

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of Bible translations.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

“BIBLE TRANSLATIONS”

PART III

Is. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; 24:35; 2 Peter 1:20,21

May 13, 2012

Isa 40:8

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

Matt 5:18

18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matt 24:35

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

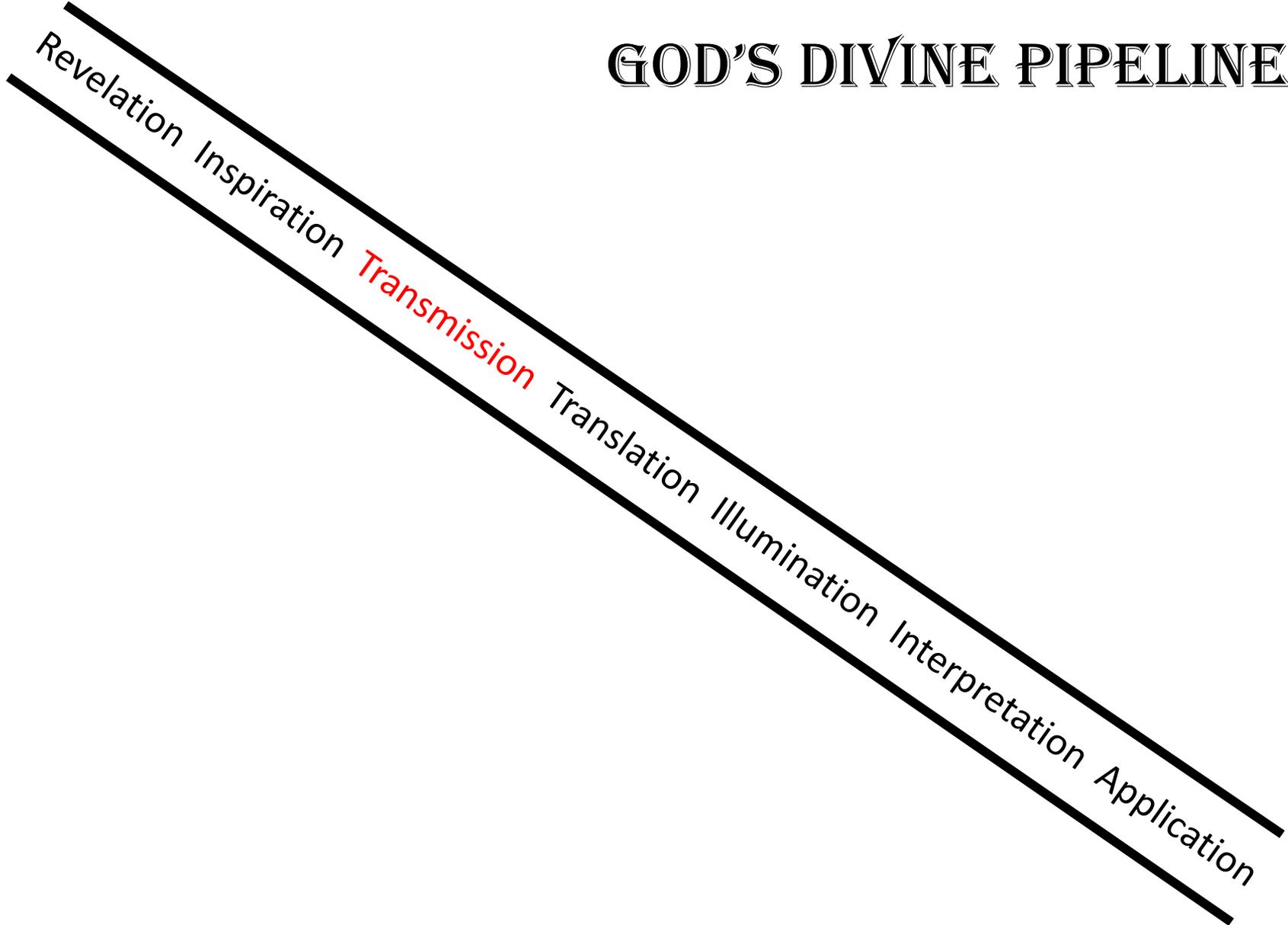
2 Peter 1:20-21

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Mind of God

GOD'S DIVINE PIPELINE



Actions of Men



- The British Museum - 165 Bible manuscripts, the oldest of which is the Masoretic Bible written about 820-850.
- The Bodleian Library, Oxford, possesses 146 Bible manuscripts, the oldest of which dates from 1104.
- Cambridge Library- 32, the oldest believed to be of the tenth century.
- The Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, has 132 Bible manuscripts, the oldest with the date 1286.
- Vienna Library is 24. The oldest (given by Kennicott under No. 126) contains the Latter Prophets and the Hagiographa, written in the tenth century.
- Royal library of Berlin; 14
- Vatican Library possesses 39 Bible manuscripts.
- Smithsonian Museum

- Hebrew University in Jerusalem
- Shrine of the Book Museum in West Jerusalem.
- The largest organized collection of Hebrew Old Testament manuscripts in the world are housed in Russian National Library ("Second Firkovitch Collection") in Saint Petersburg.

COLOPHON, inscription at the end of a manuscript, of a book or part of a book written by the copyist, in which he records details of his work. Colophons were not added to every manuscript, and many of them have been lost because usually the last (and first) pages of the book were damaged. The colophon contains a number of details for the study of the text, for history in general, for the history of culture, and for paleography. It is generally written in the first person and tends to include the following details: the name of the copyist, the title of the work, the date of the completion of the copying, the place where it was copied, the name of the person for whom the work was copied or whether the scribe copied it for himself, and good wishes for the owner and for the copyist. Not all these details are included in every colophon, and their order is not always the same. Some colophons are very extensive. Others are brief, containing only the date of completion.

Scribal Writings in the Margin (Colophon)

"He who does not know how to write supposes it to be no labor; but though only three fingers write, the whole body labors."

