

## The Gospel Colophons: Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D, Ph.D. – 2009

Because the first three Gospel's contain so much material in common that they may be arranged as a synopsis, they have been labeled the "Synoptic Gospels". New Testament criticism alleges that:

1. Matthew and Luke used practically all of Mark in preparing their respective Gospel accounts,
2. Matthew and Luke recorded nearly identical matter for much that is not found in Mark; therefore they both used a second source in common (i.e., "Q" for the German word "*quelle*" meaning "source"),
3. "Matthew and Luke make improvements in many places". "Matthew smoothes ... introduces words he prefers", etc., and/or
4. Mark wrote his gospel under the influence of Simon Peter, etc.

The above commonly appear in Biblical literature and have come to be known as part and parcel of the so-called "Synoptic problem". To account for the similarities and differences between the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the critics have devised this hypothesis wherein they assert that Mark was written first and Matthew and Luke consulted his Gospel along with "Q". Thus, these Gospels are said to be the result of interdependence among the three "Synoptic" writers. Indeed, the claim is even made by many that Matthew and Luke handled Mark "critically" (i.e., as text critics).

In 2008, Dr. Wilbur N. Pickering (Th.M. Dallas Theological Seminary in Greek Exegesis, Ph.D. University of Toronto in Linguistics) discovered colophons in numerous ancient manuscripts that contained the Gospels. Colophons are inscriptions, usually placed at the end of a book or manuscript, which normally contain the name of the owner (or scribe) and an attempt at dating the writing. Dr. Pickering states that 16–18% of the 3,000+ extant NT manuscripts (c.500) belong to the Byzantine (*Textus Receptus*) sub-group designated as f<sup>35</sup> (critics subdivide the NT manuscripts into four artificial families: the Alexandrian, Byzantine, Western, and Caesarean). As of 2009, Dr. Pickering has 54 manuscripts of the f<sup>35</sup> sub-group that contain the four Gospels, and he states that c.95% of these have colophons. About 1,800 of the extant MSS-mss contain the Gospels (some are fragments), and Dr. Pickering extrapolates that 50% have colophons.

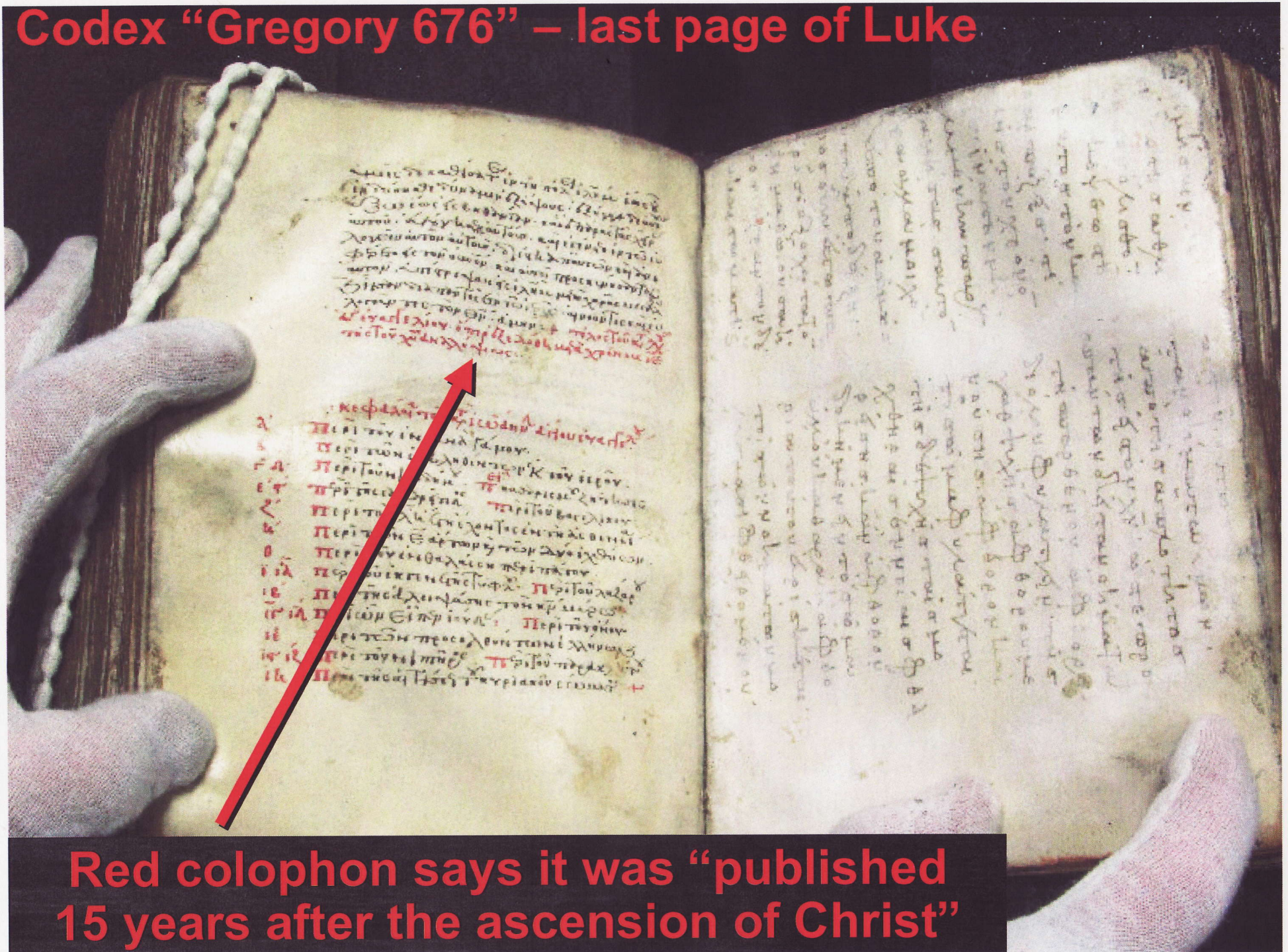
Thus, approximately 50% of the 500 f<sup>35</sup> manuscripts of the Gospel of John have "published 32 years after the ascension of Christ" in the colophons and:  $30 + 32 = 62$  AD, rather than 85–95! For 50% of the f<sup>35</sup> mss to have this information implies that the tradition is ancient, and Pickering has further shown that the f<sup>35</sup> sub-family goes back to at least the 3rd century AD. The colophons also record that Luke was "published 15 years after the ascension of Christ" ( $30 + 15 = 45$  AD, not circa 60).

