

NET Bible Principles of Translation

1. Text

Old Testament: For the OT the translators started with the MT (Masoretic Text) found in the current edition of *BHS (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia)*. In particularly difficult passages the translator may have followed a variant reading found in the versions, alternative Hebrew tradition (e.g., DSS), or in some cases, conjectural emendation. Such variations from the MT were noted by the individual translator and reviewed by the OT textual consultant.

New Testament: For the NT the Greek text to be used by individual translators was decided by the textual consultant. The full Greek text will be published at a later date.

Traditional passages: For passages which lack adequate textual authority (i.e., are almost certainly not part of the autographs) the words were included in the translation in double square brackets with a note giving a brief discussion of the problem.

2. Interpretive Decisions and Tools

Interpretive decisions, where necessary to translate a passage, were made by the translators and editors. The alternative renderings, where exegetically significant, have been indicated in the notes.

Standard technical (critical) commentaries and relevant periodical articles were consulted in the translation process. These are often cited in the notes.

Current standard lexical tools were consulted as needed. For the OT, these included such works as BDB, KB3, and *TDOT*; for the NT, BDAG, Louw-Nida, and *TDNT*.

Computerized concordance programs and electronic search engines were used extensively in the production of this translation.

3. Form of Translation

No translation can ever achieve complete formal equivalence.* Even a translation which sometimes reflects Hebrew and Greek word order at the expense of English style has to resort to paraphrase in some places. On the other hand, no translation achieves complete dynamic equivalence** either. Thus this translation, like every other, ends up somewhere between the two extremes. These considerations are reflected by the following specific qualifications:

In vocabulary and grammatical forms every attempt has been made to reflect the different styles of the different authors of the Bible. Paul's letters should not sound like John's or Peter's or that of Hebrews in the English translation where possible.

The level of English style is formal (not, however, technical) except in passages where somewhat more informal style would be more in keeping with the content. In general the use of contractions ("don't," "isn't") has been avoided, except in quoted speech.

The language of average adults had priority. The translation attempts to use good literary style but is not overly formal or embellished.

The translation is intended to be understandable to non-Christians as well as Christians, so liturgical language or Christian "jargon" has been avoided.

Archaisms have also been avoided (e.g., "letter" was used instead of "epistle" in the NT). This includes the absolute avoidance of "thou" and "thee," since there were no distinctions in the original Hebrew or Greek between pronouns used to address people and those used to address Deity. On a related note, pronouns which refer to Deity are not capitalized for this same reason.

Long, complicated sentences in the original languages have been broken up into shorter sentences more

* With *formal equivalence* each word of the original language is represented by a word in the receptor (target) language, and the word and clause order is kept as nearly identical to that of the original language as possible. Thus this approach translates word for word.

** With *dynamic equivalence* (sometimes called *functional equivalence*) the goal is to render the original language text in the closest natural equivalent in the receptor language, both in meaning and style. This approach translates phrase for phrase or thought for thought.

acceptable in contemporary English. However, an attempt has been made to maintain the connections present in the original languages wherever possible.

Idiomatic expressions and figurative language in the original languages have been changed when they make no sense to a typical modern English reader or are likely to lead to misunderstanding by a typical modern English reader. The literal reading has been placed in a note giving a brief explanation (a translator's note).

Nouns have been used for pronouns where the English pronoun would be obscure or ambiguous to a modern reader. This has been indicated in a note.

Questions expecting a negative answer have been phrased to indicate this to the English reader.

Clearly redundant expressions such as "answered and said" have been avoided unless they have special rhetorical force in context. The literal reading is frequently indicated in a note.

Introductory expressions like "verily, verily" have been translated idiomatically, the single ἀμῖν as "I tell you the truth" and the double ἀμῖν (peculiar to John's Gospel) as "I tell you the solemn truth."

Introductory particles like ἰδοῦ ("behold") have been translated to fit the context (sometimes "listen," "pay attention," "look," or occasionally left untranslated).

Use of quotation marks (which did not exist in the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts) conforms to contemporary American English usage.

The basic unit of translation is the paragraph. Verse numbers are included in boldface type. Poetry is set out as poetry.

Greek historical presents have been translated by English simple past tenses since English has no corresponding use of the present tense.

In places where passive constructions create ambiguity, obscurity, or awkwardness in contemporary English, either the agent has been specified from context or the construction has been changed to active voice in the English translation, with an explanatory note.

Ellipses have been filled out according to current English requirements (e.g., 1 John 2:19). This is normally explained in a note.

Proper names have been standardized in accordance with accepted English usage.

4. Additional Features of the Translation and Notes

Any place supplementary information is required (e.g., word-plays, historical details, cultural differences, etc.) this is provided in a brief study note.

Any technical terms (*corban*, Mark 7:11) used in the translation are explained in a study note.

Any unfamiliar terms for weights, measures, and coins have been explained in a study note, although in general these have been expressed in contemporary American units, with metric units given parenthetically in the notes.

A limited system of cross-referencing to principal parallel texts, cross-references, or significant allusions is found in the notes.

Descriptive section headings have been provided by the translators and editors as an aid to the reader.

Greek and Hebrew in the translator's notes use Greek and Hebrew fonts, often followed by transliteration. The occasional reference to a Greek or Hebrew word in a study note is transliterated.

Abbreviations of biblical books and reference material follow Patrick H. Alexander et al., eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999) with only a few exceptions.

