# Written Transmission: How We Got Our Bible

Wednesday Night, January 3rd, 2024



# John 20:30-31

### What Are the Charges Against the Written Transmission?

1. Late date (specifically when the originals were written) 2. Scribal errors (means we don't know what the originals actually said) 3. Change over time (primarily, theology)



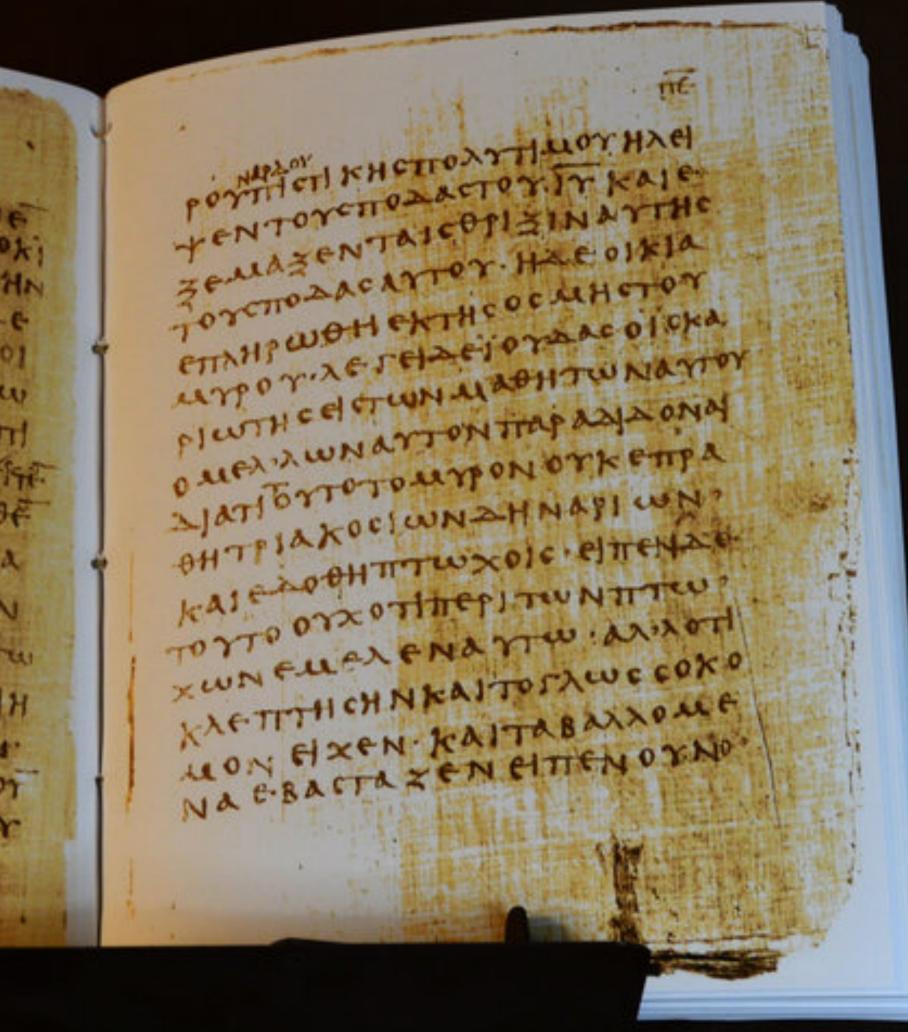
P52 or Papyrus 52 contains the Gospel of John 18:31-33 and 37-38



### P47 or Papyrus 47 Portion of Revelation 9, 11, 16-17:2

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ΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΝΗΓΔΥΝΑΤΟΟ ΚΑΙΕΛΑΚΟΝΟΟ ΜΑΟΟΥΛΚΑΙΤΟ ΜΑΤΟΝΥΙΟΝΑΙ ΤΟΥ

