

# Bible Versions

Which is the REAL WORD of God?

Amos 8:11

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God,  
that I will send a famine in the land,  
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the LORD.

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## Part One ... File 4 of 7

### 9. THE MINORITY TEXTS

There are other extant Greek texts which are referred to as the '**Minority Texts**' simply because they represent only about 5% of existing manuscripts. Another 5% are **Neutral Texts**: sometimes agreeing with the majority and at others with the minority. The '**Minority Texts**' are also known as the **Alexandrian Texts** because they were produced in Alexandria in Egypt. The Minority Texts were rejected by the **early Christians** and also by all the **Protestant Reformers** of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Reformers, who were well aware of the existence of the Minority Texts, considered them unfit for translation purposes. These are very important points to bear in mind. **Why did the early Christians and the Protestant Reformers reject the Minority Texts?**

The answer is:

- The **Minority Texts** were the work of unbelieving Egyptian scribes who did not accept the Bible as the **Word of God** or **JESUS as the SON of GOD!**
- The **Minority Texts** abound with alterations, often a single manuscript being amended by several different scribes over a period of many years; something the Aaronic priests and Masorites would never have tolerated when making copies of the Scriptures.
- The **Minority Texts** omit approximately **200 verses** from the Scriptures. This is equivalent to 1st and 2nd Peter. Pause and consider that stunning fact!
- The **Minority Texts** contradict themselves in hundreds of places.

- The **Minority Texts** are doctrinally weak and often dangerously incorrect.

Proof of these astonishing allegations will follow in **Part Two** where we will take a close look at some **80+** Bible verses corrupted by the Minority Text.

Yet, startling as it may sound, **virtually every modern English Bible relies on the Minority Text as its underlying New Testament text in preference to Textus Receptus!** Isn't that an amazing revelation? What brought about this almost incredible switch from the reliable **Textus Receptus**, beloved by the early Christian church and the **Protestant Reformers**, to the corrupt minority text favoured by the Roman Catholic Church? **It is important that you find out soon: because the modern "Bible" you may be faithfully studying every day is really nothing more than a counterfeit posing as the Word of God!** If it is any consolation to you, do remember that I was equally in the dark and totally devastated by my findings.

## Misleading Footnotes

Modern translations abound with misleading footnotes, which do little else but cast doubt on the King James Version. Examples are:

- *The Hebrew of this line is obscure.*
- *The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain - or unknown.*
- *Other ancient mss add ...*
- *Other ancient mss omit...*
- *Other ancient mss read ...*
- *Other ancient mss insert ...*
- *Some early mss read...*
- *The most ancient authorities omit John 7:53 - 8:11*
- *The best manuscripts omit this verse. (e.g. Matt.17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, John 5:4)*
- *Some of the most ancient authorities bring the book (Mark) to a close at the end of Mark 16:8*
- *Many mss do not contain the remainder of this verse. (e.g. Acts 8:37)*
- *Many ancient authorities read...*
- *Not found in most of the old mss.(e.g. John 7:53-8:11)*

In this article we will not analyse these footnotes, simply because there are scores of them scattered throughout the modern translations and each has a slightly different slant. However, one thing they **all** have in common: and that is, **they ALL cast doubt on the accuracy of the Authorized King James Bible!** By implication they all claim to be more accurate and reliable than the King James Version. In the preface of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) we read this misleading statement. **"Yet the King James Version has grave defects."** Oh how subtle is Satan, how evil and how sinister! The stunning fact is: the very opposite is true. **The King James Version is infinitely more accurate and reliable than ANY modern English translation on the market today.** And that is why for nearly 400 years it has had - and continues to have - the blessing of the Almighty God upon it: something no modern version or translation

can come anywhere near. Most, after a decade or two, disappear from the book shops, only to re-appear some years later with a few alterations under a new name.

How did it happen that the **Minority Text** supplanted the trustworthy and respected **Textus Receptus** which triggered the great **Protestant Reformation** during which tens of thousands of true believers perished by flame, famine and torture? Who is behind this dangerous deception that has engulfed the Christian Church? Do you know? Do you care? Is it important? Does it really matter?

