The Solid Rock Greek New Testament
Theory and Practice

Joey McCollum

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About the Editors

Joey McCollum is a research associate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His work is inspired by his cross-disciplinary interests in mathematics and New Testament textual criticism. As a volunteer transcriber for the International Greek New Testament Project, he has completed over 100 full transcriptions of manuscripts in Galatians and Ephesians.

Stephen L. Brown is assistant pastor at First Baptist Church in North Conway, New Hampshire. His passions include linguistics, biblical languages, and textual criticism of the Old and New Testaments. His early text-critical work in the New Testament followed the reasoned eclectic methodology popular in modern scholarship, but his continued study led him to Byzantine priority.
About This Edition

“The Solid Rock Greek New Testament: Scholar’s Edition presents a thoroughly documented comparison of various Greek NT editions as they relate to a generally Byzantine base text. This edition will be of particular value for those engaging in comparative studies of the various Byzantine and critical text editions as these relate to the historical transmission of the Greek NT.”

Maurice A. Robinson, co-editor of

*The New Testament in the Original Greek: Byzantine Textform*

- Scholar’s Edition and Portable Edition available in hardcover on Amazon
- Scholar’s Edition available as a Logos module
- Public domain, with content maintained on GitHub
NT Textual Criticism

Scope of the problem:

- ≈ 5,700 Greek manuscripts
  - ≈ 20,000 in other languages
- ≈ 500,000 textual variants
  - ≈ 30% are obvious scribal mistakes
  - ≈ 50% are singular
  - Many other differences are minor, uninformative, and likely accidental
NT Textual Criticism

The textual critic’s toolbox:

- Intrinsic probability
- Transcriptional probability
- External evidence

Finally, we need a *methodological framework* where we can fit it all together.
Methodologies

Eclecticism

\[ \Omega \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow e, f \rightarrow g \]

\[ a, b, c, d \]
Methodologies

*Majority-text*

\[ \Omega \]

- \(a\)
- \(b\)
- \(c\)
- \(d\)
- \(e\)
- \(f\)
- \(g\)
Methodologies

Reasoned transmissionalism
Methodologies

Stemmatics

\[ \Omega \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow \chi \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow a \]
\[ \chi \rightarrow b \]
\[ \chi \rightarrow c \rightarrow d \rightarrow e \rightarrow f \]
\[ \psi \rightarrow g \]
\[ \psi \rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \nu \rightarrow \tau \]
Methodologies

$CBGM$

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\Omega \\
\downarrow \\
d \\
\downarrow \\
a \\
\downarrow \\
b \\
c \\
\downarrow \\
e \\
\downarrow \\
f \\
\downarrow \\
g
\end{array}
\]
Why This Edition?

To extend the work of the *SBL GNT*

- Text based on transmissional (Byzantine-priority) principles
- More majority / Byzantine editions
- Added coverage of recent and historically-significant work
- Clearer notation
- More judicious division of variation units
- Essays in front and back matter
Introduction

Design

Use

Conclusion

Design Choices: Text

Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Transposition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7:50–8:6 KATA IΩANNHN

50 Λέγει Νικόδημος πρός αὐτούς—ὁ ἔλθὼν ὁ νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, ἡ εἰς ἧν ἤ διὰ αὐτῶν—51 Μή ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἀνθρώπον, ἤ τοῖς ἰκούσιν ἵπ τις ἤ διὰ αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γνώ τι ποιεῖ; 52 Ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ, Μή καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλατίας εἰ; Ερεύνησον καὶ ἰδε ὅτι ἐγείρτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλατίας ὅμως ἐγήγερται. 53 Καὶ ἀπῆλθεν ἐκκαστος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. 8:1 Καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐπορεύθη εἰς τὸ ὄρος τῶν Ἑλαίων.

2 Ὅρθρου δὲ πάλιν ὁ βαθέος ἡλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς τὸ ἱερόν, καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἠρχετο πρὸς αὐτὸν, καὶ καθίσας ἐδιδασκαν αὐτούς. 3 Ἀγούσιν δὲ οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαίοι πρὸς αὐτὸν γυναίκα ἐπὶ μοιχείας κατεύθυνμεν, καὶ στήσαντες αὐτὴν ἐν τῷ μέσῳ. 4 'Εἶπον αὐτῷ, Ἐδάσκαλε, ταύτην εὑρομεν ἐπὶ αὐτῷ. 5 Εν δὲ τῷ νόμῳ ἡμῶν ἔνευσεν Ἡμῶς ἐνετείλατο τὰς τοιαύτας λιθάζειν. 6 Τούτῳ δὲ ἔλεγον

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The Solid Rock Greek New Testament
Design Choices: Apparatus

Legend

Text-variant divider
Reading divider
Edition marks text as doubtful
Cited Editions

- Majority text / Byzantine priority
- Alexandrian priority
- Eclecticism
- Stemmatics
- CBGM

Solid Rock GNT

- RP
- Ead, Carl, Sol, Wass
- $f^{35}$, TR, TNT², WH, NA²⁷, SBL
- NA²⁵, NA²⁸, NIV⁷³
- NIV¹¹

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Variation Unit Divisions

Mark 7:14

SBL  Ἀκούσατε ὑμᾶς καὶ σύνετε.

