



Week 6

Greek for Ministry



How do we describe things?

We are almost done with Greek grammar. The only major category left is that of nouns and their cases. After that discussion, we will discuss the history of how the Bible was transmitted in Greek and translated into Latin and English throughout the centuries.



Introduction to Greek Noun Grammar

Stem - The basic form of a noun or adjective.

Case Endings - Unlike English, most Greek nouns and adjectives change their form depending on their function in the sentence.

Gender - A noun is either masculine, feminine, or neuter.

Number - Instead of adding an “s,” Greek indicates singular or plural by using different case endings.

Agreement - Case, number, and gender will match the adjective or article.



Introduction to Greek Noun Grammar

Uninflected - Some words in Greek do not inflect, such as personal names and words borrowed from other languages.

Lexical form - The lexical form of a noun is its nominative singular form.



Noun Case Endings

Nominative case - used to designate the subject of a verb (*God* raised him from the dead.)

Vocative case - the case of direct address. The word used when speaking directly to a person is the vocative (*Come, Lord Jesus.*).

To determine word order, you pay attention to the case endings. The only way to determine the subject of a Greek sentence is by the case endings since the subject can occur before or after the verb. Why such mobility?
Emphasis.



Noun Case Endings

Accusative - The direct object receives the action of the verb and is in the accusative case (objective in English). The primary use of the accusative is to indicate the direct object (God so loved *the world*).

Dative - English does not have a case for the indirect object. However, Greek has the dative case to show the indirect object affected by the verb (Ye be witnesses *unto yourselves*; *and the third day* he shall be raised again).



Noun Case Endings

Genitive - the possessive case used to indicate possession (let us put on the armour of *light*).



Noun Exercises

John 20:13

13 And they say unto her, **Woman**, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

Gal. 5:5

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope **of righteousness** by faith.



The History of the Bible and Textual Criticism

Luke 2:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!”

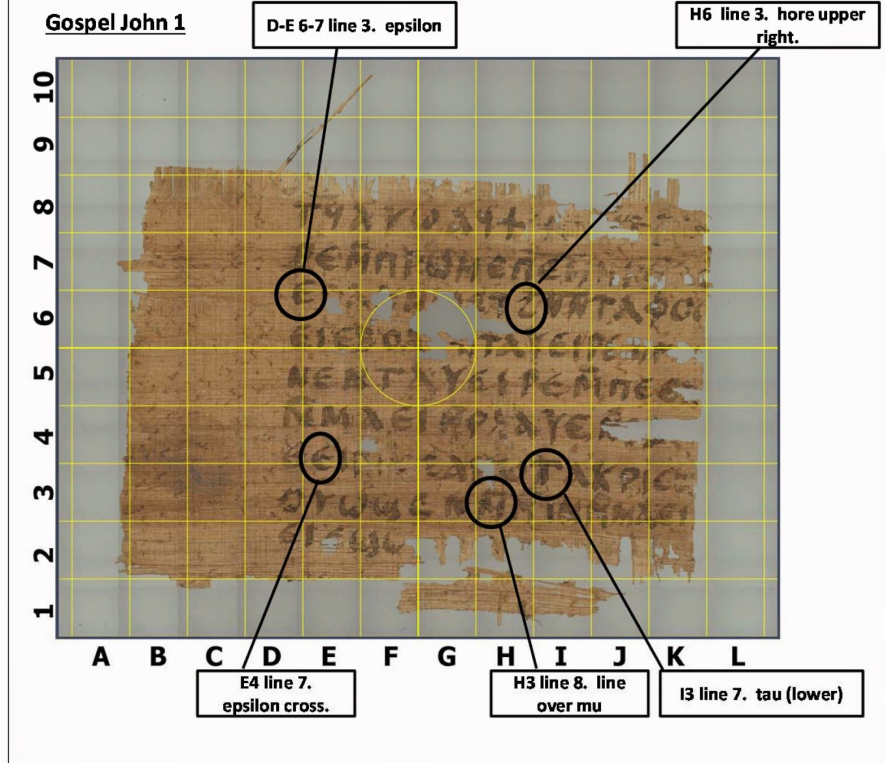
Or, why do some translations stop at Mark 6:8 while others go on to verse 20, including vs. 18, which talks about Christian handling snakes and drinking poison?



The History of the Bible and Textual Criticism

These differences are not due to different translations of the same Greek words. The differences are due to the fact that there are variations among the many Greek manuscripts we have of the New Testament; some translations follow some manuscripts and other translations follow others. If you are going to know why translations are different, you need to have some awareness of this issue.

