

# Fallen Angels

## *Architects of This Present Darkness*

### V. HOW EVIL FORCES HAVE QUESTIONED THE WORD OF GOD

#### PART I – HOW WE GOT OUR AMAZING BIBLE

Did God really say?

Gen. 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The three temptations of Eve:

Questioning what God had exactly said (*did God actually say?*)

Disputing the consequence of disobeying God (*You will surely not die*)

Making a false promise (*You will be like God*)

Jesus at the beginning of His ministry was tempted by Satan himself with three temptations

Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus did not fall for His temptation

Satan's greatest attack on mankind is not immorality, it is unbelief

Eve was not tempted to immorality or crime—just to not trust God

Satan's attacks are religious: sowing distrust in God's Word

In seminaries and pulpits more than in crime and immorality

Encouraging misquoting, misinterpretation, misapplication the Word of God

Developing false theology, world religions, and philosophies

Bible Literacy and Illiteracy

A 2021 American Bible Study poll

31% of Americans read the bible one a week or more

50% of American read their Bible at least 3-4X a year outside of church services

71% of Americans consider the Bible the Word of God

A database of over 3,000 worship songs today are inspired by Biblical texts

#### Quotes by Famous People about the Bible

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” - George Washington

“Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties, write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives.” - Ulysses S. Grant

“It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.” – Horace Greeley

“Education is useless without the Bible.” – Daniel Webster

“A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education.” – Theodore Roosevelt

How We Got Our Bible

New Testament languages:

Hebrew (*in the synagogues*)

Greek (*the educated folk*)

Latin (*the Roman occupiers*)

Aramaic (*the local common language*)

Hebrew-like developed during and after the Babylonian Captivity

Eastern type: Chaldee

Western type: Mesopotamian, Syriac, Palestinian

Sub-types:

Galilean

Samaritan

Jerusalem

Aramaic words in Bible: Abba, Bar-abbas; Golgotha; Maran-atha; Rabboni; Tabitha

We know that Jesus spoke all four of these languages--He is never recorded as having a translator

Biblical Inspiration

Biblical inspiration is our conviction that the human writers of the Bible were overseen and led by God in their speech and writings so that their communications recorded in the Bible are the very words from God through them

The Bible is God-breathed, God-inspired, and written or spoken by men and women of God, but under God's influence and direction

The collection of the writings of the Bible forming the "canon" was also under the supervision of God.

God also oversaw the preservation of the meaning of the text throughout the centuries

We can be confident of the Bible's infallibility and internal consistency

God has spoken to men and women throughout all time –even today.

But we trust that He has supervised the creation of, preservation of, and transmission to us in the Bible words of His that we can completely count on as being true and helpful

## II Peter 1:20-21

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## Acts 1:16

Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

God has overseen the transmission of His Word to us in English and many other languages

There are currently about 7,000 living languages in the world. As of 2020:

The full Bible has been translated into 700 languages.

The New Testament has been translated into 1,551 languages

Parts of the Bible have been translated into 1,160 additional languages.

Brief review of the Hebrew language and manuscripts of the Old Testament

Masoretic Text: the authoritative Hebrew manuscript: 24 books of OT

In Hebrew except a few verses in Aramaic in Daniel, Ezra, and Jeremiah

The Jewish canon

Kept exact and copied by the Masoretes, Jewish scholars 600 AD – 900 AD

In Jerusalem, Babylon, and Tiberias

Oldest fragments: 800's AD

Oldest complete copy: the Leningrad Codex 1000 -1100 AD

The Masorah – includes margin notes to promote clarity in the recopying



## The Septuagint

Hebrew OT translated into Greek 200 BC - 300 BC

Includes the Apocrypha (14 books)

Matches many New Testament quotations from the OT the best

Consulted by modern English translators while they mainly use the Masoretic text when they translate the OT

The Peshitta (Hebrew translated to Syriac) 100 AD – 200 AD

Also Greek NT into Syriac

Considered a very good translation

The Targum (Hebrew translated to Aramaic)

Spoken 100 BC – 0 AD

Written 0 AD – 100 AD

The Dead Sea Scrolls (Qumran Cave Scrolls)

