

## 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 KJV translators)

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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  
A completely literal translation is impossible  
and unreadable



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; we use the 1769 revision

### EXAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS:

