

The Two Cities - Antioch and Alexandria

Dr. Jack Moorman, who spent many years in researching the question of Bible versions, has stated that the transmission of the Greek text of the New Testament is essentially a “*tale of two cities*”, viz., **Antioch** and **Alexandria**. Dr. Moorman writes: “*Just as surely as the King James text was woven into the spiritual life of Antioch in Syria, so was the modern versions text in Alexandria. Today a person must decide whether he is more comfortable with a Bible whose roots go back to one or the other of these two cities... certainly Antioch has by far the most glorious heritage.*”

Antioch: Here was the springboard for the Gentile church. It became the center for Gentile Christians just as Jerusalem was for the Jews. ‘**The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch**’ – **Acts 11:26**. Antioch was the center for the outreach of the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Many of the disciples also visited Antioch. Antioch was the heartbeat of Christianity.

Alexandria: The place where most of the modern texts and translations originated, had no such glory. It is true, however, that Alexandria because a center of intellectualism. Such men as Clement and Origen were active in this area. It was also noted as a place where every deviant sect was represented. Religious corruption and false doctrines were prevalent including Gnosticism, Arianism, pagan philosophy, etc. Alexandria was the place where the intellectuals of Christianity were attracted.

The Two Essentials - Inspiration and Preservation

Since God has **inspired** His Word, has He also **preserved** His Word? Has He **preserved** it for every generation? The Westminster Confession (1646) states: “*The Scriptures were immediately inspired of God and under His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages.*”

The Bible has the final say in the matter: “**The words of the Lord are pure words...I thou shalt keep them, O Lord, Thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**” **Psalm 12:6,7.**

If we accept the **Inspiration** of Scripture, we must also accept that every word has been and will be **Preserved** through the ages in the church. Both together are essential doctrines.

The Two Heretics - Clement and Origen*

Clement: He accepted Greek philosophy and the Apocrypha as divinely authoritative. He was head of the catechetical school at Alexandria and believe that salvation could be obtained through various means including baptism, faith and works, faith alone, etc.

Origen: He also became head of the catechetical school. A man of superior intellect, he however denied the Bible’s historicity, eternal punishment, the Holy Spirit’s eternity, salvation by grace, etc. He was given to the allegorizing of scriptures. *Data from, “Final Authority” by William P. Grady

The Two False Witnesses - Vaticanus and Sinaiticus**

Discarded and hidden for 1500 years, these two corrupted manuscripts form the basis of all MODERN VERSIONS. They disagree with each other in over 3000 places in the Gospels alone. It is the VATICAN MSS (which include the Apocrypha) that the translators mostly relied upon. Both had their roots in Alexandria and show the influence of Origen. **Data from H.C. Hoskier’s ‘Codex B and its Allies.’

A totally of 43 other manuscripts indicate some support for this text compared to 5210 which support the Traditional Text. John W. Burgon states “*These are two of the least trustworthy documents in existence...*”

The Two Apostate Revisionists - Westcott & Hort

Both were apostates. Westcott did not accept **Genesis 1-3**; bodily resurrection of Christ; miracles and literal coming of Christ. He was partial to Romish ways. Hort did not accept the infallibility of Scriptures. He also favored Darwin’s theory of evolution. Both men did not believe in eternal punishment or the vicarious atonement. (Data from ‘Life& Letters, 1896, 1903)