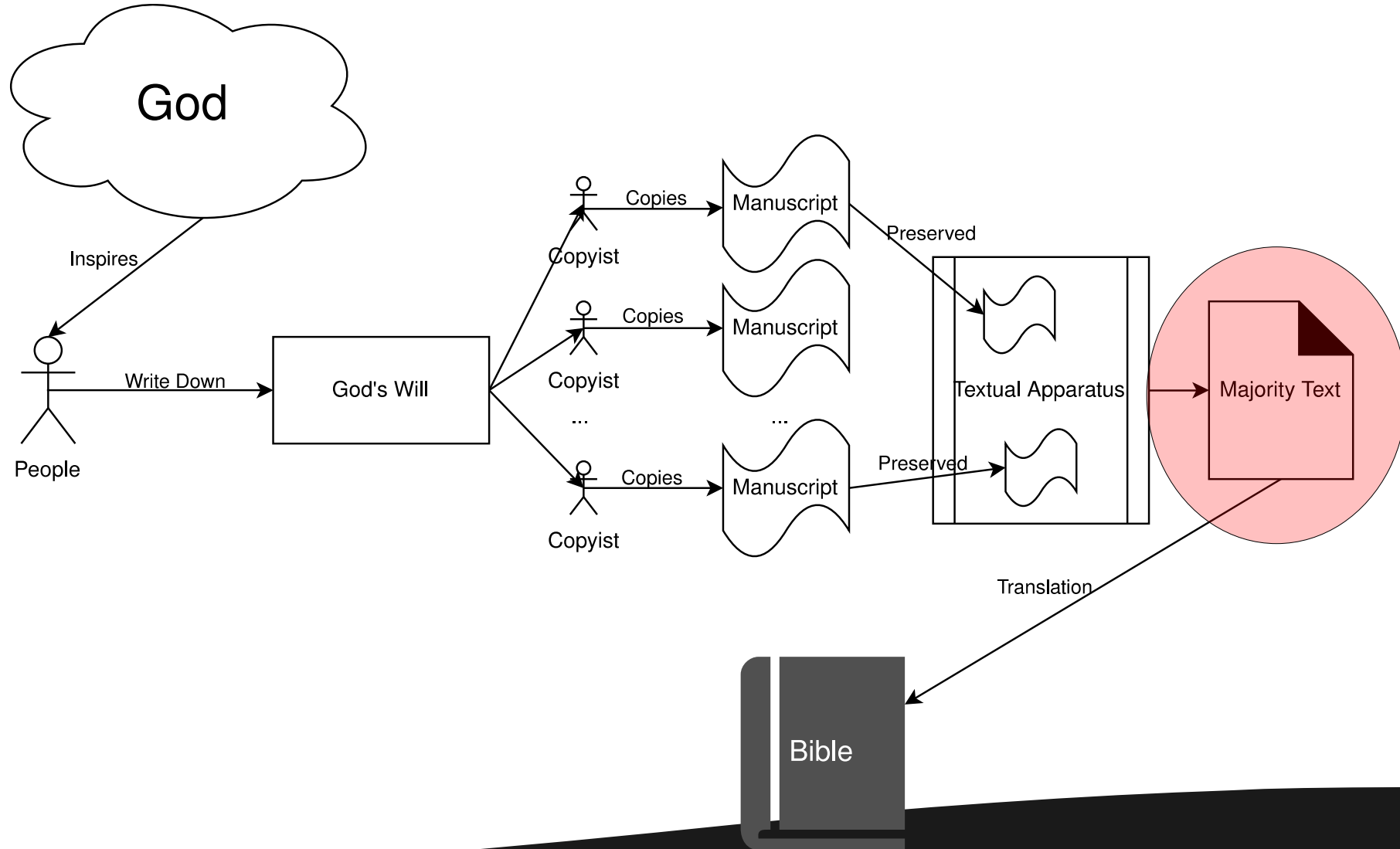


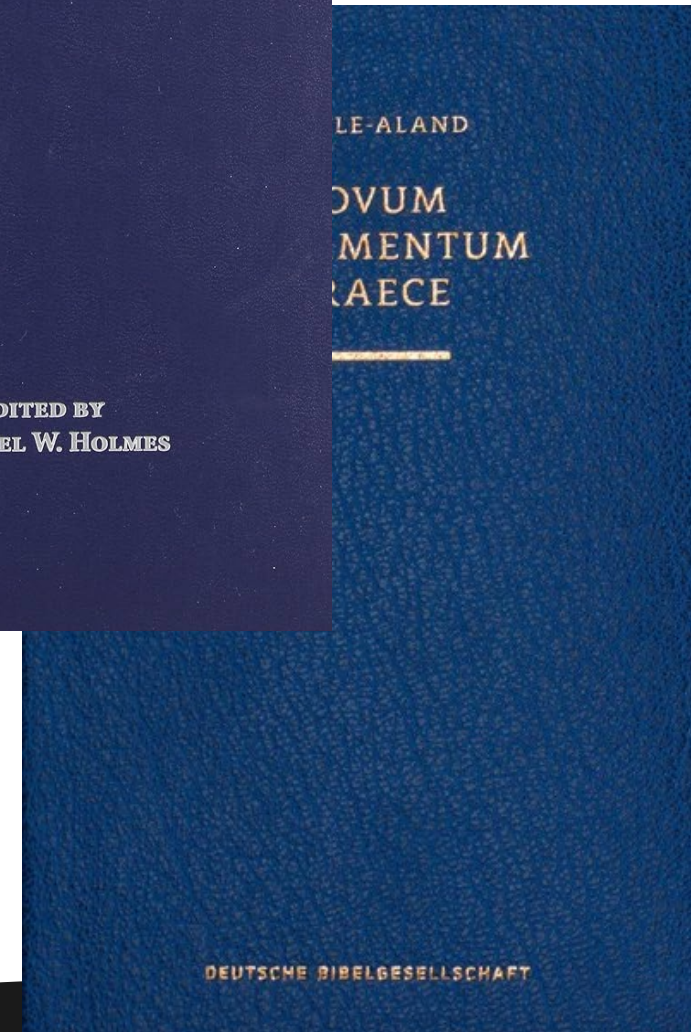
