

A Brief Christian Bible Textual History

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Why are there so many versions of the Bible? It looks like an alphabet soup when I look at a bookstore—the KJ21, ASV, CSB, CEB, ERV, ESB, GNT, KJV, NKJV, NIV, NLT, and the NRSV—just to name a few. What’s the difference—and which one is the “best?” Or—which is the most accurate? The short answer, from my perspective, is there is no one “right” answer. It’s a personal choice. This leads to the next question, “How can I choose the right translation for me?” For some, the local church we attend provides the answer (meaning the church uses a particular version). However, I personally want to know “Why that one?” This question led me on a journey for my answer. Perhaps some of the material I discovered may help you on your journey of discovery.

The Importance of Translation

Since Jesus spoke Aramaic, I knew going into this that Jesus never literally said “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” as is found in the New Revised Standard Version (John 14:6). I also knew that the New Testament was originally written in Greek (although I discovered it’s not modern Greek, it’s an ancient version called Koine Greek). At best the above quotation is a translation of a translation (from Jesus’ Aramaic to Greek to English). How accurate are translations? Sometimes Bible translators are in agreement, sometimes not. For example, the NRSV version of Paul’s letter to the Romans at 16:1-2 says “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **deacon**^a of the church at Cenchreae,² so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.” Note—the footnote in the quotation indicates an alternate translation for *deacon* as *minister*. Compare this to the New King James Version (NKJV) that begins “I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a **servant** of the church in Cenchrea....” Indeed, the Koine Greek word “διάκονον” (or “diakonon”) that is found in the ancient texts can legitimately translate as *deacon*, *minister*, or *servant*. However, if I want to understand the role of women in the early church the perspective of the translator(s) towards the role of women is critical! I suspect most of us consider a deacon or minister as a higher position than servant.... Differences also occur because the intent of the translation is different. For example, some Bibles use a literal word-for-word translation and other Bibles use an “everyday common/easy language” translation. And, as it turns out, not all translations start with the same ancient text!

The Evolving Text of the Bible

Since the printing press was invented in the 1450s, for most of its history the Bible has been copied by hand. That wouldn’t be an issue except we no longer have the original Bible itself. What we have are handwritten copies of copies of copies of copies.... Think of the challenge of hand copying the



approximately 609,000 words of the Old Testament. To further complicate things, early written Hebrew (the Old Testament's primary language) did not have spaces between words, no lower case letters, no punctuation, and only consonants (no vowels). The opening of the Bible would look like (translated to English to make it "easy"):

NTHBGNNNGGDCRTDTHHVNNDTHRTH

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The New Testament was relatively easy to deal with since Koine Greek included vowels (coming later would be mixed upper/lower case, punctuation, and spaces between words).

*THEBOOKOFTHEGENEALOGYOFJESUSCHRIST
THESONOFDAVIDTHESONOFABRAHAM*

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,
the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*

Also consider that in the early years, the people copying the Bible (or individual letters/Gospels) were not professional scribes. They were just everyday people who were part of the literate minority (most people couldn't read or write). And by literate don't think of high school graduates; think of many literate people being barely able to read/write. They made copies of biblical texts for their personal use or to pass on to family or friends. Professional scribes came along much later.

Early Church Fathers were already concerned about the problem of differences among Bibles. However, in the Middle Ages (5th – 15th centuries), Christians seemed to have forgotten, or at least seem to have been unconcerned, about the differences. That changed dramatically in 1707 when John Mill published an edition of the Greek New Testament that documented over 30,000 differences among about 100 existing manuscripts. That help spark the scholarly field of Biblical textual criticism—essentially trying to make heads or tails out of "what's what." Not only had accidental copying errors been occurring, but it was clear that intentional changes had been made to "clarify" doctrinal issues and to clean up apparent "mistakes" (???) in the originals.

"Who was Jesus?" is an example of doctrinal issue. Early Christians were divided. Some considered Jesus to be a man (who perhaps became "divine" at the baptism by John the Baptist). Others took the other extreme—Jesus was purely God and only looked human. The position that "won" (was decided at early church councils) is now reflected in the Nicene Creed. But it seems scribes, favoring one position or another, made changes to text that did not seem to support their "correct" understanding.

Today there are primarily two schools of thought for the textual basis of the "best" New Testament. Modern translations reflect one of these schools of thought or theories. Some consider the more recent

handwritten manuscripts to be the best. By more recent I mean from perhaps the 8th through the 12th centuries. Translations that rely on the *Textus Receptus* (Received Text) fall into this category. Examples include the King James Version (KJV) and the New King James Version (NKJV).

The other school of thought considers the oldest manuscripts to be the best (since they are considered to be closest to the originals). Interestingly, the most ancient almost complete manuscripts have only relatively recently been discovered. Both the Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, manuscripts believed by many to have been written in the early 4th century, were discovered in 1844. Translations that rely on the *Novum Testamentum Graece* (Greek New Testament), either the Nestle-Aland (NA) or the United Bible Societies (UBS) editions, fall into this category. Examples include the New Living Translation (NLT), the New International Version (NIV), and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

My suggestion for choosing an edition is to:

1. Choose a “theory”—recent manuscripts are the best (based on the *Textus Receptus*) or the oldest manuscripts are the best (based on the *Novum Testamentum Graece*).
2. Then choose an edition based on the type of English you prefer (e.g. easy to read, literal, etc.).

The following is a bit more detail for those who are interested. Some of the material may be useful background if you choose to do more research for yourself. I also include sample text, the same passage, from several translations to give a feel for their language. I’ve also included a graphic that highlights some of the details discussed below.

Observations

1. All of the original texts of the Old and New Testaments have been lost.
2. The first printed Bible, the Gutenberg (the Latin Vulgate), was produced in the 1450s.
3. Prior to the 1450s, for approximately 1,400 years, the Bible was reproduced by hand.
4. The text of the Bible, whether through error, intention, or divine guidance, has changed throughout the centuries.
5. The surviving hand-copied Bibles, including fragments, are commonly categorized as written in one of two general “styles” of text: the Alexandrian text-type and the Byzantine text-type (also sometimes called the Majority text-type).
6. The Alexandrian text-type is commonly considered to pre-date (be earlier than) the Byzantine text-type.
7. The Byzantine text-type became the most common text-type in the 9th century and beyond.
8. Two schools of thought, two theories, developed for choosing the “best” New Testament ancient sources (the hand-copied fragments/Bibles) for use in modern Bibles.
9. For some, the text closest to the originals of the New Testament as expressed by the Alexandrian text-type is the “best.” Examples include the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).
10. For some, the New Testament text reflected by the Byzantine text-type is the “best.” The King James Version (KJV) and the New King James Version (NKJV) reflect this theory.

11. Even within these two broad categories (Alexandrian/Byzantine) there are differences in the fragments/Bibles so Biblical scholars use additional techniques to resolve differences.
12. The Old Testament as reflected in the NIV, NLT, NRSV, KJV, and NKJV (and others) are all based on the best available Hebrew sources (best available at the time of time of the translation).

