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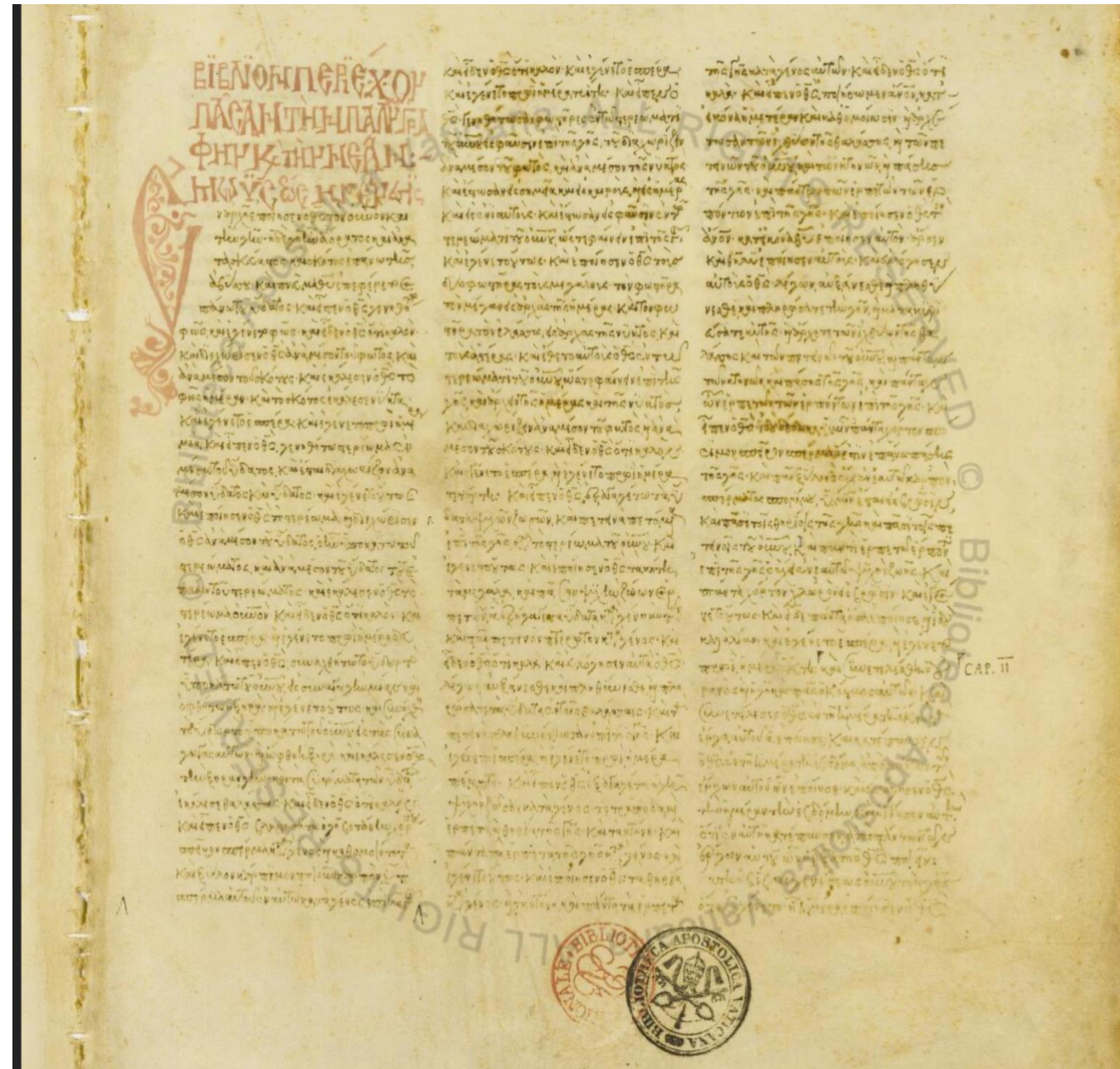
# Why I believe: The Rationality of Christian Belief