I most certainly didn't know. But I do believe that it is vitally important that every believer know that **Satan** is behind it: not any particular Church, its leaders or its members - but the great **enemy of souls!** He is behind every deception ever aimed at the human race and millions, in and out of the church, believe his lies. I for one had been living in blissful ignorance of the danger for many years; till a massive heart attack laid me flat on my back and I was moved - yea inwardly compelled - to make a deep study of the **History of God's Word** and how He has **providentially preserved it till today.**

Now let us turn our attention to the **Minority Text's** two most prominent manuscripts on which most modern translations of the Bible heavily rely. They are called **Codex Sinaiticus (Aleph )** and **Codex Vaticanus (B).** The word '**codex,**' incidentally, means that the manuscript is in book form, with pages, as opposed to being a scroll. But first a little about the man whom God raised up over 150 years ago to expose the errors of the Minority Texts. His name is **John Burgon.**

## **Dean John William Burgon**

John Burgon was undoubtedly one of the greatest defenders of the Greek text of the New Testament. He exposed the hundreds of amendments, deletions and additions in the Minority Text and defended the reliability of **Textus Receptus** till the day of his death. Unlike most Bible students and ministers of today, **John Burgon was a masterful Greek scholar of the highest rank** who spent much of his life browsing through the museums and libraries of Europe examining the ancient Greek manuscripts. He had first hand experience examining the **Vatican** texts whilst he ministered as a **chaplain** to a congregation in Rome. His findings are of utmost value in these days of wilful, spiritual ignorance and sin. I will quote a few extracts about this magnificent warrior from **David O Fuller's** book **Which Bible?**

Quote: "**John William Burgon** was born August 21, 1813. He matriculated at Oxford in 1841, taking several high honours there, and his B.A. 1845. He took his M.A. there in 1848...the thing about **Burgon**, however, which lifts him out of the nineteenth century English setting and endears him to the hearts of earnest Christians of other lands and other ages is his steadfast defence of the scriptures as the **infallible Word of God**. He strove with all his power to arrest the modernistic currents which during his lifetime had begun to flow within the Church of England, continuing his efforts with unabated zeal up to the very day of his death. With this purpose in mind he laboured mightily in the field of New Testament textual criticism.

**In 1860, while temporary chaplain of the English congregation at Rome, he made a personal examination of Codex B (Vaticanus), and in 1862 he inspected the treasures of St. Catherine's Convent on Mt. Sinai. Later he made several tours of European libraries, examining and collating New Testament manuscripts wherever he went... Of all the critics of the nineteenth century Burgon alone was consistently Christian in his vindication of the Divine inspiration and providential preservation of the text of Holy Scripture...**

**Burgon** regarded the good state of preservation of B (Codex Vaticanus) and Aleph (Codex Sinaiticus) in spite of their exceptional age as proof not of their goodness but of their badness. **If they had been good manuscripts, they would have been read to pieces long ago.** We suspect that these two manuscripts are indebted for their preservation, solely to their ascertained evil character; which has occasioned that the one eventually found its way, four centuries ago, to a forgotten shelf in the **Vatican Library**; while the other, after exercising the ingenuity of several generations of critical Correctors, eventually (viz. in A.D.1844) got deposited in the wastepaper basket of the Convent at the foot of Mount Sinai.

**Had B (Vaticanus) and Aleph (Sinaiticus) been copies of average purity, they must long since have shared the inevitable fate of books which are freely used and highly prized; namely, they would have fallen into decadence and disappeared from sight. Thus the fact that B and Aleph are so old is a point against them, not something in their favour.**

**It shows that the Church rejected them and did not read them. Otherwise they would have worn out and disappeared through much reading.**

**For an orthodox Christian Burgon's view is the only reasonable one. If we believe that God gave the Church guidance in regard to the New Testament books, then surely it is logical to believe that God gave the church similar guidance in regard to the text which these books contained...**