Old Testament: the Hebrew Bible

“The **Masoretic Text** (MT) is the authoritative Hebrew and Aramaic text of the Tanakh¹ for Rabbinic Judaism.... The Masoretic Text is widely used as the basis for translations of the Old Testament in Protestant Bibles, and in recent years (since 1943) also for some Catholic Bibles, although the Eastern Orthodox churches continue to use the Septuagint², as they hold it to be divinely inspired. In modern times the Dead Sea Scrolls have shown the MT to be nearly identical to some texts of the Tanakh dating from 200 BCE but different from others.”³

“The ***Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*** [used as the basis for the translation of several English Bibles]... is an edition of the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible as preserved in the Leningrad Codex⁴, and supplemented by masoretic and text-critical notes... and is published by the Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft (German Bible Society) in Stuttgart.”⁵

New Testament

The ***Textus Receptus*** (TR) (Latin: "received text") is the general name for the Greek New Testament as reflected by the Byzantine text-type that became the dominate text-type in the 9th century (and beyond). The series began with the first printed Greek New Testament, published in 1516 by Desiderius Erasmus. He and others produced subsequent editions of the *Textus Receptus* with the last published in 1641.

Novum Testamentum Graece is the general name for the Greek New Testament. Today it refers to the editions produced by three associated organizations, the Institute for New Testament Textual Research (INTF), Nestle-Aland (NA) and the United Bible Societies (UBS). The INTF is housed at the University of Münster, Westphalia, Germany and focuses its research on the textual history of the New Testament with a goal to reconstruct the initial Greek text (as it was originally written). The INTF produces both the Nestle-Aland and United Bible Societies editions. The current edition of Nestle-Aland is called NA28 (the 28th edition). The current edition of the United Bible Societies is called UBS5 (the 5th edition) and has the same base text as the NA28. While the groups produce editions with the same text, Nestle-Aland focuses on textual critics and scholars (so includes material for that purpose) while the United Bible Societies focuses on translators (includes material for that purpose).

¹ Hebrew Bible

² The Septuagint is a translation of the Masoretic Text into Koine Greek begun as early as the 3rd century BCE.

³ Masoretic Text. (2016, August 3). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved May 21, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Masoretic_Text&oldid=732765498

⁴ Dated to approximately 1009 CE.

⁵ *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. (2016, July 6). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved May 21, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Biblia_Hebraica_Stuttgartensia&oldid=728672935

Contemporary Bibles

Two schools of thought, two theories, developed for choosing the “best” New Testament ancient sources (the hand-copied fragments/Bibles) for use in modern Bibles. Modern English translations of the Bible therefore reflect a particular theory.

In the following, when discussing various English editions of the Bible, I show the edition’s translation of 1 John 5:7-8, commonly called the Johannine Comma. I use this passage because a few surviving Greek manuscripts that are commonly considered the most recent have a phrase (between the commas) that is not found in surviving Greek manuscripts that are commonly considered the oldest. However, the 4th century Latin Vulgate does include the phrase. I am not trying to make the case that one is better than the other (e.g. in the future a very old Greek manuscript may be found that contains the phrase). This is a critical passage because the controversial phrase, the Johannine Comma, is perhaps the most explicit reference to the concept of the trinity in the Bible. Of course many Christians find the concept of the trinity implicitly stated elsewhere (e.g. “The Father and I are one” John 10:30 NRSV). I use this passage simply to highlight the debate between the two theories for choosing the “best” ancient sources.

Alexandrian text-type

For some, the text closest to the originals of the New Testament as expressed by the Alexandrian text-type is the “best.” This “text-type is the form of the Greek New Testament that predominates in the earliest surviving documents, as well as the text-type used in Egyptian Coptic manuscripts.... Up until the 9th century, Greek texts were written entirely in upper case letters, referred to as Uncials. During the 9th and 10th centuries, the new lower-case writing hand of Minuscules came gradually to replace the older style. Most Greek Uncial manuscripts were recopied in this period and their parchment leaves typically scraped clean for re-use. Consequently, surviving Greek New Testament manuscripts from before the 9th century are relatively rare; but nine — over half of the total that survive — witness a more or less pure Alexandrian text. These include the oldest near-complete manuscripts of the New Testament Codex Vaticanus Graecus 1209 and Codex Sinaiticus.”⁶

Popular Bibles in this category include the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Byzantine/Modern text-type

For some, the New Testament text reflected by the Byzantine text-type is the “best.” This “text-type (also called Majority Text, Traditional Text, Ecclesiastical Text, Constantinopolitan Text, Antiocheian Text, or Syrian Text) is one of several text-types used in textual criticism to describe the textual character of Greek New Testament manuscripts. It is the form found in the largest number of surviving manuscripts, though not in the oldest.... The Byzantine text-type has by far the largest number of surviving manuscripts, many of them written in the newer minuscule (lower case) style.... For example, of 522 complete or nearly complete manuscripts of the General Epistles collated by the Institute for New

⁶ Alexandrian text-type. (2016, April 17). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved May 21, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alexandrian_text-type&oldid=715749539

Testament Textual Research in Münster, Germany, 372 of them attest the Byzantine reading in at least 90% of 98 test places. Amongst the earliest surviving manuscripts, the position is reversed. There are six manuscripts earlier than the 9th century which conform to the Byzantine text-type; of which the 5th century Codex Alexandrinus, (the oldest), is Byzantine only in the Gospels with the rest of the New Testament being Alexandrian.”⁷ Note that for some, the Byzantine text-type refers to fewer documents than those referenced by Majority text-type (so for some they are *not* equivalent phrases).

The most popular Bibles in this category include the King James Version (KJV) and New King James Version (NKJV).

General Description of the Table Entries on the Following Pages

The left hand column in the following table includes the name of the Bible, the “acronym” (e.g. AMP), the publisher, the year(s) of publication, and if known, the source of the translation. The source may be another Bible (for example, creating a new Bible with simpler language) or the source may be Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. The table is sorted by the “acronym” of the Bible.

The center column is a brief description of the translation of the Bible.

The right column shows the Bible’s translation of 1 John 5:7-8 (see prior comment about the Johannine Comma for an explanation of why these verses were chosen). Some of the publisher’s footnotes after the verses include: “Gk” for Greek, “Vg” for (the Latin) Vulgate, and “mss” for Manuscripts.

