

Introduction 2nd edition

The first edition of this online commentary has been received positively and I have got some helpful comments. The discussion has been extended in many places. A lot of small changes occurred throughout and several errors have been removed.

I have added 60 variants and expanded the commentary by about 300 pages. Currently there are 1223 variants covered on 1731 pages.

Almost all attestations have been checked and expanded. In many cases I have added numbers to the "pc" designation to indicate the minimum number of other supporting (Byz) minuscules (e.g. "pc⁹ "). These are from T&T, IGNTP, Legg or TIS. In important cases I have additionally named those minuscules, even though they are almost always purely Byzantine.

The corrections especially of O1 and B have been checked and specified from Tischendorf or the facsimile.

I have created separate files for the P. Adulatae and the Endings of Mark.

For the 2nd edition the following variants have been added:

Mt 1:18, 2:11, 3:17, 5:39 (completed), 6:34, 8:13a+b, 8:18, 13:21, 13:22, 13:40, 15:31a, 16:20, 18:20, 18:30, 19:10, 20:34a, 22:36/38, 22:44, 25:15-16, 25:16, 26:36, 26:73b, 27:4
Mk 1:40b, 2:27-28, 3:11, 3:29a, 5:23, 5:27, 8:17, 8:31, 9:15, 10:40, 13:32a+b
Lk 2:47, 3:1, 6:29, 7:45, 7:46, 7:47, 9:27, 10:15a, 18:32, 22:6, 23:12, 23:37
Jo 4:35, 8:2, 8:3, 8:44, 18:15a, 19:35a

The variants at Mt 9:24+10:27 have been deleted, because they are just too minor and only represented the eccentric mae-2.

The designation "Interesting variant" has been removed. It is very subjective and not really helpful. Instead the label "Difficult variant" has been added which marks those variants with the Rating "-" or "1?". These are those variants which are the most difficult to judge (in my opinion).

The Old Latin version has been checked against Jülicher and the individual witnesses have been noted in many cases where this version splits.

The Syriac has been checked in Burkitt.

The Coptic (bo, sa) has been checked against Horner.

At several places references to the International Q project (IQP) have been added. Also important Minor Agreements have been noted.

Comments from the (textcritically very important) B. Weiss' commentaries and some others have been added.

All MSS ratings have been reconsidered and I have also recalculated everything regarding MS quality (e.g. percentages of secondary readings). The changes to the first edition are not of great consequence in this respect, but with the prior knowledge from the first go I could have a more careful look at some things. For example in the first edition I weighted the MSS from secondary Byzantine readings only. Now I have added also the minority readings into the calculation, which mainly affects the Western and Caesarean witnesses. I found it best to represent a MS by two numbers: percentage of Byzantine readings and percentage of overall clearly secondary readings.

I hope that this commentary continues to be helpful and I am looking forward to comments and suggestions. If you think that I have omitted an important or in some way remarkable variant, let me know.

I will continue working on this commentary and there will be a new edition next year.

People who helped me continuously:

- the Muenster team
- Maurice Robinson
- Carl Conrad (on Greek language issues)
- Pete Willams (on Syriac language issues)
- Bruce Prior (on Codex W issues)

Thank you!

Bremen, January 2004

Wieland Willker

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*