

Languages of The Bible

New Testament
Written in
Greek
(= world language of the
Roman Empire)

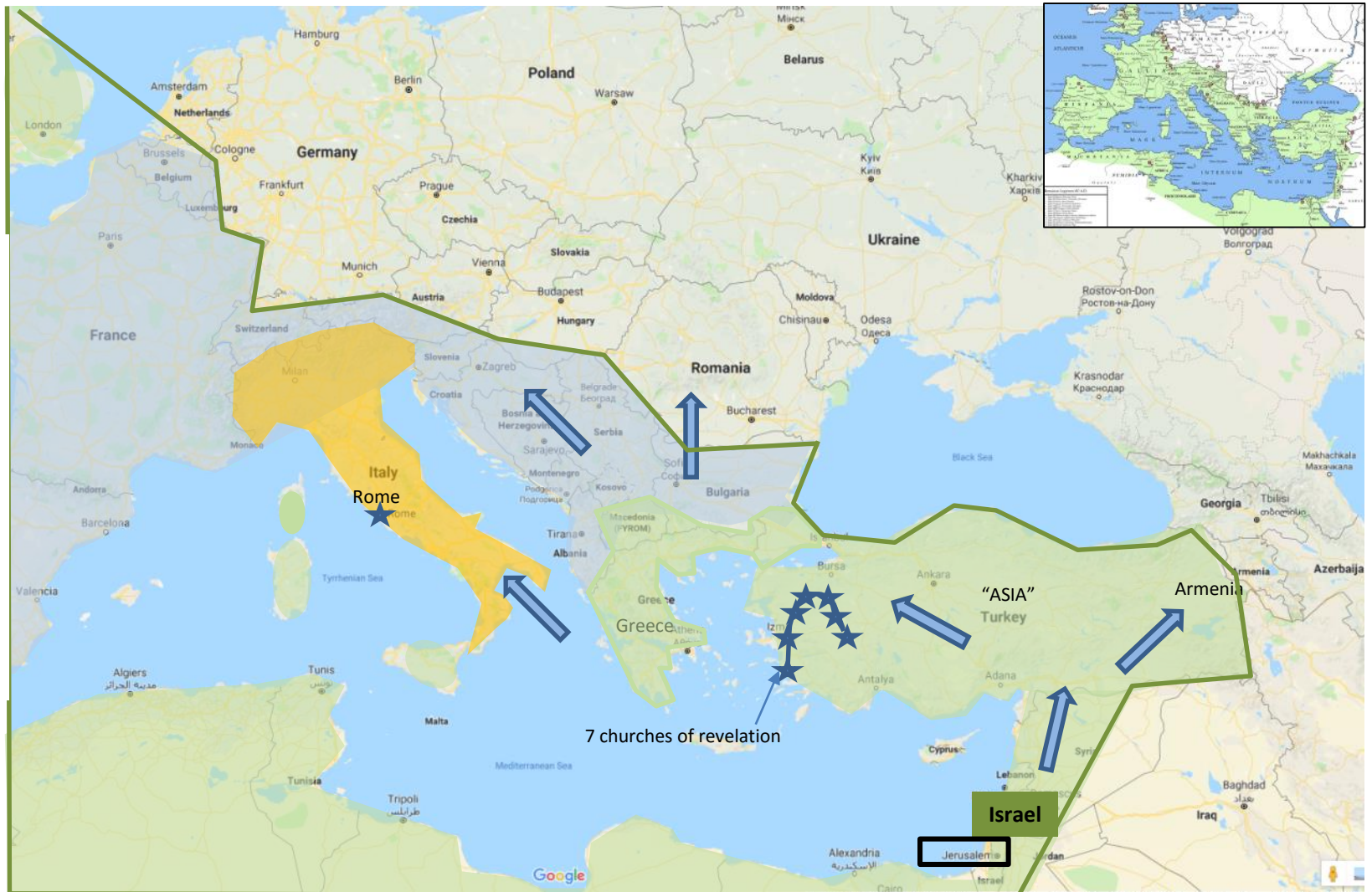
Old Testament
Written in
Hebrew

A multi-lingual society had developed throughout the roman empire:

*Luke 23:38 "And a superscription also was written over him in letters of **Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"*

