

Final Authority: Locating God's Word in English

The Place of Preservation Part One

The Viewpoint of Faith

- **Point 1: What is Inspiration?**
- II Timothy 3:16—the Bible's claim for itself is that every word of scripture was given by inspiration of God.
- God's design in Inspiration was to make the living and the written word equal.

The Viewpoint of Faith

- **Point 2: What is Preservation?**
- Psalm 12:6-7—the doctrine of preservation teaches that the very words God inspired are the same words he is going to preserve. The doctrines of inspiration and preservation go hand in hand; you can't have one without the other.
- It is always to be remembered that the Bible is a spiritual book which God exerted supernatural force to conceive, and it is reasonable to assume that he could exert that same supernatural force to preserve.

The Viewpoint of Faith

- Point 3: What is Preservation and Why is it Necessary?
- Genesis 3 outlines Satan's policy of evil against the word of God.
- It is Satan's policy of evil to destroy the final authority of the Word of God. He does so by creating a competing authority to the truth of God. Thus forcing you to decide and become your own authority.

The Viewpoint of Faith

- **Point 4: The Process of Preservation**
- The originals no longer exist and are not the issue with God.
- **God's design is to preserve his word through a multiplicity of accurate reliable copies that carry as much weight and authority as the originals.**

The Viewpoint of Faith

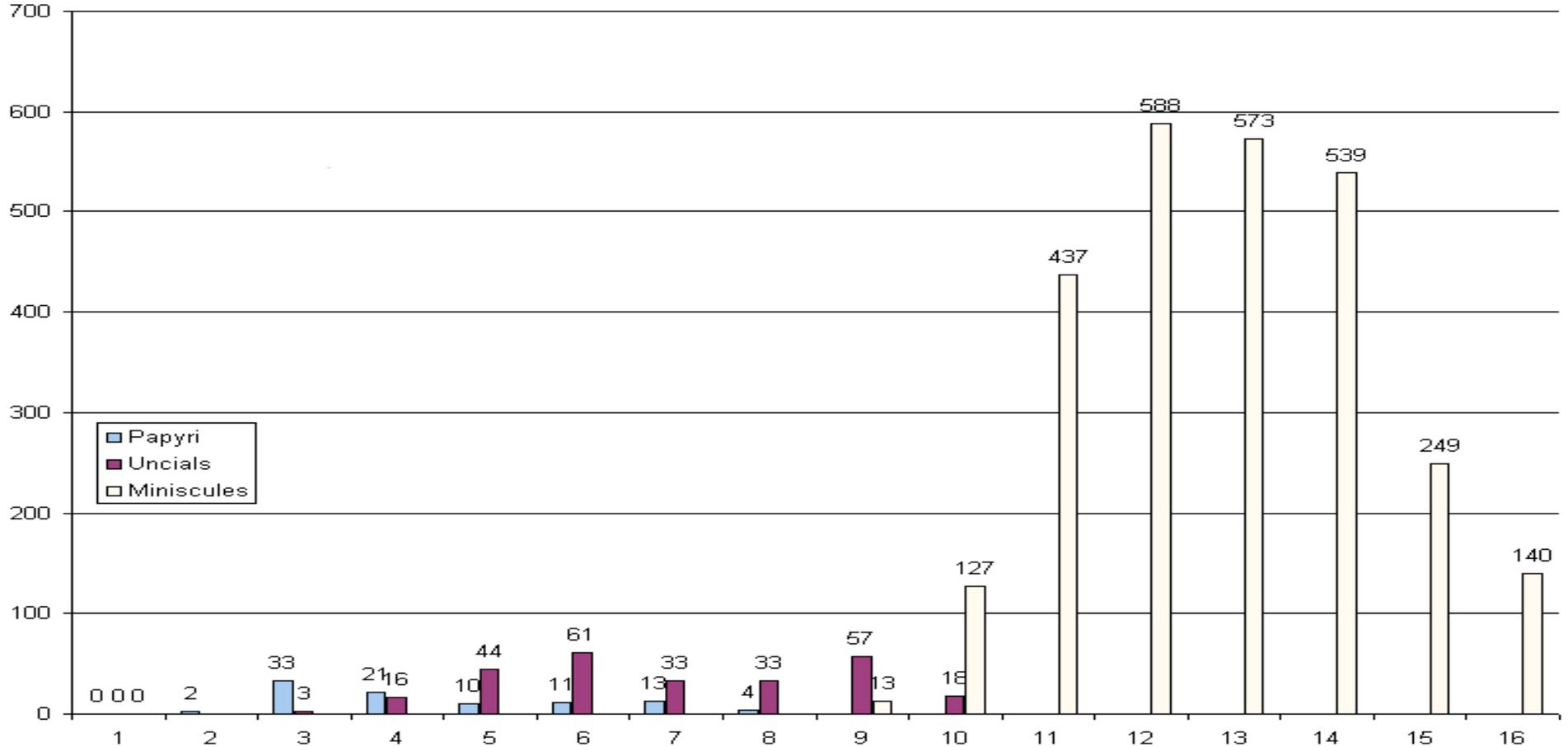
- **Point 5: The People of Preservation**
- God always over saw the copying process of the word of God. He did so by establishing a group of men whose job it was to guard the word of God.
- Romans 3:1-2—one of the reasons God created the nation of Israel is so that they could watch over God's word.
- Time Past-Tribe of Levi
- Dispensation of Grace—New Testament Prophet