The same sources have Matthew "published (or "given out" – Greek is εἰεδοθη) eight years after the ascension of Christ" ( $30 + 8 = 38$  AD, rather than c.50)! The colophons also say that Mark was "published 10 years after the ascension" and  $30 + 10 = 40$  AD, not c.68 AD. Now 40 AD for Mark's Gospel is two years *after* Matthew, not before as the text critics would have it. Thus, not only were the four authors of the Gospel accounts of Christ Jesus eyewitnesses of the events, many others were still alive when the Gospels appeared. This would include most of the over 500 that actually saw our Lord after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6).

The f<sup>35</sup> sub-group of the Byzantine family is without equal in the MS tradition – about 500 of all the 3,000+ extant manuscripts are f<sup>35</sup>. Since the f<sup>35</sup> mss come from a large, diverse geographic region (Jerusalem, Sinai, Trikala, Mt. Athos, Constantinople, and Rome), the likelihood that they do not represent the main line of transmission is nil. Thus, beyond any reasonable doubt, the f<sup>35</sup> Gospel colophons must be seen as valid ancient witnesses and their dates taken as absolutely legitimate. Since they testify that Mark was written two years after Matthew, the so-called "Synoptic problem" is forever slain. The critics merely have theories; we have the facts, and facts are stubborn things.

The Gospels, as well as the other books of the Bible, are clearly written as to be self-evident that the authors are portrayed as first-hand witnesses and/or direct receivers of divine revelation. By the very demand of Scripture, nothing less would suffice as a legitimate and legal testimony.

# Codex "Gregory 676" – last page of Luke



Red colophon says it was "published 15 years after the ascension of Christ"

## Standard Bearers Browser

---

### Vision

It is the [mission](#) of [Standard Bearers](#) to present the Biblical and Historical doctrine of Inerrancy; teaching the Bible is 100% pure; inerrant in the *copy* which we hold in our hands today. Our goal is to strengthen the faith of Pastors, Teachers and Laymen in the authenticity and authority of the 100% pure, inerrant Word of God, knowing ~ “*So then faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the word of God*” ([Roman 10:17](#)).

### Share

Prayerful consider using the resources contained in the [Standard Bearers Browser](#) (next two pages) for: your Sermon preparation, Bible Study class, to forward to others and post to your Social media. For more, go to the [Standard Bearers](#) home page ([www.standardbearers.net](http://www.standardbearers.net)) for an overview of the Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy. For another quick read see, [Retaking the Hill of Biblical Inerrancy: The Next Reformation~ The Westminster Confession Rejection of the Chicago Statement](#).

