

Canon and Church

Canonization and the Question of Ultimate Authority

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The Text of the New Testament

Source and textual criticism methods deals with the identification of manuscripts and removal of transcription errors in the texts of manuscripts.

The New Testament has been preserved in more than

5,800 Greek manuscripts,

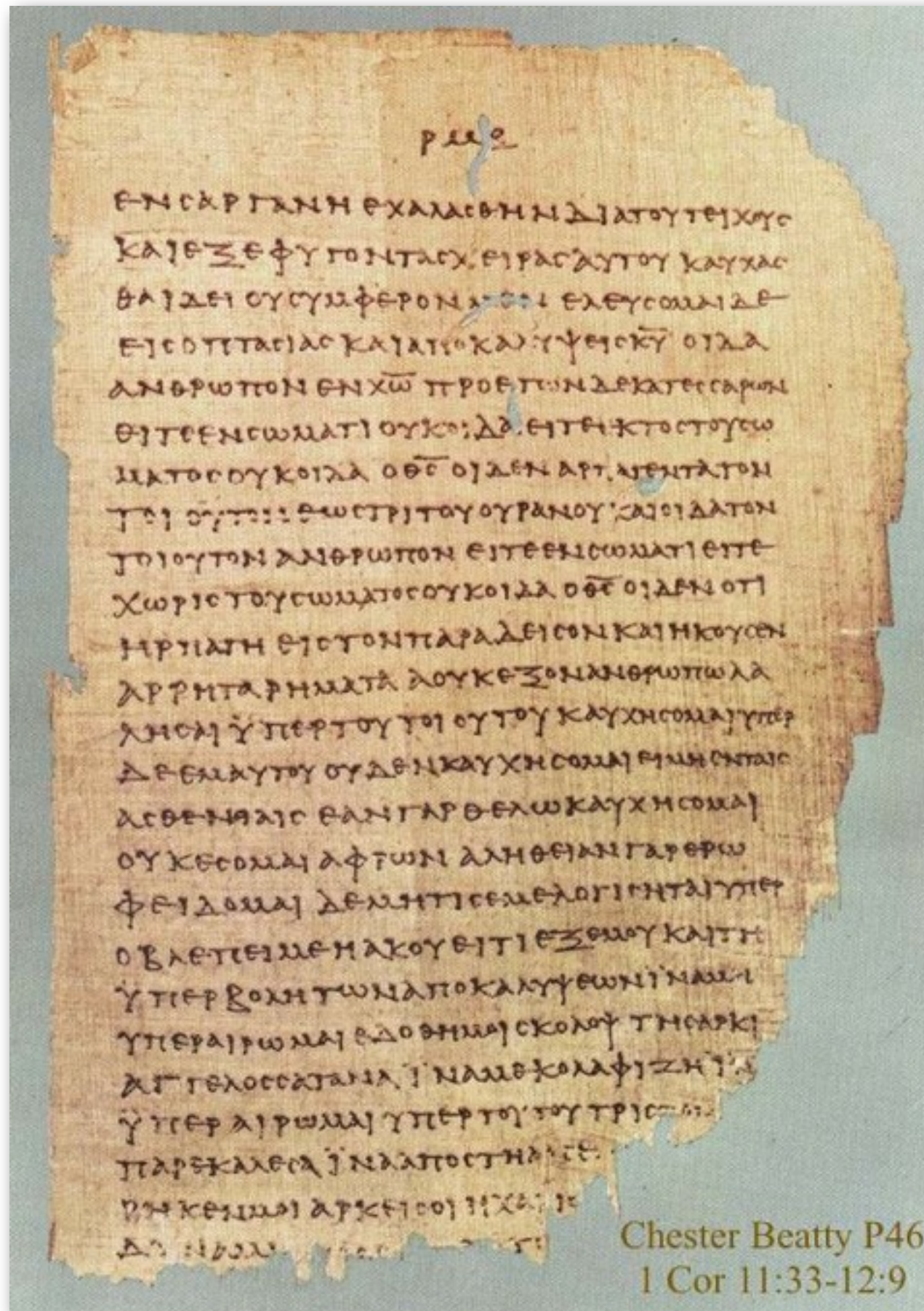
10,000 Latin manuscripts and

9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages.

