

Intro:

Our lesson is called “Methods of Textual Criticism” There are five points and one section of “Concluding Observations”. We will deal with final point today.

Textual criticism: (1) “the scholarly study of manuscripts, esp of the Bible, in an effort to establish the original text”¹

(2) “the technique of restoring texts as nearly as possible to their original form. Texts in this connection are defined as writings other than formal documents, inscribed or printed on paper, parchment, papyrus, or similar materials.”²

I. The Wealth of Material**II. Types of Evidence****III. Working with External Evidence****IV. Working with Internal Evidence****V. A Brief History of Textual Criticism****A. The beginning of the printed Greek New Testaments**

1. Printing press 1450s
2. Complutensian Polyglot, NT printed 1514, publication delayed
 - a. Delay of publication to allow for OT to be completed
 - b. Multiple languages: Hebrew, Latin, Greek for OT
 - c. Aramaic OT and translation at bottom
 - d. Four volumes for OT, one for NT, one a dictionary volume
3. Erasmus published New Testament 1516 – first to publish (Latin & Greek)

B. Erasmus and the Greek New Testament

1. First love was the Latin NT
2. Published the Greek NT with the Latin so readers could verify his Latin

¹ textual criticism. Dictionary.com. *Collins English Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 10th Edition* (HarperCollins Publishers, n.d.) [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/textual criticism](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/textual%20criticism) (accessed: June 15, 2013).

² textual criticism. Dictionary.com. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., n.d.) [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/textual criticism](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/textual%20criticism) (accessed: June 15, 2013).

3. Edited the Latin to fit the Greek; edited the Greek to fit the Latin
 - a. Only where he thought Latin was superior
 - b. Last 6 verses of Revelation not contained in any Gk mss. available to him, so he translated Gk from Latin for his text
4. “Rushed into print rather than edited” – Erasmus
5. Had no complete NT manuscript in Greek
6. Most of his manuscripts were not old — of the Byzantine (majority) text family

C. Erasmus’ Editions: Publication history

1. First Edition – 1516 – called *Novum Instrumentum omne*
2. Second Edition – 1519 – called *Novum Testamentum omne* (used by Luther in his German translation)
3. Third Edition – 1522 – first to include 1 Jn 5.7-8 (used by Tyndale in his English translation)
4. Fourth Edition – 1527 – definitive edition
 - a. Three columns: Greek, Latin Vulgate, his own Latin trans.
 - b. Used Polyglot to improve his edition
5. Fifth Edition – 1535 – identical to fourth without Vulgate

D. The Greek behind the King James Version

1. Robert Estienne, known as Stephanus, a printer from Paris
2. Published Greek NT in 1546, 1549, 1550, and 1551
3. Used Erasmus’ third edition as his base
4. Consulted 15 different Greek manuscripts
5. The 1550 edition was used for the Geneva Bible and the KJV
6. The 1551 edition was the first to introduce verse divisions

E. Continuing work in the Greek NT

1. 1550 Stephanus edited by Theodore Beza
2. Between 1565 and 1604 Beza published nine editions

3. A printer named Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevir published an edition in 1633 with these words in the preface:

Textum ergo habes, nunc ab omnibus receptum: in quo nihil immutatum aut corruptum damus

“so you hold the text, now received by all, in which (is) nothing corrupt”

4. From this phrase we get Textus Receptus
5. Term used retroactively for the work of Erasmus

F. The contribution of Tischendorf

1. German scholar. 1815-1874, became a vigorous student of ancient manuscripts
2. Primary motivation: To cast down the claims of liberal Bible deniers who were casting doubts upon the Scriptures in the universities of Germany.
3. Set out to examine and discover all available ancient manuscripts in order to find “the pure text”.
4. Exceptional eyesight, when he studied the Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus in Paris, he became the first to decipher the underlying erased text.
5. Visited many remote monasteries etc. where ancient manuscripts might be likely to be found.
6. Discovered Sinaiticus in the monastery of St. Catherine on Mt. Sinai.
7. Published several editions of the Greek New Testament based on his work and discoveries. (Followed Sinaiticus pretty closely.)