

The New Testament (Original Autographs)

I do not believe that the New Testament was written in “The Original Greek” better known as Koine Greek, not to be confused with the Modern Greek Language which is used today. Most of Today’s “Scholars” use the “Original Greek & Original Manuscripts” and it puts them above the common man, trying to look more scholarly and more intelligent than us which is NOT RIGHT. Let’s put the cheese on the cracker and knock the nonsense off! We REALLY DO NOT KNOW what languages the New Testament was written! So I will try to make this simple for us laymen and logical in a context of First Century Palestine, Judea & Samaria under the Rule of the Roman Empire. There are no “Original Manuscripts” when the 27 Originals were written between around 50 to around 90 – 95 A. D. The Originals and the innumerable copies of the Originals are gone.

This is how they were written: in simple layman’s language,

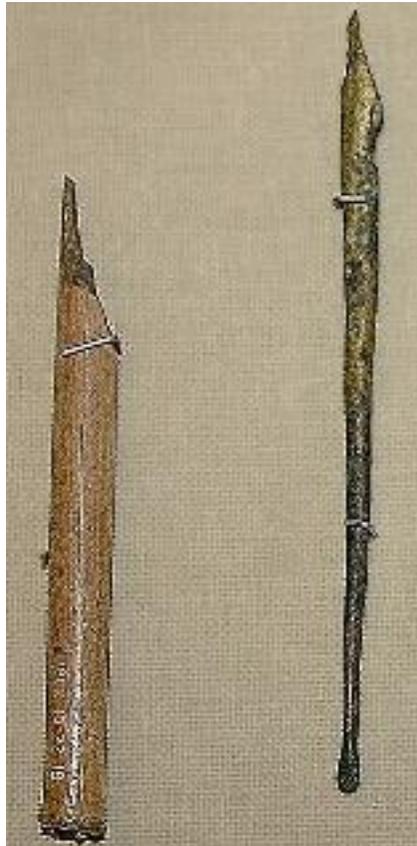
Papyrus: A thick type of paper made from the pith of the papyrus plant; it is a delicate material. It is easily destroyed by damp, and when it becomes dry it tends to become very brittle.



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Keep in mind as I present this I am writing to the common man, there is a wealth of information and history on this subject if one wishes to do some in depth research!

The scribe's pen was a length of hard reed. It was cut diagonally across one end and finely slit through the point. A scribe could resharpen the point with a pumice stone. Most ink, or "black," was a mixture of soot or lampblack and a rubbery gum, which served as an adhesive. This ink was sold dry and had to be mixed with water to the right consistency before being used. When applied, such ink simply dried on the surface of the papyrus or parchment and did not penetrate it. Hence, a writer could readily correct any errors using a wet sponge, which would also have been part of the scribe's standard equipment.



As you see with the last 2 photos, it was very primitive compared to what we have now in the late 20th and 21st Century.

If you decide to look further into this subject and in detail, please keep in mind there will be hundreds, if not thousands of hours of great research and please take this as advice; do NOT be overwhelmed, chop away at it in pieces! This whole subject covers a few millenniums of history and evidence! If you asked scholars and professionals for information, make sure you do your own study, your own follow up and make your own conclusions!

On the Next Page is a list of the Authors of the New Testament

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Writer	Book of the New Testament Bible
Matthew	Matthew – Gospel
Mark	Mark – Gospel
Luke	Luke – Gospel Acts (of the Apostles)
John	John – Gospel I John II John III John Revelation
Peter	I Peter II Peter
James	James
Jude	Jude
Paul (Saul of Tarsus)	Romans Philippians I Timothy II Timothy I Corinthians II Corinthians Colossians Titus I Thessalonians II Thessalonians Philemon Galatians Ephesians
Uncertain	Hebrews

1. **Matthew:** Mathew Levi was a tax collector for the Roman Empire who was chosen by Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) to be one of the twelve Apostles. As a tax collector Matthew would have been a literate person well suited to author one of the gospel records. I believe Levi with his position as a tax collector had to know Latin, the Language of the Roman Empire as well as Aramaic (The main language of Jews at that time in history) and Hebrew. Matthew Levi wrote his gospel to present Jesus Christ as King of Israel (all the 12 tribes of Israel) and the King of the Jews, It is only logical to me that Matthew Levi wrote his gospel in Aramaic, the language of the Jews in that part of the world in the First Century. Matthew Levi tells us that he was a "publican" that is, an agent of the Roman occupation collecting the taxes.

