

Can We Trust The Bible?

Psalm 119:89-96

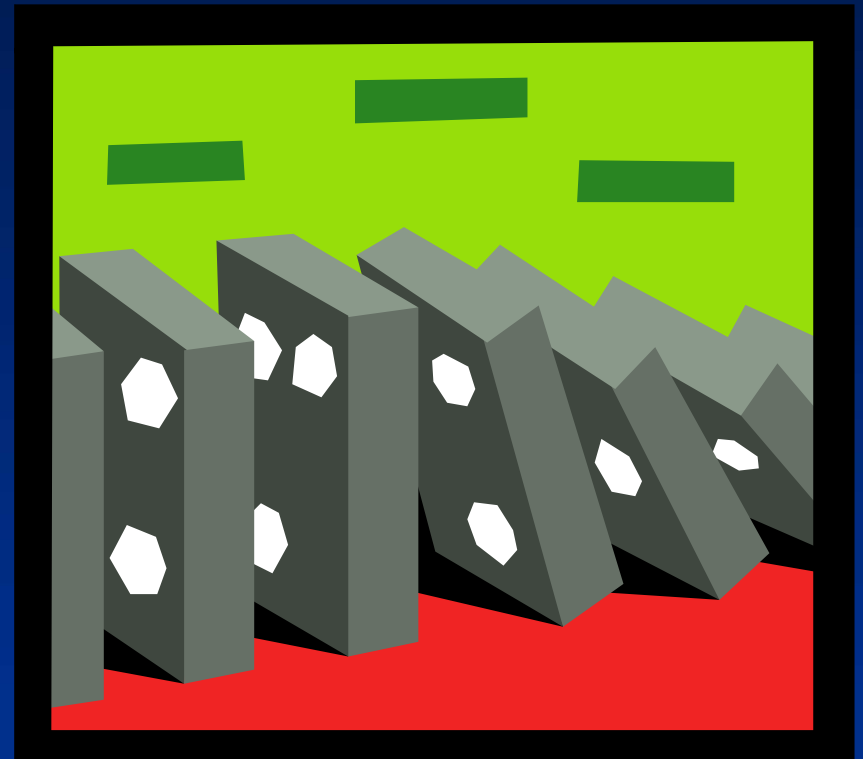


²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.*” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:22 - 25 (NKJV)

