


Parchments of Promise

Lesson 6: Difficult Passages


The Big 3 Variants

- The Longer Ending of Mark (Mark 16:9–20)
 - The *Pericopae Adulterae* (John 7:53–8:11)
 - The *Comma Johanneum* (1 John 5:8)
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The Longer Ending of Mark

- 2nd Century attestation
- Early manuscript evidence (but with marks indicating that something is different about it)
- Missing in some of the most complete manuscripts (but also with marks indicating that something is different about the missing sections)
- Most detractors against the passage do so because of internal evidence, but apply their arguments against the passage inconsistently.

The Woman Caught in Adultery

- 3rd Century attestation, but not mentioned by most early, Greek Christians
 - Early manuscript evidence omits it and some early manuscripts include it in Luke
 - Missing in many early manuscripts
 - The text appears to have been looking for a “landing spot” in the 3rd and 4th centuries.
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The Comma Johanneum

- Was not in the first two editions of the *Textus Receptus* but was included in the 3rd edition in 1522 after a Greek manuscript was identified which appears to be a Greek translation of a late Latin manuscript.

Question 1

Why should we have a consistent standard for identifying original Bible text?

My Answer

- Unbelievers use blind trust in the Bible to attack our faith.
 - Identifying the true will of God helps us avoid false teachers and charismatic leaders that prey on the weak-minded.
 - We should abide by the same standards that we hold others to.
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Question 2.A

What are the repercussions of including or excluding the longer ending of Mark?


My Answer

- None. The things taught in the longer ending of Mark are not unique to Mark.
- One of the clearer passages for baptism is contained in Mark 16:16.
- Many charismatic leaders (i.e., snake handlers) misuse these verses to support modern-day miracles.

Question 2.B

What are the repercussions of including or excluding the *Pericope Adulterae*?


My Answer

- None. The things taught in the pericope are not unique to John.
 - One of the most beloved stories, and Jesus's masterful handling of the scribes and Pharisees, would be missed.
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Question 2.C

What are the repercussions of including or excluding the *Comma Johanneum*?

My Answer

- The consistency of the text makes more sense without it.
 - The verse is not needed to establish the Deity of Jesus which can be done using other Scripture.
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Question 3

When should we rely on commentators or scholars about the authenticity of passages?

My Answer

- We have to rely on people who know languages we don't know to translate words correctly.
 - We should not rely on commentators when they inject their own opinions about a text or approach its study with dangerous presuppositions.
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