

The ‘Majority’ Greek Text, Johannine Comma and the Trinity

Introduction

Based on the so-called ‘Majority’ Greek Text’ anti-AV1611 critics cite the apparent paucity of Greek manuscript witnesses to the Johannine Comma 1 John 5:7 **For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one** in the AV1611 in order to deny the authenticity of 1 John 5:7 in the AV1611 and even the doctrine of the Trinity¹.

This work addresses:

- the so-called ‘Majority’ Text reading for 1 John 5:7, using the Robinson Pierpont and Farstad Hodges ‘Majority’ Text Editions
- the nature of the so-called ‘Majority’ Text
- the vindication of 1 John 5:7 in the AV1611 and in turn the doctrine of the Trinity.

Note that citations in this work from other sources are given in *Italic text* but the textual data for 1 John 5:7 are given in *Normal text* because some of the source data for 1 John 5:7 are in *Italics*.

Publishers’ Note - Robinson Pierpont ‘Majority’ Text Edition²

Emphases in source

*Our free online interlinear New Testament parallels the **King James Version** with the Greek **Byzantine Majority Text**. The parsing of the Greek text is based on the **Robinson and Pierpont 2000** edition, but with considerable corrections of our own (that is: the ever cheerful and creative **Abarim Publications’ Editorial Team**). The translations of the separate Greek words are entirely our own, so feel free to send us your feedback.*

Text - 1 John 5:7

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Robinson and Pierpont Edition

οτι	τρεις	εισιν	οι	μαρτυρουντες
that	three	they are	the	witnessing

Idiomatic Rendering

that they are the three witnessing

Google Translation

that there are three witnesses

Farstad Hodges Edition³ with NKJV Parallel Text

Οτι τρεις εισιν οι μαρτυρουντες^b

Because three are the *ones* witnessing/who witness

b. 1 John 5:7 NU [Nestle United Bible Societies], M [Majority] omit the words from *in heaven* (v. 7) through *on earth* (v. 8). Only 4 or 5 very late mss. contain these words in Greek⁴.

The so-called ‘Majority’ Text rejects 1 John 5:7 in the AV1611 but **A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight** Proverbs 11:1. Note therefore the following data.

‘Majority’ Text - Note of Caution

Dr Moorman’s words of caution⁵ should be kept in mind, his underlinings, with respect to readings in the 1611 Authorized Holy Bible that appear to have only minority support.

Our extant MSS reflect but do not determine the text of Scripture. The text was determined by God in the beginning (Psa. 119:89, Jude 3). After the advent of printing (AD 1450), the necessity of God preserving the MS witness to the text was diminished. Therefore, in some instances the majority of MSS extant today may not reflect at every point what the true, commonly accepted, and majority reading was 500 years ago...

When a version has been the standard for as long as the Authorized Version, and when that version has demonstrated its power in the conversion of sinners, building up of believers, sending forth of preachers and missionaries on a scale not achieved by all other versions and foreign language combined; the hand of God is at work. Such a version must not be tampered with. And in those comparatively few places where it seems to depart from the majority reading, it would be far more honouring to God's promises of preservation to believe that the Greek and not the English had strayed from the original!

It is the critics' responsibility to prove that the NKJV or any post-1611 version has demonstrated any level of power equivalent to that of the 1611 Authorized Holy Bible, in any respect. This writer has not seen any *specific* evidence to that effect in 50+ years.

'Majority' Text - Biased Minority Sources

It should be noted that the so-called 'Majority' Text for the New Testament is actually von Soden's 1913 collation⁶ of 414 manuscripts out of 88 papyri, 274 uncials and 2,700 cursives, not including 2,143 lectionaries or the vast field of Patristic and Versional evidence. von Soden therefore collated only about 8% of available Greek sources and according to Moorman was strongly Alexandrian so that he deliberately selected manuscripts that exhibited Alexandrian corruptions. A full collation of the evidence, therefore, could well transform so-called 'minority' readings in the AV1611 to 'majority' readings and Moorman's compilation of von Soden's sources must be considered a 'worst case' scenario – though not from a bible-believing perspective because God has consistently honoured ALL AV1611 readings, regardless of majority or minority manuscript support.

1 John 5:7 in the AV1611 and the Trinity – Vindication

Dr Hills⁷ explains why 1 John 5:7 was possibly omitted from the majority of Greek manuscripts.