Abbreviations for Biblical Books and Nonbiblical Literature

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen	Genesis	Prov	Proverbs
Exod	Exodus	Eccl	Ecclesiastes
Lev	Leviticus	Song	Song of Songs
Num	Numbers	Isa	Isaiah
Deut	Deuteronomy	Jer	Jeremiah
Josh	Joshua	Lam	Lamentations
Judg	Judges	Ezek	Ezekiel
Ruth	Ruth	Dan	Daniel
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Hos	Hosea
2 Sam	2 Samuel	Joel	Joel
1 Kgs	1 Kings	Amos	Amos
2 Kgs	2 Kings	Obad	Obadiah
1 Chr	1 Chronicles	Jonah	Jonah
2 Chr	2 Chronicles	Mic	Micah
Ezra	Ezra	Nah	Nahum
Neh	Nehemiah	Hab	Habakkuk
Esth	Esther	Zeph	Zephaniah
Job	Job	Hag	Haggai
Ps(s)	Psalms	Zech	Zechariah
		Mal	Malachi

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

Bar	Baruch	Ep Jer	Epistle of Jeremiah
Add Dan	Additions to Daniel	Jdt	Judith
Pr Azar	Prayer of Azariah	1–4 Macc	1–4 Maccabees
Bel	Bel and the Dragon	Pr Man	Prayer of Manasseh
Sg Three	Song of the Three Young Men	Ps 151	Psalms 151
Sus	Susanna	Sir	Sirach/ Ecclesiasticus
1–2 Esd	1–2 Esdras	Tob	Tobit
Add Esth	Additions to Esther	Wis	Wisdom of Solomon

NEW TESTAMENT

Matt	Matthew	2 Thess	2 Thessalonians
Mark	Mark	1 Tim	1 Timothy
Luke	Luke	2 Tim	2 Timothy
John	John	Titus	Titus
Acts	Acts	Phlm	Philemon
Rom	Romans	Heb	Hebrews
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	Jas	James
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	1 Pet	1 Peter
Gal	Galatians	2 Pet	2 Peter
Eph	Ephesians	1 John	1 John
Phil	Philippians	2 John	2 John
Col	Colossians	3 John	3 John
1 Thess	1 Thessalonians	Jude	Jude
		Rev	Revelation

OTHER ANCIENT DOCUMENTS

Two citation systems for Philo and Josephus are used in the notes. The older (classical) system is listed first, and the Loeb citation system then follows in parentheses.

<i>1 En.</i>	<i>1 Enoch</i> , a Jewish pseudepigraphic work that includes what are thought to be Christian interpolations in chaps. 37-71 (also called Ethiopic Enoch)
1 Kgdms	1 Kingdoms, the book of the LXX which corresponds to 1 Samuel
1QH	<i>Thanksgiving Hymns</i> , hymns composed for worship within the Qumran community
1QS	<i>Rule of the Community</i> , one of the first Dead Sea Scrolls recovered. This scroll details rules for admission into the Qumran community.
2 Bar.	2 <i>Baruch</i> , a Jewish apocalyptic work written early in the second century
2 En.	2 <i>Enoch</i> , an Jewish pseudepigraphic work that expands upon Gen 5:21-32
4QMMT	Miqsat Maaaseh Torah from Qumran Cave 4, one of the Dead Sea Scrolls
<i>Ag. Ap.</i>	<i>Against Apion</i> , a defense of the Jewish people written by Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived from A.D. 37/38 until the early years of the second century.
<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Jewish Antiquities</i> , a history of the Jewish people written by Josephus (see <i>Ag. Ap.</i> above)
<i>b.</i>	Indicates a tractate from the Babylonian Talmud, which contains the Mishnah and rabbinic interpretive expansions. Collected ca. A.D. 500-550.
CD	A copy of the Damascus Document, which is one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, found in the Cairo genizah
<i>Embassy</i>	<i>On the Embassy to Gaius</i> , a philosophical work by Philo, a Jewish philosopher who lived from 20 B.C. to A.D. 50
<i>Praep. Ev.</i>	<i>Praeparatio evangelica (Preparation for the Gospel)</i> , a work by Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, who lived ca. A.D. 260-341
<i>Flaccus</i>	<i>Against Flaccus</i> , a philosophical work by Philo (see <i>Embassy</i> above)
<i>Heir</i>	<i>Who is the Heir?</i> , a philosophical work by Philo (see <i>Embassy</i> above)
<i>Herm.</i>	<i>Shepherd of Hermas</i> , a Christian work written in Rome sometime during the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D.
Ibn Ezra	Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra, a medieval Jewish scholar who wrote many works, including a commentary on the Hebrew Bible. Lived A.D. 1092/1093 to A.D.1167.
Ign.	Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, who died as a martyr in Rome early in the second century. Following will be the abbreviation for one of his seven letters.
<i>J. W.</i>	<i>Jewish War</i> , a history of the events surrounding the war between Rome and the Jews ca. A.D. 70 written by Josephus (see <i>Ag. Ap.</i> above)
<i>Jub.</i>	<i>Jubilees</i> , a Jewish pseudepigraphic work that expands upon the narratives in Genesis and Exodus
<i>Letter of Aristeas</i>	An ancient letter which purports to explain the origins of the LXX. Posited by most scholars to have been written ca. 170 B.C.
<i>Life m.</i>	<i>The Life</i> , an autobiography of Josephus (see <i>Ag. Ap.</i> above) Indicates a tractate from the Mishnah, a codification of Jewish rabbinic oral tradition collected ca. A.D. 200-220
<i>Pirqe Avot</i>	A collection of the sayings from Jewish sages and rabbis
<i>Pirqe Rabbi Eliezer</i>	A collection of Jewish rabbinic tradition compiled ca. A.D. 750-850
<i>Posterity</i>	<i>On the Posterity of Cain</i> , a philosophical work by Philo (see <i>Embassy</i> above)
<i>Rabbah</i>	Jewish rabbinic commentary on books of the Bible, e.g., <i>Genesis Rabbah</i>
<i>Sib. Or.</i>	<i>Sibylline Oracles</i> , a collection of poetic prophecies contained within the Jewish pseudepigrapha
<i>Sifre Deut</i>	<i>Sifre on Deuteronomy</i> , a collection of rabbinic interpretations on the book of Deuteronomy compiled ca. A.D. 350-400
<i>Smr</i>	Samaritan Pentateuch, the version of the first five books of the Old Testament accepted as canonical by the Samaritans
<i>t.</i>	Indicates a tractate from the Tosefta, a codification of Jewish rabbinic oral tradition collected ca. A.D. 220-230
<i>T. Gad</i>	<i>Testament of Gad</i> , one of the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, a group of works written between 109 and 106 B.C. and inspired by Jacob's testament in Gen 49
<i>T. Reu.</i>	<i>Testament of Reuben</i> , one of the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs (see <i>T. Gad</i> above)
<i>T. Sol.</i>	<i>Testament of Solomon</i> , a story about Solomon building the Temple, written sometime during the 1st to 3rd centuries A.D.