Nobody, (even today) likes tax collectors and in Israel, at that time, it was worse. Tax collectors were classed with the lowest levels of society, with thieves and murderers. They were not welcome in the local synagogue. Regarded as cheats and liars, their testimony was not allowed in court.

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In that time in history the Jews regarded tax collectors as traitors to Israel and to their religion. Hired by the Roman occupiers, the tax collector purchased his position for a price and was authorized to collect a certain total of taxes each year. Anything above that amount which the tax collector was able to extort from the populace was okay. The Tax man therefore, extorted more than the tax table allowed. This extra tax was what made the publicans, as they were called, even more despised.

The name Matthew means "gift of God." I did not want to get off the topic, but there is plenty to study about this Apostle! I just wanted to show that these Apostles, being not "educated" in the same field as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and teachers of the Law of Moses, they were far from being idiots!

2. Mark (John Mark – Lived 1 A. D. to 68 A. D.): Mark was the Latin surname given to this young man whose Jewish name was John. John Mark was, According to William Lane (from book "The Gospel According to Mark in The New International Commentary on the New Testament [1974]) (William L. Lane (1931–1999) was an American New Testament theologian and professor of biblical studies) a cousin to Barnabas (Apostle) who was a prominent figure in the early church. John Mark traveled with his cousin Barnabas in ministry and later in years ministered to the Apostles Peter and Paul. It is believed that John Mark never walked with Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ), although some believe he was who carried water to the house where the Last Supper took place (Mark 14:13) or as the young man who ran away naked when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:51–52) yet his association with the Apostles Paul, Peter and Barnabas makes him more than qualified to produce a gospel record. There is no recorded information on John Mark's early years or his education, so it seems Mark was not educated as the Pharisees and to me, it is only logical then that John Mark wrote his gospel in Aramaic or Hebrew.

3. Luke: This man, the beloved Greek Physician (who lived in the Greek city of Antioch in Ancient Syria, though some other scholars and theologians think Luke was a Hellenic Jew - a form of Judaism in the ancient world that combined Jewish religious tradition with elements of Greek culture) wrote a Gospel bearing his name as well as the book of Acts of the Apostles. Luke is mentioned three times in the New Testament. (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; II Timothy 4:11) and from these passages we learn that Luke was a physician and a fellow worker of Paul who traveled with Paul during his missionary journeys. However, Luke being a physician, thus very educated may of written his Gospel and Acts of the Apostles in either Greek, Latin, Aramaic or Hebrew since he addressed an unknown man named Theophilus in the first chapters of both books; to whom Luke dedicated both his Gospel (Luke 1:3) and the Acts of the Apostles (1:1). Nothing beyond this is known of him (Theophilus). From the fact that Luke applies to him the title "most excellent", the same title Paul uses in addressing Felix (Acts 23:26 ; 24:3) and Festus (26:25), it is POSSIBLE that Theophilus was a person of rank, perhaps a Roman officer? Be as that may, I conclude Luke could have written both his books in any of the 4 languages mentioned!

Special Note: Aramaic (Arāmāyā) is a family of languages or dialects belonging to the Semitic subfamily of the Asiatic language family. More specifically, it is part of the Northwest Semitic group, which also includes the Canaanite languages such as Hebrew and Phoenician. (This language has around a 3000 year history)

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Special Note Before I Continue: If you have read the New Testament, you will have read in passages that the Religious Leaders during the time of Jesus Christ and in the Book of Acts state that the Apostles (not including Paul and Barnabas) were uneducated, unlearned and ignorant in spite that All Jewish boys were given an education in the Torah, and a secular skill before they reach manhood. Take Peter for example. A Commercial Fisherman, that was a trade, he owns the business. He was not a fisherman that rides a bicycle, or one that go sit-down by the sea side with a hook and line, he has shipped. To be a commercial fisherman in those days, he had to understand the principle of celestial navigation, astronomy, mathematics and oceanography. This is the exploration and scientific study of the ocean. Also, you have to understand wind dynamic. This is the science; relating to forces producing motion. Also, you have to be able to convert nautical miles to land mile. All these principles have to come into play, and one has to have the concepts of these things to be a commercial fisherman, especially in those days. Therefore, I conclude that Peter was not stupid. The fishermen in our time with all their sophisticated equipment might not need all that knowledge, but the **ancient (who had no satellite positioning system on board, no internet, no 21st Century Technology)** had to have this knowledge, or they can forget about returning home. The Apostles may have known more than one language. But we really do not know!