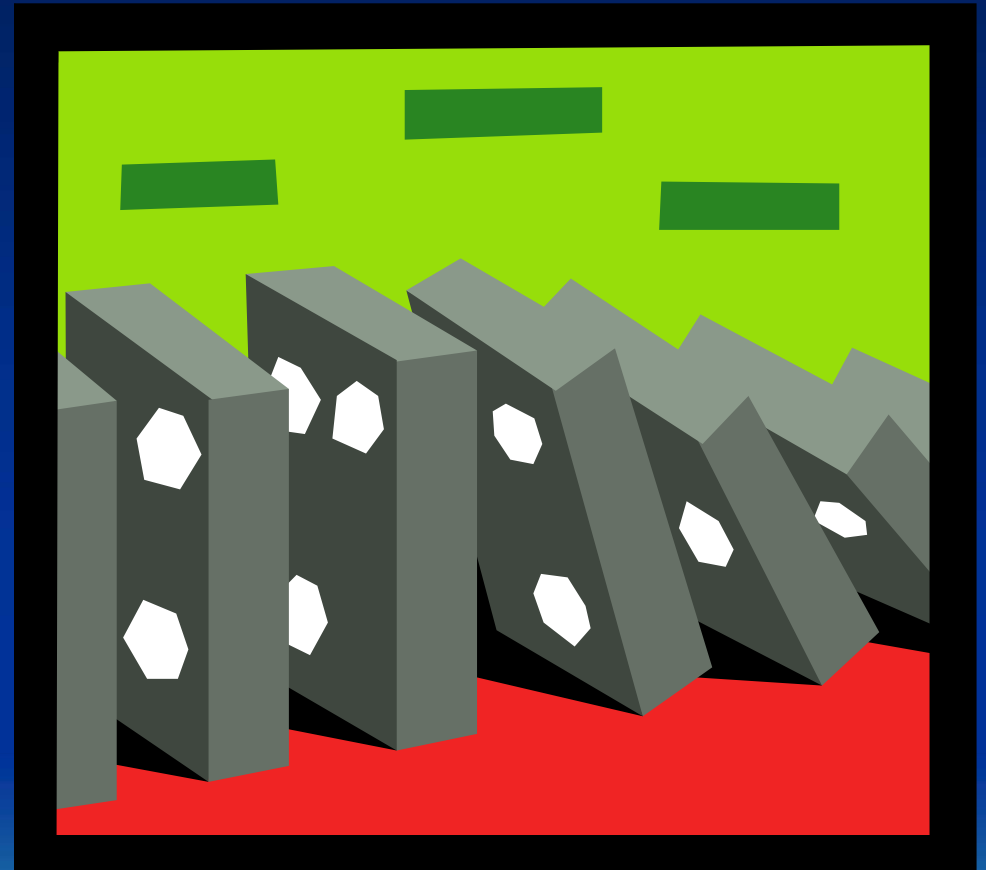
Skeptical Attacks

- The accounts of Jesus and the early church were carried on by word of mouth for several hundred years.
- Our New Testament was actually written by 4th century writers not the actual apostles or even early disciples.
- These writings are corrupted by centuries of copying, and bear no resemblance to the original message.
- The thousands of variant readings prove it is impossible to determine the original message.



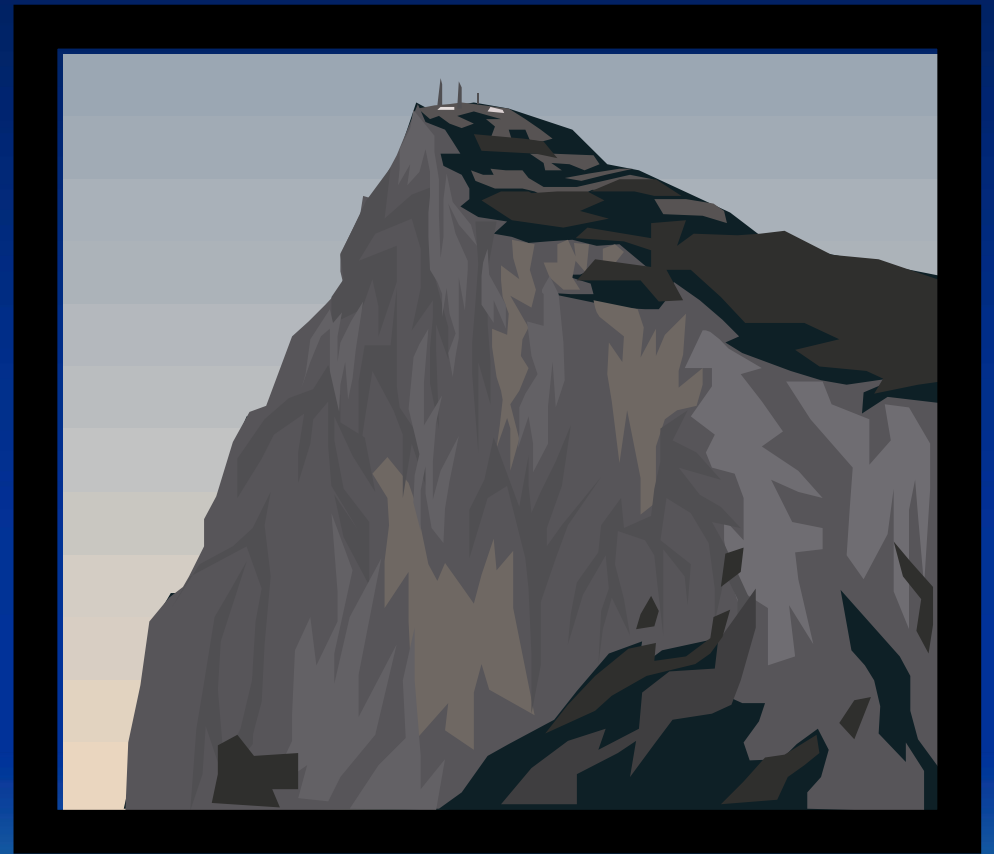
How We Got Our Bible

- Conception
- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Preservation
- Translation



How We Got Our Bible

- Conception
- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Preservation
- Translation