<i>Tg.</i>	Indicates a Targum, an Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Bible which often included interpretive comments
<i>Tg. Onq.</i>	<i>Targum Onqelos</i> , an Aramaic translation of the Pentateuch, regarded as the official targum of these books
<i>Tg. Ps.-J.</i>	<i>Targum Pseudo-Jonathan</i> , an Aramaic translation of the Pentateuch
<i>y.</i>	Indicates a tractate from the Jerusalem Talmud (which actually took shape in Galilee ca. A.D. 400-425), a work which contains the Mishnah and rabbinic interpretive expansions

Abbreviations for Bible Versions

ENGLISH VERSIONS

NET	The NET Bible / New English Translation (NT, 1998; First Beta Edition, 2001; Second Beta Edition, 2003; First Edition, 2005)
TNIV	Today's New International Version (NT, 2001)
NLT	New Living Translation (1996)
CEV	The Contemporary English Version (1995)
NIRV	New International Reader's Version (1995)
Message	E. H. Peterson, <i>The Message: The New Testament in Contemporary Language</i> (1993)
NCV	New Century Version (1991)
REB	Revised English Bible (1989)
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version (1989)
NJB	<i>New Jerusalem Bible</i> (1985)
NJPS	<i>Tanakh</i> (1985), produced by the Jewish Publication Society
NKJV	New King James Version (1979)
TEV	Today's English Version, also known as <i>Good News for Modern Man</i> (1976)
NIV	The New International Version (NT, 1973; OT, 1978)
LB	<i>The Living Bible</i> (1971)
NASB	New American Standard Bible (1971; update 1995)
NAB	The New American Bible (1970)
NEB	The New English Bible (1970)
JB	<i>Jerusalem Bible</i> (1966)
Amplified	The Amplified Bible (1965)
BBE	C. K. Ogden, <i>The Bible in Basic English</i> (1965)
JPS	<i>The Torah</i> (1962), <i>The Prophets (Nevi'im)</i> (1978), <i>The Writings (Kethuvim)</i> (1982), produced by the Jewish Publication Society
MLB	Modern Language Bible: New Berkeley Version (1959; rev. 1969)
Phillips	J. B. Phillips, <i>The New Testament in Modern English</i> (1958)
RSV	Revised Standard Version (NT, 1946; OT, 1952)
Knox	R. A. Knox, <i>The New Testament in English</i> (1945)
AT	<i>The Bible—An American Translation</i> (1927)
Moffatt	James Moffatt, <i>A New Translation of the Bible</i> (1926)
TCNT	<i>The Twentieth Century New Testament</i> (1898-1901; rev. 1904)
ASV	American Standard Version (1901)
RV	Revised Version (NT 1881; OT 1885)
YLT	Young's Literal Translation (1862; rev. 1898)
KJV (=AV)	The King James Version, known in Britain as the Authorized Version (1611)
AV (=KJV)	The Authorized Version, known in America as the King James Version (1611)
Douay	Douay-Rheims Version, a translation for the Roman Catholic Church (NT 1582; OT 1609-1610)

* Dates given in this abbreviations list generally represent the date on which the version is considered to have been published. In a number of cases where the NT was released before the completion of the OT (e.g., the RV: NT 1881; OT 1885) it should be assumed that the NT underwent some degree of revision when it was (re)published along with the OT. Also, the publication date for the Apocrypha (if translated at all) is not indicated above; in many cases it was considerably later (e.g., the RV Apocrypha appeared in 1895). Finally, many of the modern versions have undergone repeated updates and revisions; these cannot all be indicated in an abbreviations list like this one, which is not intended to be a comprehensive chart of all Bible translations since the 1611 KJV.

ANCIENT VERSIONS

- MT** Masoretic Text (the traditional rabbinical text of the Hebrew Bible, dating from the medieval period)
- LXX** Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament, translated between 250-100 B.C.)

