Why I believe: The Rationality of Christian Belief

Session IV: The Textual Reliability of the Bible



1. Autographs

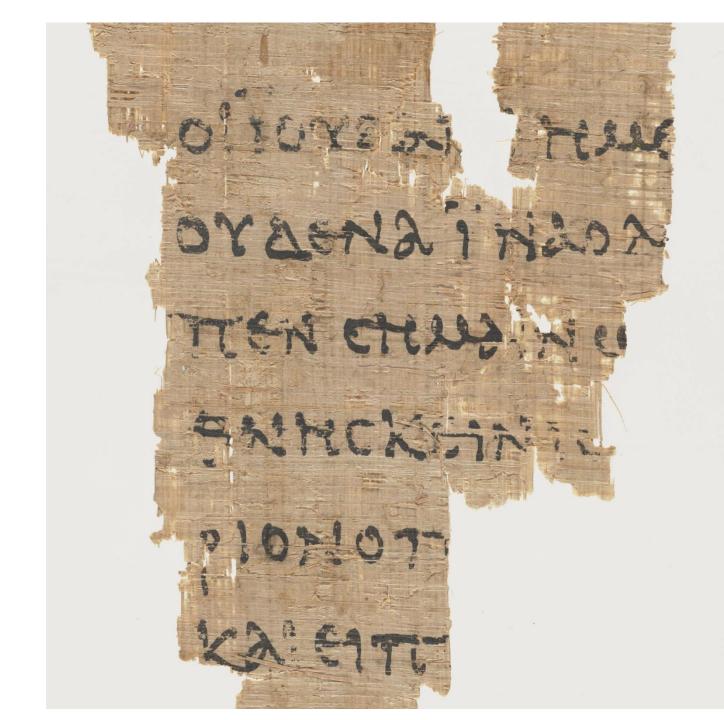
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- 1. Autographs
- 2. Copies



Copies

- Number of Greek Manuscripts: 5,800 copies
- Number of manuscripts in other languages (Coptic, Syriac, Latin, etc.): 15,000-20,000
- Total New Testament Manuscript Evidence: nearly 26,000 manuscripts
- Over 1 million New Testament quotes are found in the Church Fathers
- 838 manuscripts are dated to before 1000 AD and 124 are dated to within the first 300 years of the church

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- 3. Collections into Groups

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Codex/Codices

- Significant OT Manuscripts
 - Aleppo Codex
 - Leningrad Codex
 - Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Septuagint
- Significant NT Manuscripts
 - Vatican Codex
 - Sinaitic Codex
 - Alexandrian Codex





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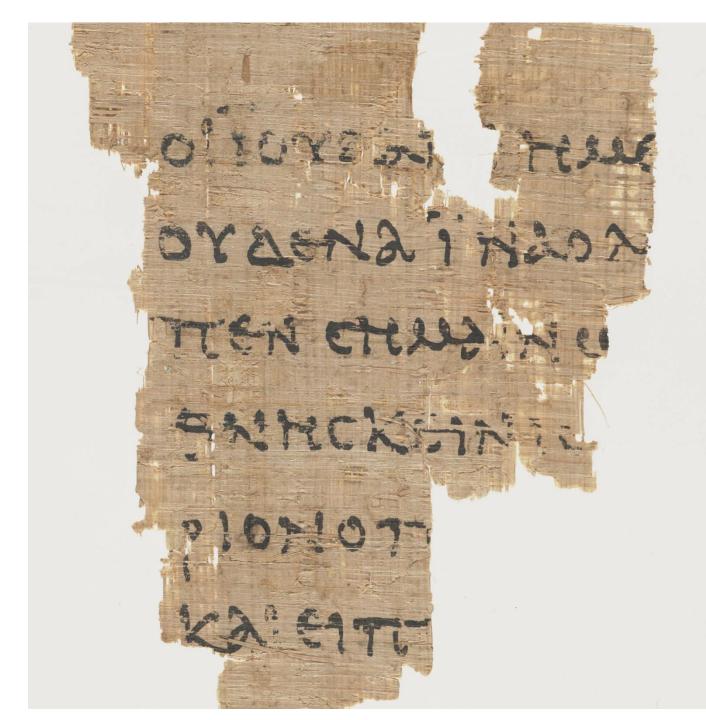
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- 4. Codex/Codices
- 5. Critical Editions of OT/NT
- 6. Translation Process

"FUNDY WHICH OIKIWNKAIENTH. 11XXTIXIC€0YMI~ KAITAKIKAIATOY HOMOYXEYPOH KATACXICANTE ENEITYPICANEN TITPIKATOTTOYEY PICKETOTIAPATINI RIKAIONALAOHKHO KAIEITICCYNEY LOKEITWNOMW TOCYNKPIMATOY RACINECUCEDANX LOLHYA, LONENI CXXIXYTCDHELLOI OYNTOICATOICET PICKOMENOICEN HANTIMHNIKN *LECINKAITTEMITPI* KAIEIKANITOYMH NOCOYCLAZONTE ETHTONKOMON CIACTHPIOYKAI TACTYNAIKACTA MEPLIETMHKYIA. TXTEKNAATTON EBANATOCANKA TATOTTPOCTATMA KAIEKPEMACAN TARPEDHEKTON UTYANIDAHXATI KAITOYÇOIKOYC ATTUNKAITOTC HETTETMHKOTA AY TOYCKAIITON SOME