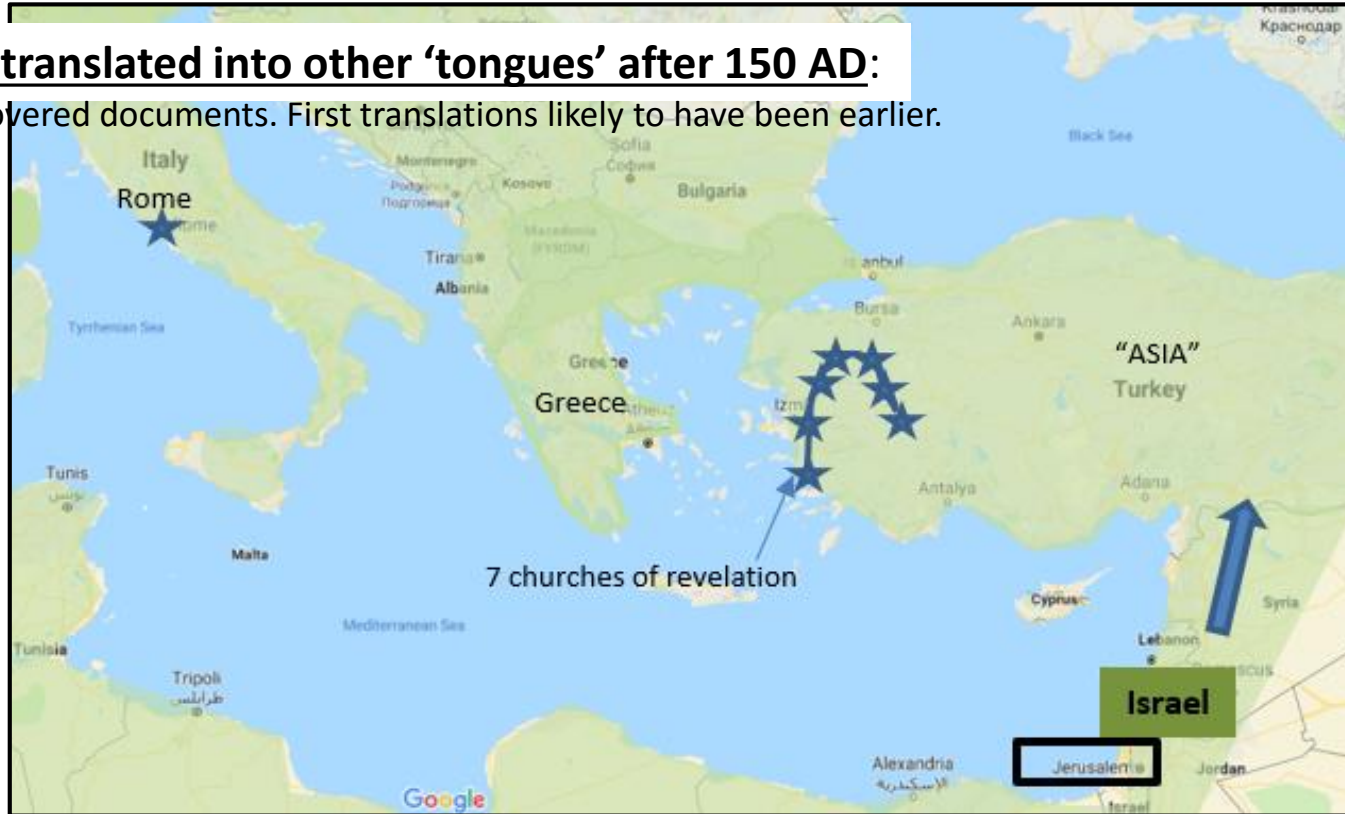
30-90AD – Gospel spread into Roman Empire

Greek was the world language of the Roman Empire and the **New Testament** was written in Greek



Greek NT translated into other 'tongues' after 150 AD:

*As per recovered documents. First translations likely to have been earlier.