What is Textual Criticism?

- **Definition of Textual Criticism**: this activity involves the study of manuscripts of the Bible, those written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, as well as ancient translations into other languages like Latin or Coptic. Its goal is to reconstruct the original text of the Bible from this vast wealth of information.

The Preserved Text

- As we try to locate God's preserved word what should we be looking for?
- A multiplicity of accurate reliable copies.



The Preserved Text

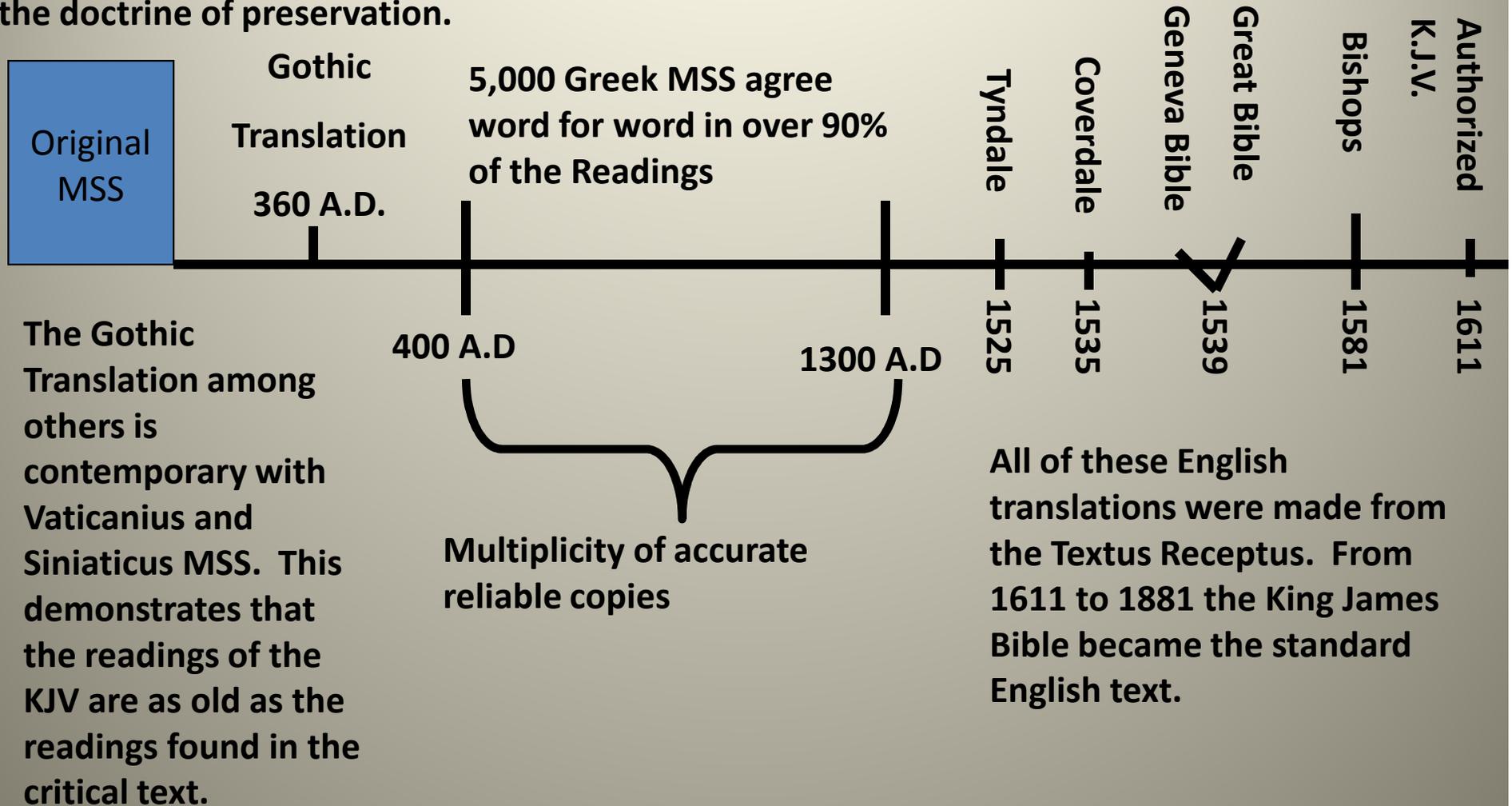
- The Majority Text represents the vast majority (90+%) of all Greek MSS (5,000).
- Overtime this majority of manuscripts along with readings from early translations and Patristic Lectionaries came to be known as the Textus Receptus. This is a Latin term which simply means the text that is commonly received among the people.
- The TR is the text that Martin Luther used to make his translation into German in 1522. It was this text along with the stress of the Reformers on believers possessing the Bible in their own language that drove the Protestant Revolution.

The Preserved Text

- Seven early translations were made into English. The first was John Wycliffe's translation into English in 1382. While Wycliffe pioneered the notion of translating the Bible into the vernacular language, Wycliffe based his work on the Latin Vulgate.

The Preserved Text

Preserved Text: represents the vast majority (90+%) of all Greek MSS (5,000). The Textus Receptus (i.e. Received Text) is witnessed by the majority of MSS, in addition to early translations and Patristic Lectionaries. The TR represents the multiplicity of copies required by the doctrine of preservation.



The Critical Text

- Virtually every English Translation that has been made since 1881 has followed the textual theories of Westcott and Hort.
- In 1844, archeologist Constantin von Tischendorf, retrieved a 4th century uncial manuscript from a trash can at Saint Catherine's Monastery near Mount Sinai. The discovery of Codex Sinaiticus, promoted textual critics to begin a critical evaluation of the Received Text.
- In 1881, a panel of scholars led by Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort sought to revise the standard English text of the King James Bible. In doing so they replaced the TR with a "new and improved" Greek text based upon their own critical theory of textual criticism.