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- 5. Critical Editions of OT/NT
- 6. Translation Process
- 7. English Translation



נַיָּאמֶר משָה אֶל-קֹרַח אַתָּה וְכָּל-וור אָחֶר מִהֶּם נָשָׁאוֹנִי וְלְּיִי בְּיִּ יבונע אַענע וִנִים וֹאַנִינוֹ מִנוֹני וּלְּנְינוּ וּ הַתֶּם עַלֵּיהֶם קְטֹרֶת וְהִקְרַבְתָּם לִפְנֵי תָתוֹ חַמִשֵּׁים וּמָאתַיִם מַחְתָּת וְאַתָּה וֹתָתְוֹ: וַיִּקְחוֹר אִישׁ מַחְתָּתׁוֹ וַיִּתְנְנִ עֲלֵיהֶם ליהם קטֶרֶת וַיִּעַמְרוּ פֶּתַח אִהֶּל מוֹעֵר נַיַּלְהֵׁל עֲלֵיהֶם לְרַח אֶת-כָּל-הָעֵלָה ול מועד וַיִּרָא כְבְוּד-יהוָה אֶל-בָּל-וּ מִתְּוֹךְ הָעֲדָה הַזְּאַת וַאֲכַלֵּה אֹתָם כְּרָגַע: הֶם נַיָּאמְרוּ אֶׁל אֶלהֵי הָרוּחָת לְּכָל-בָּשֵׂר ָּחֶטָא וְעַל כָּל-הָעָדָה תִּקְצְף: אָדה לֵאמְר: דַבֵּר אֶל-הַעָדָה לֵאמְר הַעָּלוּ אַבּוֹ-צֹרֵט בָּתָוֹ וֹאֲבִינִם: וֹיֵּלֶם מֹשֶׁׁה וֹיֵּלֶר בּירֶם וַיִּלְכָּוּ אַחֲרָיוּ זִקְנֵי יִשְׁרָאַלּ: וַיִּדְבָּר אָל-ר קורו נָא מֵעַל אָהָלֵי הָאָנָשִים הָרְשָׁעִים מִעּלְּיִי

בַתְרַע מַשְׁבַּן וִמְנָי

יט ואַכְנשׁ עַלִיהון ק

לתרע משבן זמני לכל כנשתא: כונ

אַהַרן לְמִימָר: כּ׳

הָרָא וְאִשְׁצֵי יָחָ

אפיהון נאמרו בִשְׂרָא גַּבְרָא יְהֵי רָגְנָא: כג

כד מַלֵּל עם

מִסְחוֹר סְ

וַאֲבִירָם: וַאֲבִירָם

כוומליל

נַיְדַבֵּר יהוֹה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וָאֶל-אַהַרָן

י-תגעו בְּכָל-אָשֶר לָהֶם פֶּן-תִּסְפִוּ בְּכָל- חוֹביי יים בְּלָ- אָשֶר בְּכָל-אָשֶר בְּכָל-אָשֶר בְּבָל-יזילו מעול מעורו-מרח דתו ואבירם מסביב דקר

The Discipline of Textual Criticism

- Textual Criticism
- Textual Variants
- Types of Variants

Rules of Textual Criticism

- The shorter reading is preferred over a longer reading
- The more difficult reading is preferred over the easier reading
- The earlier manuscript date is preferred over a later date (generally)
- The reading that fits best with the context, vocabulary, and writing style of the book
- The tradition or family the manuscript comes from. Does it come from a reliable line of texts or unreliable?

Romans 8.1 (KJV vs NIV)

 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" – KJV

 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" - NIV

I John 5.7 (KJV vs NIV)

 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one" – KJV

• "For there are three that testify; the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are in agreement" - NIV

Textual Commentary on the NT

"in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. And these three are one"

"That these words are spurious and have no right to stand in the New Testament is certain"

- 1. The passage is absent from every known Greek manuscript except 8
- 2. Of the 8, 4 of them contain the passage as a variant reading written in the margin
- 3. None of the early church fathers quote it. Nor is it mentioned in the Trinitarian controversaries of 4th and 5th centuries
- 4. Its first appearance in a Greek manuscript is 1215 CE
- If original there is no good reason why it would have been omitted and overlooked by so many translators and scribes

We can have confidence that our English Bibles reflect the true and original words of the inspired biblical authors

- The strict and rigorous
 Jewish process of
 copying their scriptures
- The vast amount of NT manuscript witness (26,000 copies)