In John 7 the Religious Leaders even said Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) was “unlearned”! They know better now! Count on it!

4. John: One of the twelve apostles, John was a fisherman and brother to one of the other twelve apostles James. The Apostle John is the author of the fourth gospel, three epistles and the Revelation. John was a close personal associate of Jesus Christ being referred to as the "disciple whom Jesus loved". John's writings are of tremendous value to the Christian church and account for a significant portion of the New Testament.

5. Peter: Author of 1 Peter & 2 Peter, Peter was a fisherman in Bethsaida. (John 1:44) He was named Simon, son of Jonah or John. The three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) recount how Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus at their home in Capernaum (Matthew 8:14-17) (Mark 1:29-31) (Luke 4:38); this passage clearly depicts Peter as being married. 1 Corinthians 9:5 has also been taken to imply that he was married. In the Synoptic Gospels, Peter (then Simon) was a fisherman along with his brother Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, James and John. There is no record of Peter having an education of the level of the Pharisees, (however, as you just read above, Peter was no dummy!) therefore I conclude Peter most likely wrote his 2 Epistles in Hebrew or Aramaic.

6. James: Brother of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) wrote an epistle bearing his name. With the first verse of James' Epistle; **“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.”** (The 12 Tribes of Israel, NOT the “lost” 10 Tribes”), I can only logically conclude that with this verse, James must of wrote his Epistle in Hebrew or Aramaic!

7. Jude: Another Brother of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) wrote an epistle bearing his name. Not much is known of Jude's upbringing, therefore growing up and being with Jesus Christ, I conclude this Epistle is in Hebrew or Aramaic!

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8. Paul (Saul of Tarsus). Not one of the 12 Apostles in the 4 Gospels, born in Tarsus, Turkey around 5 A. D. was a Jew from the Tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:4-6) **(Jews are from 2 of the 12 Tribes of Israel, Judah and Benjamin)** as well as a Roman Citizen, was a Pharisee (Today's standards Paul would have at least a Doctorate) Paul was dedicated to the persecution of the early disciples of Jesus in the area of Jerusalem. You can read in the Book of Acts of Paul's Conversion to Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) while traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus.

Paul being educated knew at least Hebrew and Aramaic (He spoke to Jesus Christ in Aramaic. Being a Roman Citizen he of course knew Latin the Language of the Roman Empire and I believe Paul also knew Greek, one of his disciples was a young man named Timothy (Timotheus). Acts 16:1 states that Timothy's father was Greek.

Knowing 4 languages, it is hard to determine today if Paul wrote his New Testament Epistles in which language, but here is my opinion:

Romans I believe Paul wrote in **Latin!** The church in Rome of course was in the Capital of the Roman Empire!

The 2 Epistles to Timothy is up for grabs, 2 Timothy was written when Paul was on Trial and knew Emperor Nero was about to behead him.

The 2 Epistles to the Corinthians may have been written in Greek, since Corinth is in Greece. Keep in mind Paul wrote the Epistles to Believers in Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ).

The Epistle to the Hebrews: Here in the 21st Century there is dispute whether Paul is the author or not. **Though no author is named, the original King James Version (1611) of the Bible titled the work "The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews". However at present, neither modern scholarship nor most church teaching ascribes Hebrews to Paul. I welcome a rational discussion on this with lots of links and evidence either way.**

For me personally, I tend to believe Paul wrote Hebrews but I am open to discussion; however that does not mean I would change my opinion. Regardless, the Epistle was written to Hebrew Christians, so logically the epistle had to be written in either Hebrew or Aramaic. Keep in mind the Jews (Judah & Benjamin) and their 10 Tribe brothers were scattered!

Summary

My opinion is the Original Writings were NOT all in Koine Greek, but least the 4 languages I listed. In a sad state of affairs in this once great Nation (United States of America) most Americans blindly follow both religious scholars as well as politicians (who puts their pants on as we do and also will answer to the same God as we "common people" will) without doing any lengthy research! Keep in mind there are "scholars" who deny that Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) is God in the Flesh and even deny the Virgin Birth!

I hope this article will spark you to do your own research (which will take many, many hours) on this issue, which many people place their faith and eternal destiny based on what is written in the Bible! I hope this article will help validate your faith in the Bible, written by those in the languages of their day!