The Critical Text

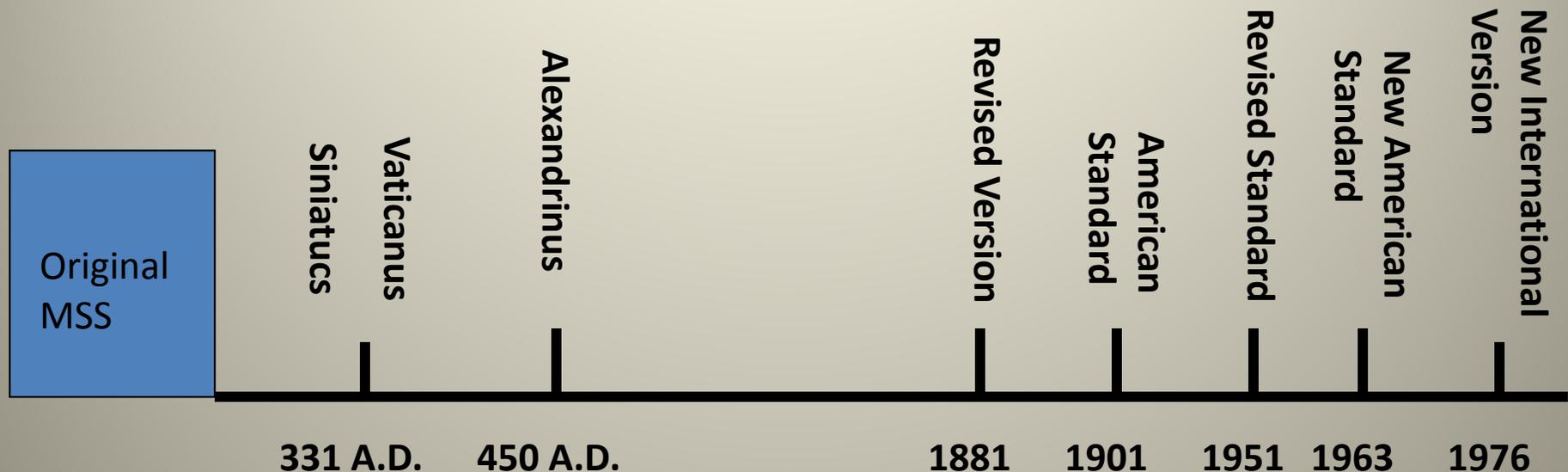
- **Summary of the Westcott and Hort's critical theory:**
- Natural Approach: the New Testament should be treated like any other ancient document.
- Textual Families: to get around the majority readings of the TR, the family tree method was adopted.
 - Alexandrian text-type: found in early papyri, and the great uncial codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus.
 - Western text-type: found in Greek MSS and in translations into other languages, especially Latin.
 - Byzantine text-type: found in the vast majority of later uncial and minuscule MSS.

The Critical Text

- Older MSS are Better : because they are closer to the original.
 - Read footnote on Mark 16 and explain what it is saying
- Shorter MSS are Better :because over time the readings were embellished and added to.

The Critical Text

Critical Text: follows a small handful of MSS from the 3rd, 4th and 5th centuries. These readings are often supported by less than ten MSS and sometimes by as few as a couple. Not only do these MSS disagree with the majority, but they also disagree amongst themselves. This text is favored by Westcott and Hort, who took a humanistic approach to reconstructing the NT Text.



The textual theory of Westcott and Hort asserts the following:

1. Older MSS are better
2. Shorter readings are better
3. TR readings are longer, more recent, and are therefore corrupt

Nearly every Bible (exception: NKJV) that has been translated into English since 1881 has followed the critical textual theories of Westcott and Hort

