

## Wilbur Pickering's Summary Concerning Family 35 & His Remarkable Claim

On the basis of the evidence so far available I affirm the following:

- 1) The original wording was never 'lost', and its transmission down through the years was basically normal, being recognized as inspired material from the beginning.
- 2) That normal process resulted in lines of transmission.
- 3) To delineate such lines, MSS must be grouped empirically on the basis of a shared mosaic of readings.
- 4) Such groups or families must be evaluated for independence and credibility.
- 5) The largest clearly defined group is Family 35.
- 6) Family 35 is demonstrably independent of all other lines of transmission throughout the NT.
- 7) Family 35 is demonstrably ancient, dating to the 3rd century, at least.
- 8) Family 35 representatives come from all over the Mediterranean area; the geographical distribution is all but total.
  - 9) Family 35 is not a recension, was not created at some point subsequent to the Autographs.
- 10) Family 35 is an objectively/empirically defined entity throughout the NT; it has a demonstrable, diagnostic profile from Matthew 1:1 to Revelation 22:21.
- 11) The archetypal form of Family 35 is demonstrable—it has been demonstrated (see Appendix B).
- 12) The Original Text is the ultimate archetype; any candidate must also be an archetype—a real, honest to goodness, objectively verifiable archetype; there is only one—Family 35.
- 13) God's concern for the preservation of the Biblical Text is evident: I take it that passages such as 1 Chronicles 16:15, Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18, Luke 16:17 and 21:33, John 10:35 and 16:12-13, 1 Peter 1:23-25 and Luke 4:4 may reasonably be taken to imply a promise that the Scriptures (to the tittle) will be preserved for man's use (we are to live "by every word of God"), and to the end of the world ("for a thousand generations"), but no intimation is given as to just how God proposed to do it. We must deduce the answer from what He has indeed done—we discover that He did!
- 14) This concern is reflected in Family 35; it is characterized by incredibly careful transmission (in contrast to other lines). [I have a perfect copy of the Family 35 archetypal text for most NT books (22); I have copies made from a perfect exemplar (presumed) for another four (4); as I continue to collate MSS I hope to add the last one (Acts), but even for it the archetypal form is demonstrable.]
- 15) If God was preserving the original wording in some line of transmission other than Family 35, would that line be any less careful? I think not. So any line of transmission characterized by internal confusion is disqualified—this includes all the other lines of transmission that I have seen so far.
- 16) I affirm that God used Family 35 to preserve the precise original wording of the New Testament Text; it is reproduced in my edition of the Greek Text. (And God used mainly the Eastern Orthodox Churches to preserve the

NT Text down through the centuries—they have always used a Text that was an adequate representation of the Original, for all practical purposes.)

**I claim to have demonstrated the superiority of Family 35 based on size, independence, age, distribution, profile and care. I challenge any and all to do the same for any other line of transmission!**