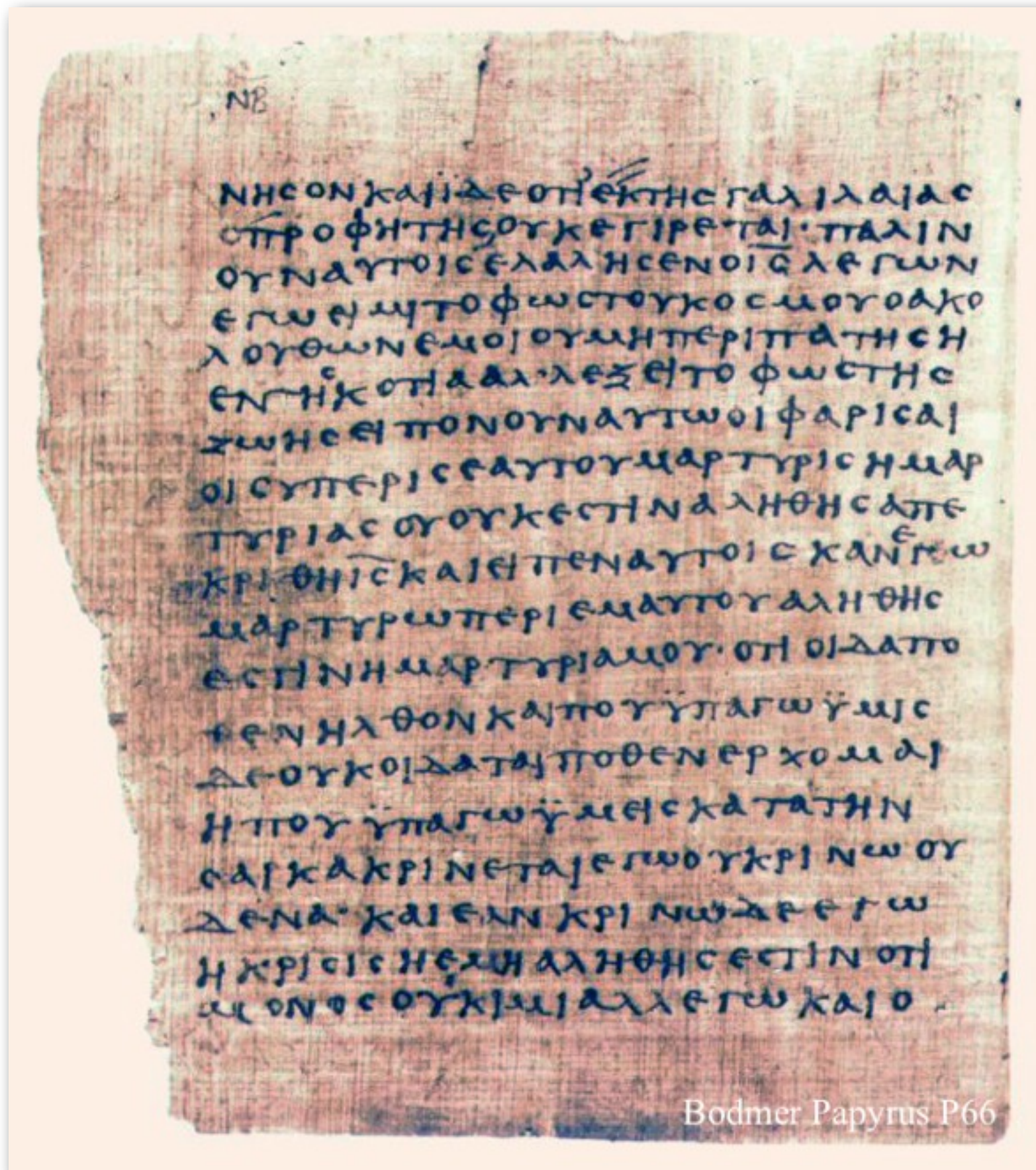
United Bible Societies' NT text - 28th Edition is the latest critical edition of the Greek NT text.



Chester Beatty Papyri, especially P⁴⁵, P⁴⁶ and P⁴⁷



Bodmer Papyri - **P⁶⁶** (about 200 AD); the **P⁷²** (3rd and 4th c.); **P⁷⁴** (7th c.) and **P⁷⁵** (early 3rd c.)



