

Textual Variants 1 John 4:1-4

Aside from some minor differences in word order, which hardly matter in Greek, the following variants occur.

- 4:1** One 9th century manuscript reads, “test every spirit” instead of “test the spirits.”
- 4:2** From the 9th century, some manuscripts read, “the Spirit of God is known” instead of “you know the Spirit of God.”

From the 4th century, a few manuscripts read, “we know the Spirit of God.”

One 4th century manuscript reads, “to have come” instead “has come.”

- 4:3** From the 12th century, a few manuscripts have “not confess” in the subjunctive mood, rather than in the indicative mood.

Instead of “Jesus” (with a definite article in Greek: ‘this Jesus’), some manuscripts from the 8th century read “Jesus Christ” (without an article); from the 12th century two manuscripts read “Jesus Christ” (with an article); and one 4th century manuscript reads, “Jesus is Lord.”

From the 4th century, some manuscripts insert “come in the flesh” after “Jesus;” and from the 9th century, two manuscripts insert “to have come.”

From the 10th century, two manuscripts read, “of God” instead of “from God.”

One 9th century manuscript reads, “of which you heard” instead of “which you heard,” and from the fifth century two manuscripts read “that you heard.”

- 4:6** A 5th century and a 14th century manuscripts omit the clause, “whoever is not from God does not listen to us,” because a copyist eye went from the first “us” to the second “us,” a common kind of scribal error.