

How We Got the Bible – Lesson 8 – NT Transmission

Four types of Greek NT Manuscripts:

1. Papyrus (textile fibers) uncials (capital letters only) – 2 Tim. 4:13
2. Parchment (animal skin) uncials
3. Papyrus miniscules (cursive style of Greek) – 9th century onward
4. Lectionaries – liturgical readings of selected passages to be read in church assemblies at various times of the year

New Testament “Witnesses” (Evidences of Reliability)

1. Greek Manuscripts (hand-written) – More than 5800 now known
2. Early Translations (Coptic, Latin, Syriac, etc.) – More than 19,300
3. Quotations from “Church Fathers”
 - a. Greatest value = writers who wrote and quoted in Greek
 - b. Lesser value = writers who wrote and quoted in other languages
4. Printed copies from after AD 1450

Four Eras of NT Greek Manuscripts

1. Early Copies (AD 100-313)
2. Professional Copies (AD 313-476)
3. Dark Ages / Monastery Copies (AD 476-1300)
4. Renaissance Copies (AD 1300-1500)

Some Famous Greek Manuscripts

1. Early: John Rylands Papyrus P⁵² – c.125-150
2. Professional: Codex Vaticanus – c. 300-350
3. Professional: Codex Sinaiticus – c.325-360
4. Dark Ages: “Illuminated Manuscripts”