Bibles Generally Based on the “Most Ancient” or “Alexandrian” Manuscripts

Amplified Bible (AMP, AMPC), American Standard Version (ASV)	7
Common English Bible (CEB), Contemporary English Version (CEV), Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)	8
Complete Jewish Bible (CJB), Disciples' Literal New Testament (DLNT), Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)	9
English Standard Version (ESV, English Standard Version Anglicised (ESVUK), Expanded Bible (EXB)	10
Good News Translation (GNT), God's Word (GW), Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)	11
International Children's Bible (ICB), International Standard Version (ISV), Lexham English Bible (LEB)	12
The Message (MSG), New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)	13
New American Standard Bible (NASB), New Century Version (NCV), New English Translation (NET)	14
New Int'l Reader's Version (NIRV), New Int'l Version (NIV), New Living Translation (NLT)	15
Names of God Bible (NOG), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, NRSVCE), New Testament for Everyone (NTE), Open English Bible (OEB) Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB)	16
J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS), Revised Standard Version (RSV)	17
Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE), Living Bible (TLB)	18
Tree of Life Version (TLV), The Voice (VOICE)	19

⁷ Byzantine text-type. (2016, July 13). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved May 21, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Byzantine_text-type&oldid=729688532

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>Amplified Bible (AMP) The Lockman Foundation 2015</p> <p>A revision of the American Standard Version of 1901</p>	<p>"The <i>Amplified</i> Bible is a Literal Equivalent translation that, by using synonyms and definitions, both explains and expands the meaning of words in the text by placing amplification in parentheses, brackets, and after key words. This unique system of translation allows the reader to more completely and clearly grasp the meaning as it was understood in the original languages. Additionally, amplifications may provide further theological, historical, and other details for a better understanding of the text." [directly from the publisher]</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three witnesses: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three are in agreement [their testimony is perfectly consistent].</i></p>
<p>Amplified Bible (AMPC) The Lockman Foundation 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 copyrights See AMP for the latest version</p> <p>A revision of the American Standard Version of 1901</p>	<p>"The <i>Amplified</i> Bible is a Literal Equivalent translation that, by using synonyms and definitions, both explains and expands the meaning of words in the text by placing amplification in parentheses, brackets, and after key words. This unique system of translation allows the reader to more completely and clearly grasp the meaning as it was understood in the original languages. Additionally, amplifications may provide further theological, historical, and other details for a better understanding of the text." [directly from the publisher]. See AMP for the 2015 edition.</p>	<p>⁷<i>So there are three witnesses^a <u>in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are One; ⁸and there are three witnesses on the earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree [are in unison; their testimony coincides].</u></i></p> <p>^aThe italicized (underlined) section is found only in late manuscripts.</p>
<p>American Standard Version (ASV) now in Public Domain 1901/1900 OT/NT</p> <p>OT: Masoretic Text with some Septuagint influence). NT: Westcott and Hort 1881 and Tregelles 1857, (Reproduced in a single, continuous, form in Palmer 1881).</p>	<p>A complete revision of the King James Bible of 1611. Scholars from chosen from various Protestant denominations. Work began in 1872.</p>	<p>⁷<i>And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁸For there are three who bear witness, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and the three agree in one.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>Common English Bible (CEB) Common English Bible 2011</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (4th edition), Biblia Hebraica Quinta (5th edition)</p> <p>NT: Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament (27th edition).</p>	<p>"A key goal of the translation team was to make the Bible accessible to a broad range of people; it's written at a comfortable level for over half of all English readers. As the translators did their work, reading specialists working with seventy-seven reading groups from more than a dozen denominations review the texts to ensure a smooth and natural reading experience." [the publisher]</p>	<p><i>⁷The three are testifying—⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and the three are united in agreement.</i></p>
<p>Contemporary English Version (CEV) American Bible Society 1995 American Bible Society</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, 4th corrected</p> <p>NT: United Bible Societies, 3rd corrected and compared with the 4th</p>	<p>"Uncompromising simplicity marked the American Bible Society's (ABS) translation of the Contemporary English Version (CEV) that was first published in 1995. The text is easily read by grade schoolers, second language readers, and those who prefer the more contemporized form. The CEV is not a paraphrase. It is an accurate and faithful translation of the original manuscripts." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p><i>⁷In fact, there are three who tell about it. ⁸They are the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and they all agree.</i></p>
<p>Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) Messianic Jewish Publishers 1989</p> <p>OT: Masoretic Text (1917 Jewish Publication Society)</p> <p>NT: United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament</p>	<p>"Names and key terms are returned to their original Hebrew and presented in easy-to-understand transliterations, enabling the reader to say them the way Yeshua (Jesus) did. The CJB is a translation of the Bible into English by Dr. David H. Stern. It consists of Dr. Stern's revised translation of the Old Testament (Tanakh) plus his original Jewish New Testament (B'rit Hadashah) translation in one volume. It was published in its entirety in 1998 by Jewish New Testament Publications, Inc. The Old Testament translation is a paraphrase of the public domain 1917 Jewish Publication Society version. The New Testament section is Dr. Stern's original translation from the ancient Greek." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p><i>⁷There are three witnesses —⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood — and these three are in agreement.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>Christian Standard Bible (CSB) Holman Bible Publishers 2017</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia 5th Edition with some Septuagint influence.</p> <p>NT: Novum Testamentum Graece 28th edition.</p>	<p>The purpose is the "clearest possible modern English" with the reading level at the 7th grade. Developed by 100 scholars from 17 denominations. When a literal translation is understandable, the literal is used. Otherwise a "dynamic translation" is used. It is a revision of the Holman Christian Standard Bible</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify:^[a] ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^aA few late Gk mss and some late Vg mss add testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. ⁸And there are three who bear witness on earth</p>
<p>Disciples' Literal New Testament (DLNT) Reyma Publishing 2011</p> <p>NT: United Bible Societies 4th edition; Nestle-Aland 27th edition.</p>	<p>"The goal of the Disciples' Literal New Testament is to help all Bible readers better understand the New Testament from the original writers' point of view. This is accomplished in two primary ways. First, the translation reflects the Greek forms, grammar, and sentence structure, rather than using elegant English like our standard translations. Second, the paragraphs are arranged to display the flow of thought in the Apostles' minds as revealed in their Greek writings, rather than the artificial 460 year old chapter and verse structure we are used to seeing. The New Testament is opened up to English readers in a depth formerly available only to those who carefully studied their Greek New Testament." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>Because^[a] the ones testifying are three^[b]: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood. And the three are for the^[c] one thing.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]5:7 The one believing Jesus is the Son of God is victorious (v 5) because Jesus has the threefold divine testimony to His identity, sufficient proof even in a human court.</p> <p>^[b]5:7 three: the Spirit. Some manuscripts say 'three in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. And these three are one. And the ones giving testimony on earth are three: the Spirit'.</p> <p>^[c]5:8 That is, they are in agreement.</p>
<p>Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) World Bible Translation Center 2004</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, 1984</p> <p>NT: United Bible Societies, 4th revised 1993 and Nestle-Aland, 27th, 1993</p>	<p>The Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) is an English translation of the Bible by the World Bible Translation Center (WBTC), a subsidiary of Bible League International. It was originally published as the English Version for the Deaf (EVD) by BakerBooks.... The EVD used simpler vocabulary and shorter sentences.... In 2004, a major revision was finished. It uses broader vocabulary. The EVD was left unchanged, so it and the ERV now have different texts.</p>	<p>⁷<i>So there are three witnesses that tell us about Jesus: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>English Standard Version (ESV) HarperCollins 2001 (revisions 2007, 2011, 2016)</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Septuagint influence NT: 83% correspondence to Nestle-Aland 27th edition.</p>	<p>"An English translation of the Christian Bible. It is a revision of the 1971 edition of the Revised Standard Version that employs an "essentially literal" translation philosophy." -Wikipedia</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify:</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.</i></p>
<p>English Standard Version Anglicised (ESVUK) HarperCollins 2001 (revisions 2007, 2011, 2016)</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Septuagint influence NT: 83% correspondence to Nestle-Aland 27th edition.</p>	<p>"An English translation of the Christian Bible. It is a revision of the 1971 edition of the Revised Standard Version that employs an "essentially literal" translation philosophy." -Wikipedia</p> <p>This translation uses "United Kingdom" versus American English.</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify:</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.</i></p>