Papyrus Rylands or St. John's Fragment - P⁵² (100-150 AD)

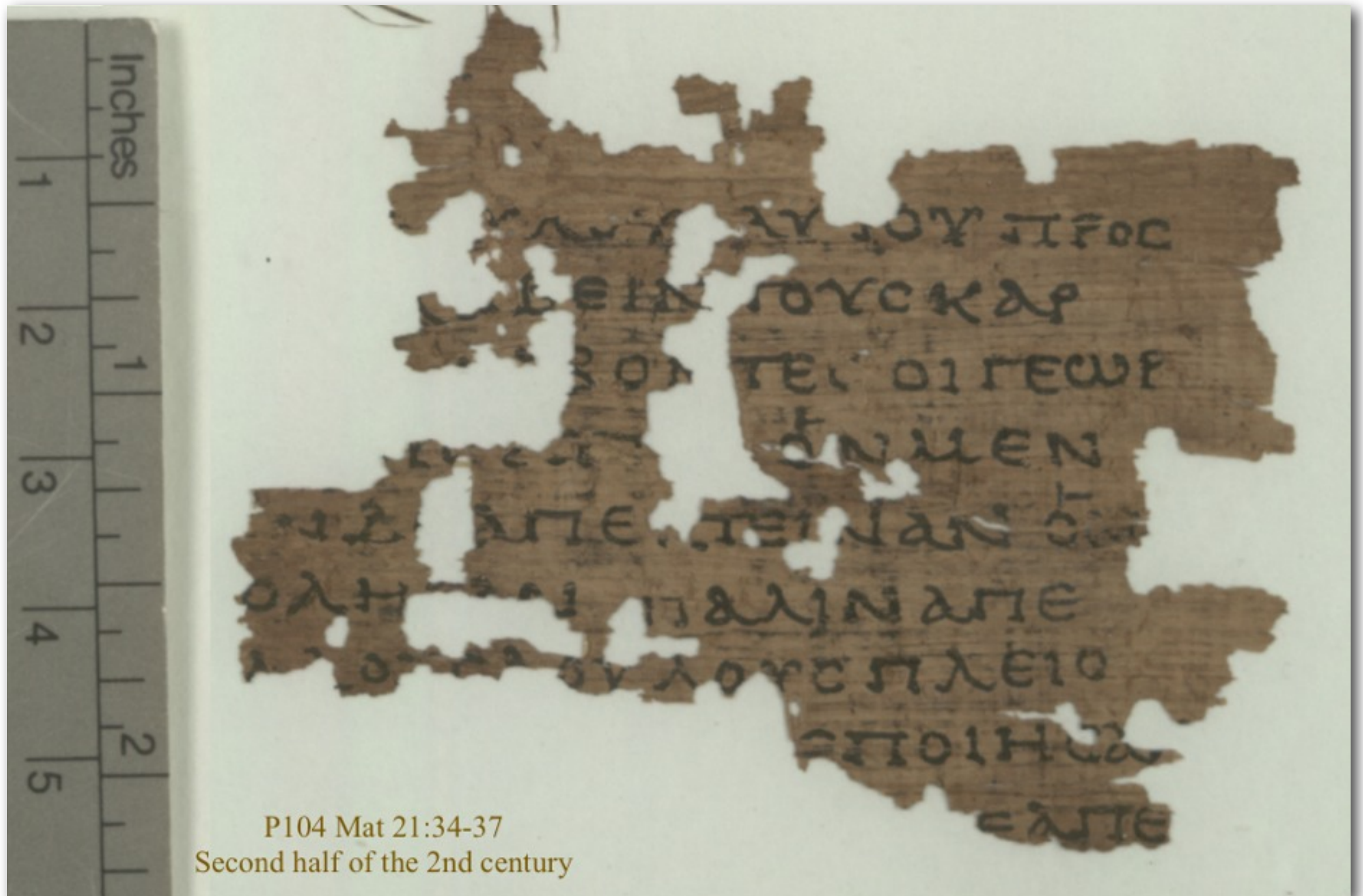


P52 front and back
J 18:31-33 & 37-38

Papyrus P⁹⁰ (2nd c. AD)

P90 John 18:36- 19:7
2nd c. AD

Papyrus P¹⁰⁴ (2nd c. AD)



