

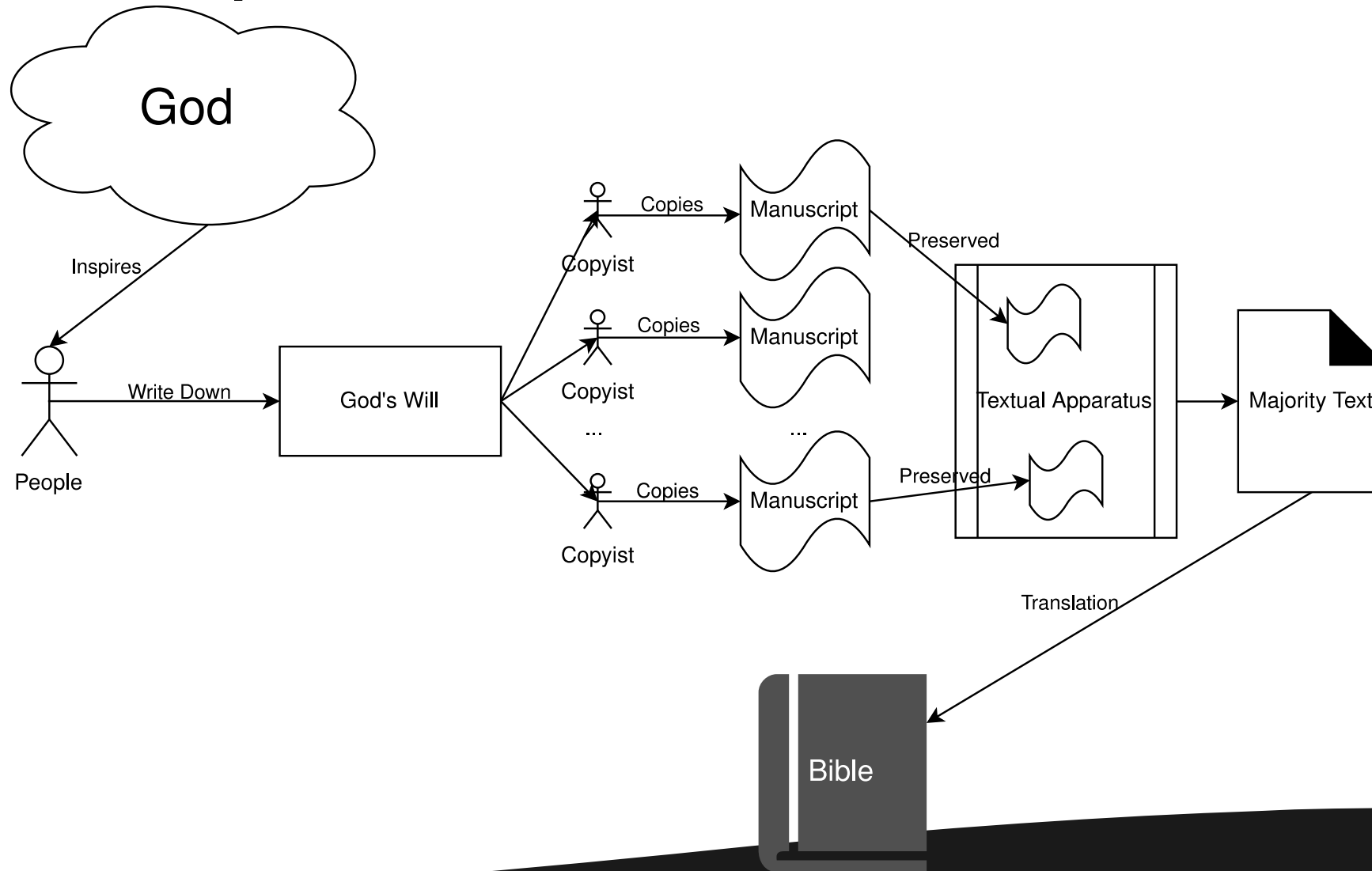
# Parchments of Promise

## Lesson 1: The Bible

# The B-I-B-L-E

- [illegible]

# From Inspiration to Translation



# Question 1

Many critics compare the transmission of the Bible to the “telephone game.” Is this an accurate representation of how we got the Bible?