N.T. Greek compiled, then translated into:

- ~ 150 AD: Syriac (middle east), Akhmic, Sahdic (Asia)
- ~ 200 AD: Latin (partial), Armenian (partial).
- ~ 380 AD Gothic (Germanic), Latin 'Vulgate' (full),
- ~ 430 AD, Armenian (full)
- ~ 650 AD: Persian, Anglo Saxon

The Peshitta = Syriac text in Aramaic is the first translation
The Vulgate=Catholic Bible: Pope Damasus commissioned
Jerome in 382 AD. ('Vulgar' = common)

Greek New Testaments

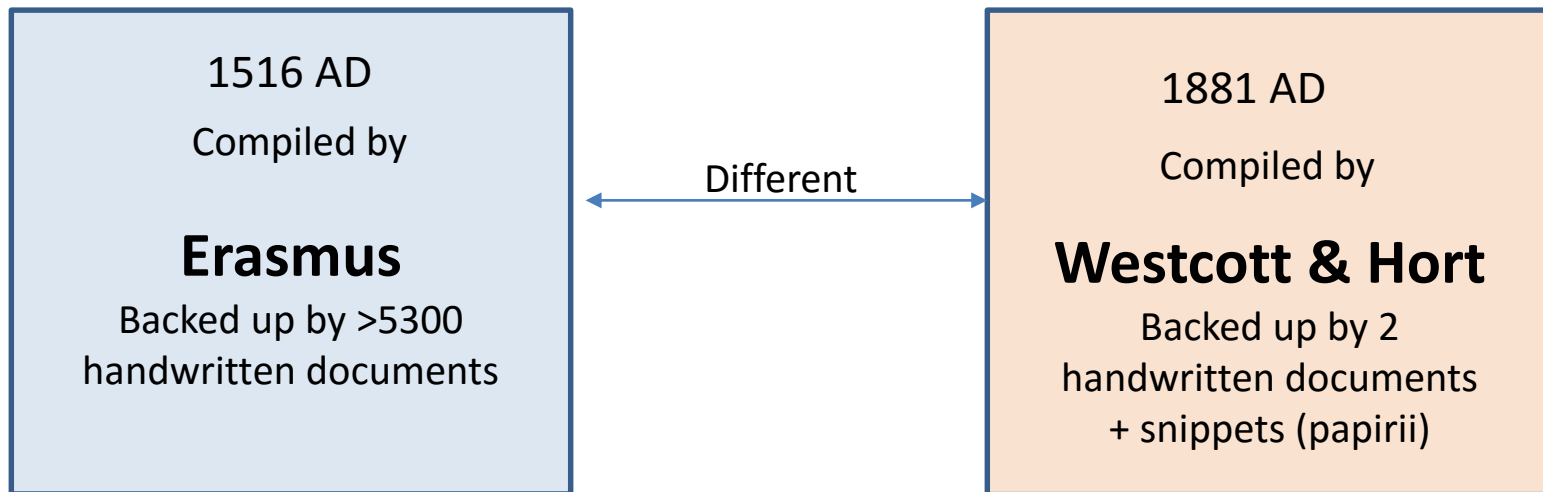
O.T Hebrew translated into:

Greek (~120 AD)
Called the Septuagint

Adopted by the early church
when reading the O.T.