Categorization of Manuscripts

	I	II	III	IV	V
150	℘ ⁵² , ℘ ⁹⁰ , ℘ ¹⁰⁴				
200	℘ ³² , ℘ ⁴⁶ , ℘ ^{64/67} , ℘ ⁶⁶ , ℘ ⁷⁷ , 0189				
250	℘ ¹ , ℘ ⁴ , ℘ ⁵ , ℘ ⁹ , ℘ ¹² , ℘ ¹⁵ , ℘ ²⁰ , ℘ ²² , ℘ ²³ , ℘ ²⁷ , ℘ ²⁸ , ℘ ²⁹ , ℘ ³⁰ , ℘ ³⁹ , ℘ ⁴⁰ , ℘ ⁴⁵ , ℘ ⁴⁷ , ℘ ⁴⁹ , ℘ ⁵³ , ℘ ⁶⁵ , ℘ ⁷⁰ , ℘ ⁷⁵ , ℘ ⁸⁰ , ℘ ⁸⁷ , 0220		0212	℘ ⁴⁸ , ℘ ⁶⁹	
300	℘ ¹³ , ℘ ¹⁶ , ℘ ¹⁸ , ℘ ³⁷ , ℘ ⁷² , ℘ ⁷⁸ , 0162, ℘ ¹¹⁵			℘ ³⁸ , 0171	
350	℘ ¹⁰ , ℘ ²⁴ , ℘ ³⁵ , 01, 03	℘ ⁶ , ℘ ⁸ , ℘ ¹⁷ , ℘ ⁶² , ℘ ⁷¹ , ℘ ⁸¹ , ℘ ⁸⁶ , 0185	℘ ⁸⁸ , 058?, 0169, 0188, 0206, 0207, 0221, 0228, 0231, 0242		
400	057	℘ ¹⁹ , ℘ ⁵¹ , ℘ ⁵⁷ , ℘ ⁸² , ℘ ⁸⁵ , 0181, 0270	℘ ²¹ , ℘ ⁵⁰ , 059, 0160, 0176, 0214, 0219		
450	02 (except Gospels), 0254	℘ ¹⁴ , 04, 016, 029, 048, 077, 0172, 0173, 0175, 0201, 0240, 0244, 0274	02 (Gospels), 032, 062, 068, 069, 0163, 0165 (?), 0166, 0182, 0216, 0217, 0218, 0226, 0227, 0236, 0252, 0261	05	026, 061
500		℘ ⁵⁶ , 071, 076, 088, 0232, 0247	℘ ⁵⁴ , ℘ ⁶³ , 072, 0170, 0186, 0213		
550		℘ ³³⁺⁵⁸ , 06, 08, 073, 081, 085, 087, 089, 091, 093 (1 Peter), 094, 0184, 0223, 0225, 0245	℘ ² , ℘ ³⁶ , ℘ ⁷⁶ , ℘ ⁸³ , ℘ ⁸⁴ , 06, 015, 035, 040, 060, 066, 067, 070, 078, 079, 082, 086, 0143, 0147, 0159, 0187, 0198, 0208, 0222, 0237, 0241, 0251, 0260, 0266		022, 023, 024, 027, 042, 043, 064, 065, 093 (Acts), 0246, 0253, 0265?
600	℘ ²⁶	℘ ⁴³ , ℘ ⁴⁴ , ℘ ⁵⁵ , 083	℘ ³ , 0164, 0199		
650	℘ ⁷⁴ , 098	℘ ¹¹ , ℘ ³¹ , ℘ ³⁴ , ℘ ⁷⁹ , 0102, 0108, 0111, 0204, 0275	℘ ⁵⁹ , ℘ ⁶⁸ , 096, 097, 099, 0106, 0107, 0109, 0145, 0167, 0183, 0200, 0209, 0210, 0239, 0259, 0262		℘ ⁷³ , 0103, 0104, 0211
700		℘ ⁴² , ℘ ⁶¹ ,	℘ ⁶⁰		