<p>Expanded Bible (EXB) Thomas Nelson 2011</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, with Septuagint influence NT: United Bible Societies</p>	<p>"The base text is a modified version of the <i>New Century Version</i>, a clear and accurate, meaning-based (functional-equivalent) Bible version. This base text appears in standard black type. Alternate interpretations of words, phrases, or idioms (and other information) are placed in brackets in lighter type. For Expansions, Alternates, certain Literals, and certain Traditionals (see below), a bullet (-) is used to show where to begin the replacement of a word or words before the set of brackets with the word or words within the set of brackets." -BibleGateway.com</p> <p>Reading Level: 5th Grade</p>	<p>⁷<i>·So [or For] there are three ·witnesses^[a] [who testify/bear witness]: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three witnesses ·agree [^l are one].</i></p> <p>^[a]<i>So ... witnesses A few very late Greek copies and the Latin Vulgate continue, "in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three witnesses agree. ⁸And there are three witnesses on earth:"</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>Good News Translation (GNT) American Bible Society 1976, 1992</p> <p>NT: Medium Correspondence to Nestle-Aland 27th edition</p>	<p>"Formerly called the Good News Bible or Today's English Version, was first published as a full Bible in 1976 by the American Bible Society as a "common language" Bible. It is a clear and simple modern translation that is faithful to the original Hebrew, Koine Greek, and Aramaic texts.... It first appeared in New Testament form in 1966 as <i>Good News for Modern Man: The New Testament in Today's English Version</i>, translated by Dr. Robert G. Bratcher in consultation with a committee appointed by the American Bible Society." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three witnesses: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and all three give the same testimony.</i></p>
<p>God's Word (GW) Nations Bible Society now published by Baker Books 1995</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. NT: Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament 27th edition.</p>	<p>"Produced in 1995 by God's Word to the Nations Bible Society, Cleveland, Ohio, the translation team was composed of members of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Their objective was to create a 'natural equivalent translation,' consciously combining scholarly fidelity with natural English. The grammar is simplified; the style is informal; and sentences are shorter and less complicated than other versions." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three witnesses: ^[a]⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree.</i></p> <p>^[a]Four very late manuscripts add verses 7b–8a: "in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. These three witnesses agree. And there are three witnesses on earth:"</p>
<p>Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) Holman Bible Publishers 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with some Septuagint influence. NT: Nestle-Aland 27th edition.</p>	<p>"... an international, interdenominational team of 100 scholars and proofreaders, all of whom were committed to biblical inerrancy. The translation committee sought to strike a balance between the two prevailing philosophies of Bible translation: formal equivalence (literal, "word-for-word", etc.) and dynamic or functional equivalence ("thought-for-thought"). The translators called this balance 'optimal equivalence.'" -wikipedia</p> <p>The reading level is middle school.</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify:^[a] ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.</i></p> <p>^[a]Other mss (Vg and a few late Gk mss) read testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are One. ⁸And there are three who bear witness on earth:</p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>International Children's Bible (ICB) Thomas Nelson 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, with Septuagint influence NT: United Bible Societies, 3rd edition</p>	<p>"The ICB was aimed at young readers and those with low reading skills/limited vocabulary in English. It is written at a 3rd grade level (from the introduction) and is both conservative and evangelical in tone." -wikipedia Also see the New Century Version (NCV).</p>	<p>⁷<i>So there are three witnesses:^[a]</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]<i>So . . . witnesses</i> A few very late Greek copies and the Latin Vulgate read "in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three witnesses agree. ⁸And there are three witnesses on earth."</p>
<p>International Standard Version (ISV) ISV Foundation 1995-2014</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with influence from Dead Sea Scrolls, Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Latin Vulgate, Syriac Peshitta, and Aramaic Targums. 1QIsa for Isaiah. NT: Nestle-Aland 27th edition</p>	<p>"It is intended to be a moderately literal translation and seeks to avoid the paraphrasing tendencies of some modern versions. It's goal is to be a compromise between formal equivalence and functional equivalence by attempting to stay as close to the source text as possible without losing communication. The target reading level in English is 7th-8th grade." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three witnesses in heaven—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.^[a]</i> ⁸<i>And there are three witness on earth—the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are one.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]<i>Other mss. lack witnesses in heaven—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three witnesses on earth—</i></p>
<p>Lexham English Bible (LEB) Logos Bible Software 2012</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia NT: The Greek New Testament: Society of Biblical Literature Edition</p>	<p>"unparalleled...transparency with the original language text.... It was produced with the specific purpose of being used alongside the original language text of the Bible. Existing translations, however excellent they may be in terms of English style and idiom, are frequently so far removed from the original language texts of scripture that straightforward comparison is difficult for the average user.... The ability to make such comparisons easily in software formats...makes the need for an English translation specifically designed for such comparison even more acute." -Preface from the Bible</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify,^[a]</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood, and the three are in agreement^[b].</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]Later Latin manuscripts add the following words to v. 7 and v. 8: "in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that testify on earth"</p> <p>^[b]Literally "for the one"</p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>The Message (MSG) NavPress 1993...2002</p> <p>OT: NT:</p>	<p>"While I was teaching a class on Galatians, I began to realize that the adults in my class weren't feeling the vitality and directness that I sensed as I read and studied the New Testament in its original Greek. Writing straight from the original text, I began to attempt to bring into English the rhythms and idioms of the original language. I knew that the early readers of the New Testament were captured and engaged by these writings and I wanted my congregation to be impacted in the same way. I hoped to bring the New Testament to life for two different types of people: those who hadn't read the Bible because it seemed too distant and irrelevant and those who had read the Bible so much that it had become 'old hat.'" -Eugene Peterson as quoted at BibleGateway.com</p> <p>This is not a direct translation.</p> <p>Note the example selection includes verses 6-8 and cannot be further divided.</p>	<p>⁶⁻⁸<i>Jesus—the Divine Christ! He experienced a life-giving birth and a death-killing death. Not only birth from the womb, but baptismal birth of his ministry and sacrificial death. And all the while the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God's presence at Jesus' baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us. A triple testimony: the Spirit, the Baptism, the Crucifixion. And the three in perfect agreement.</i></p>
<p>New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE) Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc. 2011</p> <p>OT (2011 revision): Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Dead Sea Scrolls and minor Septuagint influence. Deuterocanonicals: Septuagint, Dead Sea Scrolls, and some Vulgate influence NT: (1986 revision): United Bible Societies 3rd edition and consultations of Nestle-Aland 26th edition</p>	<p>"An English-language Catholic Bible translation, the first major update in 20 years to the New American Bible (NAB), originally published in 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Released on March 9, 2011, it consists of the 1986 revision of the NAB New Testament with a fully revised Old Testament approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2010.... Reasons for revision: ... utilize modern scholastic advances in biblical study and adapt to changes in linguistics.... Takes advantage of recently discovered ancient manuscripts like the Dead Sea Scrolls.... Uses the best manuscript-translating traditions...." -wikipedia</p>	<p>⁷<i>So there are three that testify,</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>New American Standard Bible (NASB) The Lockman Foundation 1971/1963 OT/NT, ... 1995</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Septuagint influence. NT: Novum Testamentum Graece.</p>	<p>"While preserving the literal accuracy of the 1901 ASV, the NASB has sought to render grammar and terminology in contemporary English. Special attention has been given to the rendering of verb tenses to give the English reader a rendering as close as possible to the sense of the original Greek and Hebrew texts. In 1995, the text of the NASB was updated for greater understanding and smoother reading. The New American Standard Bible present on the Bible Gateway matches the 1995 printing." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify:</i> ^{8[a]}<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are</i> ^[b]<i>in agreement.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]A few late mss add ...<i>in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth, the Spirit</i> ^[b]<i>Lit for the one thing</i></p>
<p>New Century Version (NCV) 1987</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, with Septuagint influence NT: United Bible Societies, 3rd edition</p>	<p>This is a revision of the International Children's Bible. It is targeted at reading level grade 5. It is gender-neutral. The translation type is "paraphrasing" instead of a more literal translation. Other names: <i>The Youth Bible, Everyday Bible.</i></p> <p>Also see the <i>Expanded Bible (EXB).</i></p>	<p>⁷<i>So there are three witnesses:</i>^[a] ⁸<i>the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three witnesses agree.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]So ... witnesses A few very late Greek copies and the Latin Vulgate continue, "in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three witnesses agree. ⁸And there are three witnesses on earth:"</p>
<p>New English Translation (NET) Biblical Studies Press 1996-2006</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Septuagint influence. NT: Nestle-Aland 27th edition.</p>	<p>"The New English Translation, like the New International Version, New Jerusalem Bible and the New American Bible, is a completely new translation of the Bible, not an update or revision of an older one.... The translation is most notable for an immense number of lengthy footnotes (which often explain its textual translation decision), its open translation process" -wikipedia</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three that testify,</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement.</i></p>