General Abbreviations

NET BIBLE FOOTNOTE TYPES

- TN** Translator's Note—explains the rationale for the translation and gives alternative translations, interpretive options, and other technical information.
- SN** Study Note—includes comments about historical or cultural background, explanation of obscure phrases or brief discussions of context, discussions of the theological point made by the biblical author, cross references and references to Old Testament quotations or allusions in the New Testament, or other miscellaneous information helpful to the modern reader.
- TC** Text-critical Note—discusses alternate (variant) readings found in the various manuscripts and groups of manuscripts of the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament.
- MAP** Map Note—gives map coordinates for site within the two map sections, "The Journeys of Paul" and "The Holy Land from the Heavens."

JOURNALS

- ABR* Australian Biblical Review
- ADAJ* Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
- AION* Annali dell'Istituto Orientale di Napoli
- AJBA* Australian Journal of Biblical Archaeology
- AJSL* American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature
- ArOr* Archiv Orientalní
- ASTI* Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute
- AUSS* Andrews University Seminary Studies
- BA* Biblical Archaeologist
- BAR* Biblical Archaeology Review
- BASOR* Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
- BBR* Bulletin for Biblical Research
- BETS* Bulletin of the Evangelical Theological Society
- Bib* Biblica
- BiBh* Bible Bhashyam
- Bijdr* Bijdragen: Tijdschrift voor filosofie en theologie
- BJRL* Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester
- BN* Biblische Notizen
- BRev* Bible Review
- BSac* Bibliotheca Sacra
- BT* The Bible Translator
- BTB* Biblical Theology Bulletin
- BV* Biblical Viewpoint
- BZ* Biblische Zeitschrift
- CBQ* Catholic Biblical Quarterly
- CentBib* Central Bible Quarterly
- CTJ* Calvin Theological Journal
- CTM* Concordia Theological Monthly
- CTR* Criswell Theological Review
- ErIsr* Eretz-Israel
- EvQ* Evangelical Quarterly
- ExpTim* Expository Times
- FO* Folia orientalia
- GOT* Glasgow Oriental Transactions
- GTJ* Grace Theological Journal
- HAR* Hebrew Annual Review
- HBT* Horizons in Biblical Theology
- HS* Hebrew Studies

<i>HTR</i>	Harvard Theological Review
<i>HUCA</i>	Hebrew Union College Annual
<i>IEJ</i>	Israel Exploration Journal
<i>Int</i>	Interpretation
<i>JANESCU</i>	Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society of Columbia University
<i>JAOS</i>	Journal of the American Oriental Society
<i>JBL</i>	Journal of Biblical Literature
<i>JCS</i>	Journal of Cuneiform Studies
<i>JETS</i>	Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
<i>JJP</i>	Journal of Juristic Papyrology
<i>JJS</i>	Journal of Jewish Studies
<i>JNES</i>	Journal of Near Eastern Studies
<i>JNSL</i>	Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages
<i>JPOS</i>	Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society
<i>JQR</i>	Jewish Quarterly Review
<i>JRAS</i>	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
<i>JSNT</i>	Journal for the Study of the New Testament
<i>JSOT</i>	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
<i>JSS</i>	Journal of Semitic Studies
<i>JTS</i>	Journal of Theological Studies
<i>JTVI</i>	Journal of the Transactions of the Victoria Institute
<i>Jud</i>	Judaica
<i>LesCE</i>	LesÉoneÁnu
<i>LTQ</i>	Lexington Theological Quarterly
<i>MAOG</i>	Mitteilungen der Altorientalischen Gesellschaft
<i>Mus</i>	Muséon: Revue d'études orientales
<i>NovT</i>	Novum Testamentum
<i>NTS</i>	New Testament Studies
<i>Or</i>	Orientalia
<i>OTS</i>	Old Testament Studies
<i>PEQ</i>	Palestinian Exploration Quarterly
<i>RA</i>	Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale
<i>RB</i>	Revue biblique
<i>RevExp</i>	Review and Expositor
<i>RHPR</i>	Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses
<i>RHR</i>	Revue de l'histoire des religions
<i>RQ</i>	Römische Quartalschrift für christliche Altertumskunde und Kirchengeschichte
<i>RSR</i>	Recherches de science religieuse
<i>Sem</i>	Semitica
<i>SJT</i>	Scottish Journal of Theology
<i>ST</i>	Studia theologica
<i>SwJT</i>	Southwestern Journal of Theology
<i>TA</i>	Tel Aviv
<i>TB</i>	Theologische Bücherei: Neudrucke und Berichte aus dem 20. Jahrhundert
<i>TGUOS</i>	Transactions of the Glasgow University Oriental Society
<i>TJ</i>	Trinity Journal
<i>TLZ</i>	Theologische Literaturzeitung
<i>TRu</i>	Theologische Rundschau
<i>TynBul</i>	Tyndale Bulletin
<i>TZ</i>	Theologische Zeitschrift
<i>UF</i>	Ugarit-Forschungen
<i>VT</i>	Vetus Testamentum
<i>WTJ</i>	Westminster Theological Journal
<i>WW</i>	Word and World
<i>ZÄS</i>	Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde
<i>ZAW</i>	Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>ZDMG</i>	Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft
<i>ZNW</i>	Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

