

## Introduction

### *The Text*

*The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition* (SBLGNT) is a new edition of the Greek New Testament, established with the help of earlier editions. In particular, four editions of the Greek New Testament were utilized as primary resources in the process of establishing the SBLGNT. These editions (and their abbreviations) are:

WH	Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort, <i>The Greek New Testament</i>
Treg	Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, <i>The Greek New Testament</i> , 1841
NIV	Richard J. Goodrich and Albert L. Lukaszewski, <i>A Reading Edition of the Greek New Testament</i> , 1978
RP	<i>The New Testament in the Original Greek: Byzantine Textform</i> , 1908

### *Establishing the Text*

The starting point for the SBLGNT was the edition of Westcott and Hort. First, the WH text was modified to match the orthographic standards of the SBLGNT (described below). Next, the modified version was compared to the other three primary editions (Treg, NIV, and RP) in order to identify points of agreement and disagreement between them. Where all four editions agreed, the text was tentatively accepted as the text of the SBL edition; points of disagreement were marked for further consideration. The editor then worked systematically through the entire text, giving particular attention to the points of disagreement but examining as well the text where all four editions were

in agreement.<sup>7</sup> Where there was disagreement among the four editions, the editor determined which variant to print as the text;<sup>8</sup> occasionally a reading not found in any of the four editions commended itself as the most probable representative of the text and therefore was adopted. Similarly, where all four texts were in agreement, the editor determined whether to accept that reading or to adopt an alternative variant as the text.<sup>9</sup> In this manner, the text of the SBLGNT was established. A comparison of this new text with the four editions listed above, using as the data base the 6,928 variation units recorded in the accompanying apparatus (described below), reveals the following patterns of agreement and difference:

Agreements	Disagreements	
SBL–WH:	6,048	880
SBL–Treg:	5,700	1,228
SBL–NIV:	6,311	617
SBL–RP:	969	5,959

<sup>7</sup> **0:** For a brief overview of the editor's methodological and historical perspectives with regard to the practice of New Testament textual criticism, see Michael W. Holmes, "Reconstructing the Text of the New Testament," in *The Blackwell Companion to the New Testament* (ed. David E. Aune; Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 77-89.

<sup>8</sup> **0:** Or, to put the matter a bit more precisely, which variant most likely represents the form in which the text first began to be copied and to circulate.

<sup>9</sup> **0:** In all, there are fifty-six variation units in the SBLGNT where the editor preferred a reading not found in any of the four primary editions. In thirty-eight of those instances, the editor's preferred reading is also read by WH<sup>marg</sup> (30x) and/or Treg<sup>marg</sup> (2x) and/or NA (10x).

Also interesting is a comparison of agreements of the SBLGNT with one of the four editions against the other three and, vice versa, SBLGNT and the other three against the one:

SBL + WH vs. Treg NIV RP:	99
SBL + Treg vs. WH NIV RP:	28
SBL + NIV vs. WH Treg RP:	59
SBL + RP vs. WH Treg NIV:	66
SBL + Treg NIV RP vs. WH:	365
SBL + WH NIV RP vs. Treg:	150
SBL + WH Treg RP vs. NIV:	103
SBL + WH Treg NIV vs. RP:	4,875

### *Orthography and Related Matters*

The orthography of this edition (including accents and breathings<sup>10</sup>) follows that of the Bauer-

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<sup>10</sup> **o:** Occasionally breathings are as much a matter of interpretation as of lexicography. In agreement with a minority of the membership of the UBS Editorial Committee (see Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on The Greek New Testament* [London: United Bible Societies, 1971], 616 [a discussion of Phil 3:21 not found in the second edition]), the SBLGNT occasionally prints a rough breathing on forms of αὐτός.

Danker-Arndt-Gingrich lexicon (BDAG).<sup>11</sup> This includes both text and apparatus: entries in the apparatus generally have been conformed to the orthography of BDAG regardless of the spelling of the source edition.

With regard to elision (e.g., ἀλλ' for ἀλλά), crasis (e.g., κάγώ for καὶ ἐγώ), movable ν, and the interchange between first aorist and second aorist verb endings, the text of Westcott and Hort has been followed. As in the case of orthography, this guideline generally applies to the apparatus as well as the text.

