

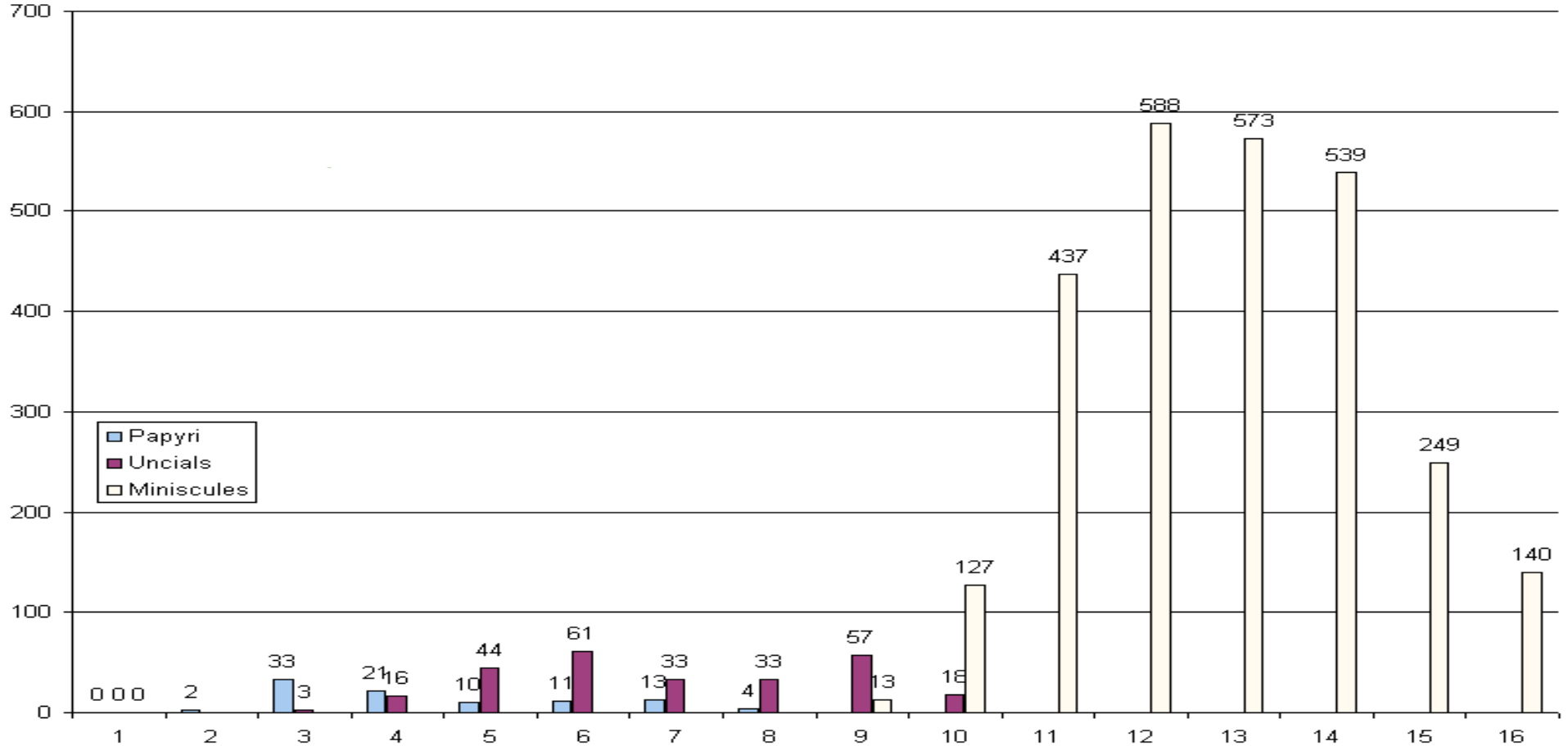
The Product of Preservation

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.