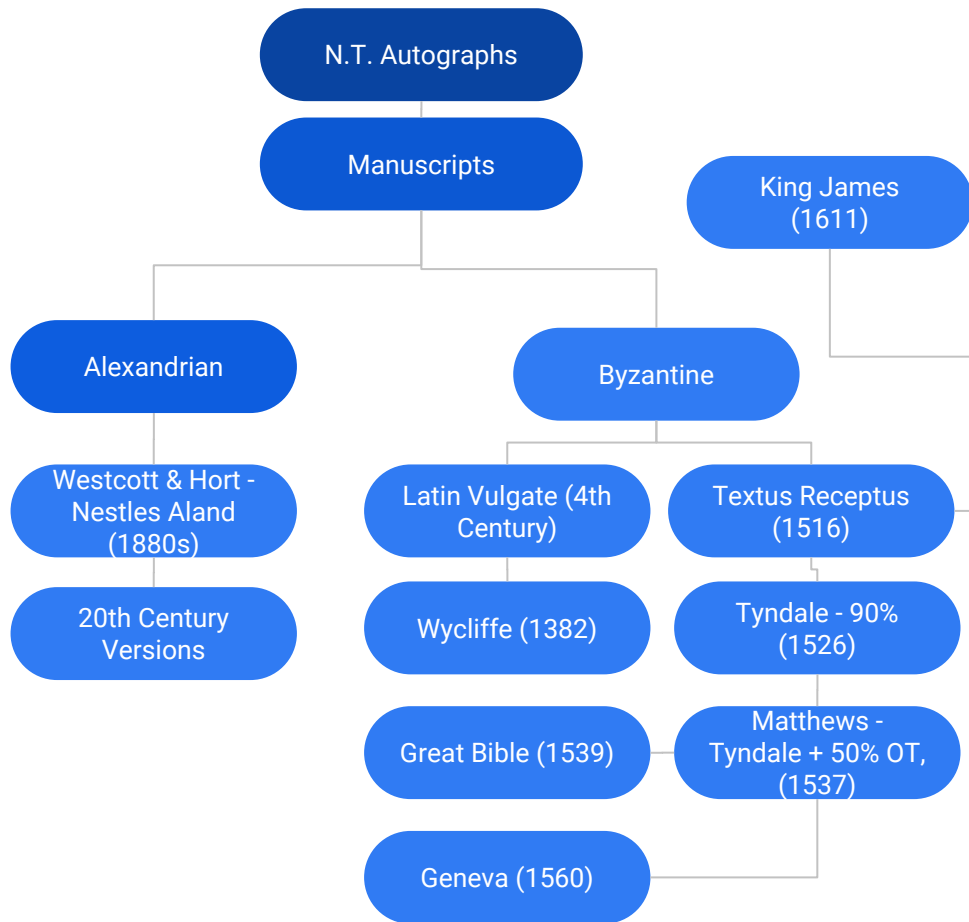
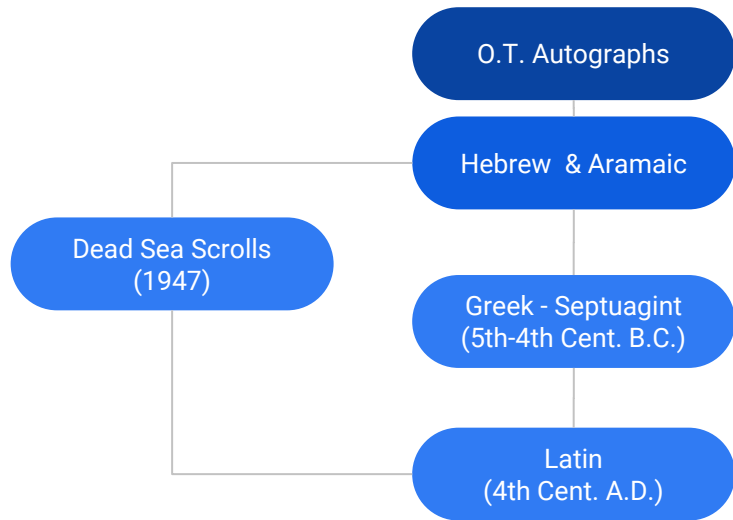
Fig. 4-1. "Gospel of John" Manuscript (GospJohn). Side 1



Textual Criticism

False View - Chicago Statement on Inerrancy

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/chicago1.html>



		Byzantine	Alexandrian	Notes
1	Age	✗	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The earliest Byzantine text is thought to be around 4th-5th Century. Alexandrian is 1st century.
2	Count	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are over 5,000 Byzantine manuscripts compared to a count of 300-500 of the Alexandrian
3	Agreement	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agreement between the Byzantine texts is over 98%. The Alexandrian is less than 80%.
4	Shorter readings	✗	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The typical thought is that the shorter reading is more authentic. Longer readings may be the addition of footnotes.
5	Location	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closer in location to where the N.T. was wrote.
6	Acceptance	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Followed the church and all early translations used the Byzantine text. Alexandria, Egypt was known for theologians, philosophy, and heretics.