

Greek Manuscript Variants

1 John 5:6-13

5:6 From the 4th century, some manuscripts insert “and Spirit” after “blood,” and from the 6th century, others invert the order of these words to “Spirit and blood.”

From the 4th century, two manuscripts make “only” an adjective rather than an adverb.

From the 4th century, some manuscripts read “and the blood” instead of “and in the blood.” It is hard to know if the repeated preposition was original or not.

5:7-8 Some late versions of the New Testament insert the words, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth” (KJV). However, these spurious words were never part of the Greek New Testament or of ancient translations; they were added to some Latin translations after the 9th century, and to a few Greek manuscripts in the 16th century.

5:9 From the 6th century, some manuscripts replaced “because he has testified” with “that he has testified.”

In the 9th century, one manuscript inserted at the end of the verse, the phrase, “and this is the testimony: that God gave to us everlasting life.”

5:10 From the 5th century, a few manuscripts insert “of God” after “has the testimony”.

From the 4th century, a few manuscripts spell “himself” *eaútôi* instead of *autôi*.

From the 5th century, some manuscripts have “not believe the Son” instead of “not believe God.”

From the 14th century, a few manuscripts read, “he has borne,” instead of “God has borne.”

5:11 From the 4th century, some manuscripts change the order of the words, “that God gave us,” with no change in meaning.

5:13 From the 5th century, some manuscripts alter the word order of the phrase, “you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,” and some append the redundant phrase, “that you may believe.”