The Chain of Evidence



Copies

Quotations

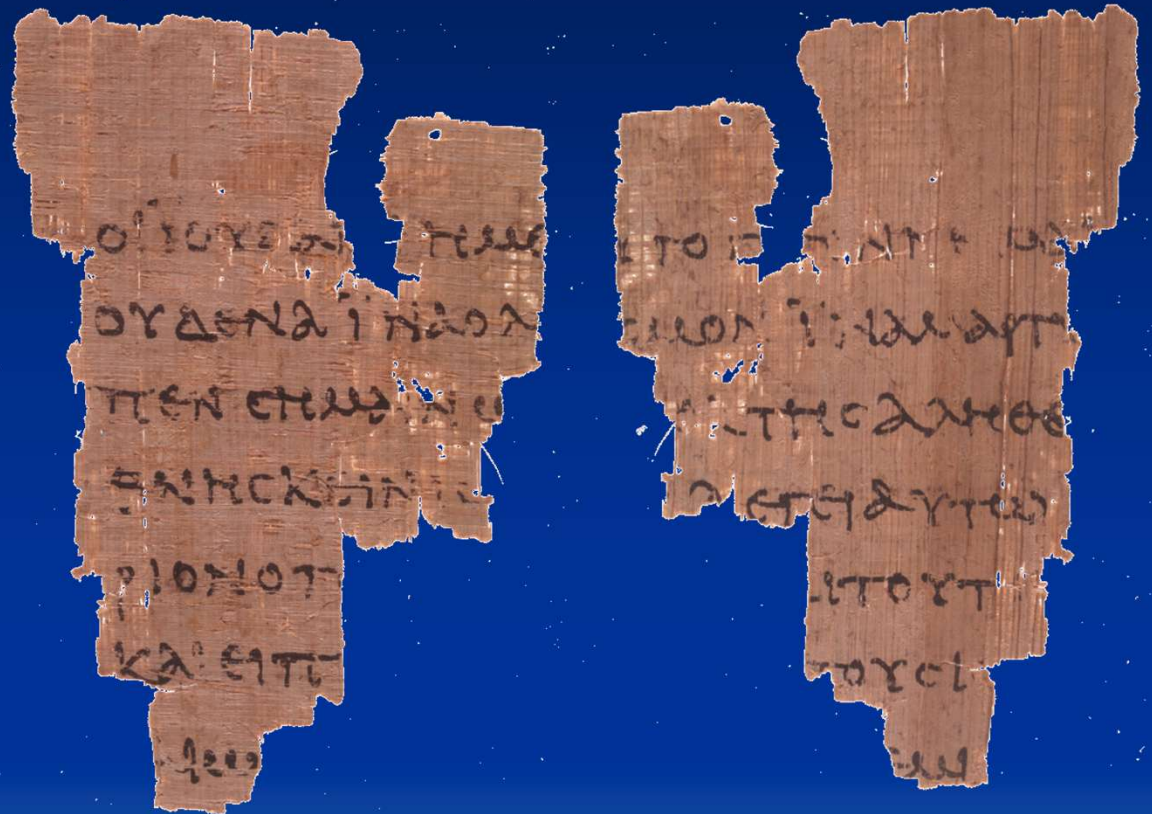
Translations

Lexicons

Commentaries

Concordances

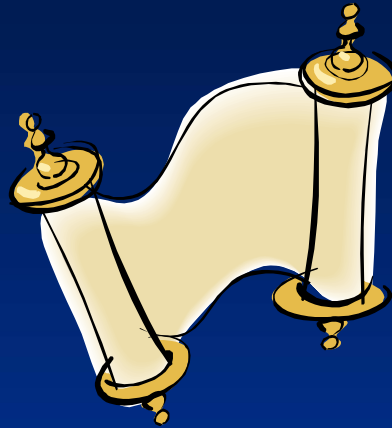
Songs



Process of Textual Criticism



Translations in ancient languages are also copied, and recopied by hand. Variations must also be examined by textual critics to determine the most probable original text.



The original manuscripts (called 'autographs') are copied and recopied by hand until the time of printing; copying errors and variations appear and must be studied.



The sermons, letters, and commentaries of early teachers and preachers contain quotations from the scriptures and are used to date and localize certain readings from the Old and New Testaments.