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<p>New International Reader's Version (NIRV) International Bible Society (now Biblica) 1996</p> <p>Derived from the NIV</p>	<p>"The New International Reader's Version (NIRV) is a new Bible version based on the New International Version (NIV). The NIV is easy to understand and very clear. More people read the NIV than any other English Bible. We made the NIRV even easier to read and understand. We used the words of the NIV when we could. Sometimes we used shorter words. We explained words that might be hard to understand. We made the sentences shorter." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p><i>⁷There are three that are witnesses about Jesus. ⁸They are the Holy Spirit, the birth of Jesus, and the death of Jesus. And the three of them agree.</i></p>
<p>New International Version (NIV) Biblica 1973/1978, 1984, 2011</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Masoretic Hebrew Text, Dead Sea Scrolls, Samaritan Pentateuch, Aquila, Symmachus and Theodotion, Latin Vulgate, Syriac Peshitta, Aramaic Targums, for Psalms Juxta Hebraica of Jerome. NT: Nestle-Aland</p>	<p>Designed to strike a balance between the literal (word for word) and phrase (thought for thought).</p> <p>There is also an Anglicised version (NIVUK)</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the^a Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^aLate manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that testify on earth: the (not found in any Greek manuscript before the fourteenth century)</p>
<p>New Living Translation (NLT) Tyndale House Publishers Inc. 1996, 2004/2007</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, with some Septuagint influence. NT: Novum Testamentum Graece NA27 & UBS4.</p>	<p>Designed to make the Bible readable and understandable (when a literal translation of a passage may be confusing). For example, John 2:6 is translated as “Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons” with a footnote explaining the original Greek says “2 or 3 measures” (instead of twenty to thirty gallons).</p>	<p><i>⁷So we have these three witnesses^a—⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^aA few very late manuscripts add in heaven—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And we have three witnesses on earth.</p>

Bibles Generally Based on the “Most Ancient” or “Alexandrian” Manuscripts

<p>Names of God Bible (NOG) Baker Books 2011</p> <p>OT: NT:</p>	<p>The <i>Names of God Bible</i> (NOG) accurately translates the meaning of the original texts into clear, everyday language. While most translations obscure the names and titles of God by replacing them with just a few English words such as God, Lord, or LORD, The <i>Names of God Bible</i> restores the transliterations of ancient names—such as Yahweh, El Shadday, El Elyon, and Adonay—to help the reader better understand the rich meaning of God’s names that are found in the original Hebrew and Aramaic text.</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three witnesses:^[a]</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^[a]Four very late manuscripts add verses 7b–8a: “in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. These three witnesses agree. And there are three witnesses on earth.”</p>
<p>New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) National Council of the Churches of Christ (NRSVCE) Catholic Edition 1989</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint influence. NT: 81% correspondence to Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece 27th edition.</p>	<p>Many consider this the academic scholarly version. It is based on the earliest available sources with differences resolved through textual analysis (of many types). It is the 3rd in a lineage (originally the American Standard Version followed by the Revised Standard Version).</p> <p>There is also an Anglicised version (NRSVA)</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three that testify:^a</i> ⁸<i>the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^aA few other authorities read (with variations) ⁷ <i>There are three that testify in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.</i> ⁸ <i>And there are three that testify on earth:</i></p>
<p>New Testament for Everyone (NTE) Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge 2004, 2011</p>	<p>"Tom Wright points out in his Preface: ‘Translating the New Testament is something that each generation ought to be doing. Just as Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread, we can never simply live on yesterday’s bread, on the interpretations and translations of previous generations.’" -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three that bear witness, you see, ⁸the spirit, the water and the blood, and these three agree together.</i></p>
<p>Open English Bible (OEB) openenglishbible.org 2016 OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex NT: Twentieth Century New Testament (1904 ed)</p>	<p>"...aims to create a translation of the Bible into formal but contemporary English which is completely free of copyright restrictions and available without cost for any purpose." - openenglishbible.org</p>	<p>⁷<i>Indeed three testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and these three agree.</i></p>
<p>Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB) Artists for Israel International 2002-2011</p>	<p>"completed by Phillip Goble in 2002, is an English language version that applies Yiddish and Hasidic cultural expressions to the Messianic Bible." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>Because there are shloshah giving solemn eidus: ⁸the Ruach Hakodesh and the mayim and the dahm, and the shloshah are for solemn eidus.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS) The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 1958, 1961, 1972</p> <p>NT: Nestle-Aland</p>	<p>"J.B. Phillips (1906-1982) was well-known within the Church of England for his commitment to making the message of truth relevant to today's world. Phillips' translation of the New Testament brings home the full force of the original message. The New Testament in Modern English was originally written for the benefit of Phillips' youth group; it was later published more widely in response to popular demand. The language is up-to-date and forceful, involving the reader in the dramatic events and powerful teaching of the New Testament." -BibleGateway.com</p> <p>Note verses 7-8 cannot be isolated within 6-12.</p>	<p>⁶⁻¹² <i>Jesus Christ himself is the one who came by water and by blood—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. The Spirit bears witness to this, for the Spirit is the truth. The witness therefore is a triple one—the Spirit in our own hearts, the signs of the water of baptism and the blood of atonement—and they all say the same thing. If we are prepared to accept human testimony, God’s own testimony concerning his own Son is surely infinitely more valuable. The man who really believes in the Son of God will find God’s testimony in his own heart. The man who will not believe God is making him out to be a liar, because he is deliberately refusing to accept the testimony that God has given concerning his own Son. This is, that God has given men eternal life and this real life is to be found only in his Son. It follows naturally that any man who has genuine contact with Christ has this life; and if he has not, then he does not possess this life at all.</i></p>
<p>Revised Standard Version (RSV) National Council of the Churches of Christ 1952/1946 OT/NT</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with limited Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint influence. Apocrypha: Septuagint with Vulgate influence. NT: Nestle-Aland, 17th edition</p>	<p>A revision of the American Standard Version (ASV).</p> <p>Both the ESV and NRSV are derived from the RSV (some are passionate about "which is best").</p>	<p>⁷<i>And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.</i> ⁸<i>There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree.</i></p>