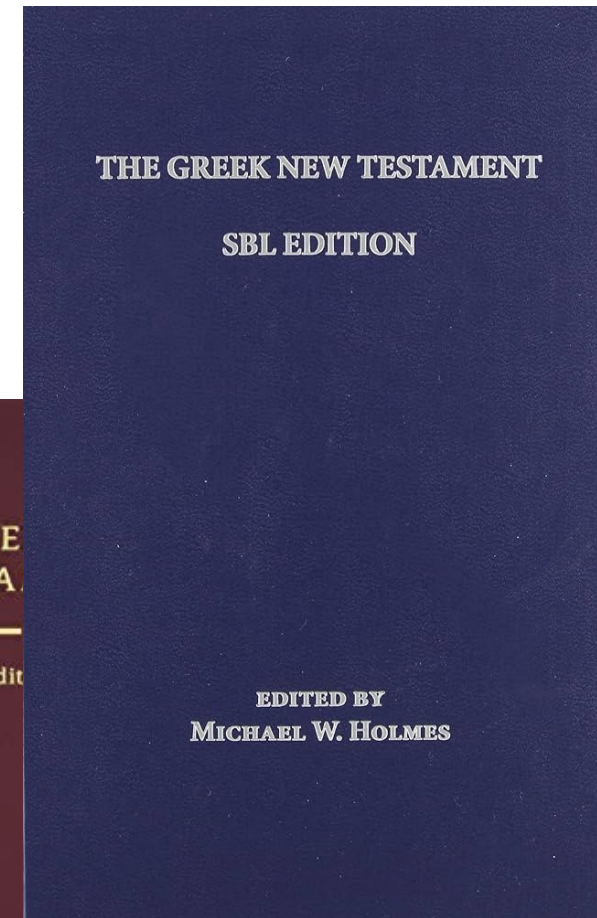
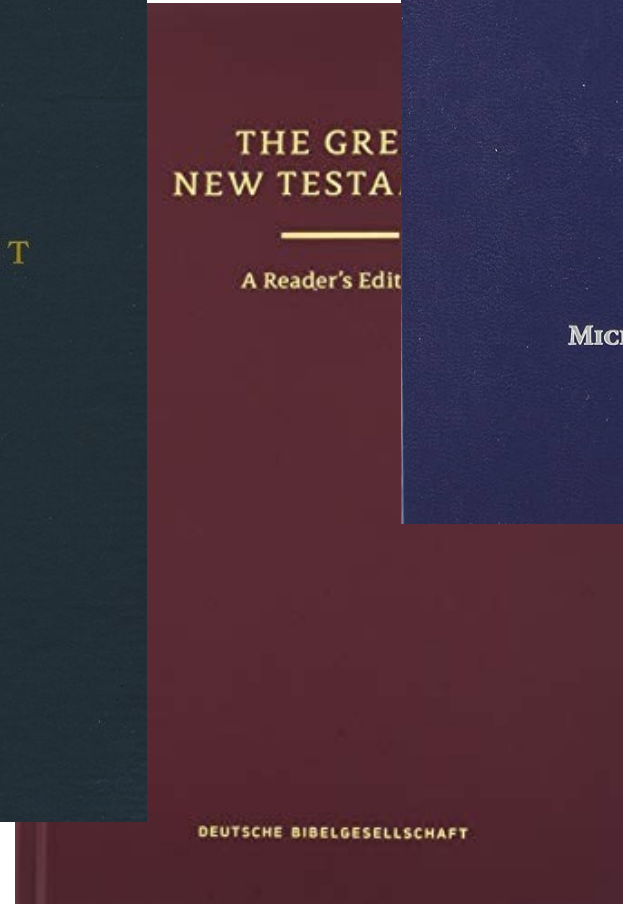