### Conference

For a group presentation by [Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones, Ph.D, Th.D.](#) on: The Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy; The Identity of the Text of the New Testament; Chronology of the Old Testament; Creation & Evolution or [Science & the Bible](#), please contact me, Louis Kole at, [kolelm@gmail.com](mailto:kolelm@gmail.com).

### Exhort

You *can* know for yourself the identity of the 100% pure; inerrant, preserved *copy* of the Word of God by the aid of the Holy Spirit; the *Author, Superintendent and Teacher* of the Word of God. This is the promise of God and the witness of the saints.

*"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you."* ([John 16:13-14](#))

*"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."* ([1 John 2:27](#))

[Francis Turretin](#)<sup>1</sup> 1623-1687 (brackets and emphasis mine):

*"By **original** texts, we do not mean the **autographs** [originals] written by the hand of Moses, of the prophets and the apostles, which certainly do not now exist. We mean their **apographs** <sup>2</sup> [perfect copy; genuine original; 'authentic'] which are so called because they set forth to us the word of God in the **very words** of those who wrote under the **immediate inspiration** of the Holy Spirit."<sup>3</sup>*

God bless,

Louis M Kole  
[Standard Bearers](#)

[Hymn ~ Come, Gracious Spirit- Heavenly Dove!](#)

*"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."* ([Revelation 3:11](#))

---

<sup>1</sup>Gerstner, called Turretin, "**the most precise theologian in the Calvinistic tradition.**" *Turretin on Justification* an audio series by John Gerstner (1914-1996) a Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary.

<sup>2</sup> Apograh means "**a perfect copy, an exact transcript**". This is the same witness of the authors of the Westminster Confession when they described their *copy* of the Word of God as '**authentic**', which [Webster's 1828](#) dictionary defines as "**having a genuine original**".

<sup>3</sup> Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1992 reprint), 1:106. See also Robert Barnett, "Francis Turretin on the Holy Scriptures," a paper presented at the annual meeting of the Dean Burgon Society held at Calvary Baptist Church, Ontario, Canada, in 1995.

## Resources

Enjoy the following works provided by *Standard Bearers* on the Biblical and Historical doctrine of Inerrancy. **I encourage you to share these documents by using the link, since they're being regularly updated.**

### Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones

- [Works of Dr Jones](#)

[Works](#) is a PDF portfolio of *all* the [Works of Dr. Jones](#) listed below (except the charts from his Chronology of the Old Testament). Please allow a moment for this PDF portfolio to open.

- [Analytical Red Letter Harmony of the 4 Gospels: A Return to the Historical Text](#)
- [The Gospel Colophons and the Synoptic Problem Dr Floyd Nolen Jones PhD ThD](#)
- [The Septuagint: A Critical Analysis](#)
- [Chronology of the Old Testament: A Return to the Basics](#)

In this book, [Dr. Jones](#) provides a systematic framework of the chronology of the Bible from Genesis through the life of Christ and it comes with a CD containing 14 chronology charts. In addition, a set of full-size prints can be obtained at: [A&E-The Graphics Complex](#) (713) 621-0022; 4235 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77027; Reference Quote Number: IQ9209 (Floyd Jones Charts).

Excerpts from Dr. Jones' [Chronology of the Old Testament](#)

- ◇ [The Length of the Sojourn in Egypt](#) ~ Chapter 4 excerpt (p.54)
- ◇ [40 Years after What? The date of Absalom's Rebellion](#) ~ Chapter 5 excerpt (p.105)
- ◇ [Jehoiachin \(Jeconiah\) Age 8 or 18?](#) ~ Chapter 6 excerpt (p.202)

- [Chronology Charts](#) by Dr. Jones

The [Chronology Charts](#) is a PDF portfolio of *all* the Charts by [Dr. Jones](#) from his book, [Chronology of the Old Testament](#). Please allow a moment for the PDF portfolio to open.