**Who but those with Roman Catholic sympathies could ever be pleased with the notion that God preserved the true New Testament text in secret for almost one thousand years and then finally handed it over to the Roman pontiff for safekeeping? Surely every orthodox Protestant will prefer to think with Burgon that God preserved the true text of the Greek New Testament in the usage of the Greek-speaking Church down through the centuries and then delivered it up**



intact to the Protestant reformers." (Ref:F11)

## Codex Sinaiticus (Aleph)

This codex was produced in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. In his book **Let's Weigh the Evidence**, Barry Burton writes of **Codex Sinaiticus**:

Quote: *"The Sinaiticus is a manuscript that was found in 1844 in a trash pile in St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai, by a man named Mr Tischendorf. It contains nearly all of the New Testament plus it adds the 'Shepherd of Hermes' and the 'Epistle of Barnabas' to the New Testament. The Sinaiticus is extremely unreliable, proven by examining the manuscript itself. John Burgon spent years examining every available manuscript of the New Testament. He writes about Sinaiticus...*

*'On many occasions 10, 20, 30, 40 words are dropped through very carelessness. Letters, words or even whole sentences are frequently written twice over, or begun and immediately cancelled; while that gross blunder, whereby a clause is omitted because it happens to end in the same words as the clause preceding, occurs no less than 115 times in the New Testament.*

**THAT'S NOT ALL!**

*On nearly every page of the manuscript there are corrections and revisions, done by **10 different people**. Some of these corrections were made about the same time that it was copied, but most of them were made in the 6th and 7th century.*

*... **Phillip Mauro**, a brilliant lawyer who was admitted to the bar of the US Supreme Court in April 1892, wrote a book called "**Which Version**" in the early 1900s. He writes concerning the **Sinaiticus**... 'From these facts, therefore, we declare: first that the impurity of the **Codex Sinaiticus**, in every part of it, was fully recognized by those who were best acquainted with it, and that from the very beginning until the time when it was finally cast aside as worthless for any practical purpose.' " (Ref:C1)*

In his excellent book **An Understandable History Of The Bible**, Rev. Samuel Gipp writes of **Codex Sinaiticus**:

Quote: *"One of the MSS is called **Sinaiticus** and is represented by the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **Aleph**. This MS from all outward appearances looks very beautiful. It is written in book form (codex) on vellum. It contains 147 1/2 leaves. The pages are 15" by 13 1/2" with four columns of 48 lines per page. It contains many spurious books such as the '**Shepherd of Hermes**,' the '**Epistle of Barnabas**' and even the **Didache**.*

*The great Greek scholar, Dr Scrivener, points this out in his historic work **A Full Collation of the Codex Sinaiticus**. He speaks of correctional alterations made to the MS: '**The Codex is covered with such alterations... brought in by at least ten different revisers**, some of them systematically spread over every page, others occasional or limited to separated portions of the MS, many of these being*

*contemporaneous with the first writer, but the greater part belonging to the sixth or seventh century.' "*  
(Ref:B5)

## **Codex Vaticanus (B)**

The second major manuscript of the Minority Text is known as **Codex Vaticanus**, often referred to as '**B**'. This codex was also produced in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It was found over a thousand years later in **1481** in the **Vatican library in Rome**, where it is currently held. It is written on expensive vellum, a fine parchment originally from the skin of calf or antelope. Some authorities claim that it was one of a batch of 50 Bibles ordered from Egypt by the **Roman Emperor Constantine**; hence its beautiful appearance and the expensive skins which were used for its pages. But alas! this manuscript, like its corrupt Egyptian partner **Sinaiticus (Aleph)** is also riddled with omissions, insertions and amendments.

