

Where Can You Find All Of The Ancient Manuscripts?

Third Edition

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The question of where to find all of the ancient manuscripts is, to put it mildly, a crucial one. After all, if you have no manuscripts to test for divine authorship, such testing is impossible.

Well, first, God has made sure that we have all of the ancient manuscripts that we need. Not only that, he has made sure that you can get a copy of all of the ancient manuscripts, *in a manner of speaking*.

First, let's talk about the New Testament manuscripts. The full collection of all ancient manuscripts, which does not physically exist in *one* physical location, we refer to as "*TSM-e (Textual Super Matrix: Empirical Form)*." The TSM-e manuscripts are scattered in numerous museums and universities throughout the world.

Now, of course, no one person has the time or money to travel to all of these locations to get copies of all of these manuscripts. However, to begin with, a myriad of scholars over the centuries have saved us from having to do so. That brings us to Nestle-Aland. Nestle-Aland is *a compressed compilation of 99.99% of the ancient Greek manuscripts in existence about which we have knowledge*. There *are* numerous other scholarly sources. But, for now, we will concentrate on Nestle-Aland.

The "*TSM-e Project*" (our group) compiled what we call the "*NAB Collection (Nestle-Aland-Bisconti Collection)*." The NAB Collection has three major components: (1) the Nestle-Aland text (in its various incarnations), (2) facsimiles of 60% of the ancient Greek texts in existence, and (2) seven million (7,000,000) secondary source, corroborative copies of all of the ancient Greek manuscripts in existence (10,000 are available on the internet). In addition, we are forever expanding our collection in each of these three areas.

A question that needs to be answered is "When is an *MDC (Manuscript Data Collection)* large enough to provide an authoritative basis for a conclusion about the divine authorship of the Greek New Testament?" Everyone has their own answer to this question. This brings us to the *CSPs (Common Sense Principles)*. The CSPs are ideas that every sane member of the human race accepts as true. This includes a fundamental principle, the "*Circular Reasoning Principle*":

A conclusion about something to be proved cannot be based on the thing to be proved.

However, this creates a problem for all of us. If we *ultimately* build on the Circular Reasoning Principle, we are not *ultimately* building on the Word of God. However...the real problem is...*the fallacy that anyone ultimately builds on the Word of God*. You see, your belief in the Word of God itself proceeded from something outside of the Word of God. It was either *instilled by one or more human beings, usually parents*, or it was *the product of rational thought*.

Therefore, the objection to *ultimately* building on something outside of the Word of God is not a valid one since *no other course of action is possible*. But how, then, do we know what to build on? Well, this leads to the *Aurum Records*, which are separate and distinct from the Aurum Verses. The Aurum Records are records of ideas that a human being *cannot resist* as they live their life.

I could share with you my Aurum Records (I have 10,000 journals) but that would not be good for you. Why? You need the evidence of *the experience of the involuntary and agreeable acceptance of certain ideas*. This will establish for you that there is an agency that beneficially rules your life to some extent. This is good because it will give you confidence and courage. You can begin creating your own Aurum Records. Keep track of what ideas you involuntarily and agreeably accept. If so, keep them in a safe place, never tell anyone about them, and only write abstract ideas, nothing concrete; for example, “people are smart” instead of “my brothers are smart.” Note that this involuntary and agreeable acceptance *does not preclude reasoning*. In fact, it will *usually be preceded by reasoning*. Not always, though, because some ideas are intuitive; that is you *just know* they are true. The sky is blue. The grass is green. You wish you had a chocolate shake.

Okay, so when is an *MDC (Manuscript Data Collection)* large enough to provide an authoritative basis for a conclusion about the divine authorship of the Greek New Testament? My Aurum Records show that I consistently, involuntarily and agreeably find *one million* to be the magic number. Of course, we have far surpassed that number and the number continues to grow.

Now, a significant fact about Nestle-Aland is that use of Nestle-Aland alone will provide you with the same results as use of the NAB Collection. This is important because it means that you can use our Abacus software to confirm our conclusions, on your computer or tablet. In addition, you can use the “top 100” digigraph principles to manually confirm, to a much lesser but still significant degree, our conclusions.

Now, what about Old Testament manuscripts? There is a rich supply of sources for the Old Testament. We will elaborate on this in an upcoming article.