

HOW DO WE KNOW
THAT THE BIBLE HAS
NOT BEEN CHANGED?



The background features a light gray field with four overlapping diamond shapes: two yellow and two blue. A white diamond outline is centered, containing a diamond-shaped image of ancient Greek papyrus. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed on the papyrus image.

IS THE TEXT OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT RELIABLE?

WHAT DO CHINESE, SPANISH, AND ENGLISH HAVE IN COMMON?

Although God speaks all three perfectly, the Bible was not originally written in those languages.



IN WHAT LANGUAGES WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

OLD TESTAMENT

- אֱלֹהִים

- אֱלֹהֵי

NEW TESTAMENT

- Θεός

- Hebrew

- Aramaic (Daniel 2:4b-7:28, Ezra 4:8-6:18, 7:12-26, Jeremiah 10:11, Etc.)

- Greek (some Aramaic phrases and words written with Greek letters)

OUR ENGLISH
BIBLES ARE
TRANSLATIONS.



DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES PRODUCE DIFFERENCES IN TRANSLATIONS

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE

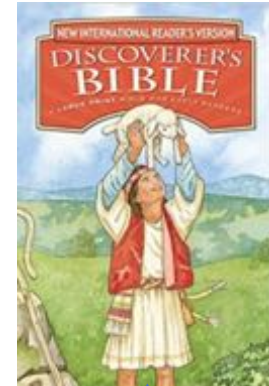
- Emphasizes the source language
- Considers the receptor language
- Tends to be “word for word”

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE

- Emphasizes the receptor language
- Considers the source language
- Tends to be “thought for thought”

THE SPECTRUM OF TRANSLATIONS: FORMAL VERSUS FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE

Hebrew or Greek Interlinear



NIRV

More formal (less interpretative)

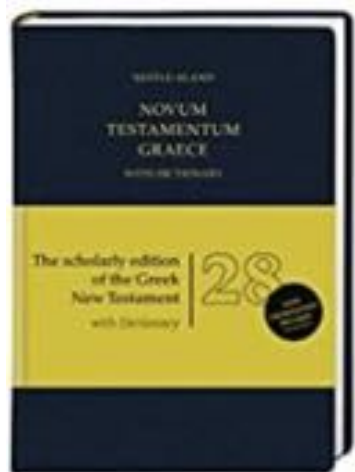
More functional (more interpretative)



In general, translators work from print/digital editions of the Old and New Testaments such as:

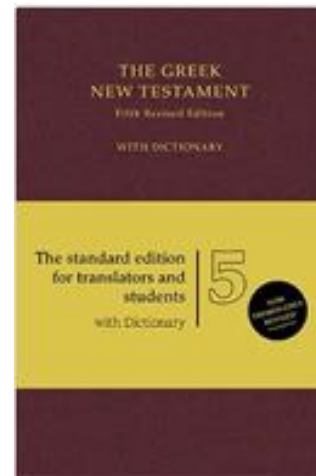


- Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia 5th edition



- Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28th edition)

- United Bible Society *The Greek New Testament* (5th edition)



WHENCE
COMETH THE
TEXT FOR
TRANSLATION?