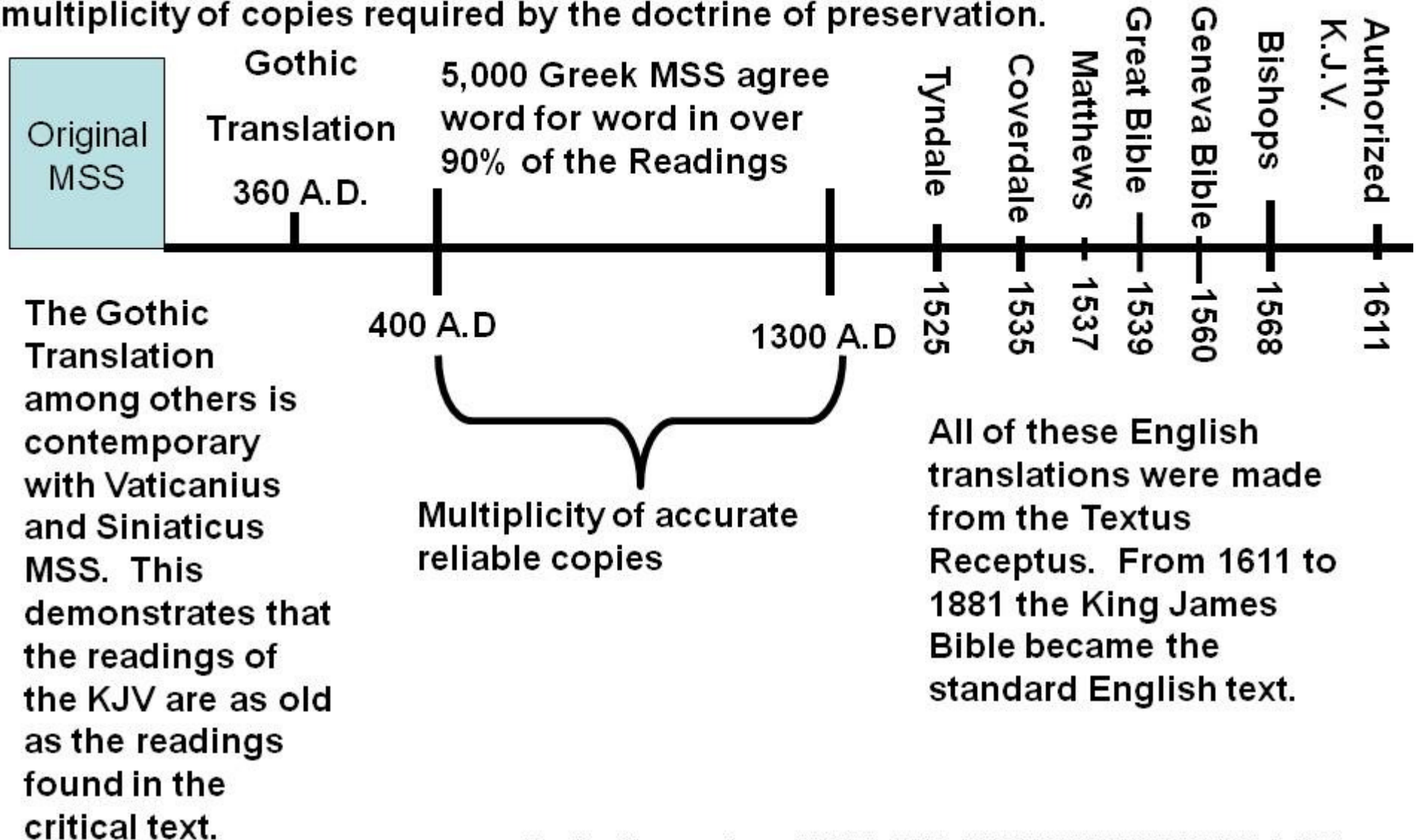
The Preserved Text

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



The Preserved Text

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

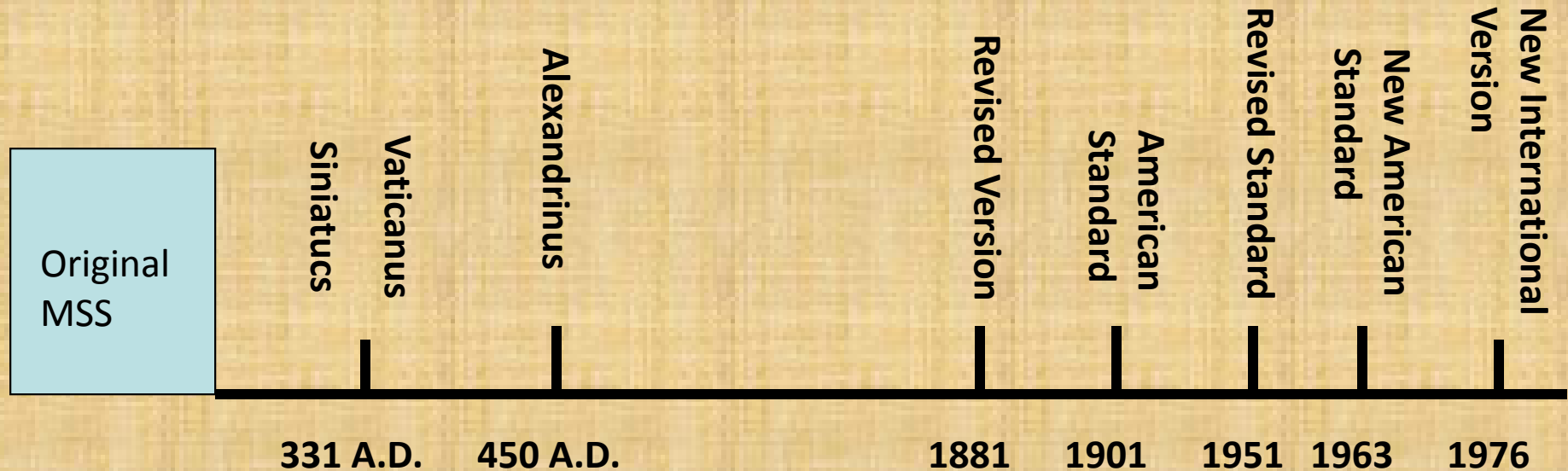
- **Summary of the Westcott and Hort's critical theory:**
- Natural Approach: the New Testament should be treated like any other ancient document.
- Textual Families: to get around the majority readings of the TR, the family tree method was adopted.
 - Alexandrian text-type: found in early papyri, and 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