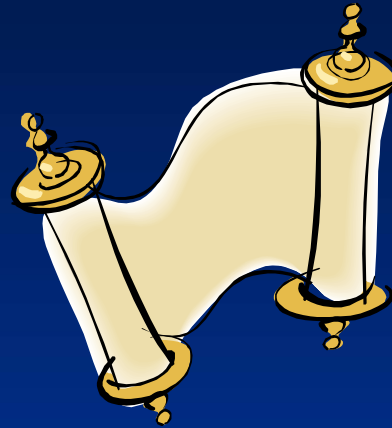


The ordinary digital papyrus photo (left) is difficult to read. The multispectral image (right) provides a higher definition view of ink and paper than can be seen by a human eye.

Courtesy Brigham Young University (Top) and Dirk Obbink/The Oxyrhynchus Papyri Project, Oxford (Bottom).



Process of Textual Criticism



The original manuscripts (called 'autographs') are copied and recopied by hand until the time of printing; copying errors and variations appear and must be studied.



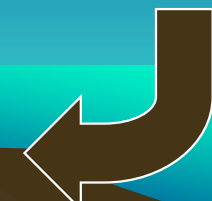
The sermons, letters, and commentaries of early teachers and preachers contain quotations from the scriptures and are used to date and localize certain readings from the Old and New Testaments.



Textual critics study and compare all these sources to determine the most probable original text. Four manuscript traditions have emerged.



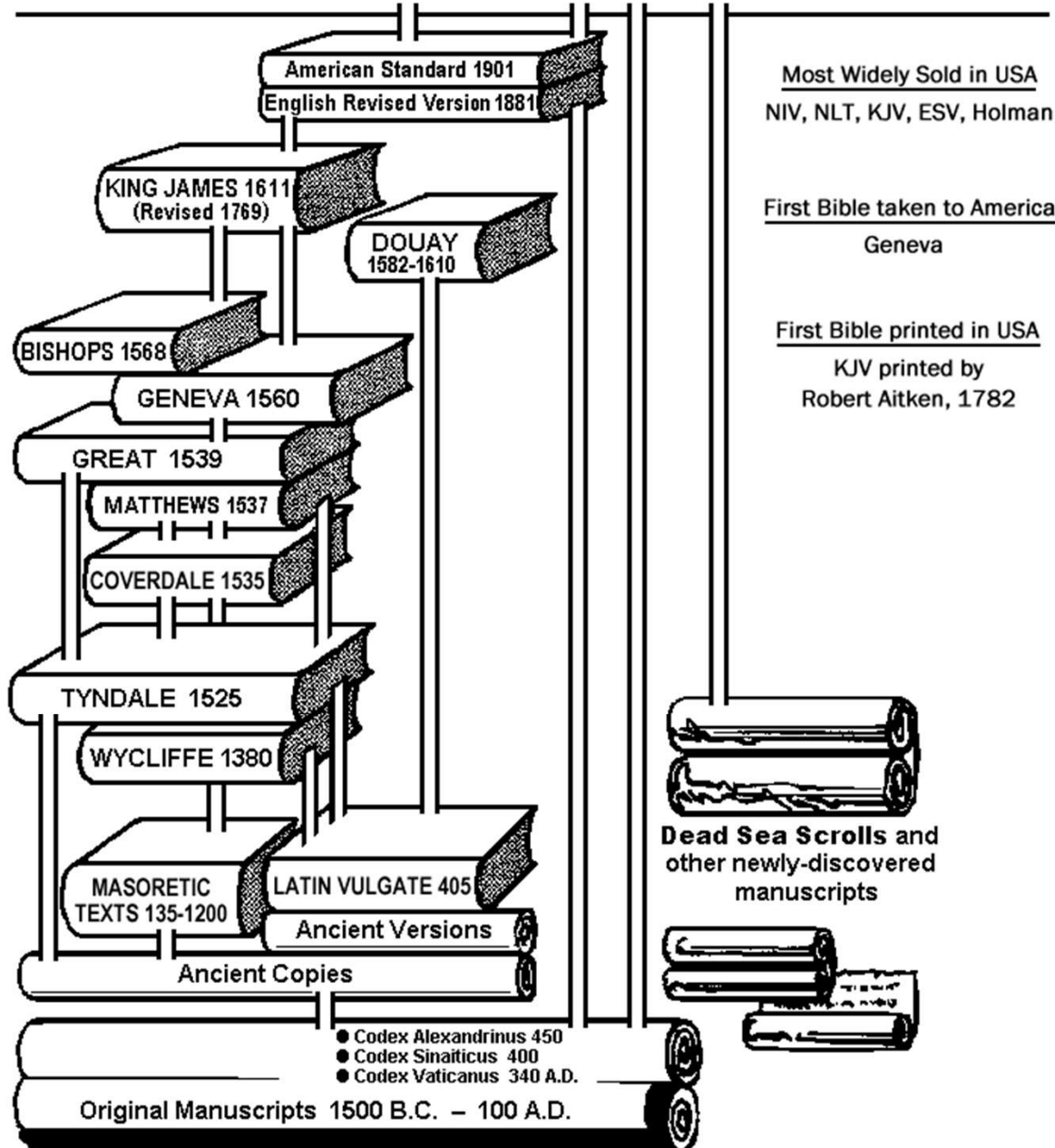
Translations in ancient languages are also copied, and recopied by hand. Variations must also be examined by textual critics to determine the most probable original text.



BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

MODERN ENGLISH →

ESV 2001	Message 2002	Holman 2004
REB 1992	CEV 1995	NLT 1996
NIV 1978-84	NKJV 1982	NRSV 1989-90
NASB 1971	Living 1971	GNB/TEV 1976
Jerusalem 1966	NEB 1970	NAB 1970
RSV 1952	Berkeley MLB '59	Amplified 1965

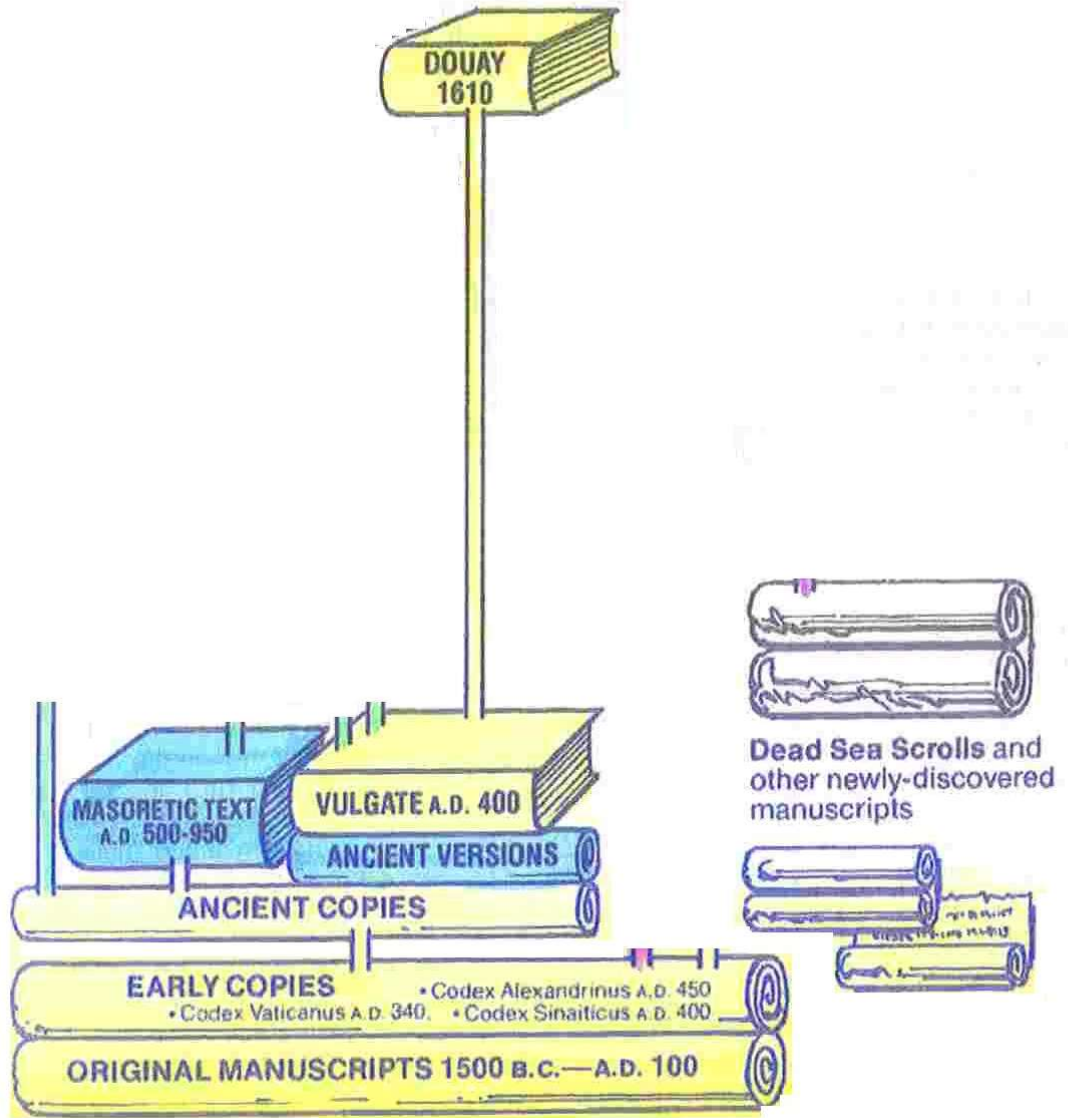


- Codex Alexandrinus 450