Session IV: The Textual Reliability of the Bible



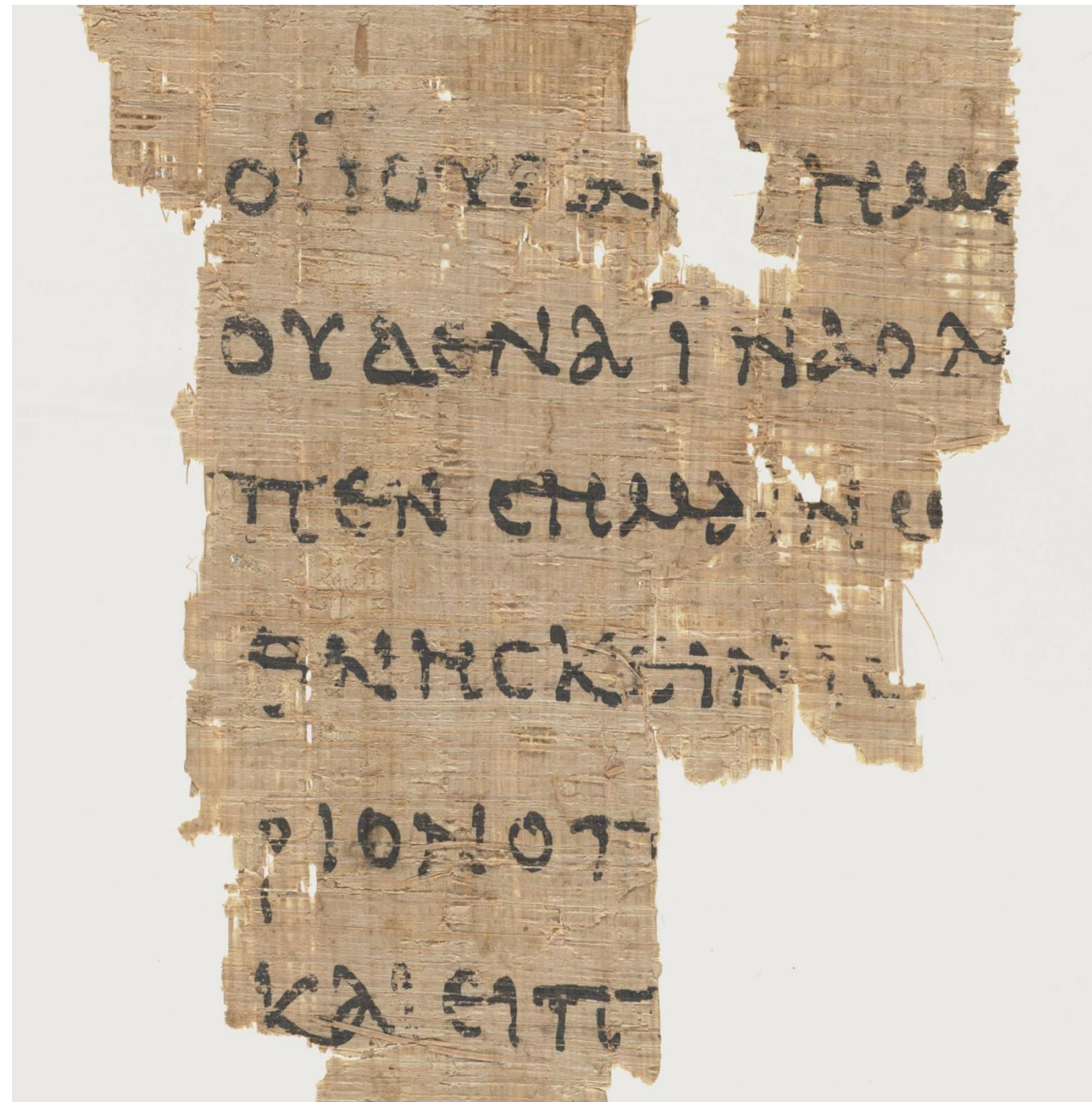
# From Autographs to English Translations