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<p>Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE) National Council of the Churches of Christ 1952/1946 OT/NT</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia with limited Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint influence. Apocrypha: Septuagint with Vulgate influence. NT: Nestle-Aland, 17th edition</p>	<p>A revision of the American Standard Version (ASV).</p>	<p>⁷<i>And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.</i> ⁸<i>There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree.</i>^[a]</p> <hr/> <p>[a]This reads as follows in the Vulgate: "7 There are three who give testimony in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that give testimony on earth: the spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three are one." The "Three Heavenly Witnesses," as the first sentence is called, is first found in the Latin (fourth century) and does not appear in any Greek manuscript until the fifteenth century. It is probably a marginal gloss that found its way into the text.</p>
<p>Living Bible (TLB) Tyndale House Publishers Inc. 1971</p> <p>Paraphrase of American Standard Version, 1901, with comparisons of other translations, including the King James Version, and some Greek texts.</p>	<p>"The Living Bible is a paraphrase of the Old and New Testaments. Its purpose is to say as exactly as possible what the writers of the Scriptures meant, and to say it simply, expanding where necessary for a clear understanding by the modern reader." -BibleGateway.com</p> <p>Note the example selection includes verses 6-8 and cannot be further divided.</p>	<p>⁶⁻⁸<i>And we know he is, because God said so with a voice from heaven when Jesus was baptized, and again as he was facing death</i>^[a]<i>—yes, not only at his baptism but also as he faced death.* And the Holy Spirit, forever truthful, says it too. So we have these three witnesses: the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the voice from heaven at Christ's baptism, and the voice before he died.* And they all say the same thing: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*</i></p> <hr/> <p>[a]as he was facing death, literally, "This is he who came by water and blood," see Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 9:31, 35; John 12:27-28, 32-33. Other interpretations of this verse are equally possible. as he faced death, literally, "not by water only, but by water and blood." and the voice before he died, literally, "the Spirit, and the water, and the blood." that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, implied.</p>

Bibles Generally Based on the "Most Ancient" or "Alexandrian" Manuscripts

<p>Tree of Life Version (TLV) Baker Books 2015</p> <p>OT: Masoretic Text NT: 27th Nestle-Aland 27th edition</p>	<p>"Produced by Messianic Jewish and Christian scholars, which highlights the rich Hebrew roots of the Christian faith by restoring: *the Jewish order of the books of the Old Testament *the Jewish name of the Messiah, Yeshua *reverence for the four-letter unspoken name of God *Hebrew transliterated terms, such as shalom, shofar, and shabbat" -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that testify— ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are one.</i></p>
<p>The Voice (VOICE) Thomas Nelson 2012/2011 OT/NT</p>	<p>"About 40 different human authors are believed to have been inspired by God to write the Scriptures. Most English translations attempt to even out the literary styles of the different authors in sentence structure and vocabulary. Instead, <i>The Voice</i> distinguishes the unique perspective of each author." Preface from <i>The Voice</i></p>	<p><i>⁷So there are three testifying witnesses: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood. All three are in total agreement.</i></p>

Bibles Generally Based on the “Modern” or “Byzantine” Manuscripts

Bibles Generally Based on the “Modern” or “Byzantine” Manuscripts

Blue, Red and Gold Letter (BRG), Geneva Bible (GNV), Jubilee Bible 2000 (JUB),
 King James Version (KJV) 20
 Modern English Version (MEV), New King James Version (NKJV), New Life Version (NLV) 21
 Worldwide English (WE), World English Bible (WEB), Young's Literal Translation (YLT) 22

<p>Blue, Red and Gold Letter (BRG) BRG Bible Ministries 2012</p> <p>Source: King James Version of 1611</p>	<p>The King James Version of the bible with Jesus' words in Red, God the Father in Blue, and references to the Holy Spirit in Gold.</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.</i></p>
<p>Geneva Bible (GNV) Tolle Lege Press 1599 (spellings updated 2006) Originally 1557/1560 NT/OT</p> <p>OT: NT: Textus Receptus</p>	<p>"The Geneva Bible is one of the most historically significant translations of the Bible into English, preceding the King James Version by 51 years. It was the primary Bible of 16th-century English Protestantism" (Wikipedia). Apparently individuals such as William Shakespeare quote this Bible.</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three, which bear record in heaven, the Father, the ^[a]Word, and the holy Ghost: and these three are ^[b]one. ⁸And there are three, which bear record in the earth, the Spirit, and the Water and the Blood: and these three agree in one.</i></p> <p>^[a]See John 8:13, 14. ^[b]Agree in one.</p>
<p>Jubilee Bible 2000 (JUB) Life Sentence Publishing, Inc. 2001, 2001, 2010</p> <p>See description</p>	<p>"Translated from the Original Texts in Hebrew and Greek into Spanish by Casiodoro de Reina (1569).... Based on the New Testament of Francisco de Enzinas (1543) and on the New Testament (1556) with the Psalms (1557) of Juan Perez de Pineda. This material was translated from Spanish into English by Russell M. Stendal...." from the text itself.</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness on earth, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree in one.</i></p>
<p>King James Version (KJV) King James I 1611</p> <p>OT: Masoretic Text NT: Textus Receptus; some readings derived from the Vulgate.</p>	<p>King James I of England authorized a translation of the Bible into English. Work began in 1604 and was finished in 1611. It became the standard Bible for English-speaking Protestants. It has a flowing, poetic language.</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.</i></p>