- Codex Sinaiticus 400
- Codex Vaticanus 340 A.D.

Four Manuscript Traditions

- **Latin**- A text type following a Latin translation made by Jerome in the 5th Century. Primarily used by the Roman Catholic church.



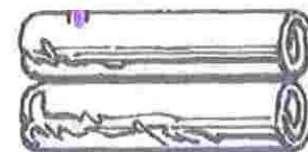
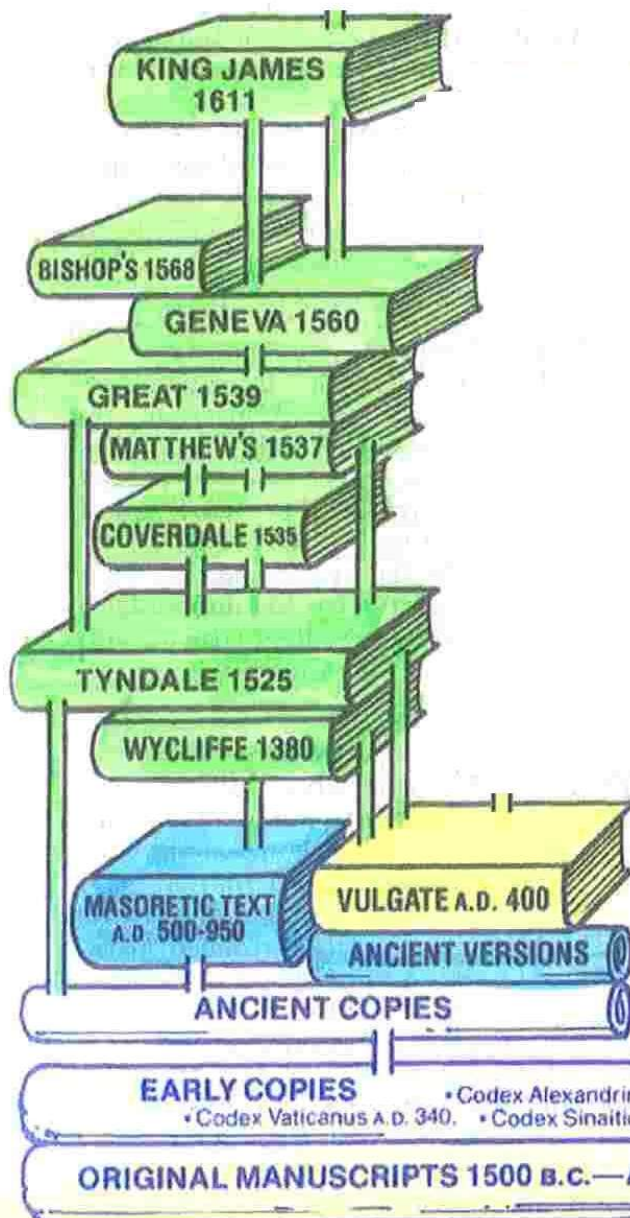
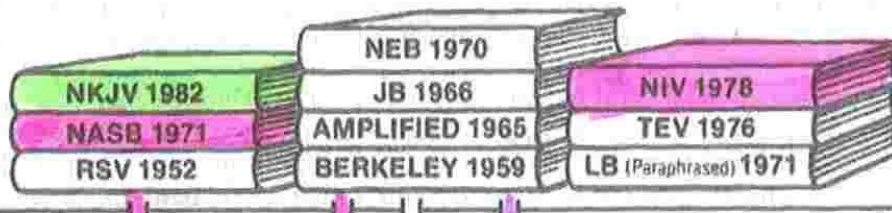


