

Matthew: Shouldn't we be loyal to the "original autographs" and not just a translation?

Valiant: You should put as much value on the "originals" as God does. But, it is impossible to be loyal to the original autographs because they do not exist. Since this is true any sincere student of Scripture must realize that an affirmative answer to the question is an impossibility.

If you put more emphasis on the originals that God does you will end up with an idol.

Daniel: What do you mean?

Valiant: Was Mary the mother of Jesus?

Daniel: Yes.

Valiant: Was she the mother of God?

Freddy: Of course not!

Valiant: Was Mary a virgin when Jesus was born?

Matthew: Sure!

Valiant: Was she a "perpetual" virgin?

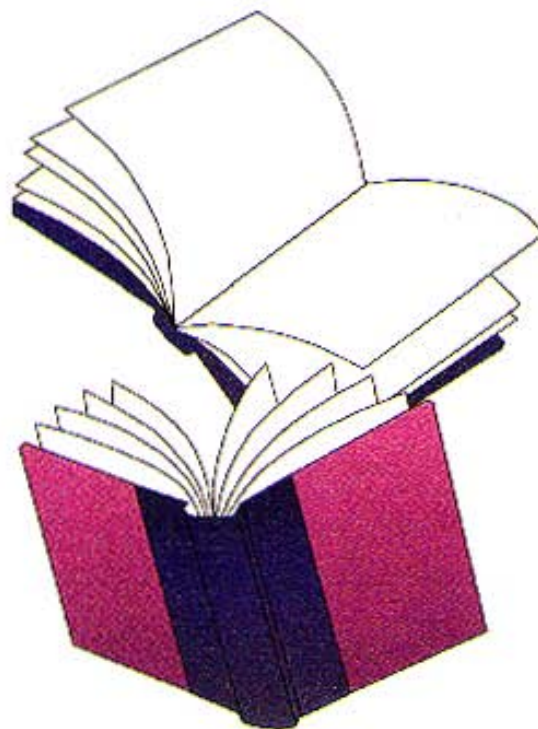
Matthew: No. In Mark's gospel, the sixth chapter and the third verse we're given the names of Jesus' four half-brothers and told He had at least two sisters.

Freddy: Really?

Matthew: Look at the reference and see.

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

Freddy: Wow! I never knew Joseph and Mary had children of their own.



Valiant: Yes, they did. The Gospel of Matthew 13:55 and 56 also mention them.

So, you see, Mary was the mother of **Jesus** but she **was not** the mother of **God**. She **was** a virgin when Jesus was born but she **did not** stay that way.

The Roman Catholic Church erroneously teaches that Mary was both the "Mother of God" and a "perpetual" virgin. By putting more emphasis on Mary than God does they end up with an idol. You have often seen idolatrous statues that represent Mary in the yards of people who do not know the truth.



Wendell: Just how much value does God put on the originals?

Valiant: To get the answer to that question we must explore several chapters in the book of Jeremiah. In this passage we will watch as an "original" is written. Then we will follow it closely throughout its brief life.

In chapter 36 we are told that the prophet Jeremiah had written a roll of a book at the urging of the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 36:1-2

1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

In verse 21 this roll is brought before King Jehoiakim and read by his servant Jehudi. According to verse 23 Jehudi read three or four leaves and then King Jehoiakim got so upset that he cut it up with a penknife and cast it into the fire on the hearth until it was destroyed.

Jeremiah 36:21-23

21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

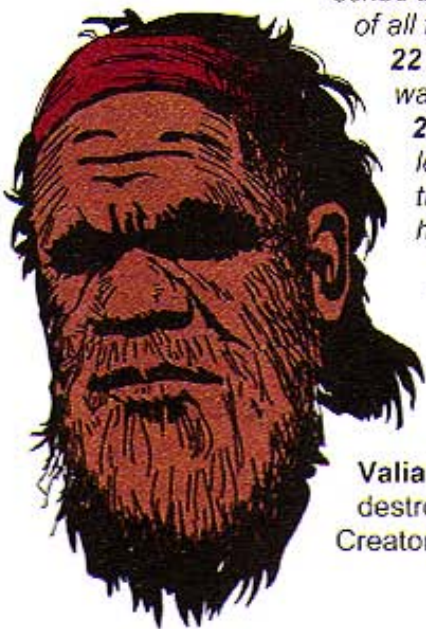
22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

Thus ends the ORIGINAL!