Scriptural Evaluation of W&H's Critical Theory

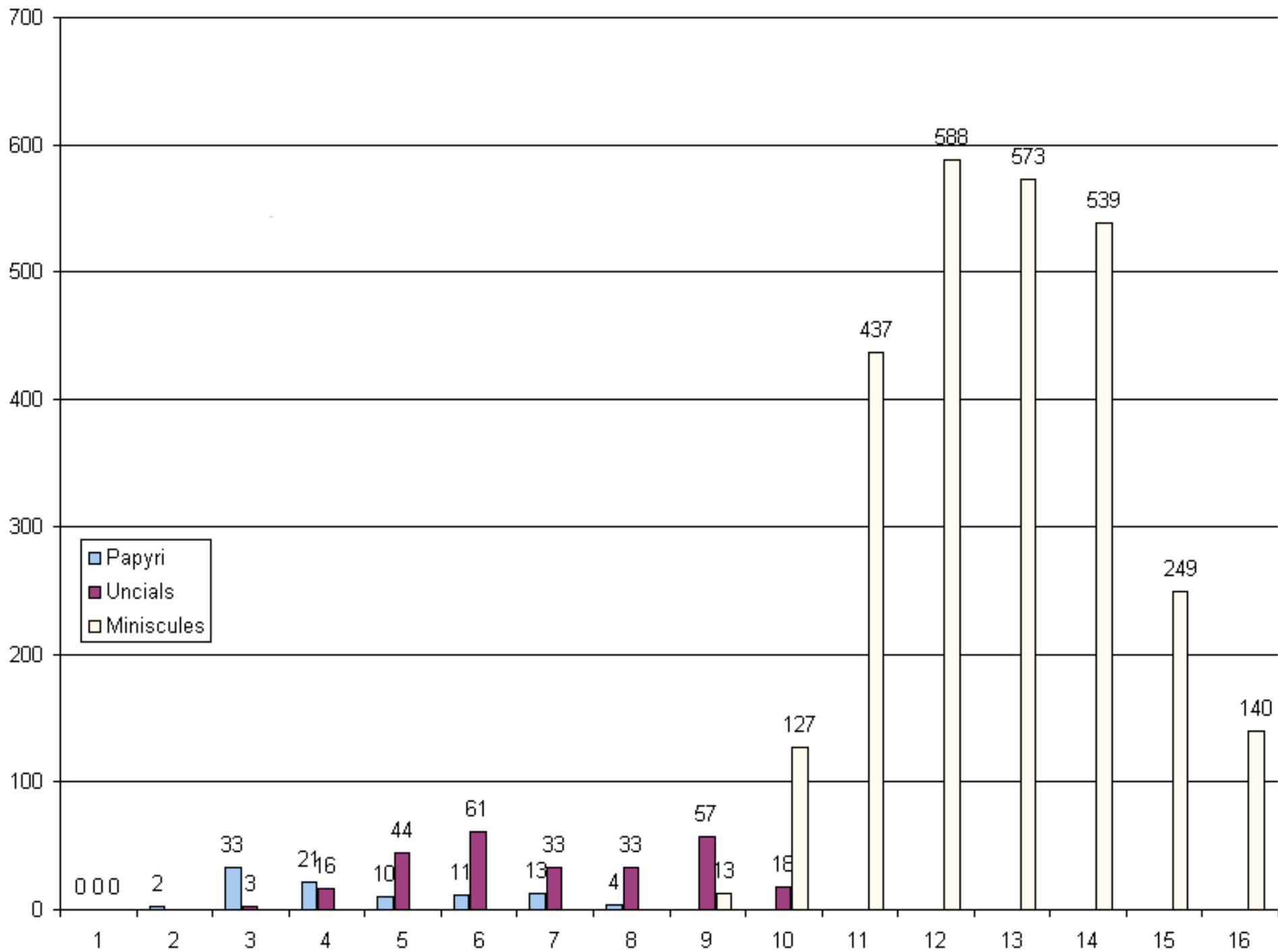
- **Answer to Natural Approach**: the viewpoint of faith will not allow a believer to view the Bible like any other book. The Bible is God's book. God inspired every word of scripture and promised to preserve for eternity that which he inspired.
- **Answer to Textual Families Approach**: textual families are a humanistic method of skirting the real issue and obscuring the clear testimony of scripture. The Bible teaches the preservation was going to occur through a multiplicity of accurate reliable copies.