### *Capitalization*

Capitalization follows the pattern of the third edition of *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*,<sup>12</sup> which capitalizes (1) the first word of a paragraph, (2) the first word of direct speech, and (3) proper nouns.<sup>13</sup> Occasionally cap-

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**11** **o:** *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3rd ed., revised and edited by Frederick William Danker; based on the 6th ed. of Walter Bauer's *Griechisch-deutsches Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments und der frühchristlichen Literatur*; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000). Thus ἀγνεία, not ἀγνία (so WH), or, e.g., in the case of words with movable ς (cf. BDF §21), ἄχρι, μέχρι, and οὕτως are printed throughout, unless BDAG indicates otherwise (ἄχρις, Gal 3:19 and Heb 3:13; μέχρις, Mark 13:30, Gal 4:19, Heb 12:4; οὕτω, Acts 23:11, Phil 3:17, Heb 12:21, Rev 16:18). A rare exception to the guideline is the adoption of νοσηνίας rather than νεοσηνίας in Col 2:16. **12** **o:** Michael W. Holmes, ed., *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations* (3rd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007). **13** **o:** A category that offers, to be sure, numerous opportunities for differences of opinion.

italization in a variant reading in the apparatus may follow that of the source edition.

### *Verse Division, Punctuation, and Paragraphing*

The verse divisions follow those of the Nestle-Aland/ United Bible Societies Greek texts.<sup>14</sup> Differences between editions have not been recorded.

Punctuation generally follows that of Westcott and Hort. Regular exceptions include instances where a textual decision or the adoption of NRSV paragraphing required a corresponding change in punctuation. Where Westcott and Hort employed two consecutive punctuation marks (such as a comma following or preceding a dash; see 1 Tim 1:5; 2:7), these have been reduced to a single mark. A high point has been added before direct speech if no other punctuation is present. Occasionally other changes have been made as required by context.

Paragraphing generally follows the pattern of the NRSV. Conflicts between NRSV paragraphing and Westcott and Hort punctuation have been resolved on a contextual basis.<sup>15</sup>

### *Symbols Used in the Text*

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<sup>14</sup> **0**: A partial exception occurs at the end of Acts 19, where (in accordance with some editions and many recent translations) a forty-first verse number has been placed in the text, but in brackets ([41]), to indicate uncertainty regarding its status. <sup>15</sup> **0**: For example, at the end of Phil 1:18, WH's punctuation was given preference over the NRSV paragraph break, whereas at Phil 2:14 the NRSV paragraphing was followed rather than the WH punctuation (which was changed accordingly).

ⵓ or ⵑ or ⵓ <sup>1</sup>	A textual note pertains to the following word. Wh
ⵓ or ⵑ	A textual note pertains to the enclosed words. Wh
[ ]	The enclosed text is doubtful. <sup>16</sup>

### *The Apparatus*

The textual apparatus provides information about a wide range of textual variants.<sup>17</sup> It records all differences between the text of the SBLGNT and the texts of WH, Treg, NIV, RP, and NA except for those differences that fall in the category of “orthography and related matters” (discussed above).<sup>18</sup> That is, the apparatus does not take note of differences that are solely a matter of orthographic variation or that involve only elision, crasis, movable *v*, interchange between first and second aorist verb endings, and the like; it does record all other differences between the SBL text and the texts of the five other editions just listed.

The four primary editions (WH Treg NIV RP) are cited for every variation unit (of which there are 6,928).<sup>19</sup> NA is cited only when it differs from NIV. Occasionally a marginal reading of WH or Treg

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<sup>17</sup> **o:** In general, it closely follows the pattern of the apparatus in Holmes, *The Apostolic Fathers* (3rd ed.). <sup>18</sup> **o:** This means

that the apparatus includes nearly all the variant or alternative readings noted in the margins or notes of most recent major English translations and numerous translations into other languages as well. <sup>19</sup> **o:** For variants involving the verses or parts of verses

that WH print between double brackets (ⵓⵑ), WH is cited in the apparatus between brackets (i.e., ⵓⵑ).

or the text of another edition is cited, usually in support of a reading adopted by the editor that is not found in any of the four primary editions, but sometimes in other circumstances as well.