## 1. Autographs



# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies

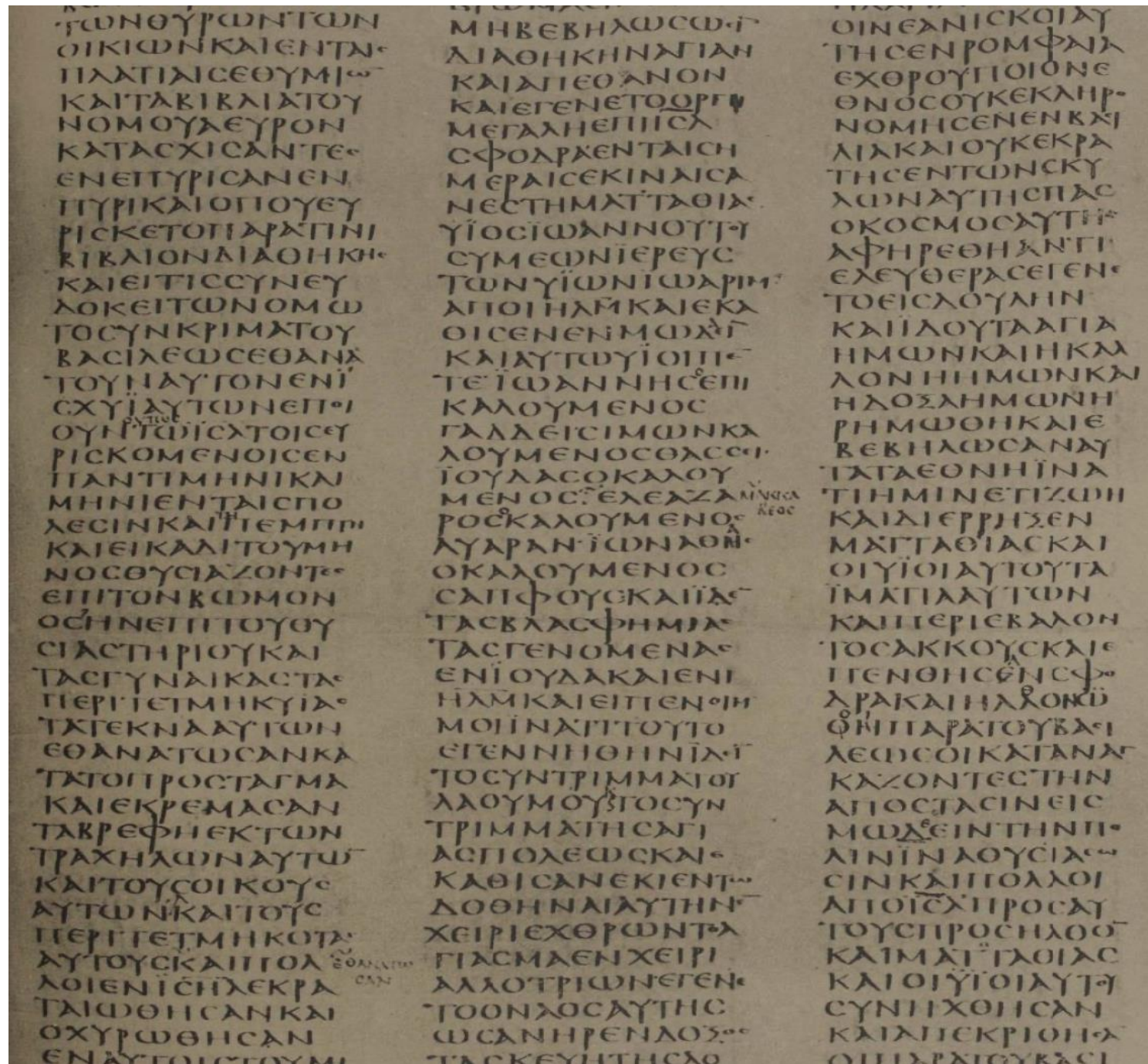


# Copies

- 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

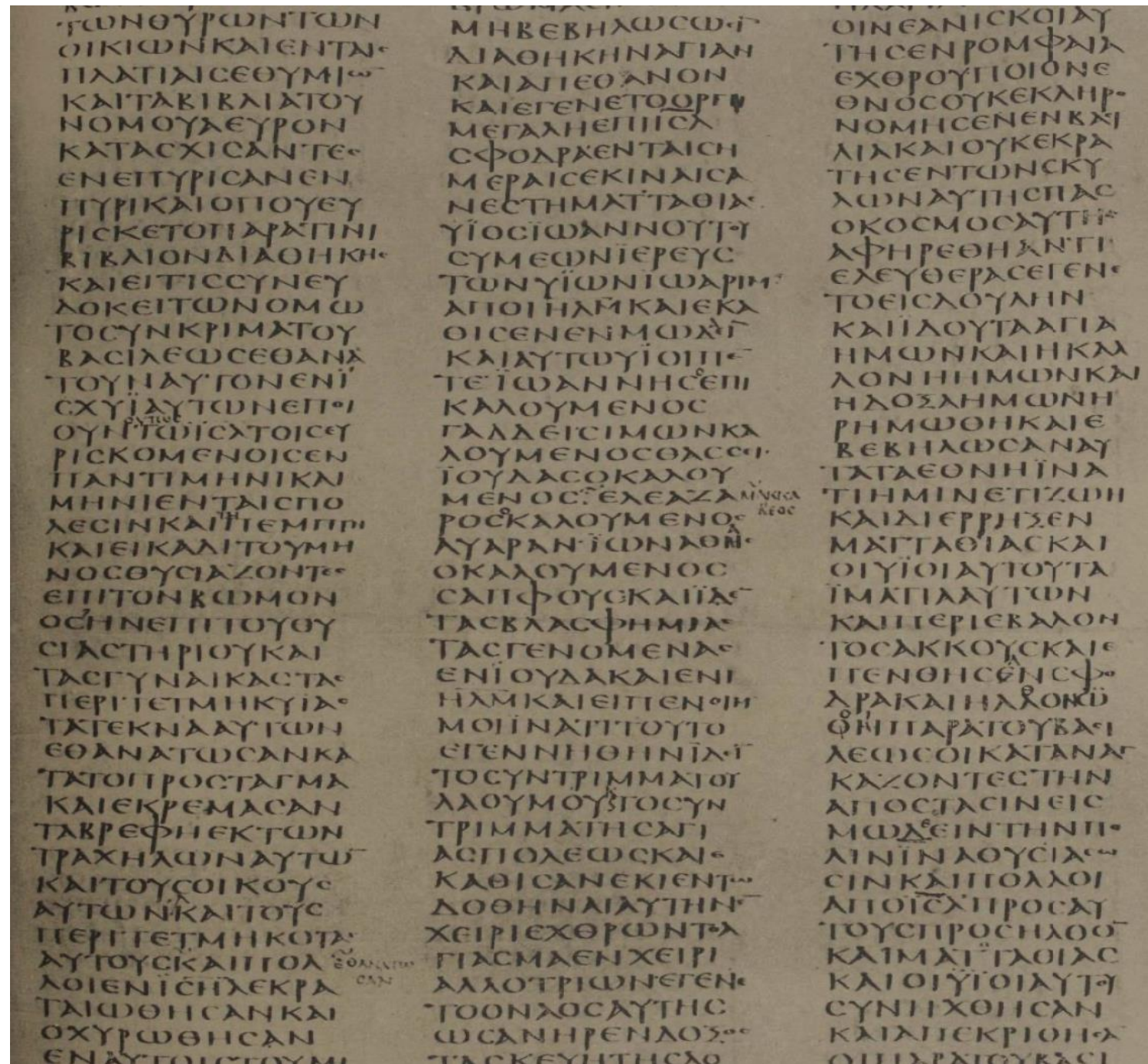
# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies
3. Collections into Groups



# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies
3. Collections into Groups
4. Codex/Codices