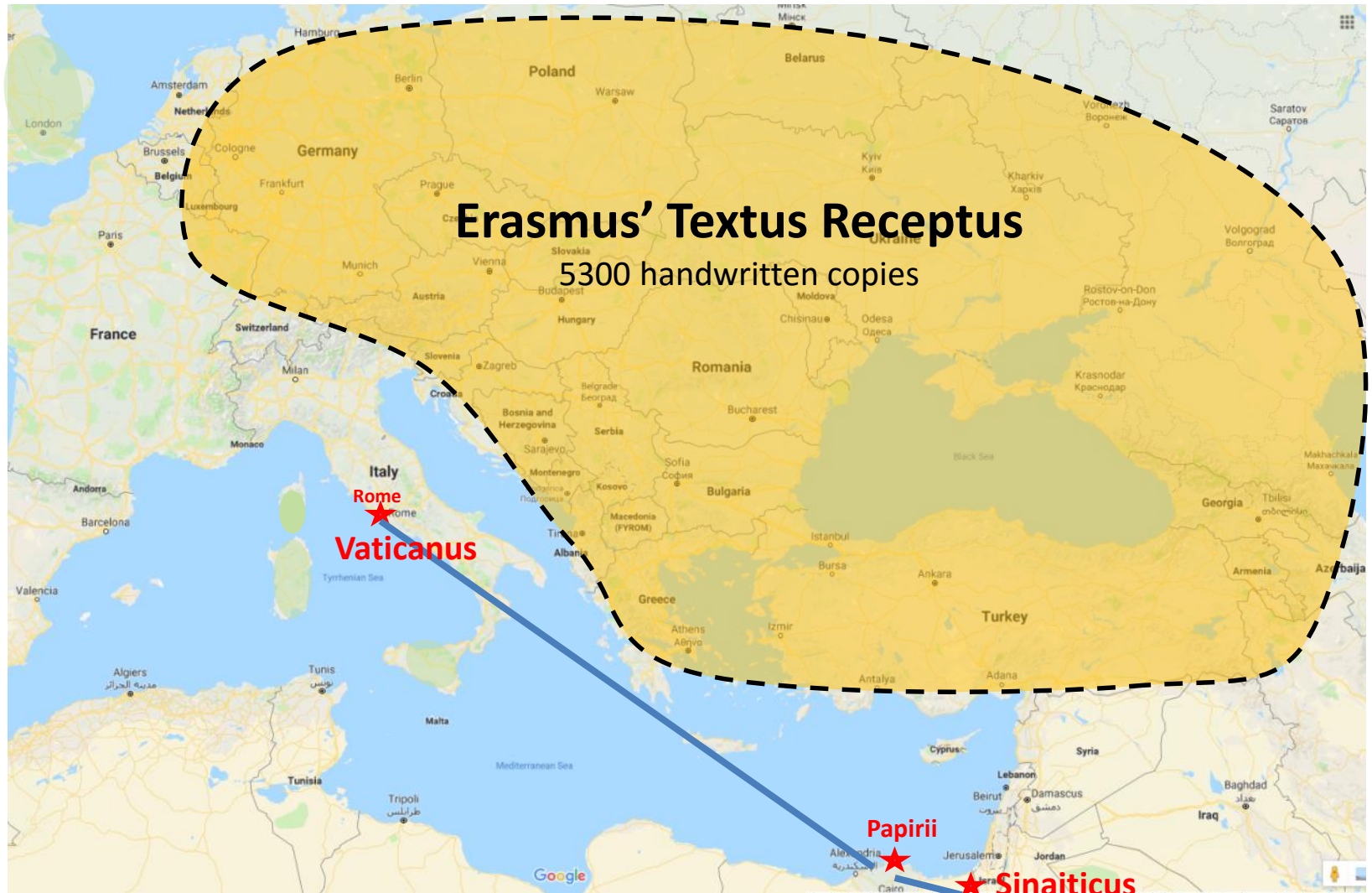
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Two different Greek versions of the New Testament today.

