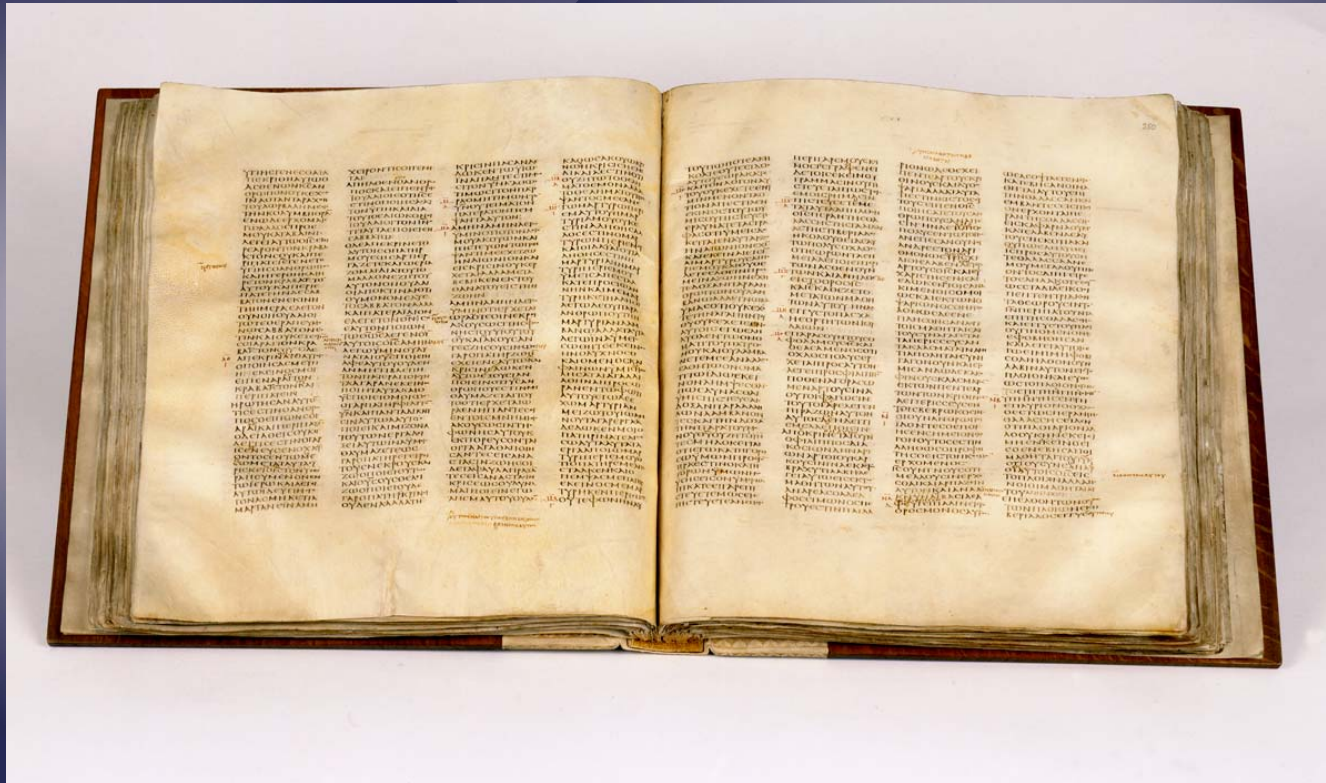


# Week Two: New Testament Origins



Codex Sinaiticus: 4<sup>th</sup> Century

# New Testament documentaries

- ⌘ During Lent season, there is a spike in Easter documentaries about the reliability of the New Testament and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ⌘ We will focus on the composition (historically) of the New Testament.
- ⌘ People such as Elaine Pagels, Bart Ehrman, and many others appear on television.



Elaine Pagels



Bart Ehrman

# Why ask hard questions about the bible?

- ⌘ 1 Peter 3:15 ESV “<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- ⌘ We don't want people “falling away from the faith” because their questions were not heard.
- ⌘ If you have a question ask the pastor. Or Pastor Doug will ask one of his NT scholar friends.



Bruce Metzger

# Original Autographs

- ⌘ We do not have the original autographs of the bible. The doctrine of inerrancy/infallibility is confined to the original autographs, however.
- ⌘ We have over 5,700 Greek NT manuscripts. Other classical texts don't even come close to the NT!
- ⌘ No textual variants influence any major Christian doctrine.



AUTOGRAPH



# Why study manuscripts?



- ⌘ Scholars make mistakes that can be corrected. A famous discovery of P52 did just that!
- ⌘ P52's date ranges from 125-175. Our oldest manuscript in existence.
- ⌘ Many liberal German New Testament scholars were dating John's gospel in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> (180-200) A.D. The discovery of P52 proved this was wrong!

# Tischendorf



- ⌘ Tischendorf discovered the greatest codex, named "Sinaiticus" or "Aleph".
- ⌘ He was hanging out one night at St. Catherine's monastery and he noticed that monks were burning very old paper.
- ⌘ He asked to see the paper and discovered they were burning ancient manuscripts.
- ⌘ He smuggled codex Sinaiticus out of Egypt and preserved it.

# Case Study: Mark 16:9-20

- ⌘ In your bible (if you use the ESV) you will see a statement “some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.”
- ⌘ 16:9-20 includes several words that Mark doesn't use throughout his gospel.
- ⌘ “cast out demons”, “speak in new tongues”, “pick up serpents”, and “drink deadly poison that will not hurt them”.
- ⌘ All of our best manuscripts do not have the long ending of Mark.



# Mark 16:9-20



Joel Marcus



Matthew Larson

- ⌘ Three options for what happened. They are that Mark never finished his gospel, “for they were afraid” is the proper ending, or the true ending was lost.
- ⌘ Pastor Doug’s view? I believe it is most likely (not a slam dunk) that Mark ended his gospel with “for they were afraid”.
- ⌘ Asks the question to the reader of Mark. How will you respond to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Open ended nature is just like Jonah!



# Case Study: John 7:53-8:11

- & Lack of early manuscripts with this story is overwhelming.
- & It interrupts the flow of the narrative of the gospel of John. It doesn't fit internally.
- & Throughout all of our manuscripts, it is found everywhere. For example, it is found at the end of Luke and all over the place in John's gospel.



# Case Study of John 7:53-8:11 *(continued...)*



Kyle Hughes

- ⌘ My roommate in seminary published a paper in a prestigious journal arguing that this passage is from the “L” material.
- ⌘ The story is powerful and part of the oral tradition. The church wanted to place it somewhere in the NT.
- ⌘ This explains why it is found in so many different places within the manuscripts.

# King James bible

- ⌘ "if the king James bible was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me".
- ⌘ Our bible translations are getting better over time as we sift through the manuscript data.
- ⌘ Based on Byzantine text tradition. This is a much later tradition than the best modern translations use such as the NIV, ESV, and many others.



Daniel B. Wallace

# Conclusions

- ⌘ If you have a question about this field, ask pastor Doug!
- ⌘ I have a friend (who hopefully could speak for us one day) who is a scholar in the field!
- ⌘ We interpret everything in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our faith is in a person!



Zachary Cole