# My Answer

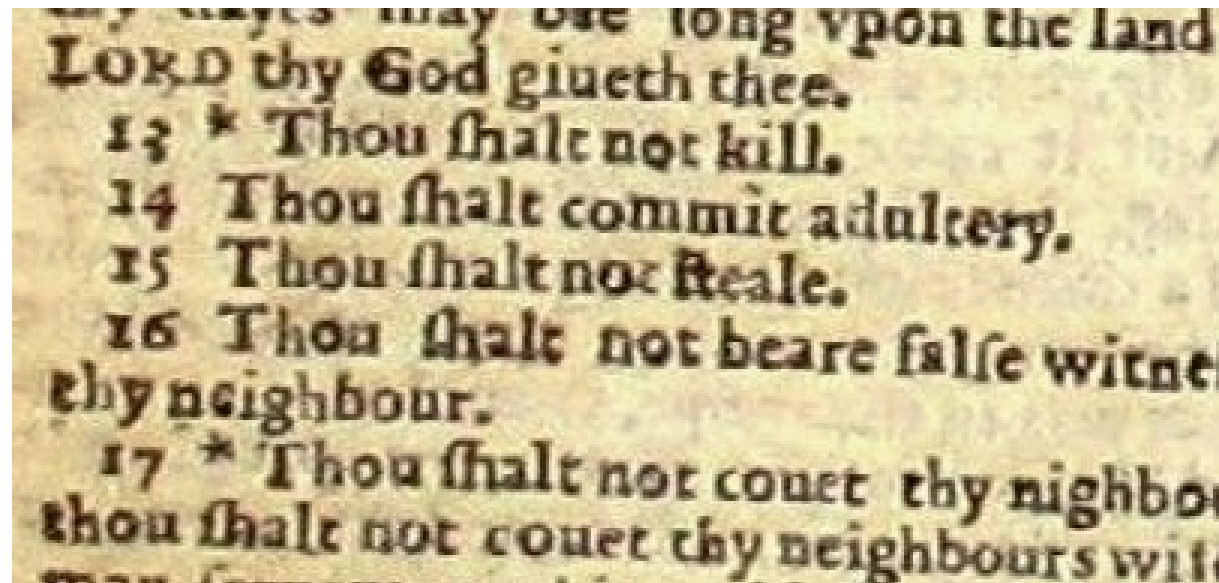
- The *Telephone Game* assumes a single line of transmission where errors are preserved and amplified through the line. The Bible manuscripts were circulated and several copies were made of the originals as they circulated among believers. Consider Colossians 4:16, where Paul is encouraging the Colossians to receive and read the letter from the Laodiceans (likely Ephesians making its way along the Lycus River, where Laodicea would have been the nearest church to Colossae).
- With multiple transmission lines, errors can be identified and corrected, even if the original does not exist.

# Question 2

Translators and publishers do not claim inspiration from God. What are some translations or publications that accurately reflect the words of God? What are some that do not accurately reflect the words of God?

# My Answer

- Most translations attempt to accurately reflect the Word.
- Nevertheless, sometimes translators mess up! A famous example is the *Wicked Bible* (often referred to as the *Adulterous Bible*) which contains this commandment from Exodus 20:14:



# My Answer (continued)

- Some translations attempt to eisegete a different meaning into the text, such as the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses which mistranslates verses about the deity of the Son and Spirit:
  - Hebrews 1:6 NWT: “But when he again brings his Firstborn into the inhabited earth, he says: ‘And let all of God’s angels do obeisance to him.’”
  - Hebrews 1:6 LSB: “And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.”



# Question 3

Does a mistake in a manuscript mean that it does not accurately preserve the inspired words of God?

# My Answer

- Most mistakes do not affect the reading of the text, and the ones that do often still contain in their readings portions of the true text. For example, consider Minuscule 109, Codex Neopolitanus. In its contents, the scribe copying Luke 3:23–38, copied across two columns rather than copying a column at a time. This results in the unfortunate reading of Perez (v. 33) being put in the place of God (v. 38). This was an obvious mistake, and a textual apparatus will identify and correct the mistake. The parchment contains the correct text in the wrong order!

# Question 4

In what language(s) did God inspire the writers of the Bible?

# My Answer

- God inspired people in their own languages. Consider Acts 2:6 where the apostles spoke in the dialects of the multitude.
  - The inspired accounts of these events were written and preserved in Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) with portions in Aramaic.
  - The will of God is meant to be understood in whichever language the diligent student understands.
- 