Scriptural Evaluation of W&H's Critical Theory

- **Answer to the Older MSS are Better Claim:** as a trained historian possessing a Master Degree in history this approach makes sense for every other book from antiquity except the Bible.
 - II Corinthians 2:17—just because a reading is old proves nothing about its reliability. People were already trying to corrupt the New Testament before it was even finished.
 - II Thessalonians 2:1-2—“letters as from us”

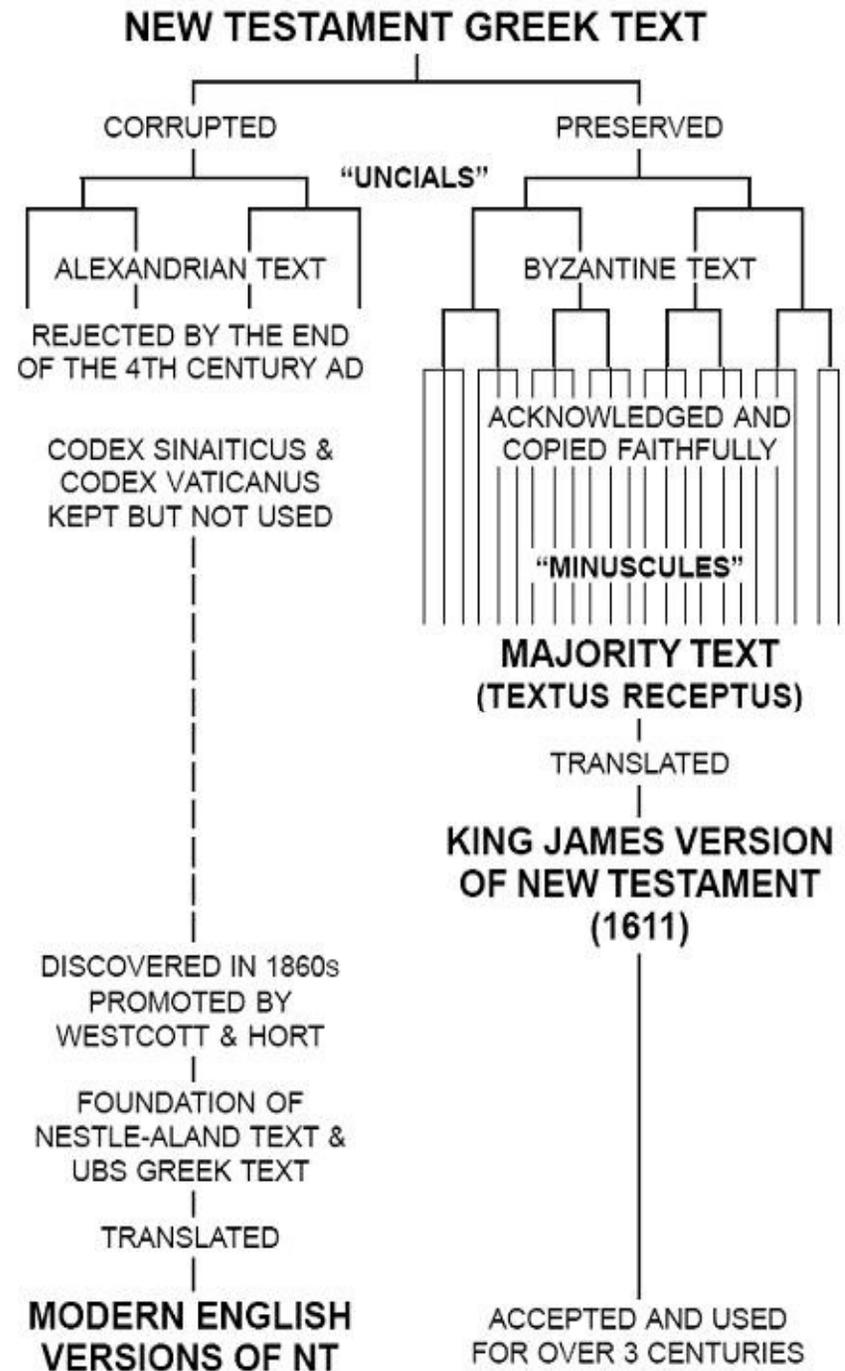
Scriptural Evaluation of W&H's Critical Theory