# Codex/Codices

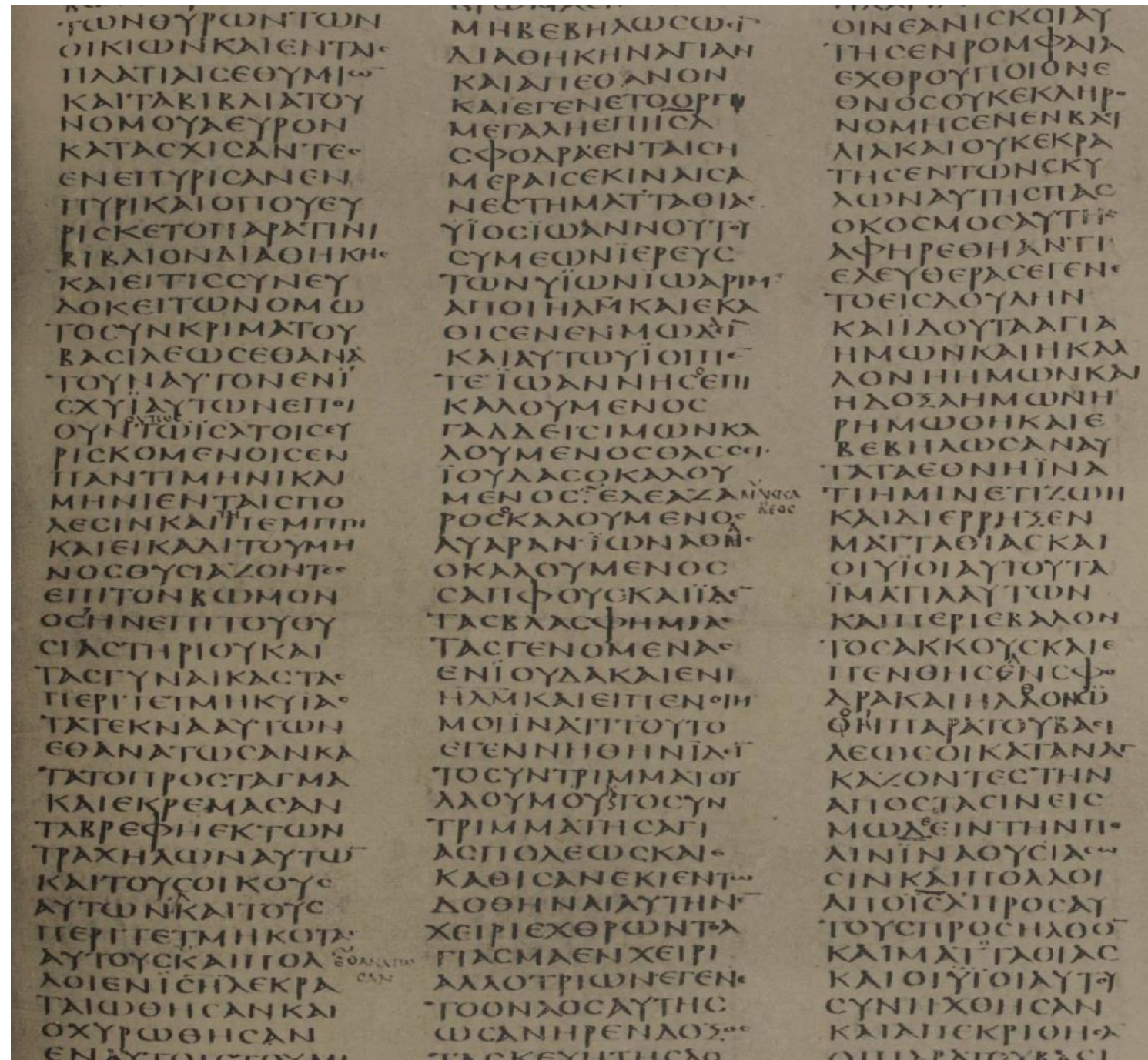
- Significant OT Manuscripts
  - Aleppo Codex
  - Leningrad Codex
  - Dead Sea Scrolls
  - Septuagint
- Significant NT Manuscripts
  - Vatican Codex
  - Sinaitic Codex
  - Alexandrian Codex