*Dr Hills refers to Sabellius's heresy of the 3rd century, which taught that the three Persons of the Godhead were not distinct Persons but identical. Hills concludes that the statement **these three are one** in 1 John 5:7 no doubt seemed to [orthodox Christians] to teach the Sabellian view...and if during the course of the controversy manuscripts were discovered which had lost this reading [by accidental omission], it is easy to see how the orthodox party would consider these mutilated manuscripts to represent the true text and regard the Johannine Comma as a heretical addition.*

Dr Hills states that In the Greek-speaking East...the struggle against Sabellianism was particularly severe, resulting in the loss of 1 John 5:7 from most Greek manuscripts, whereas it was nevertheless preserved in the Latin-speaking West where the influence of Sabellianism was probably not so great.

Dr Hills gives a comprehensive summary of early sources for 1 John 5:7, including Cyprian, 250 AD. Note therefore the following summary of some of the wide-ranging historical sources for 1 John 5:7.

Dr Ruckman⁸ states Watch God Almighty preserving His words. In spite of the negative, critical, destructive work of "godly Conservative and Evangelical "scholars." AD 170: Old Syriac and Old Latin, AD 180: Tatian and Old Syriac, AD 200: Tertullian and Old Latin, AD 250: Cyprian and Old Latin, AD 350: Priscillian and Athanasius, AD 415: Council of Carthage, AD 450: Jerome's Vulgate, AD 510: Fulgentius, AD 750: Wianburgensis, AD 1150: Miniscule manuscript 88, AD 1200-1500: Four Waldensian Bibles, AD 1519: Greek Manuscript 61, AD 1520-1611: Erasmus TR, AD 1611: King James Authorized Version of the Holy Bible. God had to work a miracle to get the truth of 1 John 5:7-8 preserved; He preserved it. You have it; but not in an RV, RSV, NRSV, CEV, ASV, NASV, or NIV. And neither in the so-called 'Majority' Text nor without equivocation in its essentially sterile off spring the NKJV.

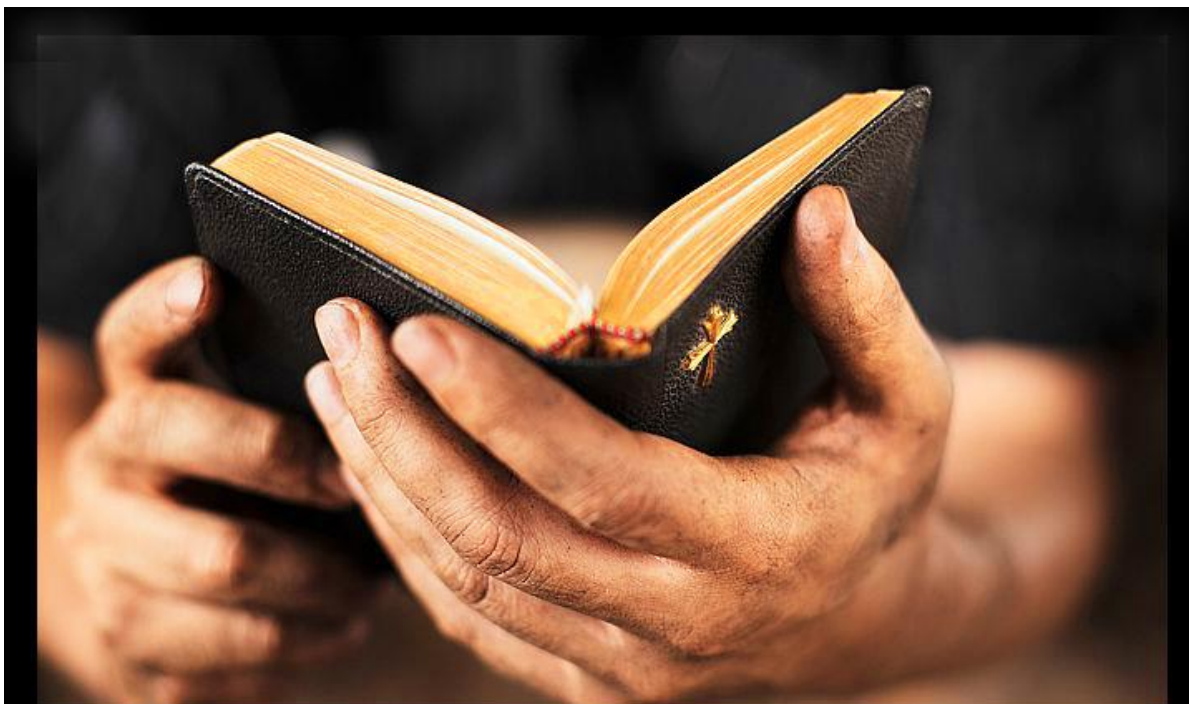
See also Will Kinney's article⁹, Dr Ruckman's additional work¹⁰ and David Daniels's¹¹ review of the evidence for 1 John 5:7. He states *157-1600s AD Waldensian (that is, Vaudois) Bibles have the verse. It took [the Roman Catholic religion] until the 1650s to finish their hateful attacks...on the Vaudois and their Bible. But the Vaudois were successful in preserving God's words to the days of the Reformation.*