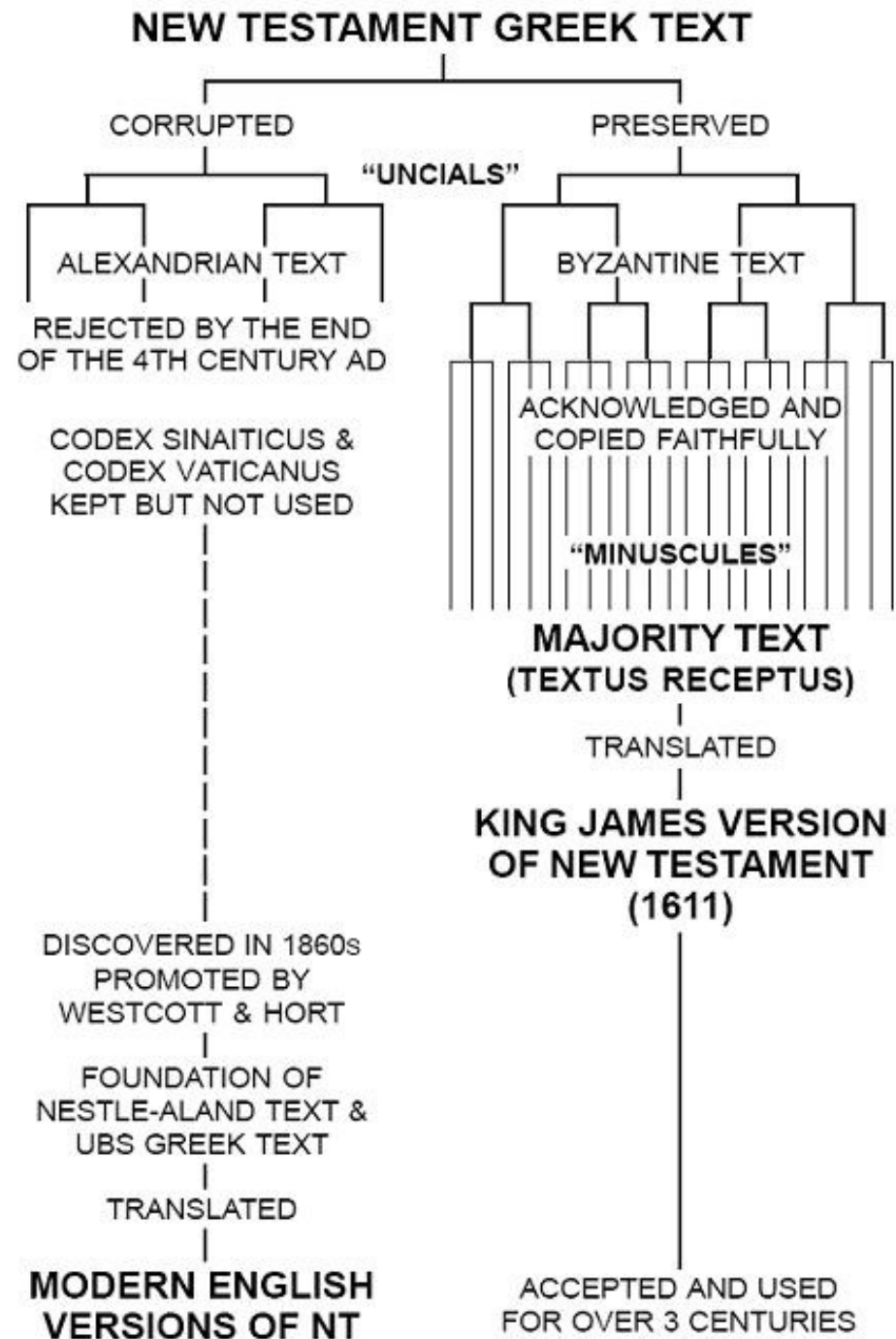
- **Answer to the Older MSS are Better Claim:**
as a trained historian possessing a Master Degree in history this approach makes sense for every other book from antiquity accept the Bible.
 - II Corinthians 2:17—just because a reading is old proves nothing about its reliability. People were already trying 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.



II Samuel 21:19

- **“In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod.” (NIV)**
- **“There was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.” (NASV)**

“In still another battle at Gob, Elhanan son of Jair from Bethlehem killed the brother of Goliath of Gath. The handle of his spear was as thick as a weaver's beam! ” (NLT)

Matthew 5:22

- **“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.” (NIV)**
 - **“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. ” (NASV)**
- “But I say, if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the high council. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. ” (NLT)**

Mark 1:1-2

- “The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2) It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” (NIV)

- “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2) As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY; ” (NASV)

“Here begins the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. 2) In the book of the prophet Isaiah, God said, “Look, I am sending my messenger before you, and he will prepare your way. ” (NLT)

Luke 2:33

- “The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ” (NIV)
- “And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.” (NASV)

“Joseph and Mary were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. ” (NLT)

John 1:18

“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.}” (NASV)

Chicago Statement on Inerrancy

- “Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of textual criticism as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission. The verdict of science however, is that the Hebrew and Greek text appear to be amazingly well preserved, so that we are amply justified in affirming, with the Westminster Confession, a singular providence of God in this matter and in declaring that the authority of Scripture is on no way jeopardized by the fact that the copies we possess are not entirely error-free.” (Geisler, 502)

Psalm 12:6-7

- **And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. 7) O LORD, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever. (NIV)**

The LORD's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over. 7) Therefore, LORD, we know you will protect the oppressed, preserving them forever from this lying generation, (NLT)

Conclusion

- So then how do we know that the King James Bible is correct and modern versions are false?
- God inspired every word of Scripture.
- God promised to preserve for all eternity the same words he inspired.
- God so fit to preserve his word through a multiplicity of accurate reliable copies that are just as authoritative as the originals.
- The multiplicity of accurate reliable copies are witnessed in the readings of the Textus Receptus.

Conclusion

- In accordance with God's emphasis on the words and not the thoughts or the ideas. The King James translators made a faithful and literal word for word translation of the Preserved Text (TR) into English
- The product of preservation is that we can have complete confidence that the King James Bible is God's Word for English speaking people.