In each note, the reading of the text is always presented first, in bold, followed by its supporting evidence; the variant reading(s) and supporting evidence follow. Because the different editions use single brackets ([]) in the text in different ways, the apparatus does not record details regarding an edition's use of brackets in its text.

### *Symbols Used in the Notes*

Treg	Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, <i>The Greek New Testament</i>
Treg <sup>marg</sup>	Indicates a reading printed by Tregelles in the margin
WH	Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort
WH <sup>app</sup>	Indicates a reading discussed by WH in the <i>Apparatus</i>
WH <sup>marg</sup>	Indicates an alternative reading printed by WH in the margin

### *Understanding the Apparatus: A Brief Guide*

This brief guide supplements what is said above about the apparatus to the SBLGNT by offering further explanation and examples.

The textual apparatus provides a textual note for each of the more than 6,900 instances of variation in the SBLGNT. In each note, the marked reading in the text is always listed first, in bold, and followed immediately by its supporting evidence. The separator bracket (|) comes next, followed by the variant reading(s) and supporting evidence. Multiple variant readings in the same variation

unit are separated by a semicolon (;), as in the second variant in Matt 22:30 below (τοῦ θεοῦ RP; – WH Treg NIV).

Symbols in the text alert the reader to the presence of textual notes in the apparatus. The most frequently used symbols are ʳ and ʳ; the former marks a single word, and the latter encloses a multiple-word phrase. If the same word is marked a second time in the same verse, the ʳ symbol is used to mark the second occurrence (as in Matt 10:28 below, twice). If an identical multiword phrase is marked a second time in the same verse, the ʳ symbols are used to mark the second occurrence (as in John 18:39 below). In both cases, for clarity the symbols are repeated in the textual note. (More complex cases are discussed below.)

Matt 10:28 text:

28 καὶ μὴ ʳφοβεῖσθε ἀπὸ τῶν ἀποκτεννόντων τὸ σῶμα  
τὴν δὲ ψυχὴν μὴ δυναμένων ἀποκτεῖναι· ʳφοβεῖσθε δὲ  
μᾶλλον τὸν δυνάμενον ʳκαὶ ψυχὴν ʳκαὶ σῶμα ἀπολέσαι  
ἐν γένει.

textual notes in apparatus:

**10:28** ʳφοβεῖσθε Treg NIV RP ] φοβηθῆτε WH

**10:28** ʳφοβεῖσθε WH NIV ] φοβήθητε Treg RP

**10:28** ʳκαὶ WH Treg NIV ] + τὴν RP

**10:28** ʳκαὶ WH Treg NIV ] + τὸ RP

John 18:39 text:

39 ἔστιν δὲ συνήθεια ὑμῖν ἵνα ἓνα ᾿ἀπολύσω ὑμῖν᾿ ἐν τῷ  
πάσχα· βούλεσθε οὖν ᾿ἀπολύσω ὑμῖν᾿ τὸν βασιλέα τῶν  
Ἰουδαίων;

textual notes in apparatus:

**10:39** ᾿ἀπολύσω ὑμῖν᾿ WH Treg NIV ] ὑμῖν ἀπολύσω RP



**10:39** ἄπολύσω ὑμῖν<sup>1</sup> WH Treg NIV ] ὑμῖν ἀπολύσω RP  
 Matt 22:30 text:

30 ἐν γὰρ τῇ ἀναστάσει οὔτε γαμοῦσιν οὔτε ἱγαμίζονται,  
 ἀλλ' ὡς ἄγγελοι ἱθεοῦ ἐν ἱτῶ οὐρανῶ εἰσιν·

textual notes in apparatus:

**22:30** ἱγαμίζονται WH Treg NIV ] ἐκγαμίζονται RP

**22:30** θεοῦ Holmes ] τοῦ θεοῦ RP; – WH Treg NIV

**22:30** τῶ WH Treg NIV ] – RP

Variant readings can be one of three types: addition, omission, or substitution. An addition is signaled by the plus sign (+), which indicates that the following word or words are added to the reading of the text by the supporting edition(s) listed after the additional words. In Matt 10:28 above, for example, taking the third and fourth variants together, the SBL text reads καὶ ψυχὴν καὶ σῶμα (with WH Treg NIV), while the RP text—adding τὴν after ἱκαὶ and τὸ after ἱκαὶ —reads καὶ τὴν ψυχὴν καὶ τὸ σῶμα.