300 BC – 100 AD

In Hebrew (mostly), Aramaic, Nabataean, Greek

Include parts of all of the books of the Old Testament except Esther

Pseudepigraphal books like Enoch, Book of Jubilees

Our English Bibles: KJV, NIV, ESV, NASB mostly use the Masoretic Text to translate Hebrew to English

Likely used a newly printed Bible, either:

First Rabbinic Bible, edited by Felix Pratensis in 1517-1518, or

The Second Rabbinic Bible, edited by Jacob Ben Chayyim and printed by Daniel Bomberg in 1525

There is more manuscript support for the New Testament than for any other body of ancient literature

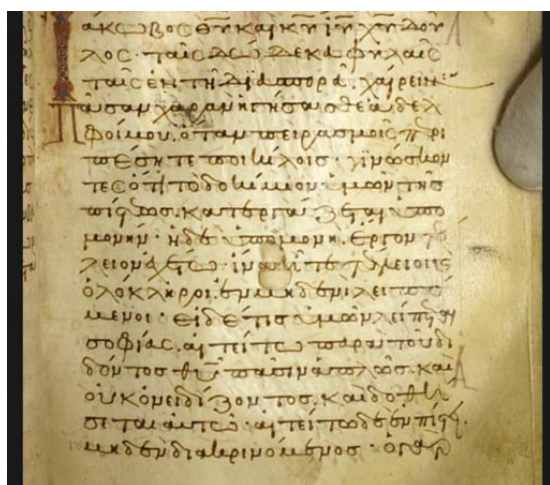
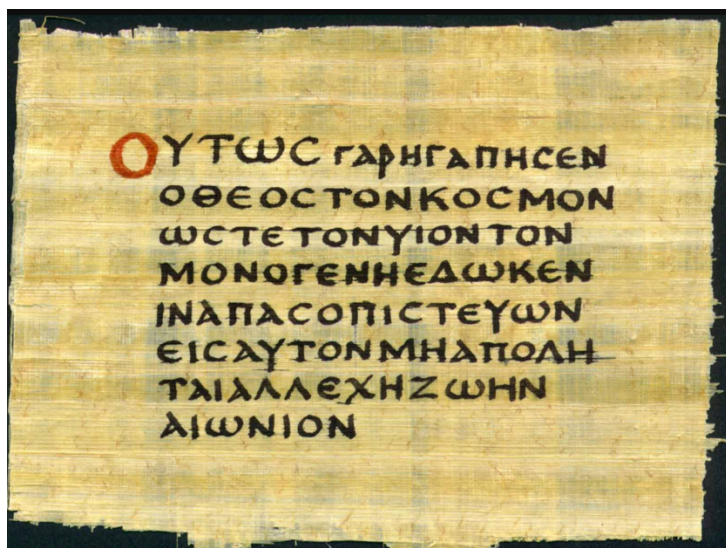
Author/Book	Date Written	Earliest Copy	From Time of Event – Years	Number of Copies
Pliny	61-113 AD	850 AD	750	7
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1200	7
Demosthenes	400 BC	1100 AD	1500	8
Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Thucydides	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Livy	59 BC-17 AD	1500 AD	1500	20
Tacitus	100 AD	1100 AD	1000	20
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1400	49
Sophocles	496-406 BC	100 AD	1400	193
Homer – Iliad	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
New Testament	50-100 AD	120 AD	<100	5800

There are over 5800 Greek, 8000 Latin and many in other languages (10,000)  
 Fragment as far back as 125 AD (the gospel of John)  
 Near-complete NT manuscripts in the 3-400's AD

Several different manuscripts

Two types: uncial and miniscule

Uncial before 900 AD; miniscule since



Two main Greek manuscript lines

1) The Received Text – most manuscript discovered are this type

Is based on the Greek NT of the Greek-speaking Christian world

The Byzantines, the Orthodox, or Eastern Church text of 1600's

Textus Receptus or Received Text

95% of discovered manuscripts are Textus Receptus

Most are in miniscule text

Today the KJV and NKJV mainly use the Textus Receptus

Available today in the Greek as The Textus Receptus Greek text from

Theodor Beza's 1598 Edition Revised by Fredrick Scrivener in 1881

The Majority Text: the text found in the majority of the discovered manuscripts  
 Mostly Received Text with the Alexandrian Text used when determined to be  
 best supported by additional papyrus and quotations in the Church  
 Fathers  
 Received Text advocates object to this approach and this manuscript line  
 Majority Text advocates argue that Erasmus and the early reformers did  
 not have access to that many TR manuscripts, and that it is safer to  
 compare their TR manuscripts with many other manuscripts in the case of  
 disputed verses