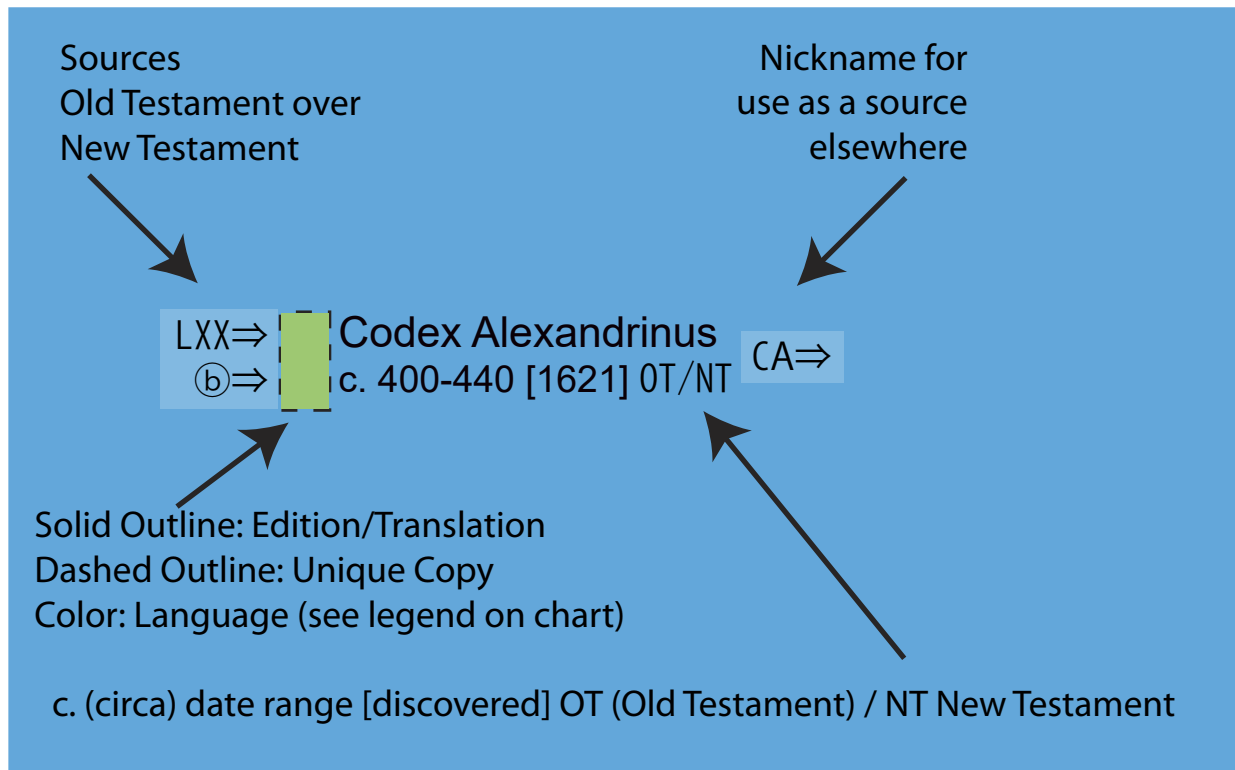
Bibles Generally Based on the "Modern" or "Byzantine" Manuscripts

<p>Modern English Version (MEV) Military Bible Association 2014</p> <p>OT: Jacob ben Hayyim Masoretic Text NT: Textus Receptus</p>	<p>"The MEV is a literal translation (word-for-word), with capitalized references of God. The intent was to translate historical facts and events without distortion while translating in a way that readers of all backgrounds may understand the message that the original authors were communicating to the original audience." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p><i>⁷There are three who testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and the three are one. ⁸There are three that testify on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are toward the one.^[a]</i></p> <hr/> <p>[a]The earliest Greek manuscripts lack in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and the three are one. There are three that testify on earth.</p>
<p>New King James Version (NKJV) Thomas Nelson Publishers 1979/1982 OT/NT</p> <p>OT: Masoretic Text with Septuagint influence. NT: Textus Receptus</p>	<p>The goal was to update the vocabulary and grammar of the King James Version while maintaining the flowing, poetic language. Note—the phases "NU-Text" and "M-Text" in the NKJV footnote refer to Alexandrian text-type and Majority (Byzantine) text-type sources.</p>	<p><i>⁷For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness on earth:^a the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.</i></p> <hr/> <p>^aNU-Text and M-Text omit the words from in heaven (verse 7) through on earth (verse 8). Only four or five very late manuscripts contain these words in Greek.</p>
<p>New Life Version (NLV) Christian Literature International 1969</p> <p>Assumption: translated from late sources</p>	<p>"The translation was born out of the Ledyards' missionary work in the Canadian Arctic to First Nations populations, who did not always speak English fluently. The NLV uses a limited vocabulary of about 850 words, not including proper names. This was done to make the text easier to read and understand..." -wikipedia</p>	<p><i>⁷There are three Who speak of this in heaven: the Father and the Word and the Holy Spirit. These three are one. ⁸There are three who speak of this on the earth: the Holy Spirit and the water and the blood. These three speak the same thing.</i></p>

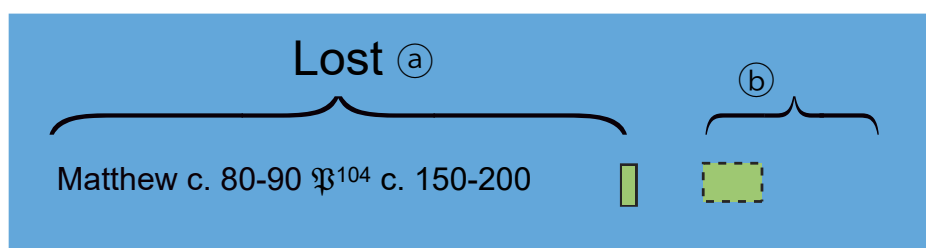
Bibles Generally Based on the "Modern" or "Byzantine" Manuscripts

<p>Worldwide English (New Testament) (WE) SOON Educational Publications 1969</p>	<p>"This New Testament was originally prepared by Annie Cressman, who died in 1993. She was a Canadian Bible teacher in Liberia in West Africa. Whilst teaching students in a Bible School where the language used was English, she found that she was spending more time explaining the meaning of the English than she was teaching the Bible itself. So she decided to write this simple version in easy English so that her students could easily understand." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>There are three in heaven who prove it is true. They are the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one.</i> ⁸<i>There are three on earth who prove it is true. They are the spirit, the water, and the blood. These three all prove the same thing.</i></p>
<p>World English Bible (WEB) Rainbow Missions (Public Domain) 2000</p> <p>OT: Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (with some Septuagint and Dead Sea Scrolls influence). NT: Byzantine Majority Text by Robinson and Pierpont 1991.</p>	<p>"The World English Bible is based on the American Standard Version of the Holy Bible first published in 1901, the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia Old Testament, and the Greek Majority Text New Testament. It is in draft form, and currently being edited for accuracy and readability." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>For there are three who testify^[a]: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.</i></p> <p>^[a]Only a few recent manuscripts add "in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth"</p>
<p>Young's Literal Translation (YLT) Public Domain 1898</p>	<p>"The Bible text designated YLT is from the 1898 Young's Literal Translation by Robert Young who also compiled Young's Analytical Concordance. This is an extremely literal translation that attempts to preserve the tense and word usage as found in the original Greek and Hebrew writings. The text was scanned from a reprint of the 1898 edition as published by Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan. The book is still in print and may be ordered from Baker Book House. Obvious errors in spelling or inconsistent spellings of the same word were corrected in the computer edition of the text." -BibleGateway.com</p>	<p>⁷<i>because three are who are testifying [in the heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these -- the three -- are one; ⁸and three are who are testifying in the earth], the Spirit, and the water, and the blood, and the three are into the one.</i></p>