An omission is signaled by the minus sign (-) or dash, which indicates that the word(s) marked in the text are omitted by the supporting edition(s) listed after the minus sign. In the second variant in Matt 22:30 above, where the SBL text reads ὡς ἄγγελοι θεοῦ, WH Treg NIV omit the word θεοῦ and thus read only ὡς ἄγγελοι (see also the last variant in 22:30).

If there is neither a plus nor a minus sign, the variant reading is a substitution: the word(s) marked in the text are replaced by the word(s) in the variant reading by the supporting edition(s) listed after the variant reading. In the first variant in Matt 10:28, for example, the SBL text reads

φοβεῖσθε (with Treg NIV RP), while the WH text reads φοβηθῆτε (see also the second variant in this verse, both variants in John 18:39, and the first variant in 22:30).

The above examples cover a very large proportion of the variation units in the apparatus, though more complex cases do sometimes occur. If, for example, the same word is marked more than twice in the same sentence, the symbols  $\Gamma^1$  and  $\Gamma^2$  are used for subsequent occurrences (as in 1 Cor 12:10 below, where the same word is marked four times). Occasionally, the  $\Gamma^a$  symbols (whose typical use was described above) can also be used to mark a shorter multiword variant that occurs inside a longer multiword variant (see Luke 22:43-44 below). Also, a single-word variant marker ( $\Gamma$ ) can occur inside a regular set ( $\Gamma^a$ ) of multiple-word variant markers (as in John 13:2 below). A key point to remember when encountering an “opening” multiple-word marker, whether  $\Gamma$  or  $\Gamma^a$ , is always to look for the corresponding “closing” marker ( $\Gamma$  or  $\Gamma^a$ ); this will help to avoid confusion.

1 Cor 12:10 text:

10  $\Gamma$ ἄλλω ἐνεργήματα δυνάμεων,  $\Gamma$ ἄλλω προφητεία,  
 $\Gamma^1$ ἄλλω διακρίσεις πνευμάτων,  $\Gamma$ ἑτέρω γένη γλωσσῶν,  
 $\Gamma^2$ ἄλλω ἑρμηνεῖα γλωσσῶν·

textual notes in apparatus:

**12:10**  $\Gamma$ ἄλλω Holmes ] + δὲ WH Treg NIV RP

**12:10**  $\Gamma$ ἄλλω Treg ] + δὲ WH NIV RP

**12:10**  $\Gamma^1$ ἄλλω Treg ] + δὲ WH NIV RP

**12:10** ἑτέρω WH Treg NIV ] + δὲ RP

**12:10** ῥ<sup>2</sup> ἄλλω Holmes ] + δὲ WH Treg NIV RP

Luke 22:43-44 text:

43 ὥφθη δὲ αὐτῷ ἄγγελος ῥ ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἐνισχύων αὐτόν.

44 καὶ γενόμενος ἐν ἀγωνίᾳ ἐκτενέστερον προσηύχετο·  
'καὶ ἐγένετο' ὁ ἰδρῶς αὐτοῦ ὡσεὶ θρόμβοι αἵματος  
καταβαίνοντες ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν.'

textual notes in apparatus:

**22:43-44** ὥφθη δὲ ... ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν. Treg NIV RP ] [[WH]]

**22:43-44** ἀπ' NIV RP ] ἀπὸ τοῦ [[WH]] Treg

**22:43-44** καὶ ἐγένετο [[WH]] NIV ] ἐγένετο δὲ Treg RP

Here the symbols ῥ mark off a variant involving the inclusion (by Treg NIV RP) or omission (by WH) of verses 43-44. Within that larger variant, a smaller multiword variant marked by ῥ involves a word-order difference. Since the ῥ “opening” symbol always is matched by a ` “closing” symbol, and the ῥ symbol always corresponds with ` , it is possible to “nest” the two variants without confusion as to where each begins and ends.