"Writing bows one's back, thrusts the ribs into one's stomach, and fosters a general debility of the body."

"As travellers rejoice to see their home country, so also is the end of a book to those who toil in writing."

"The end of the book; thanks be to God!"

"There is no scribe who will not pass away, but what his hands have written will remain forever."

"Whoever says, 'God bless the soul of the scribe', God will bless his soul."

"Mercy be to him who wrote, O Lord, wisdom to those who read, grace to those who hear, salvation to those who own. Amen."

"Write nothing with thy hand but that which thou wilt be pleased to see at the resurrection."

"It is cold today. That is natural; it is winter."

"The lamp gives a bad light."

"It is time for us to begin to do some work." "I feel quite dull today; I don't know what's wrong with me."

"Fool and knave (unprincipled person), can't you leave the old reading alone and not alter it!"

"Take heed how you do your work, for your work is the work of heaven, lest you drop or add a letter of the manuscript, and so become a destroyer of the world."

"I adjure you who shall copy out this book, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by his glorious advent when he comes to judge the living and the dead, that you compare what you transcribe, and correct it carefully against this manuscript from which you copy; and also that you transcribe this adjuration and insert it in the copy."







2 examples of how God works:

1. Creation

God created the garden and then delegated to man the care of it.

2. Healing

- *God can heal instantly or*
- *God can allow our sickness but will at the same time sustain us through it.*

***Therefore God gave us His Word and delegated to us the care of it and has and will sustain the purity of His Word forever.*

Because there are over 14,000 manuscript copies of the New Testament we can absolutely be confident of its accuracy. With this large number of manuscripts, comparing manuscripts easily reveals any place where a scribe has made an error or where there is a variation. There are approximately 150,000 variations in the manuscripts we have today. However, these variations represent only 10,000 places in the New Testament (if the same word was misspelled in 3,000 manuscripts, that is counted as 3,000 variations.) Of these 10,000 places, all but 400 are questions of spelling in accord with accepted usage, grammatical construction, or order of words. Of the remaining variations, only 50 are of significance (such as two manuscripts leaving out Acts 2:37). But of these 50, not one alters even one article of faith which cannot be abundantly sustained by other undoubted passages.