The following is the “key” for understanding the chart on the following page. In this example the name is the *Codex Alexandrinus* (codex implies a handwritten copy). The dashed line around the green box indicates it is an actual “paper” document. A solid outline indicates an edition (e.g. the New International Version, NIV). It was written approximately (circa) in 400-400 CE. It was discovered in 1621. It contains both the Old and New Testaments (OT/NT). It is written in Koine Greek (the color coding is on the chart itself). The green box lines up in the correct position of the dateline on the chart itself. The Old Testament source of LXX is the Septuagint (as shown on chart itself) and the “b in the circle” points to existing (at the time) handwritten copies of the New Testament. The “Nickname” is “CA”--a shorthand name when it is used as a source document for subsequent bibles.



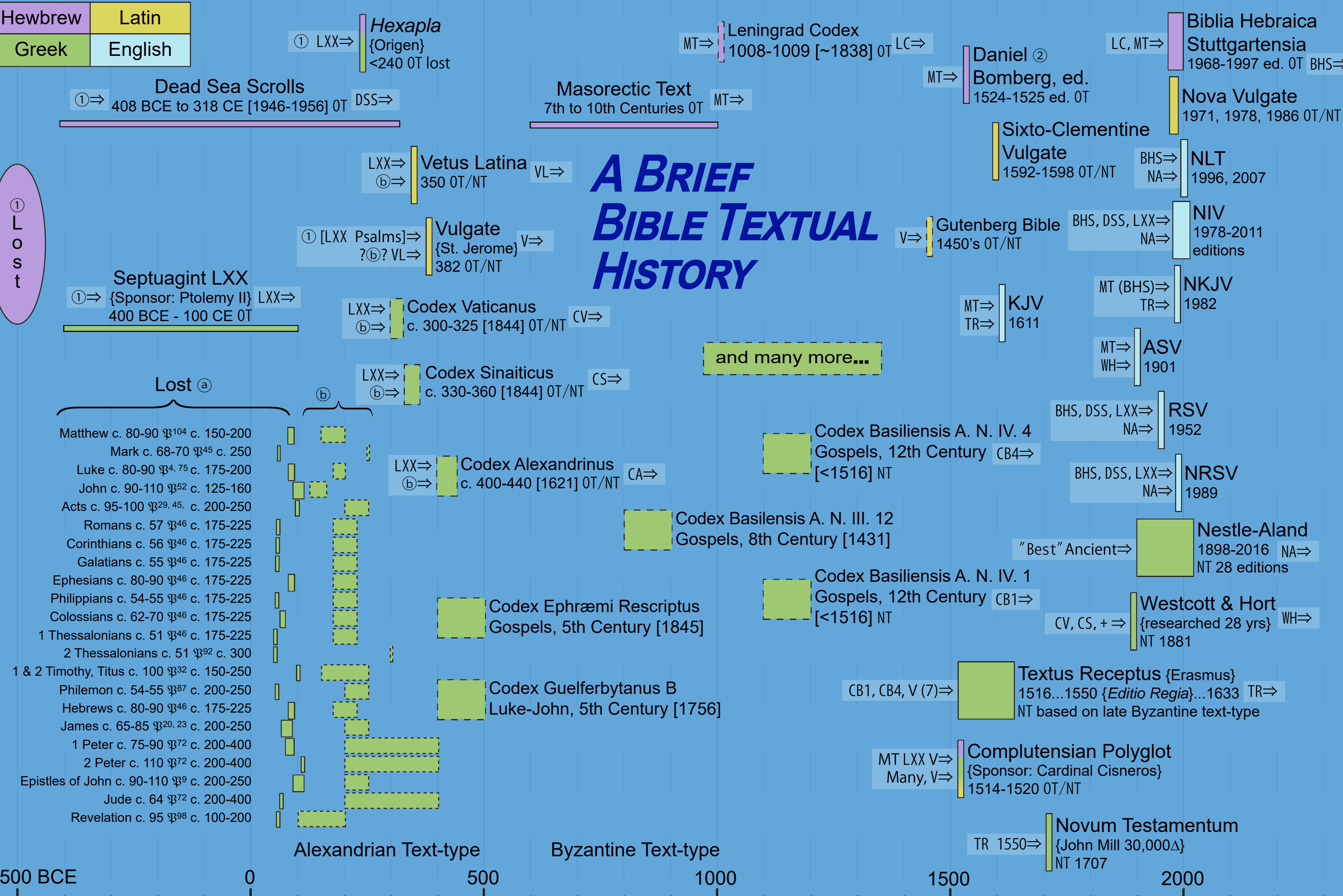
The following example is for Matthew (New Testament). Matthew was originally written approximately (circa) 80-90 CE. The symbol \wp^{104} is an identifier for the oldest handwritten copy (or more commonly a small fragment) of Matthew that dates from approximately 150-200 CE. The green box with the solid outline is the date it was written (lines up to the dateline on the chart itself). The green box with the dashed outline is the date the fragment might have been written.



Hewbrew	Latin
Greek	English

A BRIEF BIBLE TEXTUAL HISTORY

① Lost



- Lost (a)**
- Matthew c. 80-90 ⱼ¹⁰⁴ c. 150-200
 - Mark c. 68-70 ⱼ⁴⁵ c. 250
 - Luke c. 80-90 ⱼ^{4, 75} c. 175-200
 - John c. 90-110 ⱼ⁵² c. 125-160
 - Acts c. 95-100 ⱼ^{29, 45} c. 200-250
 - Romans c. 57 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - Corinthians c. 56 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - Galatians c. 55 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - Ephesians c. 80-90 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - Philippians c. 54-55 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - Colossians c. 62-70 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - 1 Thessalonians c. 51 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - 2 Thessalonians c. 51 ⱼ⁹² c. 300
 - 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus c. 100 ⱼ³² c. 150-250
 - Philemon c. 54-55 ⱼ⁸⁷ c. 200-250
 - Hebrews c. 80-90 ⱼ⁴⁶ c. 175-225
 - James c. 65-85 ⱼ^{20, 23} c. 200-250
 - 1 Peter c. 75-90 ⱼ⁷² c. 200-400
 - 2 Peter c. 110 ⱼ⁷² c. 200-400
 - Epistles of John c. 90-110 ⱼ⁹ c. 200-250
 - Jude c. 64 ⱼ⁷² c. 200-400
 - Revelation c. 95 ⱼ⁹⁸ c. 100-200
- Lost (b)**

500 BCE 0 500 1000 1500 2000

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