This variant offers an opportunity to comment on the use of another symbol, [[WH]]. There are some verses that Westcott and Hort did not think belonged to the genuine text but that they did not feel free to remove completely from their printed text due to its antiquity or intrinsic interest. In the first entry in the apparatus (ὥφθη δὲ ... ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν. Treg NIV RP ] [[WH]]), the symbol [[WH]] signals that Westcott and Hort placed verses 43-44 inside double brackets, whereas Treg NIV RP included them in their texts. In the third variant (καὶ ἐγένετο [[WH]] NIV ] ἐγένετο δὲ Treg RP), involving a difference in word order, the presence of [[WH]] signals that Westcott and Hort support the same word order

as NIV and reminds us that they did not view the phrase (or the verse of which it is a part) as part of the original text.

John 13:2 text:

2 καὶ δεῖπνου ῥινομένου, τοῦ διαβόλου ἤδη βεβληκότος εἰς τὴν καρδίαν ἵνα παραδοῖ αὐτὸν Ἰούδας Σίμωνος ῥισκαριώτου,

textual notes in apparatus:

**13:2** ρινομένου WH Treg NIV ] γενομένου RP

**13:2** ἵνα παραδοῖ αὐτὸν Ἰούδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκ. WH Treg NIV ] Ἰούδα Σίμωνος Ἰσκ. ἵνα αὐτὸν παραδῶ RP

**13:2** Ἰσκαριώτου NIV RP ] Ἰσκαριώτης WH Treg

In this instance, the word-order variation (ἵνα παραδοῖ αὐτὸν Ἰούδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκαριώτου) is unrelated to the separate variant involving the spelling of ῥισκαριώτου, so they have been set up as separate variants, the smaller one “nested” inside the larger. The larger variant bounded by the symbols ρ deals with the word-order variation, while the variant signaled by the ρ symbol deals with the spelling variation.

Two other matters call for comment. One is punctuation, which in general is not taken into account in the textual notes. Occasionally, however, a variant may carry with it consequences for how the verse is punctuated. In these cases, punctuation is included in the textual note, as in the second variant in Rev 21:4:

**21:4** ἔτι. WH ] ἔτι, ὅτι Treg NIV RP

Here the inclusion of ὅτι (supported by Treg NIV RP) alters the syntax of the sentence and so requires a change in punctuation, from the full stop of WH to a comma. The textual note, therefore,

indicates both the textual variants and the punctuation that corresponds with them.

The other is the use of ellipsis (...) in the textual notes. Sometimes it is used to save space, especially in variants involving word order. In Matt 15:37 (καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν, καὶ 'τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων ἦραν' ἑπτὰ σφυρίδας πλήρεις), for example, giving the full text of each variant would result in a textual note like this:

**15:37** τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων ἦραν WH Treg  
NIV ] ἦραν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων RP

The use of ellipses to replace exactly the same words in each variant results in a shorter note:

**15:37** τὸ ... κλασμάτων ἦραν WH Treg NIV ] ἦραν τὸ ...  
κλασμάτων RP.

In other cases the use of ellipses helps to make clear the places where two or more textual variants actually differ. In Acts 9:31, for example, the entire verse is enclosed by a pair of multiword variant markers (31 'Ἡ μὲν οὖν ἐκκλησία καθ' ὅλης τῆς Ἰουδαίας καὶ Γαλιλαίας καὶ Σαμαρείας εἶχεν εἰρήνην οἰκοδομουμένη, καὶ πορευομένη τῷ φόβῳ τοῦ κυρίου καὶ τῇ παρακλήσει τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐπληθύνετο'). The apparatus, however, looks like this:

**9:31** Ἡ ... ἐκκλησία ... εἶχεν ... οἰκοδομουμένη ...  
πορευομένη ... ἐπληθύνετο WH Treg NIV ] Αἱ ...  
ἐκκλησίαι ... εἶχον ... οἰκοδομοῦμεναι ... πορευόμεναι  
... ἐπληθύνοντο RP

Here the ellipses not only save space but also reveal clearly the places where the variant readings differ and the nature of the variation (singular

versus plural).<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> **o:** The introduction has been slightly modified to conform with the formatting of this electronic edition. The text of the New Testament has been updated to the V1.2 text from [github.com/LogosBible/SBLGNT](https://github.com/LogosBible/SBLGNT).

**Η Καινή Διαθήκη**  
**The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition**

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Language: Ελληνικά (Greek, Ancient)

Dialect: Ancient

Updated to source dated 2023-07-10 from <https://github.com/LogosBible/SBLGNT>

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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