Scriptures to be inspired and preserved.
 - 3) They are mostly unbelievers, and many are yet Biblically in error: Catholicism, Protestantism, Cultic.
 - 4) Their works are continued by places like the Institute for New Testament Textual Research within the University of Munster, Germany. The Institute was founded in Munster by Professor Kurt D. Aland in 1959. They are working on the 30th Edition.
 - 5) All post-KJV English Bibles were affected in part and mostly in large by these textual critics.
 - 6) “Conservative” textual critics were mainly ignored (Burton, 1870’s; Edward F. Hills, 1956).
8. The King James Bible (“Authorized Version”) is the only English Bible extant that reflects the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words that have been inspired and preserved and received by the churches in the New Testament, and post-New Testament eras, even until today.