COMMENTARY AND MONOGRAPH SERIES

AB	Anchor Bible
AfO	Archiv für Orientforschung
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
AnBib	Analecta biblica
AnOr	Analecta orientalia
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
ArBib	The Aramaic Bible
ATD	Das Alte Testament Deutsch
BASORSup	Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research: Supplement Series
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar, Altes Testament
BSC	Bible Student's Commentary
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CC	Continental Commentaries
CNT	Commentaire du Nouveau Testament
ConBOT	Coniectanea biblica: Old Testament Series
DissAb	Dissertation Abstracts
<i>DJD</i>	Discoveries in the Judean Desert
<i>DJDJ</i>	Discoveries in the Judean Desert of Jordan
DSBS	Daily Study Bible Series
EGGNT	Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament
FCI	Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GBS	Guides to Biblical Scholarship
HNTC	Harper's New Testament Commentaries
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
ICC	International Critical Commentary
JAARSup	Journal of the American Academy of Religion: Supplement Series
JBLMS	Journal of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
JPSTC	Jerusalem Publication Society Torah Commentary
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
KAT	Kommentar zum Alten Testament
LHD	The Library of History and Doctrine
MNTC	Moffatt New Testament Commentary
NAC	New American Commentary
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NovTSup	Supplements to Novum Testamentum
NTL	New Testament Library
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTM	Oxford Theological Monographs
PTMS	Pittsburgh Theological Monograph Series
SB	Sources bibliques
SBA	Studies in Biblical Archaeology
SBG	Studies in Biblical Greek
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
ScrHier	Scripta hierosolymitana
SD	Studies and Documents
SHR	Studies in the History of Religions
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity

SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SoBB	Soncino Books of the Bible
SOTBT	Studies in Old Testament Biblical Theology
SOTSMS	Society for Old Testament Studies Monograph Series
SPCKTC	Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Theological Collections
SSN	Studia semitica neerlandica
StPB	Studia post-biblica
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
TBC	Torch Bible Commentaries
TCS	Texts from Cuneiform Sources
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
VAB	Vorderasiatische Bibliothek
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WEC	Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

TEXT-CRITICAL TERMS

<i>al</i>	Abbreviation for <i>alii</i> , a Latin phrase meaning “others,” referring to manuscripts
MS (MSS)	manuscript (manuscripts)
<i>pc</i>	Abbreviation for <i>pauci</i> , “a few (others),” referring to manuscripts
<i>pm</i>	Abbreviation for <i>permulti</i> , “a great many (others),” referring to manuscripts
<i>vid</i>	Abbreviation for <i>videtur</i> , a Latin word meaning “apparently” or “so it appears,” referring to an uncertain reading in a manuscript

MISCELLANEOUS ABBREVIATIONS

abs.	absolute
acc.	accusative
ANE	Ancient Near East (noun), Ancient Near Eastern (adjective)
ca.	approximately (from Latin <i>circa</i>)
cf.	compare (from Latin <i>confer</i>)
chap.	chapter
dat.	dative
ed.	editor; edited by; edition
e.g.	for example (from Latin <i>exempli gratia</i>)
ET	English text (when versification in the English Bible differs from the Greek or Hebrew text)
expr.	expression
ff.	following
fig.	figurative; figuratively
gen.	genitive
GT	Greek text (when versification differs from the English Bible)
HT	Hebrew text (when versification differs from the English Bible)
i.e.	that is (from Latin <i>id est</i>)
loc. cit.	in the place cited (from Latin <i>loco citato</i>), usually referring to a Bible verse or passage cited in a commentary or other work
MS (MSS)	manuscript (manuscripts)
nom.	nominative
NT	New Testament
pl.	plural
q.v.	which see (from Latin <i>quod vide</i>)
sc.	supply (from Latin <i>scilicet</i>)
sing.	singular
suppl.	supplement
s.v.	under the word (from Latin <i>sub verbo</i> or <i>sub voce</i>)
trans.	translated; translator
v.	verse
viz.	namely (from Latin <i>videlicet</i>)
w.	with

List of Cited Works

Works Cited by Abbreviation

- AHw Soden, Wolfram von. *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch*. 3 vols. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1965–1981.
- ANEP Pritchard, James B., ed. *The Ancient Near East in Pictures Relating to the Old Testament*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1954.
- ANET Pritchard, James B., ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. 3d ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
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- BDB Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979.
- BDF Blass, F. and A. Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Translated and edited by Robert W. Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.
- BHK Kittel, R., ed. *Biblia Hebraica*. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1905-1906, 1925, 1937, 1951, 1973.
- BHS Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1983.
- BKCNT Walvoord, John F., and Roy B. Zuck, eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. New Testament Edition. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1983.
- BKCOT Walvoord, John F., and Roy B. Zuck, eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Old Testament Edition. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985.
- BRL2 Galling, Kurt, ed. *Biblisches Reallexikon*. 2d ed. Handbuch Zum Alten Testament 1/1. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1977.
- CAD Gelb, Ignace J., ed. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1956-.
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- ExSyn Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- GKC Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Translated by A. E. Cowley. 2d ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
- HALOT Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 5 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-2000.
- IBHS Waltke, B. K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- IDB Buttrick, George A., ed. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.
- IDBSup Crim, Keith R, ed. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible: Supplementary Volume*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1976
- ISBE Bromiley, G. W., ed. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988.
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- L&N Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Nida, eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. New York, NY: United Bible Societies, 1988.
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- NIDOTTE VanGemeren, W. A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
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- THAT Jenni, Ernst, ed., with assistance from Claus Westermann. *Theologisches Handwörterbuch zum Alten Testament*. 2 vols. Stuttgart: C. Kaiser, 1971-1976.