Of **Codex Vaticanus** Samuel Gipp writes on page 72:

Quote: *"This codex omits many portions of Scripture vital to Christian doctrine. **Vaticanus** omits Genesis 1.1 through Genesis 46:28; Psalms 106 through 138; Matthew 16:2,3; Romans 16:24; the Pauline Pastoral Epistles; Revelation; and everything in Hebrews after 9:14.*

*It seems suspicious indeed that a MS possessed by the Roman Catholic church omits the portion of the book of Hebrews which exposes the 'mass' as totally useless (Please read Hebrews 10:10-12). **The 'mass' in conjunction with the false doctrine of purgatory go hand-in-hand to form a perpetual money making machine for Rome. Without one or the other, the Roman Catholic Church would go broke!***

*It also omits portions of the Scripture telling of the creation (Genesis), the prophetic details of the crucifixion (Psalm 22), and, of course, the portion which prophesies of the destruction of Babylon (Rome), the great whore of Revelation chapter 17.*

***Vaticanus** , though intact physically, is found to be in poor literary quality. Dr Martin declares, 'B' exhibits numerous places where the scribe has written the same word or phrase twice in succession. Dr J Smythe states, 'From one end to the other, the whole manuscript has been travelled over by the pen of some... scribe of about the tenth century.' **If Vaticanus was considered a trustworthy text originally, the mass of corrections and scribal changes obviously render its testimony highly suspicious and questionable.***

**Rev. Gipp** continues on page 73:

Quote: *"The corrupt and unreliable nature of these two MSS (**Sinaiticus** and **Vaticanus**) is best summed up by one who has thoroughly examined them, John W Burgon: 'The impurity of the text exhibited by these codices is not a question of opinion but fact...**In the Gospels alone, Codex B(Vatican)** leaves out words or whole clauses no less than 1,491 times. It bears traces of careless transcriptions on every page...*

**If we are to be thorough and discriminatory in our evaluation of the true New Testament text, then we must not -- we cannot -- overlook these facts.'** How did these MSS come into being? How did it happen that they should be beautiful to the eye, yet within contain such vile and devastating corruption? It seems that these uncial MSS along with the papyrus MSS included in this category all resulted from a revision of the true, or Universal Text. This revision was enacted in Egypt by Egyptian scribes! " (Ref:B6)

**Rev. Gipp** continues:

Quote: *"So we see that once a pure copy of the Universal Text (**Textus Receptus**) had been carried down into Egypt, it was recopied. During the process of this recopying, it was revised by men who did not revere it as truly the **Word of God**. This text was examined by the critical eye of Greek philosophy and Egyptian morals. These men saw nothing wrong with putting the Book in subjection to their opinion instead of their opinion being in subjection to the book. This process produced a text which was local to the educational centre of Alexandria, Egypt. This text went no further than southern Italy where the Roman Catholic Church found its unstable character perfect for overthrowing the true Word of God which was being used universally by the true Christians."* (Ref:B7)

The **Westminster Dictionary of the Bible** has this to say about **Codex Vaticanus** (B) on page 624 under the article **Versions**.

Quote: *" It should be noted, however, that there is no prominent Biblical MS. in which there occur such gross cases of misspelling, faulty grammar, and omission, as in B."* (Ref:H2)

**Barry Burton** comments further:

Quote: *"For one thing... Vaticanus and Sinaiticus disagree with each other over 3000 times in the gospels alone..."*

### **Facts about the Vaticanus.**

*"It was written on fine vellum (tanned animal skins) and remains in excellent condition. It was found in the **Vatican Library in 1481 AD**. In spite of being in excellent condition, it omits Genesis 1:1-Gen.46:28, Psalm 106-138, Matt.16:2-3, the Pauline pastoral Epistles, Hebrews 9:14-13:25, and all of Revelation. These parts were probably left out on purpose."*

*"Besides all that - in the gospels alone it leaves out 237 words, 452 clauses and 748 whole sentences, which hundreds of later copies agree together as having the same words in the same places, the same clauses in the same places and the same sentences in the same places... **The Vaticanus was available to the translators of the King James Bible, but they did not use it because they knew it is unreliable.**" (Ref:C2)*

**Dean Burgon** comments on Codices Sinaiticus (Aleph)and Vaticanus.

Quote: *"Compromise of any sort between the two conflicting parties, is impossible; for they simply contradict one another. Codd.B and Aleph are either amongst the purist of manuscripts,- or else **they are among the very foulest**. The Text of Drs. Westcott and Hort is either the very best which has ever appeared,- or **else it is the very worst**; the nearest to the sacred Autographs,- or **furthest from them**."... "There is no room for both opinions; and there cannot exist any middle view." (Ref: P3)*