Categorization of Manuscripts

750		019, 0101, 0114, 0156, 0205, 0234	℘ ⁴¹ , 095, 0126, 0127, 0146, 0148, 0161, 0229, 0233, 0238, 0250, 0256		07, 047, 054?, 0116, 0134
800		044 (Catholic epistles)	044 (except Catholic epistles)		
850	33 (except Gospels)	010, 038, 0155, 0271, 33 (Gospels), 892, 2464	012, 025 (except Acts, Rev), 037, 050, 0122, 0128, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0150, 0269, 565		09, 011, 013, 014, 017, 018, 020, 021, 025 (Acts, Rev), 030, 031, 034, 039, 041, 045, 049, 053?, 063, 0120, 0133, 0135, 0136?, 0151, 0197, 0248, 0255, 0257, 0272, 0273?, 461
900		1841	0115, 1424 (Mark)		1424 (except Mark), 1841
950	1739 (Catholic epistles, Paul)	0177, 0243?, 1739 (Acts), 1891, 2329	051, 075, 0105, 0121a, 0121b, 0140, 0141, 0249, 307, 1582, 1836, 1845, 1874, 1875, 1912, 2110, 2193, 2351		028, 033, 036, 046, 052, 056, 0142, 1874, 1891
1050	1175, 1243, 2344	81, 323, 945, 1006, 1854, 1962, 2298	28, 104, 181, 323, 398, 424, 431, 436, 451, 459, 623, 700, 788, 1243, 1448, 1505, 1838, 1846, 1908, 2138, 2147, 2298, 2344, 2596?		103, 104, 181, 398, 431, 451, 459, 945, 1006, 1448, 1505, 1846, 1854, 2138, 2147, 2298
1100		256, 1735	1735, 1910		256
1150	1241 (Catholic epistles)	36, 1611, 2050, 2127	1 (Gospels), 36, 88, 94?, 157, 326, 330, 346, 378, 543, 610, 826, 828, 917, 983, 1071, 1241 (Gospels, Acts, Paul), 1319, 1359, 1542b, 1611, 1718, 1942, 2030, 2412, 2541, 2744		1 (except Gospels), 180, 189, 330, 378, 610, 911, 917, 1010, 1241, 1319, 1359, 1542b?, 2127, 2541
1200			1573		1573
1250	2053, 2062	442, 579, 1292, 1852	6 (Catholic epistles, Paul), 13, 94, 180, 206, 218 (epistles), 263, 365, 441, 614, 720, 915, 1398, 1563, 1641, 1852, 2374, 2492, 2516, 2542, 2718?		6 (Gospels, Acts), 94?, 180, 206, 218 (except epistles), 263, 365, 597, 720, 1251?, 1292, 1398, 1642, 1852, 2374, 2400, 2492?, 2516
1300			1342		
1350		1067, 1409, 1506, 1881	5, 209, 254, 429 (except Paul), 453, 621, 629, 630, 1523, 1534, 1678?, 1842, 1877, 2005, 2197, 2200, 2377		5?, 189, 209, 254, 429 (Paul), 1067, 1409, 1506, 1523, 1524, 1877, 2200
1400			2495		
1450		322	69, 205, 322, 467, 642, 1751, 1844, 1959, 2523, 2652		69, 181, 205, 429 (Rev.), 467, 642, 886, 2523, 2623, 2652?
1500			61 (epistles, Rev), 522, 918, 1704, 1884		61 (Gospels, Acts), 522, 918, 1704
1550-			849, 2544 (Paul)		2544 (except Paul)

Important Codexes

Codex Sinaiticus - **01** or **Ⲱ** from the 4th century;

Codex Alexandrinus - **02** or **A** from the 5th century and

Codex Vaticanus from the 4th century - **03** or **B**

We are today, as far as the text of the NT is concerned, in the position where we can accept the text with full confidence.

Gnosticism

1. Gnostic teachers claimed to possess **divine authority** for their doctrines... ???

... claimed that they received **secret revelation**, handed down to them by the apostles

2. Gnostics **undercut the authority of the OT** by arguing that a lesser deity – the Demiurge was responsible for inspiring the OT

3. Produced their **own collection of sacred writings** - canon within canon

4. Interpretation: A. authority of one text against another

B. Usage of ambiguous passages

C. You need to have a “cosmic password” for opening the secrets of the Bible

1. Excluded all the OT references from the NT

He was convinced that the god portrayed in the OT was a different deity from the God revealed in Jesus Christ...

OT deity was a god of wrath, judgment and anger.

On the other hand, God revealed in Christ, by way of contrast was a God of mercy and forgiveness, unrelated to the wrathful god of the OT

2. Created his own collection of authoritative books

Montanism

Charismatic and Apocalyptic Movement

They soon began to pronounce **spirit -oracles** and these began to be collected as prophetic sayings.

Key implications of the early Christian heretical movements

1. Implications for normative collection of Christian writings
2. Implications for understanding of inspiration of writings
3. Implications for interpretation of the Christian writings



SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

Reaction I: Development of the Canon

Justin Martyr 150

Muratorian canon about 170

Two principles:

- a) **Principle of Apostolicity**
- b) **Content of the Book** – inner consistency, agreement with the rest of the recognized Scripture

In 325 Eusebius:

- a. **Recognized**
- b. **Disputed**: a- those known to most Christians, = 27 NT books
b- those that were not genuine
- c. **Absurd and Impious writings** (Gnostic works)

367 Athanasius of Alexandria

Synod of Hippo 393

Synod of Carthage 397

What is Canon?

Canon is a closed and normative collection of inspired books.



What does it mean **closed**?

When was it closed?

Who did close the canon?

Why was it necessary to close it?

Can it be opened again?



What does it mean **normative**?

Normative for whom?

Normative to what extent?

If the church did not create the canon, but confirmed it, then....



...What is the relationship between the canon and the church???

Reaction 2: Church Tradition

In an ironic historical twist, the church accepted the canon of the NT as the authoritative voice of God and at the same placed this voice into the box of church tradition.

The Council of Trent 1545-63

The church 'receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety' both scripture and tradition.



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