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- ThWAT* Botterweck, G. Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament*. Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 1970.
- TLG* *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, a computerized database of all ancient Greek literature from Homer (8th century B.C.) to the 6th century AD.
- TWOT* Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980.
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- UT* Gordon, Cyrus H. *Ugaritic Textbook*. Revised reprint. *Analecta orientalia* 38. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1998.
- WUS* Aistleitner, Joseph. *Das Wörterbuch der ugaritischen Sprache*. Edited by Otto Eissfeldt. 3d ed. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1967.
- ZPEB* Tenney, Merrill C., ed. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

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Abbreviations and Introduction to Principal Manuscript Evidence for the Greek New Testament

No ancient literature has survived in its original form; everything we have is derived from copies of the originals. The NT is no exception. However, in comparison with any other ancient literature, the NT is without a peer—both in terms of the chronological proximity and the surviving number. Several ancient authorities are preserved in only a handful of manuscripts. Not so with the NT. There are approximately 5,500 Greek witnesses, ranging in date from the second century AD into the middle ages. Besides the Greek evidence, there are nearly 30,000 versional copies (e.g., Latin, Coptic, and Syriac), and over 1,000,000 quotations from the NT in the church Fathers. NT textual criticism has always had an embarrassment of riches unparalleled in any other field.

The Greek Witnesses

The Greek witnesses are by far the most important, since in large measure they represent some of our earliest witnesses and since they involve direct reproduction from Greek to Greek. There are four kinds of Greek witnesses: papyri, uncials (or majuscules), minuscules (or cursives), and lectionaries. The first three are important enough to warrant some discussion here.

Papyri

These documents are written on the cheap writing materials of the ancient world that were roughly equivalent to modern paper. Literally thousands of papyrus fragments have been found of which approximately 100 contain portions of the New Testament. Actually, taken together, these 100 fragments constitute over half of the New Testament and all but four are in the form of codices (i.e., four are scrolls rather than the book-form [codex]). All NT papyri were written with uncial or capital letters. They range in date from the early second century through the eighth century. About 50 of them are to be dated before the fourth century. Though many of them are somewhat fragmentary, and at times the copying was looser than one would like (i.e., they were done before the canon was officially recognized), they are nevertheless extremely important for establishing the text of the New Testament—if for no other reason than the fact that they represent some of the most ancient witnesses we possess. Five important papyri are illustrated in the chart below. The symbol for each papyrus is P followed by a number (e.g., P⁴⁵). The most important papyri cited in the NET NT footnotes are as follows:

Papyri	Name	Date	NT Books Covered	General Characteristics
P ⁴⁵	Chester Beatty papyrus	3 rd century AD	Gospels, Acts 4-17	Mark (Caesarean); Matt, Luke, John (intermediate between Alexandrian and Western texttypes)
P ⁴⁶	Chester Beatty papyrus	ca. AD 200	10 Pauline Epistles (all but Pastorals) and Hebrews	Overall closer to Alexandrian than Western
P ⁴⁷	Chester Beatty papyrus	3 rd century AD	Revelation 9:10-17:2	Alexandrian; often agrees with Sinaiticus (s)
P ⁶⁶	Bodmer Papyrus	ca. AD 200	John	Mixed text between Western and Alexandrian
P ⁷⁵	Bodmer papyrus	early 3 rd century	Luke and John	Alexandrian, often agrees with B

Uncials

There are approximately 300 uncials known to exist today that contain portions of the New Testament and one uncial that contains the entire NT. Like the papyri, these manuscripts were written with uncial or capital letters, but unlike the papyri they were written on animal skins or vellum. For the most part they are beautiful manuscripts, elegantly written and routinely done in scriptoria and often for special purposes. Generally speaking, they range in date from the fourth through the ninth centuries. Our oldest *complete* copy of the NT is an uncial manuscript, \aleph (see chart below). The symbol for each uncial is either a capital letter (in Latin or Greek letters [though one ms has a Hebrew letter, \aleph]) or a number beginning with 0 (e.g., 01, 0220, etc.). The most important uncials cited in the NET NT footnotes are as follows:

Uncial	Name	Date (approx.)	NT Books Covered	General Characteristics
\aleph (01)	Aleph or Sinaiticus	4 th century	The entire NT	Alexandrian; best in epistles
A (02)	Alexandrinus	5 th century	Most of the NT	Important in the Epistles and Revelation
B (03)	Vaticanus	4 th century	Most of NT except Hebrews 9:14ff, the Pastorals, Phlm, Rev	Alexandrian; best in Gospels
C (04)	Ephraemi Rescriptus	5 th century	Portions of every book except 2 Thess and 2 John	mixed
D (05)	Bezae/Cantabrigiensis	5 th century	Gospels and Acts	Western
D (06)	Claromontanus	6 th century	Pauline Epistles and Hebrews	Western
F (010)	Augiensis	9 th century	Pauline Epistles	Western
G (012)	Boernerianus	9 th century	Pauline Epistles	Western
L (019)	Regius	8 th century	Gospels	Often agrees with Vaticanus
W (032)	Washingtonianus	early 5 th century	Gospels	mixed; earliest representation of Byzantine texttype. Alexandrian in John 5:12-21:25.
Θ (038)	Koridethi	9 th century	Gospels	The text of Mark is similar to that used by Origen and Eusebius in the third and fourth centuries at Caesarea
Ψ (044)	Athous Laurae	8 th /9 th century	Gospels/Acts/Paul/General Epistles	Contains Alexandrian, Western, and Byzantine influences