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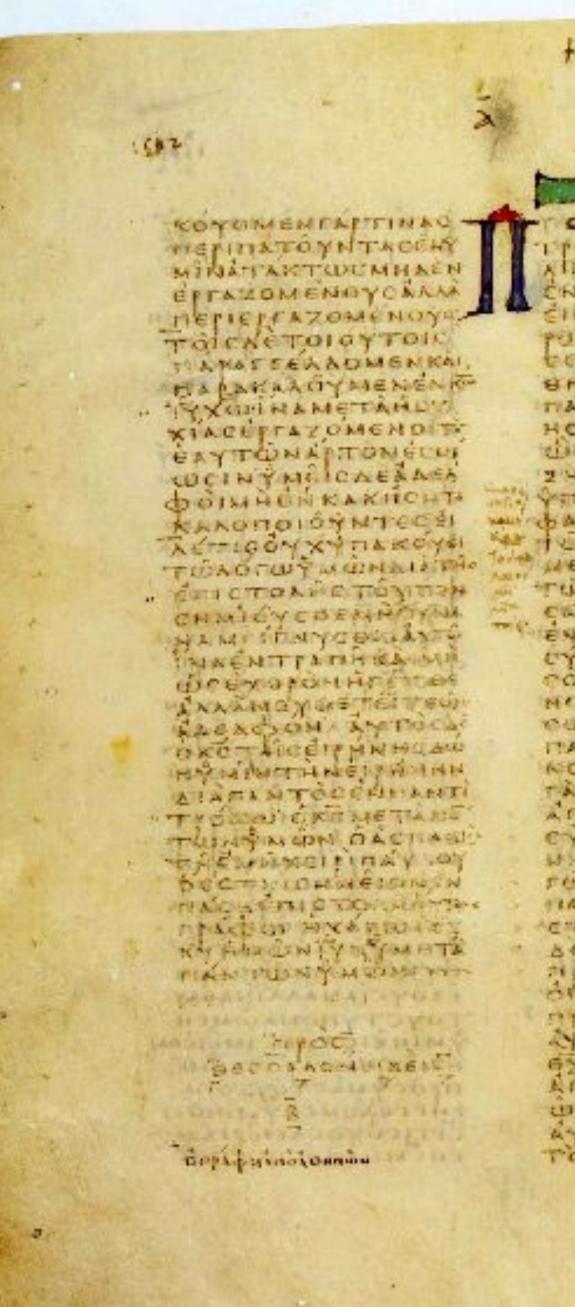
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+ Trees EBPAINSE +

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THE NOMINA SACRA (SACRED NAMES)



### What Are the Charges Against the Written Transmission?

1. Late date (specifically when the originals were written) 2. Scribal errors (means we don't know what the originals actually said) 3. Change over time (primarily, theology)



### Late Date Concern:

- Just because our surviving manuscripts can be copied at a later date (if we decide they are late) does not mean that the originals were as late as some suggest! - We have great reasons to believe that we have the complete New Testament well before the end of the first century (later focus on this point)



### Late Date Concern:

- Just because the written transmission happened later does not discredit what was being taught or passed down prior to the written transmission.



- Did scribes copying the NT add things? (Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11)

Potential Occurrences? Looking to Revelation 21:18-19



A consideration should be given: - Do we see extreme persecution of Christian's in the NT itself? >Acts 8:1-3; 9:10-14 > Hebrews 10:32-35 > Revelation 1-3



### Did scribes make mistakes in copying? - Yes

## Does this mean we do not have original wording? - No! We can trust we do!





What's fascinating is this: - Despite the destruction that occurred against many believers, our earliest manuscripts and latest manuscripts agree in nearly every way!

- If there are differences, we can see them and find the original



Could the content of the manuscripts change over time? - Anything is possible but does the evidence support such a notion?

the Creeds!

### - Also, remember our study last Wednesday on



- The way a manuscript was copied would make it impossible to change every document and noticeable changes would be easily spotted!



- In other words, we have extreme confidence that what we have in the manuscripts is original wording contained and present!

God's Word preserved!





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