

Reliability of Scripture

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Submission

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Part One: **Copying**

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-Eric Lyons
-*Inspired Writers and
Competent Copyists* • Article clip on last page

-Apologeticspress.org

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Copying: Old
Testament

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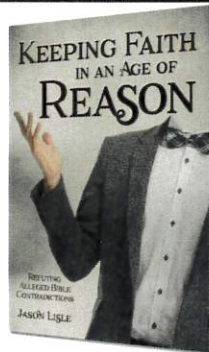
Copying: New
Testament

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Part Two: Contradictions

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*Keeping Faith in an Age
of Reason*
by Jason Lisle



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Part Three: Variants

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Part Four: Transparency

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The Quran and Uthman

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If you were to open your Bible and read Mark 14:16, you would learn that Jesus' disciples went into Jerusalem to prepare the final Passover meal before His crucifixion. The wording of the verse is as follows: "So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover" (emp. added). The highlighted conjunction "and" (*kai* in Greek) is found in the Greek manuscripts of Mark. It also appears in most English translations of the Bible. However, in one particular copy of the Bible that I possess, the stem of the "d" in "and" is missing, causing the word to be misspelled: "So His disciples went out, ano came into the city..." (emp. added). Most people who read Jesus' parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14) learn of the king asking one particular attendee a very specific question: "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" (vs. 12, emp. added). A colleague of mine has a reliable translation of the Bible that words Jesus' question as follows: "Friend, now did you come in here without a wedding garment?" Obviously, the "now" should be "how" (Greek *pos*). Similar to how the "d" in "and" was skewed so as to look more like an "o", the "h" in "how" lost its stem, causing it to look more like an "n." Question: Whose fault is it that "and" has been incorrectly printed as "ano," and "how" has been copied errantly as "now"?

Surely no one would blame such errors in a modern English copy of the Bible on God or His inspired penmen (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Almost everyone recognizes that publishing companies are responsible for such minute mistakes. Although the accurate reproduction of books nearly has been perfected during the past few centuries (thanks in large part to the invention of the printing press), still, for various reasons, slight errors can creep onto the printed page. God did not intervene and miraculously keep the aforementioned errors from appearing in copies of His Word. Instead, He gave humankind the ability and resources to understand that such errors can be resolved rationally without assuming the inspired writers erred. We know that "ano" should be "and" in Mark 14:16 and "now" should be "how" in Matthew 22:12 partly because millions of other copies of the Bible (in both English and Greek) have the correct words "and" (*kai*) and "how" (*pos*), and also because we easily can see how a printing press might occasionally leave off the stems of certain letters.