Minuscules

There are approximately 2,813 NT Greek minuscule manuscripts known to us today. These copies range in date from the ninth to sixteenth centuries, were produced on vellum or paper, and were written in cursive or a lower-case, flowing hand. They are the best representatives of the medieval ecclesiastical text, that is, the Byzantine text. There are approximately 150-200 that deviate from the Byzantine standard, almost always representing an earlier transmissional stream and hence quite important for NT textual criticism. The symbols for the minuscules are of three kinds: (a) Arabic numbers (e.g., 1, 565, 1739), each of which represents one manuscript; (b) “family 1,” [f¹] “family 13” [f¹³] (involving a group of closely associated manuscripts); (c) *Byz* (involving the majority of Byzantine minuscules). The following are among the more important witnesses cited in the NET NT notes:

Minuscule	Date (approx.)	NT Books Covered	General Characteristics
33	9 th century	Gospels, Acts, Paul, Catholic Epistles	Alexandrian
81	AD 1044	Acts, Paul, Catholic Epistles	Very important for establishing the text of Acts. Agrees substantially with the Alexandrian texttype.
1739	10 th century, but probably goes back to a late 4 th century ms	Acts, Paul, Catholic Epistles	Alexandrian

Minuscule	Date (approx.)	NT Books Covered	General Characteristics
Family 1 (^{f1})	12 th -14 th centuries	Gospels	Caesarean (of the 3 rd or 4 th centuries)
Family 13 (^{f13})	11 th -15 th centuries	Gospels	Important in the discussion of the authenticity of the <i>pericope adulterae</i> (i.e., John 7:53-8:11)

Versional Evidence

Versions were initially prepared for missionary purposes. The history and transmission of versions are often quite complex, and scholars often do not agree on or do not know the particular dates or characteristics of the versions. The chart below contains the major versions cited in the notes; the most important abbreviations are listed, but not all abbreviations are indicated. For more information on the versional evidence for the NT, consult B. M. Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament* (3d ed.; New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), 67-86; B. M. Metzger, *The Early Versions of the New Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1977); and B. D. Ehrman and M. W. Holmes, eds., *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis* (Studies and Documents 46; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 75-187.

Version	Abbreviations	Date (approx.)	General Characteristics
Vulgate and part of the Itala witnesses	lat	2 nd to 3 rd century	Western, Alexandrian, and others
Itala	it	3 rd century	Western
Vulgate	vg	4 th century and later	extensive cross-contamination of texttypes
Syriac	syr	2 nd to 6 th centuries	Old Syriac (syr ^c and syr ^s) is generally Western. The Peshitta (syr ^p) has a mixed text in Gospels and Epistles, Western in Acts. The Harclean version (syr ^h) of Acts is Western. The Palestinian Syriac (syr ^{pal}) is generally Caesarean.
Coptic	cop	3 rd and 4 th centuries (Sahidic dialect is 4 th to 5 th centuries; Bohairic dialect is 9 th century)	generally Alexandrian in the entire tradition; Sahidic (sa) and Bohairic (bo) are Alexandrian with numerous Western readings
Armenian	arm	5 th century	generally Caesarean but sections are Byzantine, and the mss of Paul show strong Alexandrian affinities
Georgian	geo	5 th century	mixed texttypes; generally Caesarean, but becoming strongly Byzantine in later mss
Ethiopic	eth	exact date unknown, but most likely within the 4 th to 5 th centuries	mixed text, but generally early Byzantine
Slavonic	slav	9 th century	Byzantine

Patristic Evidence

A tremendous source for evidence of the Greek NT are citations found in early Church Fathers. They help to locate and date various readings and texttypes found in the manuscripts and versions. This field is quite complex for two broad reasons: (1) It is often difficult to determine if what the Father actually wrote has been preserved in the extant manuscripts or if corruption has occurred. (2) It is often difficult to determine if a Father is citing a text verbatim, paraphrasing it, or alluding to it. All of the Fathers cited in the notes are listed below. For more information on the patristic evidence for the NT, consult B. M. Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament* (3d ed.; New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), 86-92; and B. D. Ehrman and M. W. Holmes, eds., *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis* (Studies and Documents 46; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 189-236.

Ambrose of Milan, d. 397
Ambrosiaster of Rome, active 366-384
Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 373
Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, d. 430
Chromatius, d. 407
Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, d. 407
Clement of Alexandria, d. before 215
Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, d. 258
Cyril of Alexandria, d. 444
Cyril-Jerusalem, d. 386
Didymus of Alexandria, d. 398
Ephraem the Syrian, d. 373
Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis, d. 403
Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, d. 339 or 340
Hesychius of Jerusalem, d. after 451
Hilary of Poitiers, d. 367
Hippolytus of Rome, d. 235
Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, d. ca. 202
Jerome, d. 420
Justin Martyr, d. ca. 165
Marcion of Rome, 2nd century
Origen of Alexandria and Caesarea, d. 254
Pseudo-Athanasius, dates unknown
Serapion, d. after 362
Severian, d. after 408
Tertullian of Carthage, d. after 220
Theodore of Mopsuestia in Cilicia, d. 428
Victorinus-Pettau, d. 304

Hebrew and Greek Transliteration

Throughout the notes most Hebrew and Greek words or phrases will be transliterated into English. General guidelines for transliteration are as follows: Hebrew and Greek words or phrases in study notes will always be transliterated. Hebrew and Greek in translator's notes and text-critical notes will usually be transliterated, but there are some exceptions. Only the first occurrence of a word in any note will be transliterated. Hebrew and Greek words contained in citations of lexical tools (e.g., BDAG 2 s.v. ἄβυσσος) will not be transliterated, nor will Hebrew or Greek words and phrases contained in direct quotations. When appropriate (based on the context within the note) the translation of the word or phrase will follow the transliteration. If a Hebrew or Greek phrase in the notes is extensive, in many cases it will not be transliterated for stylistic reasons to avoid unnecessary length and awkwardness. As per the Unicode® specification for the Hebrew language, *furtive patakh* has the same placement as the patakh.