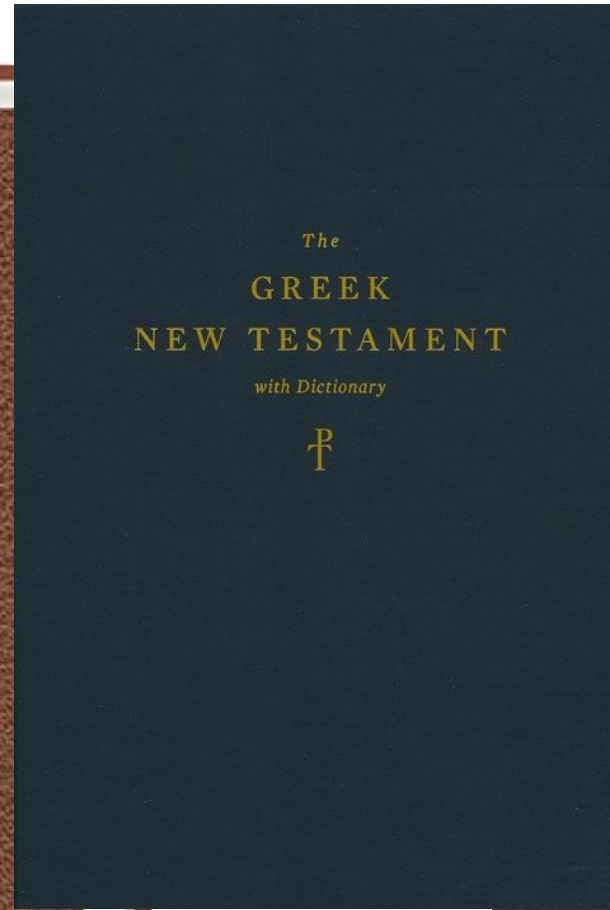
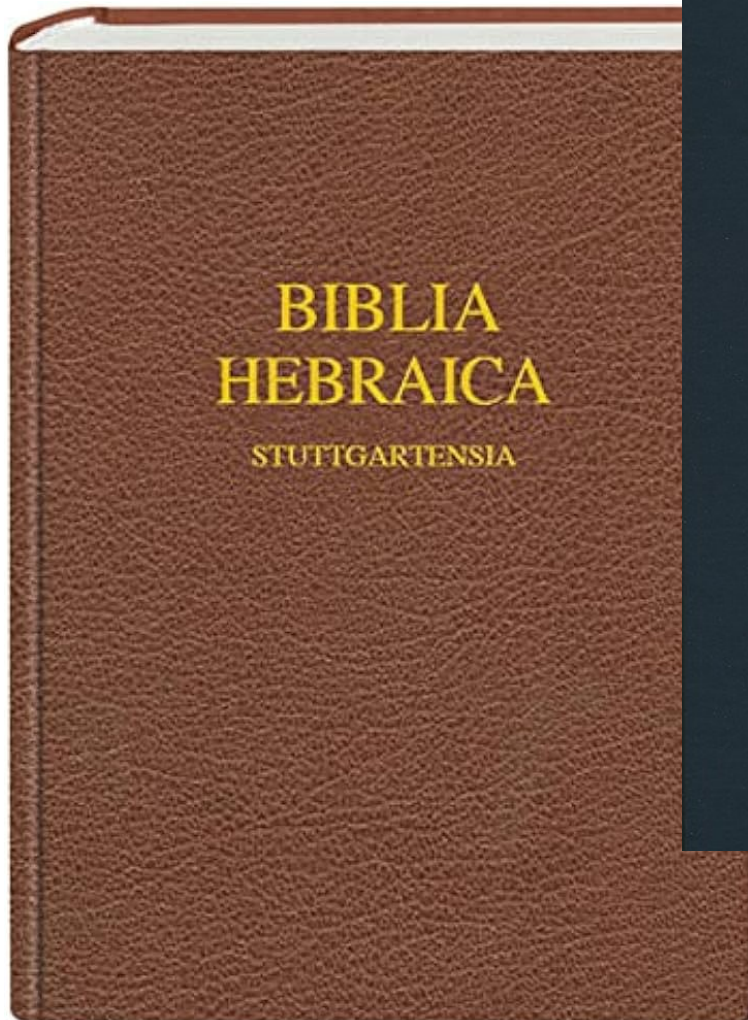
Parchments of Promise