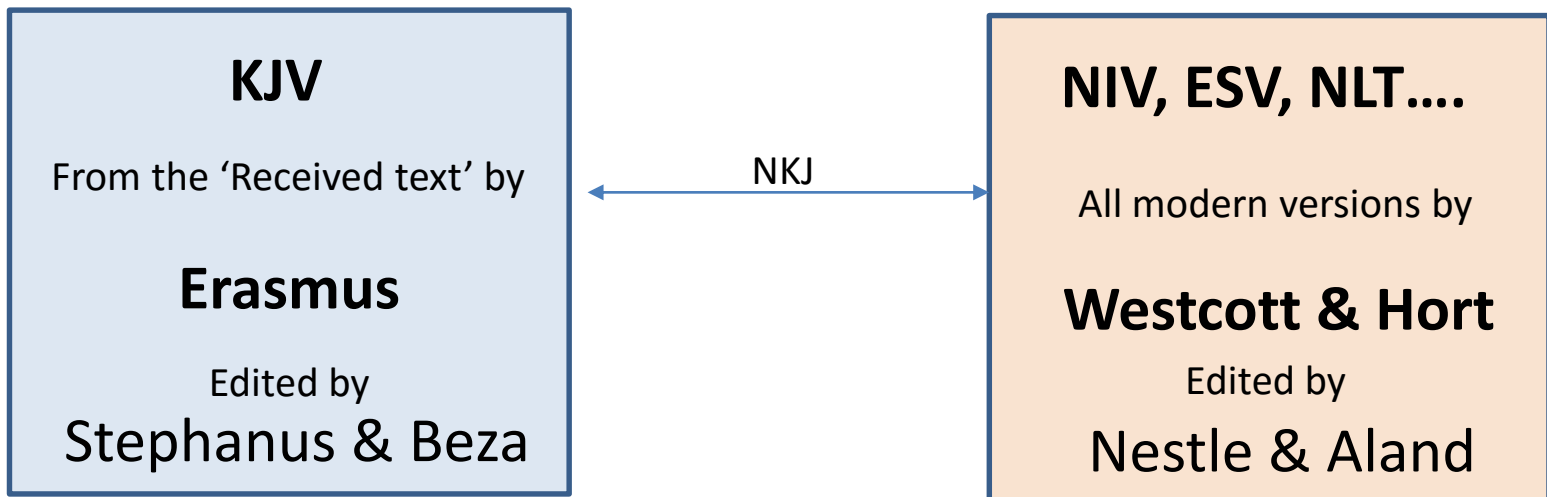


NT handwritten document distribution

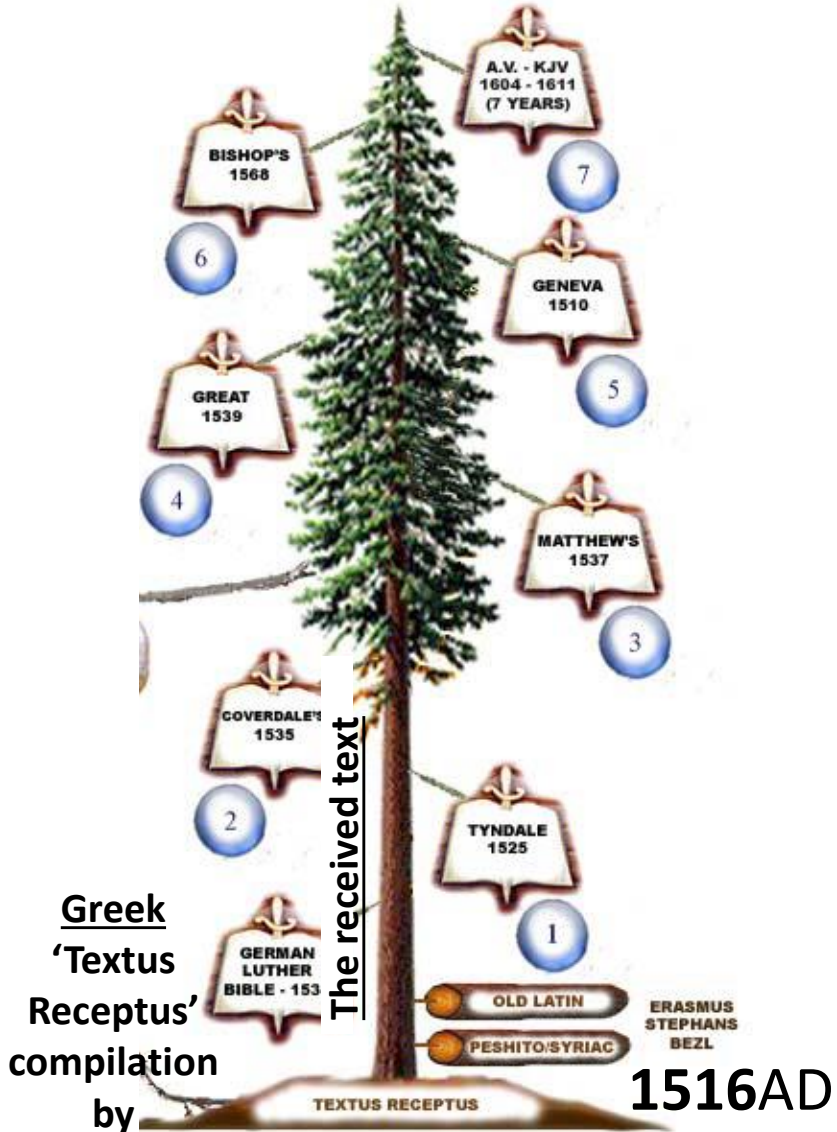
Greek was the world language of the Roman Empire and the New testament was written in Greek



English versions of the New Testament today.