- 2) The more recently discovered (*but more ancient*) manuscripts  
 Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus, plus fragments  
 Created what is called the Alexandrian Text  
 Found in the Vatican and in Egypt in the 1800's  
 Date back to 300 AD – 400 AD  
 Most are uncial text  
 These codices and similar fragments comprise less than 5% of  
 manuscripts  
Called the Critical Text: mostly built from this Alexandrian Text  
 Westcott and Hort editors late 1800's  
 Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament 28<sup>th</sup> Edition (1<sup>st</sup> edition 1898)  
 Today virtually all modern translations except the KJV and the NKJV use  
 Critical Text (the Alexandrian Text)  
 The NIV, ESV, RSV, NASB and the paraphrase Bibles

Minor differences exist between the two manuscript lines  
 Rarely affect the meaning of the text  
 Called meaningful or non-meaningful (75%+)  
 End of the book of Mark passages differs greatly  
 Mark 16:9-19 – present in the Received Text, not the Critical Text

Other translations consulted in modern translations:  
Vulgate: Greek and Hebrew to Latin 300's AD  
Peshitta: Greek and Hebrew to Syrian  
 The study of these manuscripts, the decisions to use Majority Text and/or the Critical  
 Text in our English Bibles and is called Textual Criticism – not a bad thing

Earliest manuscripts are without punctuation, paragraphs, chapter or verse divisions  
 Chapters and verses added between 1400 AD - 1500 AD

Most difference in the Bible you may be reading is due to translation style and intent:

The modern approaches can usually be considered to be somewhere on a scale between  
 the two extremes: Formal equivalence / dynamic equivalence / paraphrase

## Formal equivalence (literal translation): word-for-word

Note: an "Interlinear Bible" is the only "true" literal, word-for-word version

**Paul's Greeting**  
(Galatians 1:1-5)

3972 [e]	652 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]	1223 [e]	2307 [e]	2316 [e]	3588 [e]	40 [e]	3588 [e]		
Paulos	apostolos	Christou	Iēsou	dia	thelēmatos	Theou	Tois	hagiois	tois		
1 Παῦλος ,	ἀπόστολος	Χριστοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	διὰ	θελήματος	Θεοῦ ,	Τοῖς	ἁγίοις	τοῖς		
Paul	an apostle	of Christ	Jesus	by	[the] will	of God	To the	saints	-		
N-NMS	N-NMS	N-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	N-GNS	N-GMS	Art-DMP	Adj-DMP	Art-DMP		
1510 [e]	1722 [e]	2181 [e]	2532 [e]	4103 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]	5485 [e]	4771 [e]	2532 [e]	1515 [e]
ousin	en	Ephesō	kai	pistois	en	Christō	Iēsou	Charis	hymīn	kai	eirēnē
οὔσιν	ἐν	Ἐφεσῶ ,	καὶ	πιστοῖς	ἐν	Χριστῷ	Ἰησοῦ .	2 Χάρις	ὑμῖν	καὶ	εἰρήνη
being	in	Ephesus	and	faithful	in	Christ	Jesus	Grace	to you	and	peace
V-PPA-DMP	Prep	N-DFS	Conj	Adj-DMP	Prep	N-DMS	N-DMS	N-NFS	PPro-D2P	Conj	N-NFS
575 [e]	2316 [e]	3962 [e]	1473 [e]	2532 [e]	2962 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]				
apo	Theou	Patros	hēmōn	kai	Kyriou	Iēsou	Christou				
ἀπό	Θεοῦ	Πατρὸς	ἡμῶν	καὶ	Κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ .				
from	God	[the] Father	of us	and	[the] Lord	Jesus	Christ				
Prep	N-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	Conj	N-GMS	N-GMS	N-GMS				

Translators using "formal equivalence" try to translate word-for-word with less regard for its "readability" by modern readers .

