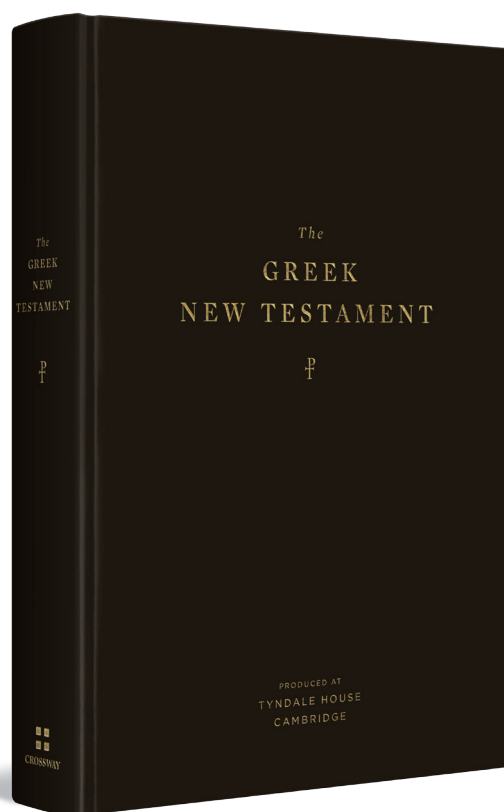




THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, PRODUCED
AT TYNDALE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

WINTER 2018





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• FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS •

Why do we need another Greek New Testament?

Soon after the publication of Erasmus's first edition of the Greek New Testament in 1516, multiple editions of the Greek New Testament began to be published. Until the nineteenth century, however, these editions differed more in their scope and textual apparatus than in the actual text. But since the mid-nineteenth century, editions of the Greek New Testament have differed more significantly in their text, based on the discovery of, and eclectic selection from, many more Greek manuscripts than were available to Erasmus. Around 1975, however, a number of factors led to the nearly universal adoption of a single standard text, published by the German Bible Society.

Since 1975, significant advances have been made in our knowledge of the text of the Greek New Testament. This has included (a) the discovery of further primary material (e.g., early papyri), (b) improvements in the accuracy with which we can use early versions, and (c) careful study of scribal habits. Existing Greek New Testaments have generally not been updated in light of this accumulated knowledge.

The Greek New Testament is the very Word of God. It is so unspeakably precious that even the smallest details deserve careful attention. *The Greek New Testament, Produced at Tyndale House, Cambridge* (GNT) aims to be the most accurate possible printing of the New Testament in its earliest well-documented form.

To what manuscript family does this Greek New Testament foundationally appeal?

This Greek New Testament is a revision of a previous Greek New Testament edition produced in the nineteenth century by Samuel Prideaux Tregelles. This major nineteenth-century edition was used as a textual source in Westcott and Hort's classic edition *The New Testament in the Original Greek*. Other than through an indirect influence via Westcott and Hort's work, however, Tregelles's edition was the only major nineteenth-century edition that was not part of the genealogy that contributed to the twentieth-century Greek New Testament editions. This unjustly neglected edition followed a thoroughly documentary approach—which, with some variation, is most akin to the current editors' work. The GNT editors are therefore using Tregelles's foundational work as a template, while at the same time reevaluating all its readings in light of all major subsequent editions and in light of the earliest manuscript evidence. The editors have sought to ensure that all the words, spellings, and paragraph marks are found in multiple manuscripts and in at least one early manuscript.



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How different is this text from the Nestle-Aland/UBS text?

The editors of the GNT believe that some significant improvements can be made relative to other existing editions. For example:

- 1) No previous edition has ever used the recent studies on the habits of scribes to inform editorial decisions as to what the earliest text was. Recent decades have provided a wealth of material regarding the errors scribes were likely to make, thereby providing the means for the Tyndale House editors to make more informed decisions about textual history.
- 2) In general, previous editors have allowed themselves considerable liberty in standardizing spelling, making paragraph divisions, deciding punctuation, and other matters. Sometimes this has meant that modern editions have standardized spellings or introduced textual divisions against a very strong consensus of early manuscript witnesses. This may hide significant data about the origin and even interpretation of the Greek New Testament, as it is not possible to study the extent of variation of the spellings in the New Testament based on editions currently available.

Attention to these and other philological details will make the GNT a particularly useful edition from which to begin philological investigation.

What is Tyndale House?

Tyndale House in Cambridge, UK, is one of the world's leading libraries and research institutes for the study of the Bible. It aims to promote postgraduate and postdoctoral research of the Bible that gives glory to God and serves the worldwide church.

Tyndale House is connected to a global network of scholars, institutions of learning, and churches, thus providing a built-in global market for the GNT.

More than three hundred PhD students have completed their postgraduate studies within the facilities at Tyndale House, and the worldwide Tyndale Fellowship group of 390 scholars maintains close association with Tyndale House. These scholars associated with Tyndale House are typically also leaders within the global academic community.



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What other organizations are involved in the project?

Tyndale House, Cambridge, is delighted to be partnering with Crossway and Cambridge University Press in producing the GNT.

The plan from the start has been for the GNT to be published by more than one publisher, drawing on the complementary strengths of two leaders in Bible publishing.

Crossway, the copyright holder for the ESV Bible, has contracted with Tyndale House for the global publishing rights to the GNT. At the same time, Crossway has entered into a licensing arrangement with Cambridge University Press (CUP) by which CUP may publish one or more high-end editions. Given the unique strengths of both CUP (the oldest and most highly respected publisher in the world) and Crossway (publisher of the ESV Bible, currently distributed extensively throughout the world, at fifty million copies annually), such a publishing partnership between Tyndale House, Crossway, and CUP provides a particularly well-rounded and unprecedented joint publishing effort of this new critical Greek text.

Which scholars have been involved in executing this Greek text?

The primary editor of the GNT is Dr. Dirk Jongkind, whose PhD on Codex Sinaiticus focused on the scribal habits of those who worked on this earliest complete manuscript of the New Testament. Dr. Jongkind was employed for some time by the British Library as Curator of the Sinaiticus manuscript. He has been working on this new edition of the Greek New Testament nearly full time for ten years.

The consulting editor and coordinator of the project is Dr. Peter Williams, whose book *Early Syriac Translation Technique and the Textual Criticism of the Greek Gospels* caused a thorough revision of the use of Syriac evidence in the Nestle-Aland text (for which he is cited in the preface). Dr. Williams is also chair of the International Greek New Testament Project, which is producing the largest scholarly edition ever attempted of a single book of the New Testament, namely the Editio Critica Maior of John's Gospel, which is one of the world's leading scholarly projects on the New Testament text.

Dr. Jongkind and Dr. Williams have been aided by over a dozen other researchers playing greater or lesser roles in the production of the edition and by a panel of twenty-eight scholars who have peer reviewed the edition.



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Will this text be made available digitally in any way?

This text will be available digitally and will be free for many uses around the world, in accord with the joint desire of both Tyndale House and Crossway to serve the global church in an open-handed way with the very best Greek text possible.