Lesson 5: Majority Text

From Inspiration to Translation



Critical Majority Texts

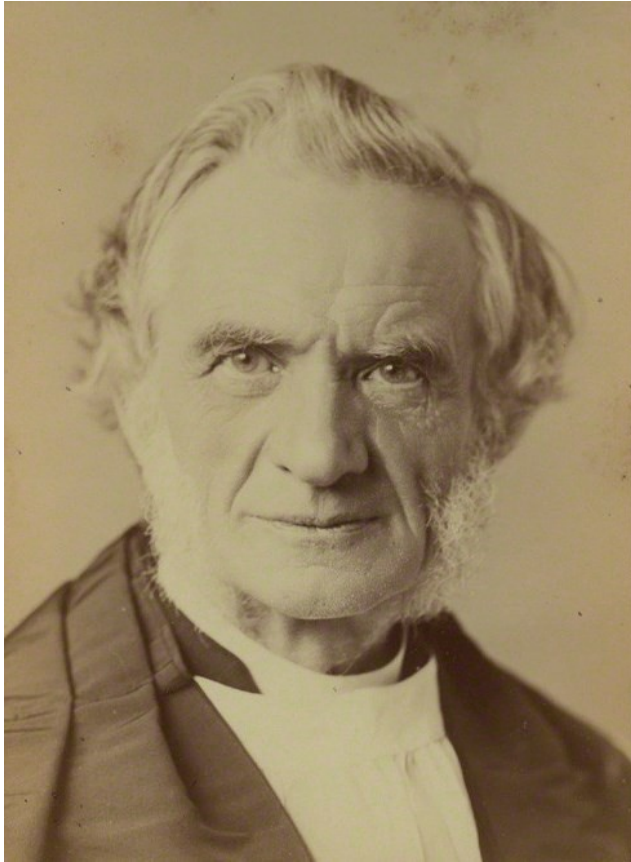


Desiderius Erasmus

- 28 October 1466 – 12 July 1536
- Published five editions of the *Texus Receptus*