SRS  Ἀκούετε ὑμᾶς καὶ συνίετε.
Example: Variant Not Covered in SBL GNT

Matt 5:4–5

4 Ἔκατεροι οἱ πενθοῦντες· ὅτι αὐτοὶ παρακληθήσονται. 5 Μακάριοι οἱ πρᾳεῖς· ὅτι αὐτοὶ κληρονομήσουσιν τὴν γῆν.

5:4 Ἔκατεροι οἱ πενθοῦντες ... Μακάριοι οἱ πρᾳεῖς ... RP f^35 TR WH NA NIV SBL ] Μακάριοι οἱ πρᾳεῖς ... Μακάριοι οἱ πενθοῦντες ... TNT^2
Example: Trends in Scholarly Opinion

Rom 5:1

5:1 Δικαιωθέντες οὖν ἐκ πίστεως, εἰρήνην ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ.

5:1 ἔχωμεν RP TR NA NIV SBL ἔχομεν f³⁵ TNT² WH
Example: Byzantine / Majority Division

Luke 3:33

33 τοῦ Ἀμιναδάβ, τοῦ Ἀράμ, τοῦ Ἑσρώμ, τοῦ Φαρές, τοῦ Ἰούδα,
Example: Byzantine / Majority Division

Rev 22:19b

\[\text{\ri² \alphaφέλοι \ o \ θεὸς \ tò \ μέρος \ αὐτοῦ \ απὸ \ \text{\ri²} \ \tauοῦ \ \text{\ri³} \ \zυλου \ τῆς \ \zωῆς,}\]

\[\text{\ri² \alphaφέλοι \ RP \ f^{35} \ \alphaφαιρῆσει \ TR \ \alphaφελεῖ \ TNT² \ WH \ NA \ NIV \ SBL} \]
\[\text{\ri² \tauοῦ \ RP \ f^{35} \ TNT² \ WH \ NA \ NIV \ SBL} \] – TR
\[\text{\ri³ \zυλου \ RP \ f^{35} \ TNT² \ WH \ NA \ NIV \ SBL} \] βίβλου TR

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Example: Recent Eclectic Trends

Mark 1:41a

41 Ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς σπλαγχνισθεὶς, ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα,
Example: Recent Eclectic Trends

John 1:34

34 ἴδω ἑώρακα, καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ γιός τοῦ θεοῦ.
Example: Results of Stemmatic Approach

Gal 2:12

12 Ἡλθείν τινὰς ἀπὸ Ἰακώβου, μετὰ τῶν ἐθνῶν συνήσθιεν· ὅτε δὲ ἦλθον, ὑπέστελλεν καὶ ἀφώριζεν ἑαυτόν, φοβούμενος τοὺς ἐκ περιτομῆς.

---

2:12 Ἡλθον RP f³⁵ TR WH NA NIV SBL Ead Ἡλθεν TNT²
Carl
Example: Results of Stemmatic Approach

Gal 4:25

25 ὁ γὰρ Ἅγαρ Σινᾶ ὄρος ἐστίν ἐν τῇ Ἀραβίᾳ,
Example: Changes in Nestle-Aland

1 Pet 4:16

4:16 εἰ δὲ ὡς Χριστιανός, μὴ αἰσχυνέσθω, δοξαζέτω δὲ τὸν θεὸν ἐν τῷ μέρει τούτῳ.

4:16 ἐν τῷ μέρει RP f35 TR NA28 ὀνόματι TNT2 WH NA25+27 NIV SBL
Example: Changes in Nestle-Aland

2 Pet 3:10

10 Ἡξεὶ δὲ ἡ ἡμέρα κυρίου ως κλέπτης ἐν νυκτί, ἐν ᾗ οἱ οὐρανοὶ ῥοιζηδὸν παρελεύσονται, στοιχεῖα δὲ καυσούμενα λυθήσονται, καὶ γῆ καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ ἔργα κατακαῆσται.

3:10 ἡ RP f35 TR ] – TNT² WH NA NIV SBL
ἐν νυκτί RP f35 TR ] – TNT² WH NA NIV SBL
οἱ οὐρανοὶ ... καὶ γῆ RP TR TNT² WH NA NIV SBL ]
λυθήσονται RP f35 TR ] λυθήσεται TNT² WH NA NIV SBL
κατακαῆσται RP f35 TR ] εὑρεθήσεται TNT² WH NA²⁵+²⁷ NIV SBL | οὐχ εὑρεθήσεται NA²⁸
Example: Changes in Nestle-Aland

Jude 1:5

5 Ὑπομνῆσαι δὲ ὑμᾶς βούλομαι, ἐιδότας ὑμᾶς ἀπαξ τοῦτο, ὅτι ὁ κύριος, ἦ λαὸν ἑκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου σώσας, τὸ δεύτερον τοὺς μὴ πιστεύσαντας ἀπώλεσεν.
Conclusion

Directions for future change:

- Add more editions (THGNT, Lachmann, Alford, etc.)
- Further refine variation unit divisions
- Review and revision of the apparatus
Questions?