- **Answer to Shorter MSS are Better Claim**: in light of the Satanic policy of evil against the word of God in Genesis 3 this claim does not hold any water. It is just as easy to subtract words you don't like as it is add words to the text.
 - In Genesis 3 the word is questioned, subtracted from, added to, watered down, and in the end denied
 - Three times God warns about people corrupting the word of God.
 - Deuteronomy 4:1-2
 - Proverbs 30:5-6
 - Revelation 22:18-19—God wouldn't warn believers about people who were going to corrupt the word of God if it weren't possible. This is why preservation is necessary.



Two Kinds of Bibles

- This investigation leads to the following conclusion. There are fundamentally only two different kinds of Bibles. Bibles that follow the TR and the majority of the readings and Bibles that follow the humanistic approach advocated by the supporters of the critical text.



Two Kinds of Bibles

- **Common Misconception**: most people believe that modern versions are simply an updating of the archaic words in the King James Bible. This is not the case, the real issue in version debate is not how to translate individual Greek words into English but rather which set of Greek texts are you going to use to make your translation.
- The reason the King James and Modern Versions are different is because they are translated from an entirely different set of Greek MSS.

Basic Textual Differences

- This following list illustrates what was done when the text used by Christianity for 1800 years was replaced with a text assembled by Westcott and Hort in the nineteenth century and used as the basis for the English Revised Version, which nearly all modern translations closely follow.
- **Not all modern versions are the same.** Sometimes the NASB will include a word the NIV doesn't, or the NRSV might omit a phrase the NIV and NASB both retain, etc... but for the most part, the examples that follow represent nearly all of the popular modern versions.
- **The modern critical text that forms the basis for nearly all modern versions omits the equivalent of the entire books of 1st and 2nd Peter.**

Matthew 1:25

- **“But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.” (NIV)**
- **“but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.” (NASV)**

but she remained a virgin until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. (NLT)

Matthew 6:13

- “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (NIV)
- 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]' (NASV)

“And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (NLT)

Matthew 19:9

- **“I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.” (NIV)**
- **“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.” (NASV)**

“And I tell you this, a man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery--unless his wife has been unfaithful.” (NLT)

Matthew 24:36

- "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (NIV)
- "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (NASV)

"However, no one knows the day or the hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows." (NLT)

Mark 13:14

- “When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong-let the reader understand-then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (NIV)
- “But when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.” (NASV)

Mark 16:21

- **“And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.” (NASV)**

John 5:3-4

- “Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.” Verse 4 is missing. (NIV)
- In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; or an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] (NASV)

“Crowds of sick people-- blind, lame, or paralyzed--lay on the porches.” Verse 4 is missing. (NLT)

Galatians 3:1

- **“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.” (NIV)**
- **“You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed {as} crucified?” (NASV)**

“Oh, foolish Galatians! What magician has cast an evil spell on you? For you used to see the meaning of Jesus Christ's death as clearly as though I had shown you a signboard with a picture of Christ dying on the cross.” (NLT)

Colossians 1:14

- “in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (NIV)
- “in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (NASV)

“God has purchased our freedom with his blood [fn] and has forgiven all our sins.” (NLV)

Fn: Some manuscripts do not include *with his blood*.

Revelation 1:8

- "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (NIV)
- "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (NASV)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come, the Almighty One." (NLT)

Revelation 5:14

- **“The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.” (NIV)**
- **And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.” (NASV)**

“And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped God and the Lamb.” (NLT)