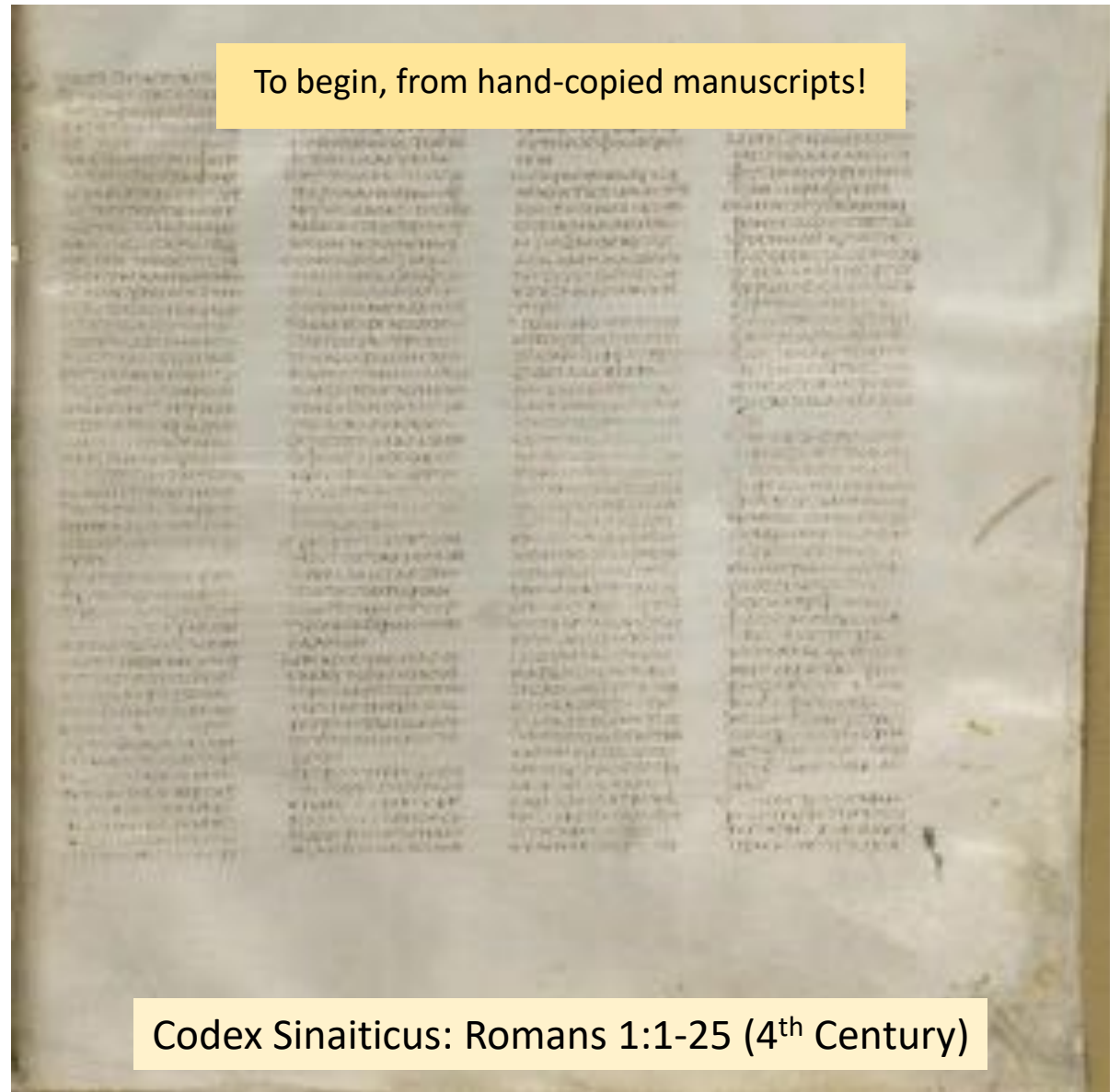
UBS GREEK NT: ROMANS 1:1-7

ΠΡΟΣ ΡΩΜΑΙΟΥΣ

Salutation

1 Παῦλος δοῦλος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ¹, κλητὸς ἀπόστολος ἀφωρισμένος εἰς εὐαγγέλιον θεοῦ, **2** ὃ προεπηγγείλατο διὰ τῶν προφητῶν αὐτοῦ ἐν γραφαῖς ἀγίαις **3** περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ τοῦ γενομένου ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ κατὰ σάρκα, **4** τοῦ ὀρισθέντος υἱοῦ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει κατὰ πνεῦμα ἀγιωσύνης ἐξ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν, Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν, **5** δι' οὗ ἐλάβομεν χάριν καὶ ἀποστολὴν εἰς ὑπακοὴν πίστεως ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν ὑπὲρ τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ, **6** ἐν οἷς ἐστε καὶ ὑμεῖς κλητοὶ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, **7** πᾶσιν τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Ῥώμῃ² ἀγαπητοῖς θεοῦ, κλητοῖς ἀγίοις, χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

WHENCE COMETH THE TEXT FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT PRINT EDITIONS?



To begin, from hand-copied manuscripts!

Codex Sinaiticus: Romans 1:1-25 (4th Century)

A REVOLUTION



Recreated Gutenberg press at the International Printing Museum, Carson, California
By vlasta2 - Flickr: PrintMus 038, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16412858>

THE WICKED BIBLE:
1631 A.D.

Honour thy father
dayes may bee long vpon
ORD thy God giueth thee.
13 * Thou shalt not kill
14 Thou shalt commit adultery.
15 Thou shalt not steale,
16 Thou shalt not beare false wit
neighbour
* Thou shalt not couer thy neigh
neighbour



Should read: Thou shalt **NOT** commit adultery.

IS THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT RELIABLE?

- The New Testament in English is a translation from Greek manuscripts. Although translations differ for a variety of reasons and there are challenges in that process, it is also true that excellent translations exist which faithfully communicate the text/message found in the manuscripts.
- Since the invention of the printing press in 1440 A.D., the text of the New Testament manuscripts has essentially been “frozen”, such that no new differences have entered the transmission process.

THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

TEXTUAL VARIANTS IN ROMANS

Romans 1:1 {B}

1. Παῦλος δοῦλος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ
 2. Παῦλος δοῦλος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
-
1. Paul servant of Christ Jesus
 2. Paul servant of Jesus Christ