## **Oldest and Best**

Bible students are often told that Codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are older and better than other manuscripts: the implication being that they must, therefore, be **more accurate**. But this conclusion is wrong. We have already seen how Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are corrupt beyond measure. To be sure they are **'better'** in appearance, but certainly not in their content. Remember they are written on expensive vellum; so they ought to be in good shape. They are older, but older than what? They are older than other Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. But **they are not older than the earliest versions of the Bible**: the Peshitta, Italic, Waldensian and the Old Latin Vulgate: versions which agree with the Majority text. **These ancient versions are some 200 years older than Aleph and B**. Yes Aleph and B are older than other Greek mss, but for anyone to suggest that they are **more accurate** is absurd. It is like someone saying 'You will find the greatest TRUTH being preached in the oldest and most beautiful cathedrals of the world,' or, 'the most beautiful women have the best characters.'

In his masterful book **Revision Revised** Dean Burgon wrote, over a hundred years ago, concerning the ages of Codices Vatican (B) and Sinai (Aleph):



Quote: *"Lastly, - We suspect that these two Manuscripts are indebted for their preservation, solely to their ascertained **evil character**, which has occasioned that the one eventually found its way, four centuries ago, to a forgotten shelf in the **Vatican library**; while the other, after exercising the ingenuity of several generations of critical Correctors, eventually (viz. in A.D. 1844) got deposited in the **waste-paper basket** of the Convent at the foot of mount Sinai. Had B and Aleph been copies of average purity, they must long since have shared the inevitable fate of books which are freely used and highly prized; namely, they would have fallen into decadence and disappeared from sight."* (Ref: P1)

In short these two codices are old simply because:

- **First:** They were written on extremely expensive and durable antelope skins.
- **Second:** They were so full of errors, alterations, additions and deletions, that they were **never** used by true believers and **seldom** even by their own custodians. Thus they had little chance of wearing away.

Can any true believer imagine **JEHOVAH, the Holy One of Israel**, hiding Codex Vaticanus away for over 1000 years in the **Vatican Library** till 1481? or prompting the deeply religious monks of **St Catherine's Monastery** to dump Sinaiticus into a waste basket? The very idea is ridiculous.

A vital fact to remember is that though codices Aleph and B (produced in the 4<sup>th</sup> century) are older than other Greek manuscript copies of the Scriptures, they are not older than the Peshitta, Italic, the Old Latin Vulgate and the Waldensian versions which were produced 200 years earlier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. All these versions, copies of which are still in existence, agree with Textus Receptus, the underlying text of the King James Bible. I repeat: these ancient versions are some **200 years older** than Vaticanus and Sinaiticus: so the '**oldest is best**' argument should not be used. All Bibles fall, basically, into one of two categories.

- Those based on the **Majority Text**. (Textus Receptus)
- Those based on the **Minority Text**. (Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus etc.)

Which Bible you select for study each day is going to have an enormous effect on your spiritual growth and well being. Bear this vital fact in mind.

## The Invention of Printing

The invention of the printing press in the 15<sup>th</sup> century was a giant step forward in the circulation of the Bible. The printing press reduced the time taken to produce a Bible from about nine or ten months to a few hours: and once proof reading had been done, every copy was as good as the master. Printing also greatly reduced the price of a Bible.

*"In the reign of Edward 1 of England, about 1272, the price of a complete (hand-written) Bible was from £30 to £37, and occupied a careful scribe in his scriptorium about ten months, while the days wage of a working man only averaged 1.5 pennies. When it is borne in mind that it only cost £25 to build two arches of London Bridge in 1240, while the price of a complete Latin Bible was considerably more, it will readily be allowed that only the rich and scholarly had access to the Word of God." "While Martin Luther called the art of printing '**the last and best gift of providence**' the Catholic Rowland Phillips, in a sermon preached at St.Paul's Cross, London in the year 1535, frightfully remarked:*

*'We must root out printing  
or printing will root us out.' "*

(Ref:E3)

If printing, rightly used, could do so much to spread Truth, who can imagine the potential for the spread of **Truth on the Internet?**



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