*Hebrew/English Transliteration**

Hebrew Letter	Transliteration		Pronunciation
	Medial	Final	
alef	א		ʾ glottal stop (no sound)
bet	ב		b as in <u>bat</u>
bet (spirant)	ב		v as in <u>victor</u>
gimel	ג		g as in <u>good</u>
dalet	ד		d as in <u>dog</u>
he	ה		h as in <u>hat</u>
vav	ו		v as in <u>victor</u>
zayin	ז		z as in <u>zoo</u>
kheth	ח		kh Scottish ch as in <u>loch</u>
teth	ט		t as in <u>top</u>
yod	י		y as in <u>young</u>
kaf	כ		k as in <u>king</u>
kaf (spirant)	כ	ך	kh Scottish ch as in <u>loch</u>
lamed	ל		l as in <u>long</u>
mem	מ	ם	m as in <u>mice</u>
nun	נ	ן	n as in <u>nice</u>
samek	ס		s as in <u>see</u>
ayin	ע		ʿ glottal stop (no sound)
pe	פ		p as in <u>pit</u>
pe (spirant)	פ	ף	f as in <u>food</u>
tsade	צ	ץ	ts as in <u>hats</u>
qof	ק		q as in <u>king</u>
resh	ר		r as in <u>red</u>
sin	שׁ		s as in <u>see</u>
shin	שׂ		sh as in <u>shoe</u>
tav	ת		t as in <u>top</u>

* This transliteration scheme is based on the general-purpose style listed in Patrick H. Alexander et al., eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999), section 5.1.2, with a few modifications.

<i>Hebrew Vowels</i>		<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>
patakh	ֿ	a	a as in <u>f</u> ather
furtive patakh	(see above)	a	a as in <u>f</u> ather
qamets	ֿ	a	a as in <u>f</u> ather
final qamets he	ֿ	ah	a as in <u>f</u> ather
3ms suffix	ֿ	ayv	av as in <u>a</u> vant garde
segol	ֿ	e	e as in <u>m</u> et
tserere	ֿ	e	e as in <u>t</u> hey
tserere yod	ֿ	e	e as in <u>t</u> hey
segol yod	ֿ	e	e as in <u>t</u> hey
short hireq	ֿ	i	i as in <u>u</u> nique
long hireq	ֿ	i	i as in <u>u</u> nique
hireq yod	ֿ	i	i as in <u>u</u> nique
qamets khatuf	ֿ	o	o as in <u>l</u> oft
holem	ֿ	o	o as in <u>r</u> ole
full holem	ֿ	o	o as in <u>r</u> ole
short qibbuts	ֿ	u	u as in <u>r</u> ule
long qibbuts	ֿ	u	u as in <u>r</u> ule
shureq	ֿ	u	u as in <u>r</u> ule
khatuf patakh	ֿ	a	a as in <u>a</u> m
khatuf segol	ֿ	e	e as in <u>m</u> et
khatuf qamets	ֿ	o	o as in <u>l</u> oft
vocal shewa	ֿ	é	e as in <u>m</u> et
silent shewa	ֿ	omitted	none

Greek/English Transliteration

<i>Greek Letter</i>			<i>English</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>
	Upper Case	Lower Case		
Alpha	A	α	a	a as in <u>f</u> ather
Beta	B	β	b	b as in <u>b</u> at
Gamma	Γ	γ	g	g as in <u>g</u> ood
Delta	Δ	δ	d	d as in <u>d</u> og
Epsilon	E	ε	e	e as in <u>g</u> et
Zeta	Z	ζ	z	dz as in <u>a</u> dds
Eta	H	η	ē	e as in <u>t</u> hey
Theta	Θ	θ	th	th as in <u>t</u> hink
Iota	I	ι	i	i as in <u>t</u> hin or <u>t</u> hink
Kappa	K	κ	k	k as in <u>k</u> ing
Lambda	Λ	λ	l	l as in <u>l</u> ong
Mu	M	μ	m	m as in <u>m</u> ice
Nu	N	ν	n	n as in <u>n</u> ice
Xi	Ξ	ξ	x	x as in <u>a</u> x
Omicron	O	ο	o	o as in <u>g</u> ot
Pi	Π	π	p	p as in <u>p</u> it
Rho	P	ρ	r	r as in <u>r</u> ed
Sigma	Σ	σ	s	s as in <u>s</u> ee
		(final = ς)		
Tau	T	τ	t	t as in <u>t</u> op
Upsilon	Υ	υ	u	u as the oo in <u>b</u> ook
Phi	Φ	φ	ph	ph as in <u>ph</u> ase
Chi	X	χ	ch	Scottish ch as in <u>l</u> och
Psi	Ψ	ψ	y	ps as in <u>t</u> ipsy
Omega	Ω	ω	ō	o as in <u>b</u> oat
Rough breathing mark		·	J	ἡμῖν = Jēmin ῶστε = Jōste υῖος = Juios