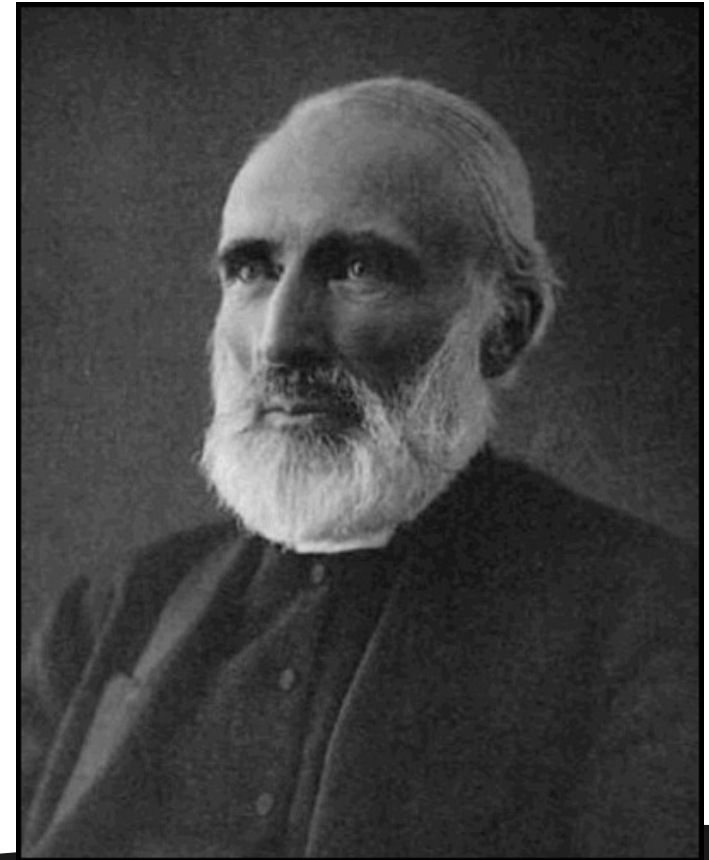


Westcott and Hort



- Brooke Foss Westcott
- 12 January 1825 – 27 July 1901

- Fenton John Anthony Hort
- 23 April 1828 – 30 November 1892



Eberhard Nestle



- 1 May 1851 – 9 March 1913
- Edited the first 12 editions of the *Novum Testamentum Graece*
- The 13th edition was edited by his son, Erwin Nestle, who was the editor through the 20th edition.
- Kurt Aland became the editor for the 21st edition
- The United Bible Societies (UBS) and Nestle-Aland (NA) text unified with the release of UBS3 and NA26. An editing committee was established, with Kurt Aland being the lead.
- Barbara Aland became the editor of the UBS4/NA27 and UBS5/NA28
- Barbara retired, and the next editor committee for the future UBS6/NA29 will be Christos Karakolis (Athens, Greece), David Parker (Birmingham, United Kingdom), Stephen Pisano (Italy), Holger Strutwolf (Münster, Germany), David Trobisch (Oklahoma City, US) and Klaus Wachtel (Münster, Germany)

Question 1

Consider the first part of Matthew 18:15. The LSB translates, "If your brother sins..." and adds a footnote that later manuscripts add "against you." The ESV translates "If your brother sins against you..." and even titles this section of text the same way. The difference between the LSB and ESV reflects a slight but important difference in the meaning between the THGNT and the NA28 for this verse. Are Christians supposed to confront one another when they sin *in general* or when they sin specifically *against each other*?


My Answer

- This is one of the troubling differences because the meanings are different.
- Regardless of whether the phrase “against you” is original or not, the text of Galatians 6:1 is clear: sinning brethren *in general* should be given gentle correction to restore them from their transgression.
- When we find ourselves stuck on possible meanings of a difficult verse, a good practice is to look at clear verses to help us read the Bible consistently.

Question 2

How does having a majority text affect confidence in the idea that God has preserved His will over time?


My Answer

- Being able to construct a majority text and trace its reading through history increases confidence in the text that we have.
 - No substantive difference between majority texts has changed the meaning of any passage in a way that would change what a Christian is supposed to do.
- 

Question 3

The LSB does not always side with the THGNT over the NA28 text. Consider Matthew 27:16–17 where the LSB adds a footnote that some manuscripts call Barabbas “Jesus Barabbas.” How would the meaning of the text differ if Pilate asks the mob, “Whom do you want me to for you? Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”


My Answer

- The meaning of the text would not change if Barabbas was actually called “Jesus Barabbas.”
 - The visual caused by such a change would involve Pilate emphasizing the difference between “Barabbas” and “Christ” (or “Messiah”) if they had the same name.
- 

Question 4

Discuss the importance of footnotes.
What are some benefits and drawbacks of using cell phone app copies of the Bible?

My Answer

- Often, cell phone app translations do not have footnotes that are easily accessible.
 - Footnotes can help explain passages and give alternative readings from different manuscripts.
 - Even if an editor has made a mistake in choosing the correct text to translate, the Word of God is still preserved in the footnote of the alternate rendering.
- 

Question 5

Why is precision when reconstructing a majority text important?

My Answer

- A small change in a word can have a big change in meaning.
 - Treating our Bible study like schoolwork results in an attitude of getting by just enough to pass. God deserves more than a “passing grade”—He deserves our best! Accuracy helps us know with precision what God wants for us.
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