

Intro:

Today we want to notice some of the complicating factors that affect your choice of a good translation. The first set of factors involves choosing what manuscripts are best.

I. Manuscript Families

- A. Byzantine (Majority)
 - B. Syriac
 - C. Caesarean
 - D. Alexandrian (Westcott-Hort)
 - E. Western
- Bonus: Textus Receptus (subset Byz)

II. Versions and Manuscripts

- A. KJV = Ben Hayyim edition of the Mikraot Gedolot for OT; Textus Receptus for NT
- B. NKJV = Biblia Hebraica for OT; Textus Receptus for NT
- C. NASB, NIV = Biblia Hebraica for OT; Nestle-Aland Greek for NT [Alexandrian text]
- D. ESV = revision of Revised Standard Version; same Gk & Heb texts [Alexandrian text]

III. Manuscript Issues

- A. Two general positions:
 - 1. Older is better
 - 2. Majority is better
- B. Variations on the themes complicate the decisions

IV. Older is better

- A. Theory: Oldest manuscripts closest to original, thus better
- B. Most modern scholars hold this view
- C. Modern translations follow this view
- D. Choice of a modern translation will depend on:

1. Translation philosophy
2. Stylistic considerations

V. Majority is better

- A. Older manuscripts were discards
- B. Majority represented accepted text
- C. Under this category, both NKJV and KJV acceptable

VI. Textus Receptus Only

- A. God involved in the work of Erasmus to preserve perfect Gk text
- B. This view would also accept both NKJV and KJV

VII. KJV Inerrant (no mistakes)

- A. Not only did God preserve word in TR, but also in English by KJV
- B. Believe all other versions are corrupt, including NKJV

VIII. KJV = New Revelation

- A. 1611 Translation a new work of inspiration
- B. Where KJV disagrees with Gk and Heb, change Gk and Heb

IX. Surveying KJV only positions

- A. TR only, KJV inerrant, KJV inspired are all practically KJV only positions
- B. Some “KJV only” people hold to the Majority Text is best view
- C. Some “Majority Best” people only “prefer” the KJV – don’t see use of other versions as sin

Conclusion:

Really only two positions worth considering

- Older is best
- Majority is best

Tools for making a choice ... in coming lessons