

"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.

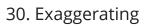
## (III) WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

- (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



- 31. Ammount
- 32. Paul
- 33. Flimsy