KJV - 1611

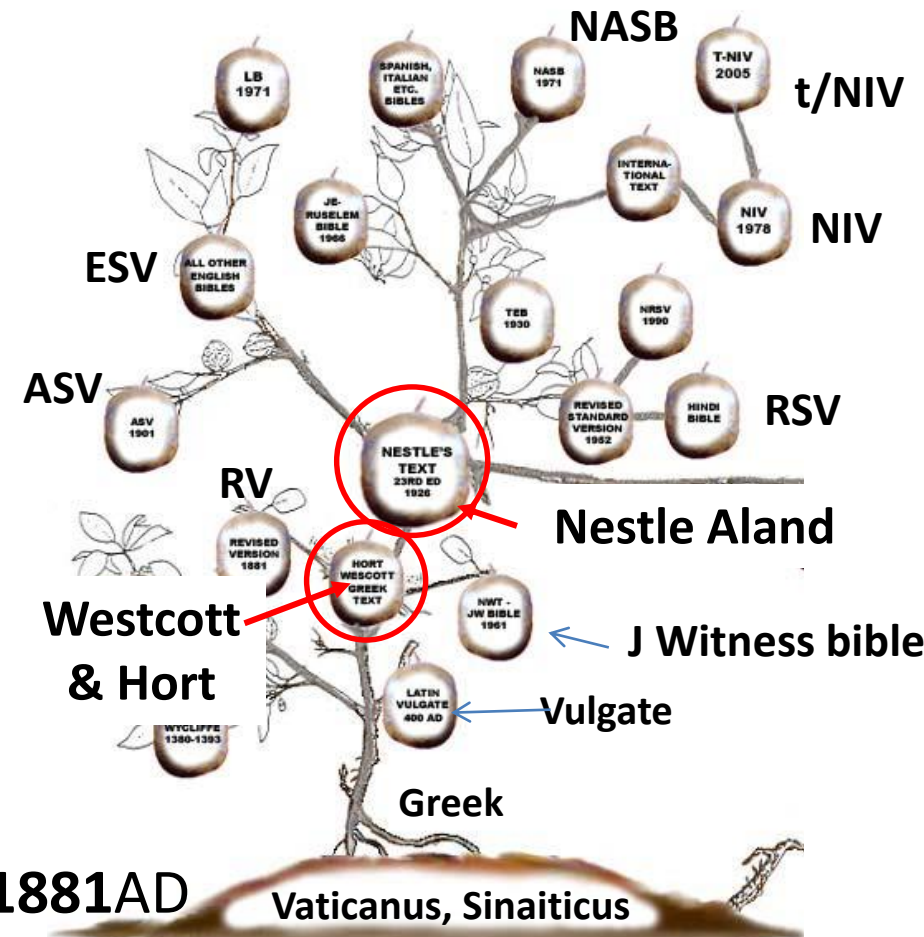


Greek 'Textus Receptus' compilation by Erasmus

The received text

1516AD

Erasmus >5300 handwritten copies



1881AD

Westcott & Hort from 2 copies

Vaticanus, Sinaiticus

Greek

Vulgate

Nestle Aland

Westcott & Hort

RV

ASV

ESV

RSV

NIV

t/NIV

NASB

Statistics for the two Greek versions.

Erasmus



Westcott & Hort

Compiled in 1516, >400 years ago

Compiled in 1881, < 130 years ago

Backed up by >5300 documents

Backed up by 2 documents

Base text widely used for >1900 years

Document found unused in monastery

High standard of documents

The most deletions/corrections of all.

95% agreement between documents

Little agreement between documents

Benefit/fruit: Basis for Luther's reformation
and the industrial revolution

No noticeable benefit to western Christianity
Used by JW's, sects

Translations:

KJV Translated into English by 54 top scholars

Translations:

By various groups –able but no distinctiveness

KJV Literary masterpiece, precise wording

No literary distinctiveness

KJV - \$0- commercial value

NIV owned by Murdoch, > commercial value