Could you, by comparing the manuscript copies, ascertain what the original document said with a high degree of certainty that you are correct?

Manuscript #1: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #2: Christ Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #3: Jesus Christ s the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #4: Jesus Christ is th Savior of the whle world.

Manuscript #5: Jesus Christ is the Savor of the whole wrld.

O.T. Textual Criticism

- “Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible”
- “The Biblical Qumran Scrolls: Transcriptions and Textual Variants”
- “Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible”

N.T. Textual Criticism

- “A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament” - Bruce Metzger

Manuscript Evidence

A – Codex Alexandrianus

B – Codex Vaticanus

A – Codex Sinaiticus

P66 – Bodmer Papyri

P75 – Bodmer Papyri

P45 – Chester Beatty Papyri

P46 - Chester Beatty Papyri

P52 – John Ryland Papyri

D – Codex Bezae

Church Fathers (The whole N.T. could be reconstructed from their quotations alone. Augustine, Origen, Chrysostom, Jerome, Clement)

Certainty of a Variant

- (A)** - Signifies that the variant is virtually certain.
- (B)** - Signifies that there is some degree of doubt.
- (C)** - Signifies that there is a considerable degree of doubt.
- (D)** - Signifies that there is a very high degree of doubt.

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

1:1 Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ {B}

In the opening verses of most of the Pauline letters, the manuscripts vary the sequence between Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ and Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ. In general, the earlier letters read indubitably Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ (or Χριστῶ), while those written later (with the exception of Titus) just as indubitably read Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ. For Romans (and 1 Corinthians), however, the weight of the witnesses supporting each sequence is more evenly balanced. On the basis of two fourth-century manuscripts (P¹⁰ and B), supported by 81 and several other witnesses, the Committee preferred the sequence Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ.

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

1:1 Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ {B}

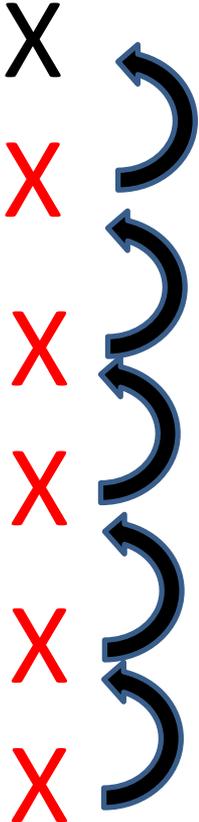
In the opening verses of most of the Pauline letters, the manuscripts vary the sequence between Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ and Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ. In general, the earlier letters read indubitably Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ (or Χριστῶ), while those written later (with the exception of Titus) just as indubitably read Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ. For Romans (and 1 Corinthians), however, the weight of the witnesses supporting each sequence is more evenly balanced. On the basis of two fourth-century manuscripts (P¹⁰ and B), supported by 81 and several other witnesses, the Committee preferred the sequence Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ.

Manuscript "A"

X

Manuscript "B"

X
X
X
X
X
X

A vertical column of six red 'X' characters. To the right of each 'X' is a thick, blue, curved arrow pointing to the left. The arrows are stacked vertically, one for each 'X', and they all point towards the 'X' in Manuscript A.

Mark 16:9-20

Reasons for omitting it from the Bible:

External Evidence

1. Not in oldest manuscripts.
2. Not in most manuscripts used by Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Eusebius & Jerome.
3. 4 different endings.

Internal Evidence

1. Awkward transition from vs. 8 to vs. 9 – “Now”.
2. Masculine pronoun “he” in verse 9 should find its antecedent in verse 8 but 8 is talking about women.
3. Mary Magdalene sounds like she is being introduced for the first time, yet she is mentioned 3 times before in Mark.
4. Significant number of Greek words used nowhere else in Mark.

******It appears this section was added to soften the rather abrupt ending to Mark.

Mark 16:9-20

- 9 [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.
- 10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.
- 11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.
- 12 After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.
- 13 They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.
- 14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.
- 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
- 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- 17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;
- 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
- 19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]
- [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.]