Four Manuscript Traditions

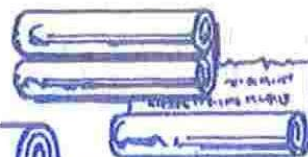
- **Latin**- A text type following a Latin translation made by Jerome in the 5th Century. Primarily used by the Roman Catholic church.
- **Byzantine**- A western text type (sometimes called 'Textus Receptus' or Received Text) relying on a large body of manuscripts. Followed chiefly by 'Protestants' until the 18th Century.



Modern
English
Translations



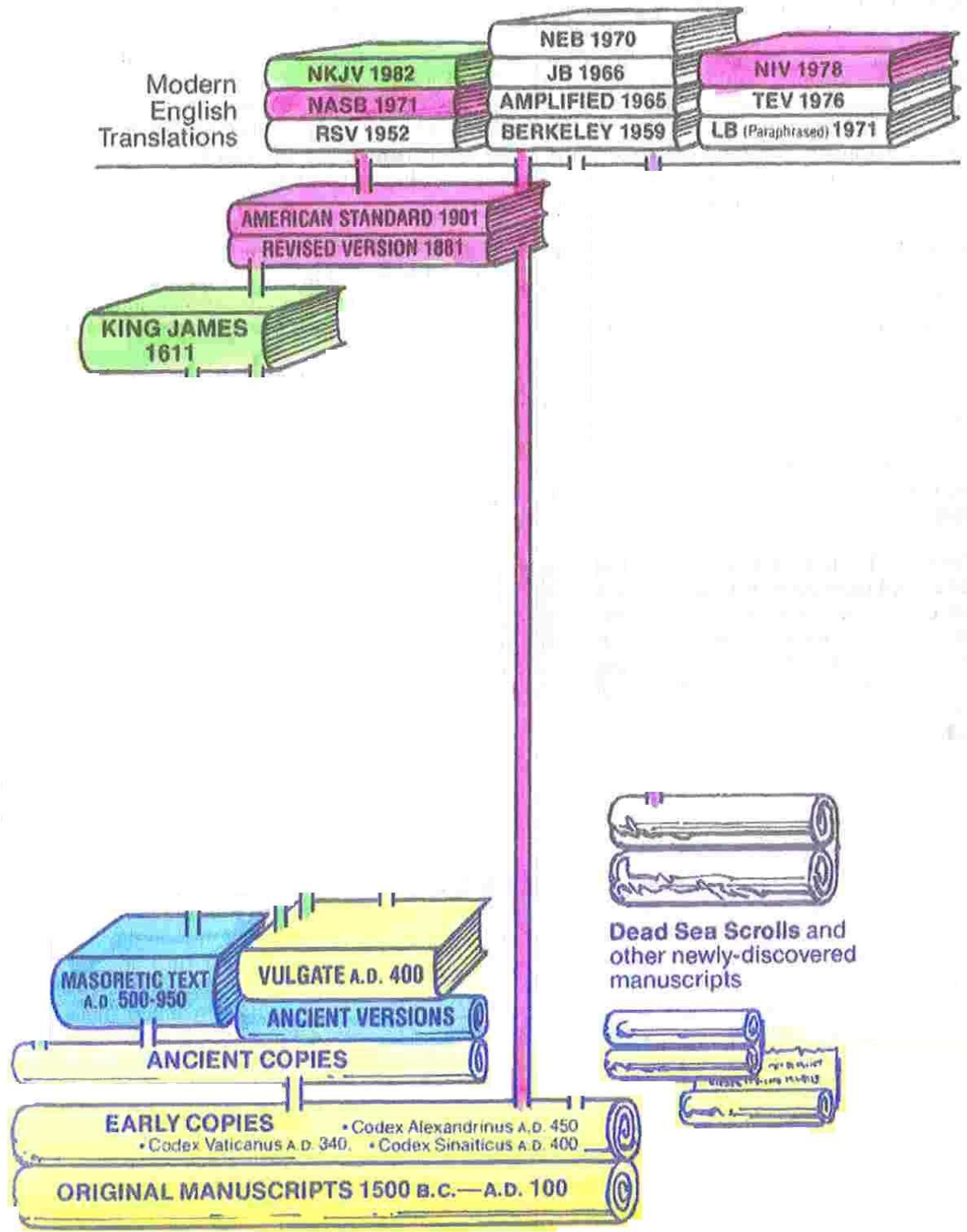
Dead Sea Scrolls and
other newly-discovered
manuscripts