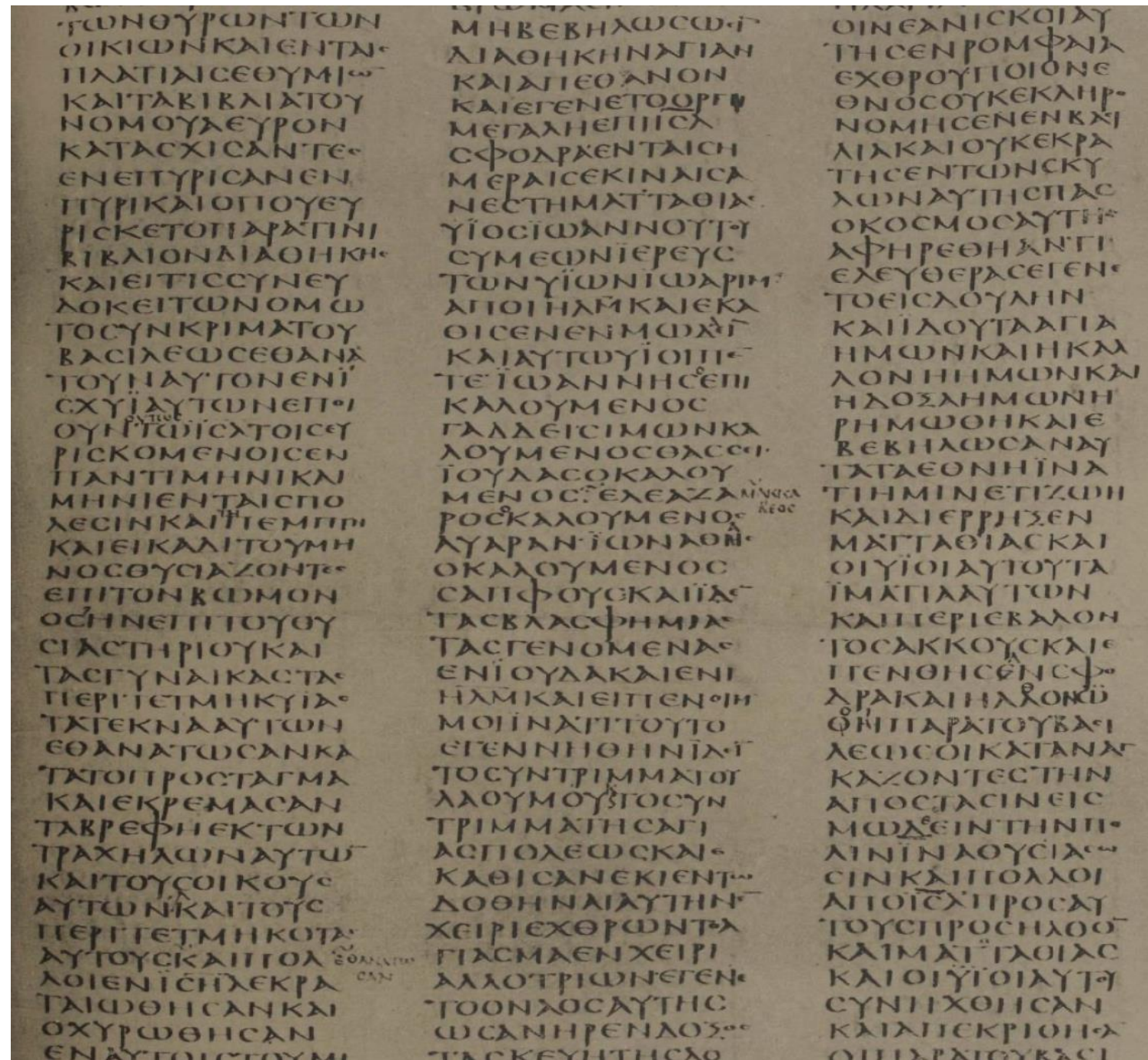
# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies
3. Collections into Groups
4. Codex/Codices
5. Critical Editions of OT/NT