Individual Charts by Dr. Jones from, [Chronology of the Old Testament](#)

- ◇ [Chart 1 ~ Creation to Jesus Christ](#)
- ◇ [Chart 2 ~ Jacob's Age Determined](#)
- ◇ [Chart 3 ~ 430 Years Sojourn](#)
- ◇ [Chart 3A ~ The 4 Generations of Genesis](#)
- ◇ [Chart 3B ~ Scenarios for Judah's Family in Egypt](#)
- ◇ [Chart 3CDEF ~ Jacob and Judah](#)
- ◇ [Chart 4 ~ Judges to the First 3 Kings](#)
- ◇ [Chart 4AB ~ Judges Tested by Judah's Lineage](#)
- ◇ [Chart 5 ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy](#)
- ◇ [Chart 5A ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy](#)
- ◇ [Chart 5C ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy](#)
- ◇ [Chart 6 ~ Creation to Creator](#)
- ◇ [Chart 7 ~ 390 Years Confirmed](#)

- [Which Version is the Bible?](#)

Excerpts from Dr. Jones' [Which Version Is The Bible?](#)

- ◇ [Mark 16 last Verses](#) ~ Chapter 2 (p.30)
- ◇ [The 1881 Revision](#) ~ Chapter 3 (p.49)
- ◇ [How Princeton Was Corrupted](#) ~ Chapter 8 (p.186)
- ◇ [How the Conservative Seminaries Were Corrupted](#) ~ Chapter 8 (p.189)
- ◇ [The Criticism Today: The Age of Miniscules](#) ~ Chapter 9 (p.202)
- ◇ [Pericope De Adultera John 8](#) ~ Appendix A (p.219)
- ◇ [The Johannine Comma 1John 5](#) ~ Appendix B (p.231)
- ◇ [Examples of Modern Criticism](#) ~ Appendix C (p.241)
- ◇ [History of Texts Transmission](#) ~ Appendix D (p.247)

## Standard Bearers Browser

---

### Louis M Kole

- [Works of Louis M Kole](#)  
Works is a PDF portfolio of *all* the papers by Louis Kole listed below. Please allow a moment for this PDF portfolio to open.
- [How We Know The Bible Is True: 100% Pure, Inerrant](#)  
~ *The Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy* (standard bearers home page)
- [Letter To A Pastor: How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?](#)  
~ *So then Faith Cometh By Hearing, and Hearing By the Word of God* (custodianship of the Word of God)
- [Textual Criticism 101: Theological, Faith-Based versus Naturalistic, Rationalistic](#)  
~ *Believing or Neutral to Divine Inspiration, Divine Preservation, Divine Identification* (textual criticism)
- [Preaching and Loss: Peer Pressure and the Fear of the Lord](#)  
~ *Why the Tempest? The Foolishness of Preaching* (the duty of a watchman)
- [Retaking the Hill of Biblical Inerrancy: The Next Reformation](#)  
~ *The Westminster Confession **Rejection** of the Chicago Statement* (overview in a nutshell)
- [Divine Preservation: How We 'Lost' the Doctrine of the Divine Preservation of the Word of God](#)  
~ *3 Centuries of Sound Doctrine ~ Eradicated in 3 Generations of Neglect* (the error)
- [God's Standard Bearers: The Josiah Initiative](#)  
~ *Witnesses to the 100% Pure Copy of Word of God* (proof texts & state of our witness)
- [The Fear of The Lord: Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy](#)  
~ *The Fear of Man verses the Fear of the Lord* (flagship paper)
- [A Call To Revival: Restoring the Foundations](#)  
~ *If the Foundations Be Destroyed What Can the Righteous Do?* ("hath God said?")
- [The Josiah Initiative: Countering The Assault Upon the Inerrancy of the Word of God](#)  
~ *How are the Mighty Fallen and the Weapons of War Perished!* (a call to action)
- [The 'Lost' Doctrine: Can A Doctrine 'Die' Which Is a Fundamental Truth of the Faith?](#)  
~ *The 1000 Year 'Death and Rebirth' of the Doctrine of Justification by Grace Alone* (lesson from the past)

### Dr. Jeffrey Khoo

- [Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles' Heel Of Princeton Bibliology \(FEBC\) a must read](#)

### Dr. Edward F Hills

- [Scholasticism Versus the Logic of Faith ~ Excerpt from A History of My Defence of the King James Version \(FEBC\)](#)
- [The King James Version Defended](#)

### More...

- [Bible audio](#)
- [Songs ~ Hymns of Worship from the Standard Bearers' play list](#)
- [Bible teaching ~ Audio by Dr Floyd Nolen Jones](#)
- [Bible teaching ~ TV by Dr Floyd Nolen Jones from the Standard Bearers' channel](#)
- [Bible teaching ~ TV by Dr Charles Stanley](#)
- [Bible resources ~ Blue Letter Bible digital Bible and study tools](#)
- [Dictionary ~ Noah Webster's 1828 Digital dictionary](#)
- [Devotional ~ Oswald Chamber's My Utmost for His Highest](#)

Hymn ~ *We Rest on Thee, Our Shield and Our Defender!*

*"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."* ([Revelation 3:11](#))