

# Finding God's Word In The New Age

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## THE HISTORY OF SCRIPTURE CORRUPTION

### WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE QUESTIONED GOD'S WORD:

The first place found in scripture where someone questions God's word is in the Garden of Eden. The "someone" questioning God's word is Satan. God gave Adam and Eve only one commandment they were required to obey. Adam and Eve were allowed to eat of every tree freely except one, which was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them that if they ate of it they would die. But Satan came to Eve and questioned the reliability of the word she had heard. "Yea, hath God said?"

### WHO KEPT CORRUPTION TO A MINIMUM IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES?

The Levitical priesthood

### WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE DEATH OF THE APOSTLE JOHN?

After John's death the way was made easier for teachers of false doctrine to teach their ideas and for these ideas to spread through the churches.

### WHO WERE SOME PROMINENT FALSE TEACHERS AND BIBLE CORRUPTERS? WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF SOME PROMINENT CORRUPT WORKS?

Justin Martyr: He was born in 100 A.D. of pagan parents. He added Christianity to his paganism. Ironically, Justin Martyr was martyred by pagans in Rome.

Tatian: He was born around 150 A. D. and was a student of Justin Martyr and embraced his teacher's views. He believed that a person can be saved through knowledge (Gnosticism). He wrote a "Harmony of the Gospels" that was so corrupted that the Bishop of Syria destroyed over 200 copies.

Clement of Alexandria: He was born around 200 A. D. He was a student of Tatian. He founded a school in Alexandria, Egypt, which furthered the gnostic and pagan heritage of Tatian and Justin Martyr. He quoted pagans and heretics as if they were scripture.

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Origen: He was born around 230 A. D. He was a North African obsessed with philosophy. He was never a Bible literalist and there is no record of him winning a soul to Jesus Christ in his lifetime. He wrote thousands of articles on the scriptures and produced a book containing six versions of the Old Testament called the “**Hexapala**.” The fifth column (each translation had its own column), authored by Origen, was supposedly a revision of a pre-Christ Greek Translation of the Old Testament called the **Septuagint**. The Septuagint is also called the LXX (70), which does not stay true to the Masoretic Hebrew Text (from which the AV 1611 Old Testament comes from.) It is probable that Origen just wrote the fifth column outright. The Hexapala is the source of Bible corruption for the Old Testament.

Origen believed everything written in the Bible was an allegory. In other words, there was a “meaning behind the scripture not readily apparent.” Origen said, “The scriptures are of little use to those who understand them as they are written.” Origen was strong into gnostic heresy and lightly esteemed the historical basis of the Bible. He was a devout follower of Plato, a pagan philosopher. He also believed the soul existed from eternity and at death it migrated to a higher or lower form of life depending upon its deeds. He believed devils would be saved, and the planets and stars had souls.

Eusebius: Born 331 A.D. He was an intellectual of Constantine’s day. Constantine, the Roman Emperor at that time, asked Eusebius to make 50 Bibles from the publisher of his choice. He was a Bible reviser and was a devout follower of Origen. He had 800 of Origen’s letters as well as a copy of the Hexapala. He mingled Greek philosophy in with the scriptures. Instead of sticking with the traditional Hebrew and Greek texts, he wanted something that would please the liberal churches of the Empire. It is speculated Eusebius was the writer of **Vaticanus** and **Sinaiticus**.

Jerome: He deeply loved and revered Origen. He began his own Latin translation of the Bible around 390 A.D. and completed it in 405 A.D. It became known as the Latin Vulgate and was the standard Bible used by the Roman Catholic church for centuries. It was officially recognized as the official Bible for the Roman Catholic church during the Council of Trent (1546).

## WHO WERE WESTCOTT AND HORT?

Westcott and Hort were two British scholars who published in *New Testament in Greek* in 1881. In their work they took the "naturalistic" view of the New Testament text, priding themselves on treating it just as they would the texts of other ancient books. They rejected 90 to 95 of all existing Greek manuscripts (which incidently agreed with the AV 1611) and chose instead to rely on two corrupt manuscripts for their work (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus). The new versions are derived primarily from the Westcott and Hort corrupt text.

Some of Westcott and Hort's anti-Christian and pagan beliefs include such things as:

- Hort omits any mention of verbal, plenary inspiration, or Biblical inerrancy or infallibility.
- Westcott did not believe in a literal Cain.

- Hort denied that Paul had actually seen Jesus in an “outer vision” but had only seen him in an “inner vision.”
- Hort denied that the words of Revelation were actually spoken to John by the Lord Jesus Christ, but instead believed that they were a “prophetic spirit.”
- Westcott believed that the “Fatherhood of God” could be applied to all humanity.
- Westcott espoused “evolution” in various ways.
- Westcott thought that Christians are in “a true sense Christs.”
- Westcott believed that man in general is, by possessing a spirit, united to heaven.
- Westcott and Hort failed to affirm the personality of the Devil, calling him only a “power.”
- Westcott failed to realize that the Holy Spirit dwelled within the believer.
- Westcott denied that heaven was a place.

### **WHY IS IT EASY TO REFUTE THE THEORIES OF WESTCOTT AND HORT?**

It wasn't too long after Westcott and Hort infected the world with their ideas of "scientific" biblical scholarship that new manuscripts were found which basically put their theories in the dumpster. In all some 96 Greek papyrus fragments were discovered, all older than the manuscripts Westcott and Hort used for their Greek Text. And wonders of wonders, these papyrus fragments in the vast majority agreed with the Byzantine text used as the basis for the AV 1611!

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:**

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- (4) HERESIES OF WESTCOTT AND HORT; Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., PhD.; Plains Baptist Challenger, Lubbock, Texas; 1979
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