See also Dr Mrs Riplinger's¹² extensive remarks on why 1 John 5:7-8 was cut out of Greek manuscripts. She states in summary *The Greeks who worshipped the gods of mythology and the "UNKNOWN" God, recoiled at a verse which describes the Godhead, then concludes, "This is the true God..." (Acts 17:23, 1 John 5:20). The weak Greek monks and priests caved in and simply omitted the verse which stirred the antagonism of unbelievers.* Like Chris Sparkes and his limp-wristed fellow travellers. Sad to say, the church is stiff with them today, as Paul declares, **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away** 2 Timothy 3:5.

Conclusion

The foregoing data, much more of which could be cited¹³, invalidates the so-called 'Majority' Text including its reading for 1 John 5:7 and vindicates both 1 John 5:7 in the AV1611 and in turn the doctrine of the Trinity. Any individual disposed to reject the foregoing data is under the thrall of a **spirit of an unclean devil** Luke 4:33.

Therefore¹⁴, concerning **the book of the LORD** Isaiah 34:16, **the scripture of truth** Daniel 10:21:



"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)

References

All web references were current at the time of writing. Web reference and author are given the first time a particular work is cited. Only the work itself is cited subsequently. Page references to Dr Moorman's work *When the KJV Departs from the "Majority" Text* refer to his 2nd Edition. See shop.timefortruth.co.uk/ruckman.html for Dr Ruckman's books.

¹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LDor_cRVrc *Chris Sparkes: Coming to the Truth independently by Bible study* 30-60 seconds in

² www.abarim-publications.com/Interlinear-New-Testament/index.html *The Greek New Testament*

³ www.amazon.co.uk/GREEK-NT-MAJORITY-TEXT-According/dp/0840749635 *THE GREEK NT MAJORITY TEXT: According to the Majority Text* by HODGES & FARSTAD (Author)

⁴ www.biblegateway.com/ NKJV f.n. 1 John 5:7

⁵ www.amazon.co.uk/When-KJV-Departs-Majority-Text/dp/1568480989 *When The KJV Departs From The "Majority" Text – A New Twist In The Continuing Attack On The Authorized Version* by Dr J. A. Moorman, pp 27-28

⁶ *When The KJV Departs From The "Majority" Text – A New Twist In The Continuing Attack On The Authorized Version* pp 11, 14-15

⁷ archive.org/details/TheKingJamesVersionDefended/mode/2up *The King James Version Defended* 3rd Edition by Dr Edward F. Hills, Chapter 8 pp 209ff printed edition

www.amazon.co.uk/King-James-Version-Defended/dp/0915923009 *The King James Version Defended* 3rd Edition by Dr Edward F. Hills, pp 209ff

⁸ store.kjv1611.org/ *Bible Believers' Bulletin* March 1996 *James White's Seven "Errors"* pp 9, 13

⁹ brandplucked.webs.com/kjbarticles.htm *1 John 5:7 These three are one*

¹⁰ store.kjv1611.org/ *1 John 5:7* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, p 8

¹¹ www.chick.com/ *Answers to Your Bible Version Questions* by David W. Daniels, pp 110ff

¹² www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html *Hazardous Materials, Greek & Hebrew Study Dangers* by Gail Riplinger, pp 750ff

¹³ www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php *James White's 7 Errors – 'White lies' against 7 passages of Scripture refuted in detail!* now *White's 7 Errors* pp 11-18

¹⁴ www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-54-17 *Inspirational Image/*