

# 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  
Also 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

# Why is it important to trace the spread of the gospel?

Matt 24:35” Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Have there been attempts to change Jesus’ words since the apostles & disciples wrote them down?

## New versions and Salvation

The Gospel is the good news of Jesus’ life-saving work on the cross for our benefit. Jesus has done all the work required to save us, we receive eternal life by faith as one would receive a gift. Believe that Jesus has done this for you and you are saved. He has made salvation easy.

What do these ESV verses attempt to do?

The ESV (also NIV, etc) make it appear that salvation is perhaps not a free gift, that we have to obey, endure hardship and difficulty, go through a process of being saved **before** we are children of God.

Is that the gospel?

	KJV	ESV
John 3:36	36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: <b>and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life</b> ; but the wrath of God abideth on him.	36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; <b>whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life</b> , but the wrath of God remains on him.

	KJV	ESV
Matt 7:14	14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.	14 For the gate is narrow and the way <b>is hard that leads to life</b> , and those who find it are few.

	KJV	ESV
Mark 10:24	24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, <b>how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!</b>	24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “ <b>Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!</b> ”

	KJV	ESV	NIV
1 Cor 1:18	18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which <b>are saved</b> it is the power of God.	For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are <b>being saved</b> it is the power of God.	For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who <b>are being saved</b> it is the power of God.

# The NT was written and preserved in Greek.

Green highlighted books were all written in Greek.; Mark & Jude's audience is unknown. Matthew, James and Hebrews were probably written in Hebrew.

Why is this important? Because our English bibles are translated from the Greek and its important to be confident that God preserved His word through the ages.

Matthew	
Mark	
Luke	1 Timothy
John	2 Timothy
Acts	Titus
Romans	Philemon
1 Corinthians	Hebrews
2 Corinthians	James
Galatians	1 Peter
Ephesians	2 Peter
Philippians	1 John
Colossians	2 John
1 Thessalonians	3 John
2 Thessalonians	Jude
	Revelation

# What happened to the first Gospels and Epistles

They were immediately copied.

Scribes were employed in every city, town and establishment to record events.

Many new Christians would have been scribes and volunteered/were paid to copy the letters.

For Example the Book of Revelation:

The Apostle John would have made seven copies of the original to send to the seven churches.

Once received each church would copy the letter to give to members who were literate. The 7 churches were relatively close together, so they acted as a node for copied letters to spread.

Lets say that ~50 years later 2000 copies are in circulation. What would happen if someone in Rome, 2000 km away, suspects that his copy has been intentionally corrupted. What would you do?

Of course, you'd send your copy to one of the seven churches to compare with theirs. There would be hundreds of pure copies in their vicinity and any corruption will stand out like a sore thumb.

# Can we be sure our bibles are like the first Gospels and Epistles?

Yes.

Firstly, God Almighty has more than sufficient power to maintain His word.

Can we then use any copy because God protects His Word?

No

It is naïve to think that all Bible versions are trustworthy.  
Being gullible and accepting anything coming our way is no excuse.

Jesus and the Apostles (in epistles) warn repeatedly about false teachers and corruption.

The Holy Spirit provides us with wisdom and discernment. **We are to use it.**

Most of the early persecution came from the Jews while doctrinal corruptions came from the Greeks. The Gnostics were continuously attempting to separate the spiritual from the physical.

They did attempt to corrupt the gospel by changing the bible.

# What happens to the Gospels and Epistles in the first 300 years up to 313 AD?

How far could the Gospels and Epistles have spread in 300 years?

Over the entire Roman Empire and beyond.

Note the persecution of Christians meant they often had to flee to escape trouble, assisting the spread of the gospel. This pattern was evident during the reformation (e.g. Huguenots, Moravians) and is even in recent times.

Would the originals still be around?

Originals that are used and copied fall apart from wear and tear.

'Originals' found in good condition were probably never copied or used because they were never really in used, or discarded and rejected as bad/corrupted text.

The Erasmus Greek text is backed up by 5000+ handwritten manuscripts, but there is a corrupted competitor...

# What happens to the Gospels and Epistles after 323 AD?

## Rome

The Vulgate Latin text

Emperor Constantine adopts Christianity

Latin becomes the preferred text

Greek text falls into disuse.

Rome in chaos after its fall in 453 AD

Rome sets up 'professional clergy', & army

They start controlling the services.

They introduce pomp and ceremony.

Possession of Bible by laymen outlawed.

Pope deemed infallible 'Vicar of Christ'

'Vaticanus' Greek text and the Vulgate Latin text become corrupted to suit Catholic doctrine e.g. to allow idols.

## Byzantium

The Byzantine Greek text

Byzantine Christianity grows naturally.

Greek texts maintained in original format

Maintain biblical baptism by immersion.

Byzantine stable for ~1000 years.

Professional clergy, but bible based

Mission work to Khazars, Moravians, Rus

Add pomp and ceremony.

Bible distributed and widely translated.

Resists the Pope's ambitions

Result: Many copies of the Byzantine Greek text in use and preserved throughout central /eastern Europe

# What happens to the Gospels and Epistles after 1453 A.D?

## Rome's strategy

Rome fights the Textus Receptus, Initially maintains the Latin Vulgate. Supports Tischendorf's discovery of the Sinaiticus Text found in a monastery 'wastepaper basket'. 'Promotes Westcott & Hort's merger of their Vaticanus and 'new' Sinaiticus. -100's of modern translations are based on the Wescott-Hort 'Alexandrian' text.

Consider: The Sinaiticus text has the most deletions and corrections of all New Testament documents in existence. It was 'rescued' from a monastery in the 1800's.

## Byzantine Greek text

Erasmus' Textus Receptus is immediately accepted by reformation leaders. Erasmus Bible translated into all languages Bible becomes accessible to all people. Major European revival and renewal. Moral and societal upliftment progresses in western cultures, enlightened by the gospel. Textus Receptus dominant for 4 centuries. From 1900 Theologians abandon TR for the W-Hort based translations, edited by Nestle.

Consider: The 5000+ documents Byzantine text documents in existence have followed a natural course to their locations in libraries and museums in Europe.