

"How do we know that the manuscripts that we have the Greek text that we have really reflect what Matthew wrote?" - Dr. Ed Gravely

(I) SUPPOSED ERRORS

This question has become increasing more important in the modern day because there are skeptics out there raising _____(1). One of the skeptics even suggests there are as many as _____(2) errors in the New Testament, such as scribal errors and manuscript errors.

(A) It is important to note that this number far exceeds the number of _____(3) in the New Testament!.

So how does a person arrive at such high number of supposed errors in the New Testament?

To answer this, we must first understand _____ (4) errors found their way into the New Testament, what _____ (5) of errors scribes made, and what we should _____ (6) about them.

(II) THE MANUSCRIPTS

If you were to lay all of the existing manuscripts on a table (there are about _____ (7) of them), you would find that they differ from each other in about _____(8) key ways.

(A) A scribe would make a mistake

(These are the type of errors where a Scribe copying down Scripture by hand, might take their eye off the page for a moment and then continue copying from a different line for example)

- (1) The errors are _____(9) to spot because it usually resulted in something that didn't make any _____ (10)
- (2) Scribes encountering this type of previous scribal error would _____(11) the error.
- (3) These types of errors are frequent, but because they are so easy to spot they don't really _____ (12) anything.

** Note - To arrive at the 400,000 "errors" mentioned earlier: if one manuscript has a particular reading and the author believes that all the other readings are wrong, and all the other readings exist in 1,000 manuscripts, then you would have to count that as 1,000 errors and not 1.*

It would be equivalent to arguing that a book with a single typo which was printed 100,000 times had 100,000 _____(13)

(B) Orthographic Variance

(This is a big word that simply means words are spelled different in different geographic locations)

- (1) "Colour" and "color" are examples of regional _____ (14).
- (2) The New Testament is filled with these variants, and regional spellings are actually _____ (15) because they help us identify what part of the world an ancient from.

** Note - To arrive at the 400,000 "errors" mentioned earlier: you have to count every single time somebody _____ (16) spells a word!*

It would be equivalent to arguing that there were errors in the text every time the American and English copies of "Harry Potter" regionally spelled the same word.

(C) Minor NonTranslatable Variance

- (1) Differences in Bible manuscripts that are not _____(17) in English.
- (2) Informs textual critics where the various texts came from and how they were _____ (18).

- (3) In Greek, the definite article “ _____ ” (19) in front of a proper name.
So in Greek, the sentence might read “The John Doe went to the market” whereas in English, we do not use the definite article in the same way.
- (4) So if the definite article got left out (for whatever reason):
- (a) It is _____ (20)
 - (b) It is _____ (21) going to show up in an English translation.

** Note - To arrive at the 400,000 “errors” mentioned earlier: you have to count every single time one of these minor nontranslatable variants occurs.*

(D) Major Translatable Variant

- (1) These are variants that are translatable and should be studied.
- (2) These will often show up in the _____ (22) of study bibles.
- (3) Only a couple _____ (23) that you would have to pay attention to.
- (4) Famous Major Translatable Variants
 - (a) The long ending of Mark – _____ (24).
 - (b) The story of the woman caught in adultery in _____ (25).
 - (c) These do not provide _____ (26) reason to doubt the Scriptures.
 - (d) These do not provide reason to believe that the Scripture has not been transmitted to us in a _____ (27) careful fashion.
 - (e) Romans 10:17 for example in some manuscripts tell us that faith comes by hearing the word of _____ (28) and some manuscripts tell us that faith comes by hearing the word of _____ (29). To Christians, both have identical meanings.

(III) WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

- (A) There are skeptics out there that really are _____ (30) the data.
- (B) While it is true that there really are a high number of variants in the pages of scripture, none of them _____ (31) to anything remotely significant.
- (C) There are those out there who use these kinds of arguments to claim that we can’t really know what _____ (32) said (for example).
- (D) All of these arguments are pretty _____ (33) when we examine the evidence carefully.

1. Doubts
2. 400,000
3. Words
4. How
5. Kinds
6. Think
7. 6,000
8. Four
9. Easy
10. Sense
11. Fix
12. Mean
13. Errors
14. Spelling
15. Helpful
16. Regionally
17. Visible
18. Produced
19. "The"
20. Minor
21. Never
22. Footnotes
23. Dozen
24. Mark 16
25. John 8
26. Sufficient
27. Reasonably
28. God
29. Christ
30. Exaggerating
31. Ammount
32. Paul
33. Flimsy