Freddy: But Jeremiah couldn't help it. It was a wicked king that destroyed it.

Valiant: You are correct, young friend. But the ORIGINAL manuscript was destroyed none the less. But a wicked king cannot overcome our great Creator.



Following the king's destruction of God's word, the Lord moved Jeremiah to rewrite the roll. This time He had him add some words to it.

Jeremiah 36:28 & 32

28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.

So, ORIGINAL #2 is born.

Wendell: Wow! God has the power to "re-inspire" an original manuscript any time He wants to!

Valiant: In fact, the text of this second original is found in Jeremiah chapters 45-51 where it is reproduced for your benefit. If you read these chapters you will see what God wanted Jeremiah to write in this second "Original."

Daniel: God had better take good care of this second original so that nothing bad happens to it.

Valiant: Well, you will find what happens to this "Second Original" very interesting. When Jeremiah is finished writing it he gives it to a young man by the name of Seraiah. He tells Seraiah to go to Babylon and read this record of God's coming judgement publicly.

Then Jeremiah instructed Seraiah, after he finished reading the roll, to bind a stone to it and cast it into the Euphrates River!

Jeremiah 51:63

63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

Thus ends ORIGINAL #2!

Matthew: Whoa! Jeremiah had Seraiah destroy the second original! That wasn't an act of a wicked king. That was the leading of God. God didn't even try to keep the original around. Why?

Valiant: To understand you must see what you haven't seen yet.

Daniel: What do you mean?

Valiant: Well, here you have the **first** original destroyed by a wicked king. That is understandable. He hated God and His word. Then God "re-inspires" the destroyed manuscript. But after it is read to the Babylonians God has Jeremiah tell Seraiah to destroy it.



But wait! Do you have chapters 45 through 51 in your Bible in the book of Jeremiah?

Wendell: Sure. Even modern translations have those chapters in them.

Valiant: Well, where did those chapters come from? It could not have come from ORIGINAL #1 because that was destroyed by King Jehoiakim. It could not have come from ORIGINAL #2, that was destroyed when Seraiah threw it into the Euphrates river. So how did you get a copy of the text of that manuscript in your Bible when it was destroyed **centuries** before your Bible was compiled?

Freddy: Beats me. The only way would be for God to inspire yet another "original."

Valiant: That is exactly what the great Creator did. The text of Jeremiah chapters 45 to 51 in your Bible obviously came from a **copy** of ORIGINAL #2 which we can only call ORIGINAL #3!

Because of this, there are two very big problems for those who overemphasize the "originals."

(1) Every Bible ever printed with a copy of Jeremiah in it has a text in chapters 45 - 51 which did not come from the **true** original. That was destroyed by King Jehoiakim. The text for Jeremiah 45 - 51 that you have in your Bible was translated from a copy of Jeremiah's "second" original, or ORIGINAL #3.

(2) Secondly, **No one** can overlook the fact that God did not have the least bit of interest in preserving the "original" **once it had been copied** and its message delivered. So **why** would anyone put more of an emphasis on the originals than God does?

Daniel: Maybe somebody WANTS an idol.



Valiant: You may be more correct than you know. Such an emphasis is plainly unscriptural.

Christian scholars are just as guilty as the Roman Catholics. The Roman Catholic Church puts more emphasis on Mary than God does, while scholars are guilty of putting more emphasis on "The Originals" than God does. It is evident from Jeremiah that, once the message has been delivered, God is not the least bit interested in preserving the originals. In fact, He destroyed them so that scholars could not make an idol out of them! Since you have the text of the "originals" preserved in the King James Bible, you have no need of the originals, even if they were available.

Fill in the blanks.

- 1) We should put as much value on the _____ as God does.
- 2) In Jeremiah 36, Jehudi read three or four leaves and King Jehoiakim got so upset that he cut it up with a _____.
- 3) What are two very big problems for those who overemphasize the "originals?"

1 _____

2 _____

4) When you put more emphasis on something than God does you end up with an _____.

5) Once the message has been delivered, God is not the least bit interested in preserving the _____.

6) True or False _____ If we have a copy of the message God wanted delivered we no longer need the originals.



Wendell: But don't the best manuscripts support the new versions rather than the King James?

Valiant: No. The very best manuscripts support the Bible, the Authorized Version. Over 5,000 manuscripts or portions of manuscripts of the Bible have been found. That is more than the works of William Shakespeare. The new versions are only supported by about five of these over 5,000 manuscripts of Bible text. Critics of the Bible claim that these few, odd manuscripts are better than those used by the translators of the Authorized Version. This is not so.

The two most prominent manuscripts of this group that reads contrary to those on which the King James Bible is based are Vaticanus and Siniaticus. Vaticanus, which is sole property of the Roman Catholic Church, and Siniaticus, are both known to be overwhelmed with errors.

Siniaticus was found by a man named Constantine Tischendorf in 1841 in the waste bin of a monastery. Mr. Tischendorf secreted the portions he found out of the monastery without informing the priests that lived there. He later sold it to a museum. It is said that Siniaticus has been corrected and altered by as many as ten different writers. That would make it extremely difficult for anyone to be able to discern just what it originally said.

Vaticanus mysteriously appeared in the Vatican library in 1481. Like Siniaticus it is a physically beautiful manuscript to look at. But beneath its beauty lies a truly flawed text. In Vaticanus is found the evidence of very sloppy workmanship. Time and again words and whole phrases are repeated twice in succession or completely omitted. This is evidence that it was hastily produced. In addition to the shoddy workmanship of the original scribe, the entire manuscript has had the text mutilated by some person or persons who ran over every letter with a pen making exact identification of many of the characters impossible. These manuscripts are obviously the work of inferior scribes who did Christians no favor by their handiwork.

Fill in the blanks.

- 7) True or False _____ There are over 5,000 manuscripts of Bible text.
- 8) The two most prominent manuscripts which read contrary to those on which the King James Bible is based are _____ and _____.
- 9) Vaticanus is the sole property of the _____
_____ Church.
- 10) Siniaticus has been corrected and altered by as many as _____ different writers.

Freddy: These two don't sound like they're very reliable witnesses to what the originals were supposed to have said.

Valiant: Right. And it gets worse. Both of these manuscripts contain uninspired, anti-scriptural books which are not found in the Bible. These books are known as The Apocrypha and have never been accepted by Christianity as inspired. In fact, only the Roman Catholic Church has claimed inspiration for them. This is because they teach such heresies as "Purgatory" and "prayers for the dead." The Creator does not accept prayers for the dead.

The only place where these error laden, unreliable manuscripts excel is in the quality of the materials used to make them. They have good bindings and fine animal skin pages. Their physical appearance, contrary to their worthless texts, are really rather attractive. But then you have heard the saying, "You can't judge a book by its cover." The covers of these two are attractive but their texts are reprehensible.

Reprehensible:
deserving of
reproof, rebuke,
or censure;
blameworthy.

And yet in spite of these well-known corruptions, these poor quality manuscripts are the basis for many new versions such as the New American Standard Version and the New International Version. The use of such poor quality manuscripts renders these versions fatally flawed and unreliable.

The manuscripts represented by the King James Bible have texts of the highest quality which read closer to what the originals actually said. So we see that the King James Bible is based on the very best manuscripts in existence.



Fill in the blanks.

- 11) Both manuscripts contain uninspired, anti-scriptural _____ which are not found in the Bible.
- 12) The Apocrypha has never been accepted by Christianity as _____.
- 13) Vaticanus and Siniaticus teach such heresies as " _____ " and "prayers for the dead."