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### **This angers me and it should anger every Christian**

In 1975, as a new Christian, most of my friends owned King James Bibles. Because God had opened my eyes to the glories of the gospel, I loved reading all about it in the Bible I owned which was also a KJV. Within a very short period of time, I read all the way through that KJV and my spiritual life was full of fervor.

Then, someone suggested that I purchase a New American Standard Bible (NASB) because it was so much easier to read. This intrigued me so I purchased one. I did find it easier to read and was happy with my purchase. But then the unthinkable happened. I was reading the end of the gospel of Mark and I noticed brackets around the final paragraph (Mark 16:9-20). So, I looked and found these following notes:

1. Some of the oldest mss (manuscripts) do not contain vv. 9-20. (Word in parenthesis and underlining is mine.)

2. A few late mss (manuscripts) and versions contain this paragraph. (Word in parenthesis and underlining is mine.)

After reading these notes, it was as if the spiritual wind that had been pushing my sail was suddenly gone. I was devastated. This contradicted my belief that God had preserved His Word. (*"The Word of the LORD endures forever," – (1 Peter 1:25)*). When I asked my church leaders about it, they assured me there was nothing to be concerned about and after I learned more of the Bible, I would understand.

Shortly after this, I told my non-believing mother of my plans to go to Bible college. She then asked me a question that gave me pause. She said, "Do you believe the Bible is God's Word?" After a brief pause, I said, "Yes." But inwardly, the thought that scholars were not completely certain about the validity of certain passages immediately came to mind and cast some doubt on my response to her. I ended up attending Bible college and learned all that they had to teach on this subject. I convinced myself that God had preserved His Word sufficiently and tried to comfort myself with the knowledge that the New Testament was preserved better than any of the other ancient writings in existence.

I thank God that after four decades, I discovered that the entire textual criticism industry is founded on false assumptions and that [God has indeed preserved every single word of the Greek New Testament](#). But yesterday, I read those notes again in my old NASB Bible and my anger was stirred back up. Regardless of your position on this matter, you also should be angry about those notes (above). Let us consider each one to see what you think:

1. Some of the oldest mss (manuscripts) do not contain vv. 9-20. Some? Really? In reality, only three, not some, of the Greek manuscripts do not contain Mark 16:9-20 and many "scholars" agree that one of those is probably fraudulent in that part of Mark. So, really, only two of the manuscripts do not contain these verses and those two manuscripts are riddled with errors throughout them.

2. A few late mss (manuscripts) and versions contain this paragraph. Only a few late manuscripts contain this paragraph? Really? **1700 Greek manuscripts of Mark contain these verses**. Does that seem like a "few" to you? Virtually every Greek manuscript of Mark contains these verses! And only a few versions contain these verses. Really? Every Syriac manuscript except one contains them! Every Latin manuscript (8000) except one contains them! Every Coptic manuscript except one contains them.

Why should we place our confidence in the words of people who blatantly distort the truth in their attempt to silence the opposition! Their willingness to distort the facts should anger every Christian, including you. There are many other examples of notes that distort the truth in some modern Bibles. Just a few more are provided below.

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### Other notes in the NASB and ESV that distort the facts.

Besides the notes about Mark 16:9-20, below are just a few more examples of notes in the NASB and ESV that distort the truth. (Also, in many cases, they don't even provide a note where they should be providing one). My brief analysis considered less than 20% of the New Testament. So, there are likely many other occasions of this nature.

**1. John 5:3b-4 NASB:** In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [*waiting for the moving of the waters*; <sup>4</sup> for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] (NASB brackets these words while the ESV simply does not include them at all.)

**John 5:3-5 ESV** In these lay a multitude of invalids- blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

**NASB note:** Many manuscripts do not contain the remainder of v3 and v4.

**ESV note:** Some manuscripts insert "*waiting for the moving of the waters*; <sup>4</sup> for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted."

**The actual facts:** 99.2% of the manuscripts do contain these words. (99.2% is far from "some." Almost all the manuscripts contain them, not just "some" of them!

**2. Mark 10:24 NASB** And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

**Mark 10:24 ESV** And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

**NASB note:** "Later manuscripts insert "for those who trust in wealth." (The **ESV note** is basically the same as the NASB note.)

**The actual facts:** 1,650 of all of the Greek manuscripts (not just "later" ones) include it. Only 5 Greek manuscripts do not include it. 1650 (compared to 5) manuscripts are in favor of these words being there and the 5 against are riddled with variants/errors.)

**3. Luke 11:4 NASB** 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" (The ESV is similar to this.)

Both the ESV and NASB completely leave off the underlined phrase below.

**Luke 11:4 (should read)** And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

**The actual facts:** 1,600 Greek manuscripts include this phrase while only 16 do not include it. Yet, the NASB and ESV do not even include a note to alert the reader about their omission.

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**4. Luke 2:14 NASB** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

**Luke 2:14 ESV** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Luke 2:14 (should read)** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The NASB and ESV both add the underlined words. The NASB does not even include a note. The ESV note reads, "Some manuscripts – peace, goodwill among men."

**The actual facts:** 1,700 Greek manuscripts include these words and only 6 Greek manuscripts do not include them. And those 6 are riddled with variants/errors.)

**5. 1 Timothy 3:16 ESV** Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

**1 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1 NASB** And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

**1 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1 (should read)** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

**The NASB note** reads, "Some later manuscripts read *God*."

**The ESV note** reads, "Greek *Who*; some manuscripts *God*; others *which*."

**The actual facts:** 98.5% of all Greek manuscripts read God. Only a handful of inferior manuscripts read *who* or *which*. And another thing to note...if it is *who* or *which*, then why do they translate it incorrectly as *He*? Based upon their own notes, it should read *Who* or *which*. But since neither of these make any sense, they chose to mistranslate it as *He* instead of using the correct word *God* as witnessed by 98.5% of all the Greek manuscripts.

**6. NASB note in preface** concerning use of brackets [ ] : In text, brackets indicate words probably not in the original writings.

(The phrase, "*probably not in the original writings*," is in question since in many of those cases, almost all of the Greek manuscripts contain the words within the brackets. So, instead of the word "probably," a more objective/honest word would be "possibly." And in my opinion, the word "possibly" should not even be used since it raises doubt about God's ability to preserve His Words. A more factual note in the preface should read, "*Some scholars question the words in brackets even though the evidence for them being in the text is overwhelming.*")