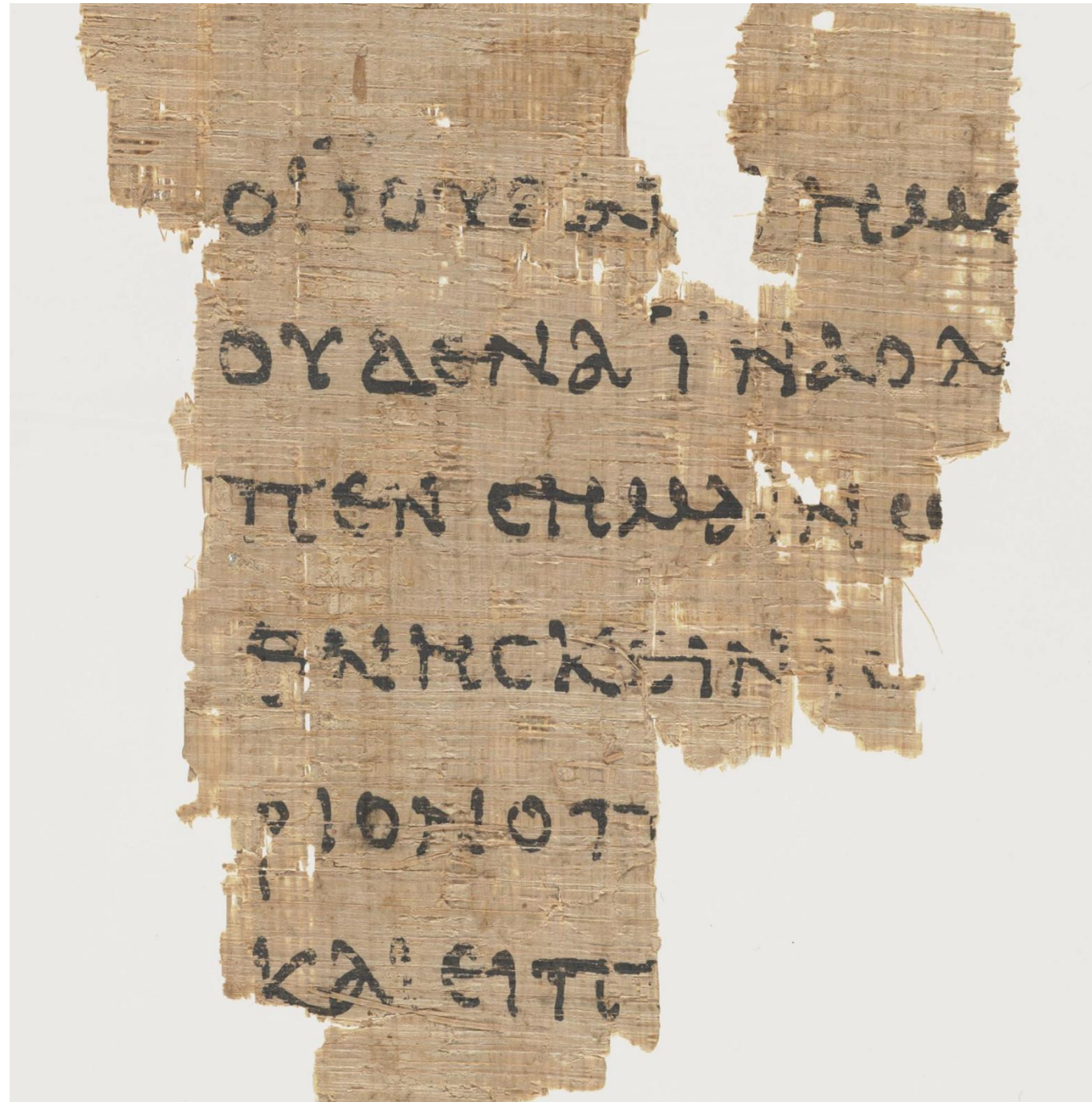
# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies
3. Collections into Groups
4. Codex/Codices
5. Critical Editions of OT/NT
6. Translation Process



# From Autographs to English Translations

1. Autographs
2. Copies
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4. Codex/Codices
5. Critical Editions of OT/NT
6. Translation Process
7. English Translation



# 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 controversies of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries
4. Its first appearance in a Greek manuscript is 1215 CE
5. 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)