Examples include the King James Version, New King James, English Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, RSV

## Dynamic equivalence: thought-for-thought

The translator using "dynamic equivalence" attempt to render the sense and intent of the original text sentences and make the ancient text more "readable" to modern readers

Examples: NIV, ESV, Contemporary English Version (CEV) , New Living Testament (NLT)

## Paraphrase Translations:

The translator using thought-for-thought with more elaboration for understanding than even the dynamic equivalent translation

The Living Bible, The Passion, The Message.

Most modern study Bibles that have footnotes and commentary:

Choose to either be based on the Received Text manuscripts (KJV, NKJV) or

The Critical Text (NASB, ESV, NIV, RSV)

BUT they include in the footnotes the minor differences present between the manuscripts

His Master's Voice

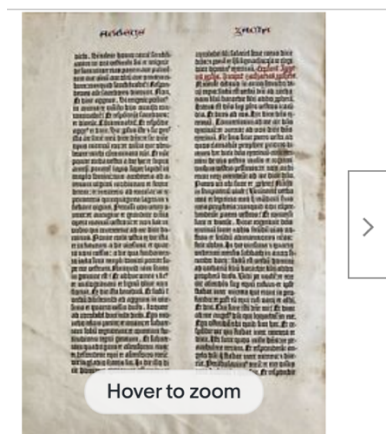


Notable NT and OT English Bible translations in History:

382: The Vulgate: Jerome's translation of the Hebrew OT and Greek NT into commoners' Latin: the bible of the entire medieval period

1384: Wycliffe: a hand-written manuscript copy of the complete Bible into Middle English from the Latin Vulgate; Wycliffe was declared a heretic after his death and exhumed and his remains burned; little influence across European Catholicism; launched the Lollard Movement of pre-Reformers

1455: Gutenberg invented the printing press; book now mass-produced instead of individually hand-written. The first Gutenberg's Bible was in Latin (*Jerome's Vulgate*)



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Best Offer:

1516: Erasmus produces a Greek/Latin parallel New Testament: a Greek NT with corrections to Jerome's Vulgate translation

1522: Martin Luther's German New Testament.



1526: William Tyndale's New Testament and parts of the OT printed in Modern English: Tyndale was executed for heresy; the later KJV drew upon Tyndale's translation: 76% of OT and 83% of NT

1535: Myles Coverdale's Bible; The first complete bible printed in English: 80 Books: O.T. & N.T. & Apocrypha

1560: The Geneva Bible: The first English Bible adding numbered verses to chapter (80 Books)  
What the Pilgrims brought to America

1611: The King James Bible published: Originally with All 80 Books..



1630: The KJV comes to America

The KJV was the Protestant Bible of the USA from 1630 until the late 1800's

The only other English Bible in the US was the Catholic Douay–Rheims Bible  
1582 NT translation and a 1610 OT translation: both from the Latin Vulgate to English

The "Bible Wars:"

1834 and 1840 in Boston and Philadelphia there were riots and church and convents burned down because Catholics asked that the public schools not mandate that the KJV was the only bible to be read in classes

Catholics were simply asking permission for their students to use their Douay-Rheims Bible while Bible was taught in schools

Catholics petitioned local school board again in 1886 in Edgerton, Wisconsin to stop daily readings from the KJV

The local circuit court refused the petition because it felt the two Bible versions were similar enough to not make a fuss about it

1890 in Edgerton judges overruled the circuit court and declared that reading the Bible in school violated the separation of church and state

So... KJV was virtually the "only" Bible for Protestants from 1630 to 1890's (250+ years)  
 The KJV was the Bible of colonial America, the three Great Awakenings, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Bible reading was banned in school in 1890 (*after 250+ years of civic and government support*)  
 Prayer was banned in public schools McCollum v. Board of Education 1948 (*after 300+ years of civic support*)  
 My point: until very recently Bible and prayer was promoted and supported in American society

1885: The English Revised Version Bible; The first major English revision of the KJV

1901: The American Standard Version; The first major American revision of the KJV.

1952: The Revised Standard Version (RSV): National Council of Church modern translation

1971: The New American Standard Bible (NASB): ASV updated (evangelical's favorite)

1973: The New International Version (NIV): modern Phrase-for-Phrase translation

1982: The New King James Version (NKJV): Modern English Version of KJV: mostly Received Text

2001: The English Standard Version (ESV): a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV

2002: The Message paraphrase

2017: The Passion paraphrase