

AUTOGRAPHS

- The original documents of Scripture
- The original text written by Paul, Moses, etc.
- Old Testament in Hebrew (and some Aramaic)
- New Testament in Greek



- Inspired by God
- Without error (inerrant)
- No longer in existence

COPIES

- Copies made by scribes over hundreds of years
- Thousands of full or partial manuscripts in existence
- E.g., 5800 Greek manuscripts



- Many differences between copies, but most are minor (e.g., spelling differences or word order) and none affect any major Christian doctrine

CRITICAL TEXT

- What the original text most likely said
- Determined by comparing copies
- (The discipline that compares copies to determine the original is **textual criticism**)



- Extremely close to the original
- Modern critical texts take into account more and newly found manuscripts and are superior to older critical texts (e.g., the *textus receptus* used by King James Version translators)

TRANSLATION

- A completely literal translation is impossible and unreadable
- Some take a **moral formal approach**, trying to preserve original structure and words as much as possible
- Others take a **more functional approach**, trying to best express the meaning of the original in today's English
- Pros and cons to both approach



- The English language changes over time, so modern translations are necessary and in many ways more accurate than older translations
- The KJV was never meant to be the last English translation; the original 1611 version was revised many times; even those who refuse to use "new" translations use the 1769 revision

Example English translations:



