

## Top Ten Verses That Were Not Originally in the New Testament

Some of the most familiar verses of the New Testament were not originally part of the text, but were added by later scribes. These scribal additions are often found in late medieval manuscripts of the New Testament, but not in the manuscripts of the earlier centuries. But because some of the best-known English editions of the New Testament, such as the King James Bible (the Authorized Version), were based not on early manuscripts, but later ones, these verses became part of the Bible tradition in English-speaking lands. The following are some of the verses that originally were not part of the New Testament (author's translations are from the original Greek):

1 John 5:7—There are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.

John 8:7—Let the one who is without sin among you be the first to cast a stone at her.

John 8:11—Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.

Luke 22:44—In his anguish Jesus began to pray more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Luke 22:20—And in the same way after supper Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Mark 16:17—These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons and they will speak with new tongues.

Mark 16:18—And they will take up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any poison it will not harm

them, and they will lay their hands on the sick and they will become well.

John 5:4—For an angel of the Lord went down at certain times into the pool and disturbed the waters; and whoever was the first to step in when the water was disturbed was healed of whatever disease he had.

Luke 24:12—But Peter rose up and ran to the tomb, and stooping down to look in, he saw the linen clothes by themselves. And he went away to his own home, marveling at what had happened.

Luke 24:51—And when Jesus blessed them he departed from them and he was taken up into heaven.

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## *Types of Errors in the New Testament Manuscripts*

Errors occurring in the manuscripts of the Greek New Testament fall into two categories: accidental and intentional. The most frequently encountered errors of these kinds are listed below.

### **I. Accidental Errors**

#### A. Faulty Word Division

Example. 1 Timothy 3:16: ὁμολογοῦμεν ὡς μέγα (“we acknowledge how great”) for ὁμολογουμένως μέγα (“confessedly great”).

#### B. Homoeoteleuton (“similar ending”)—skipping from one letter or word to the same letter or word farther down the page.

Example. 1 John 2:23: here many manuscripts skip from the first occurrence of τὸν πατέρα ἔχει to the second.

#### C. Haplography (“single writing”)—writing a letter or word once when it should be written twice.

Example. 1 Thessalonians 2:7: ἐγενήθημεν ἡπιοι (“we became gentle”) for ἐγενήθημεν νήπιοι (“we became infants”).

#### D. Dittography (“double writing”)—writing a letter or word twice instead of once.

Example. Mark 12:27: ὁ θεὸς θεὸς for θεός.

#### E. Metathesis (“change of place”)—changing the order of letters or words.

Example. Mark 14:65: ἔλαβον (“received”) for ἔβαλον (“struck”).

#### F. Itacism—confusing vowel sounds.

Example. Romans 5:1: ἔχωμεν (“let us have”) for ἔχομεν (“we have”).

### **II. Intentional Errors**

#### A. Grammatical Improvements

Example. Mark 6:29: ἦλθον for ἦλθαν.

#### B. Liturgical Changes

Example. Matthew 6:13: addition/omission of the doxology in the Lord's Prayer.

#### C. Elimination of Apparent Discrepancies

Example. Mark 1:2: ἐν τοῖς προφήταις (“in the prophets”) for ἐν τῷ Ἡσαΐα τῷ προφήτῃ (“in Isaiah the prophet”).

#### D. Harmonization of Parallel Passages

Example. Matthew 19:17 (cf. Mark 10:18).

#### E. Conflation—combining two or more variants into one reading.

Example. Luke 24:53: αἰνοῦντες and εὐλογοῦντες may have been conflated to produce the reading αἰνοῦντες καὶ εὐλογοῦντες (though it is also possible that homoeoteleuton can account for the shorter readings).

#### F. Doctrinal Changes

Example. 1 John 5:7–8: This “Heavenly Witnesses” passage has no nonsuspect Greek manuscript support.