

The Majority Text of the Greek New Testament

English Translations of the Majority Text of the Greek New Testament

New King James Study Bible

The Sovereign Creator Has Spoken New Testament by Wilbur Pickering

The EMTV (English Majority Text Version) New Testament by Paul Esposito

Text History

Regarding the preservation of the Greek New Testament, there are two main schools of thought: (1) the Critical Texts, and (2) the Majority Texts.

The Critical Text or Minority Text consists of **3 manuscripts** and a few small sections of other manuscripts. They were discovered in the 1800's in Egypt. Most modern Bible versions are based off of them today. They disagree with 8% of the text of scripture that had been preserved in the Majority Texts that the Church had been using for 1800 years. This significantly affects the Doctrine of Inspiration, as many verses you learned in Sunday School, according to the Critical Texts, are not the Word of God.

(2) The Majority Text or Ecclesiastical Text or Byzantine Text comprise about **5,000 manuscripts** from across the world, and have been the traditional text that the Church has always used. The King James Version comes from this tradition. The reformers and puritans were universally agreed in their affirmation of the Majority Texts, not for circumstantial reasons, but because of scriptural reasons. Below are resources that defend the majority, Church history view.

Web Sites

<http://www.majoritytext.com/>

<https://reformedbooksonline.com/topics/topics-by-subject/original-manuscripts/the-majority-text/>

<http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/m-m.html>

<http://revisedstandardversion.net/text/WNP/>

<http://www.walkinhiscommandments.com/Pickering/Miscellaneous/Wallace.pdf>

http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1098&context=sor_fac_pubs

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/hodges-farstad.html>

<http://rosetta.reltech.org/TC/vol06/Robinson2001.html>

<http://www.skypoint.com/members/waltzmn/RobPier.html>

http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Bible/kjv_manuscript.html

<http://www.deanburgonsociety.org/>

<http://www.textusreceptusbibles.com/>

Researchers of Interest

Wilbur Pickering
Zane C. Hodges
Arthur Farstad
James Borland
Peter Johnston
William Pierpont
Maurice Robinson
Jakob van Bruggen
Dean J. Burgon
John W. Burgon
Jay P. Green

Books of Interest

Adeyemi, Seni – The Preservation of Scripture 2016 20 paragraphs

Adeyemi gives an excellent introduction to the Scriptural issues at stake. He includes numerous choice quotes from the reformers and puritans, and clearly distinguishes the change of viewpoint that came into reformed theology through B.B. Warfield's deficient view of preservation (which has since become the norm).

Kayser, Phillip – "Has God Indeed Said?": The Preservation of the Text of the New Testament, PDF, 2004, 35 pages, with Wilbur Pickering.

Kayser wrote the first two sections, Pickering the third section

Kayser is especially helpful in listing out the Biblical verses and presuppositions that factor into, and should guide, the issues. He and Pickering also overwhelmingly show the corruption of the critical texts and the superiority of the Majority Texts.

Wilson, Andrew – Prefer the Shorter Reading? n.d. 8 paragraphs with two charts

One of the most foundational pillars of critical textual criticism since its rise in the late 1800's has been to (almost always) prefer the shorter reading, which pillar is still widely popular today. This unproven assumption is based upon the premise that scribes would most of the time have willingly expanded the text, which means that the shorter reading was original (contrary to them having any fear of God and contrary to the testimony of the early Church Fathers).

This pillar of modern textual criticism, unbeknownst to many, has been thoroughly disproved by half a dozen recent textual studies. Consistent with common sense, scribes, insofar as they unintentionally made mistakes, most often simply left a letter or word out (bad eyesight). Wilson provides a table. Modern textual criticism, which underlies the basis of most modern Bible

versions, has no clothes on; but rather has been cutting out the Word of God (Rev. 22:18-19).

Pickering, Wilbur – An Examination of the Alexandrian Texts, PDF, 2004, 7 pages, beginning on p. 28. The Identity of the New Testament Text IV

This is section three of the larger work co-authored with Phillip Kayser, “Hath God Indeed Said?”: The Preservation of the Text of the New Testament

Pickering demonstrates that the critical Greek texts of the New Testament that many of current Bible translations are based on, are inferior to the traditional texts.

C.S.P.M.T. – Byzantine Greek New Testament: Introduction 2014 8 pages

This gives a historical account of the preservation of the Majority Text.

Pickering, Wilbur – The Identity of the New Testament Text 1977, 2014 191 pages, Be sure to read the latest edition, currently number IV (as of 2015)

The classic defense of the Majority Text of Greek New Testament manuscripts

Robinson, Maurice – The Case for Byzantine Priority 2001, 113 paragraphs

The Majority text is also known as the Ecclesiastical, or Byzantine text, as the Christian scribes in Byzantium during the Early Church and Middle Ages transcribed the majority of New Testament texts in Greek that have been traditionally used by the historic Christian Church.

This scholarly, yet readable, essay is the best, most balanced and careful description and argument for the ‘Majority Text’.

Dean J. Burgon, John W. Burgon, Peter Johnston, Jay P. Green – Unholy Hands on the Bible: An introduction to Textual Criticism

Dean John William Burgon – Revision Revised and Causes of Corruption of the New Testament Text and The Last Twelve Verses of Mark

David C. Bennett – Dean John Burgon’s Defense of the Authorized Version