Four Manuscript Traditions

- **Latin**- A text type following a Latin translation made by Jerome in the 5th Century. Primarily used by the Roman Catholic church.
- **Byzantine**- A western text type (sometimes called 'Textus Receptus' or Received Text) relying on a large body of manuscripts. Followed chiefly by 'Protestants' until the 18th Century.
- **Alexandrian**- A recent text type preferring several ancient Eastern copies of the New Testament dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries.



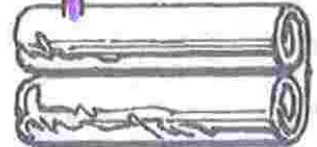
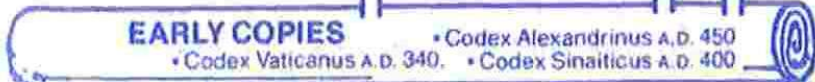
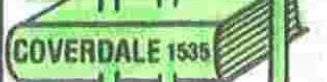
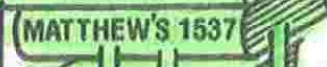
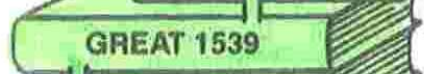
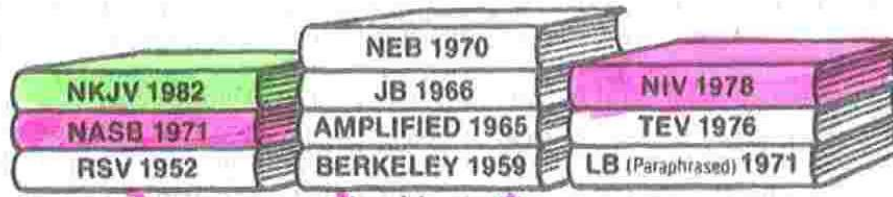


Four Manuscript Traditions

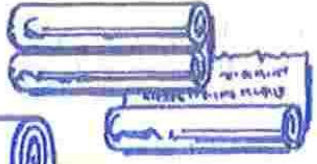
- **Latin**- A text type following a Latin translation made by Jerome in the 5th Century. Primarily used by the Roman Catholic church.
- **Byzantine**- A western text type (sometimes called 'Textus Receptus' or Received Text) relying on a large body of manuscripts. Followed chiefly by 'Protestants' until the 18th Century.
- **Alexandrian**- A recent text type preferring several ancient Eastern copies of the New Testament dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries.
- **Majority**- This is also a recent text tradition relying on the majority reading of all known manuscripts.



Modern
English
Translations



Dead Sea Scrolls and
other newly-discovered
manuscripts



Four Manuscript Traditions

- **Byzantine**- A western text type (sometimes called 'Textus Receptus' or Received Text) relying on a large body of manuscripts. Followed chiefly by 'Protestants' until the 18th Century.
- **Latin**- A text type following a Latin translation made by Jerome in the 5th Century. Primarily used by the Roman Catholic church.
- **Alexandrian**- A recent text type preferring several ancient Eastern copies of the New Testament dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries.
- **Majority**- This is also a recent text tradition relying on the majority reading of all know manuscripts.
- None of these manuscript traditions vary by more than 3%; of this only 1% is considered *significant*, and none is considered to be of any doctrinal significance.
- The text of the Bible is considered 99.75% certain!

How We Got Our Bible

- Conception
- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Preservation
- Translation

