

Paul's Greeting to the Ephesians
Ephesians 1:1–2
Flying through Ephesians

Grace Chapel
INTRODUCTION

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WHO? WHERE? WHEN?

A. Who? Where? When? in regard to the author?

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, was the author

Paul was imprisoned in Rome (his first imprisonment there)

The time was fall 61 (when Paul had been imprisoned about 1½ years)

Tychicus carried this letter (Eph 6:21–22); Colossians (Col 4:7–9); and
(by inference) Philemon (since the destination was Colossae)

Ephesus and Colossae are only 100 miles apart from each other, but they
are 1000 miles from Rome. Though some posit Tychicus making two trips
(one to deliver Ephesians) and carrying (Colossians and Philemon), this
would involve 3000 miles of travel in one year.

The reason for positing a fall 61 date is that after 1½ years with no
witnesses pressing the case against Paul, the Romans would dismiss
charges. Philemon (which I believe is contemporaneous with Ephesians
expresses optimism that Paul would soon be released (Philemon 22).

B. Who? Where? When? in regard to the audience? The Ephesians? (or a circular letter?)

1. A few Egyptian mss (favored by the NASB) omit *in Ephesus*

P46—about AD 200

01* (Sinaiticus)—fourth century (* = first scribe omits)

B* (Vaticanus)—fourth century (* = first scribe omits)

424²—twelfth century (² = first corrector omits)

1739—(tenth century)

2. Other important Egyptian manuscripts include it

a² (Sinaiticus)—fourth century (² = first corrector includes)

B² (Vaticanus)—fourth century (² = first corrector includes)

424²—twelfth century (* = first scribe includes)

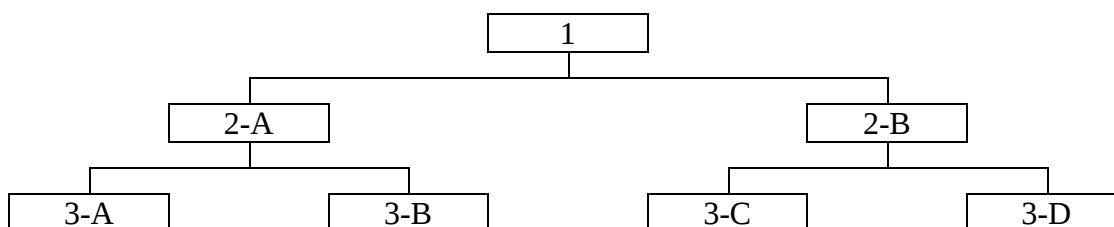
33—ninth century

3. Other groups of manuscripts (notably the Majority family) include it

Excursus: Should the Majority Family manuscripts be taken seriously?

1. Some say *No!* Reason: Egyptian manuscripts are older than Majority Family mss.

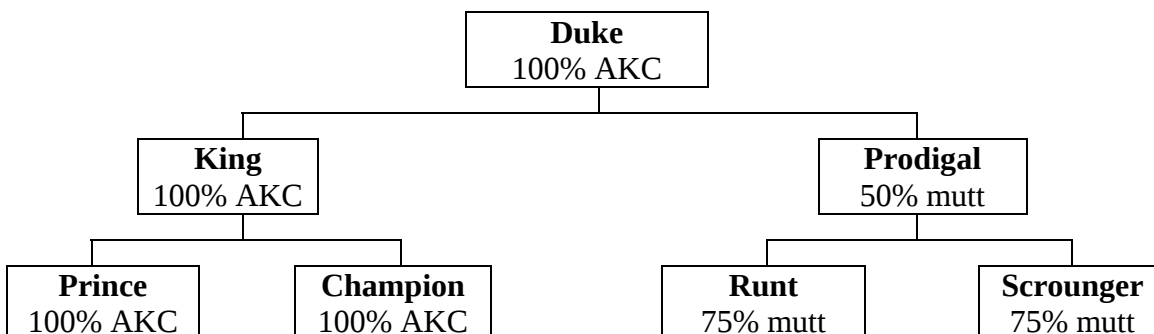
The dry climate in Egypt has given Egyptian mss a higher survival rate.



Now, it is true that manuscript 2-B will be more correct than manuscripts 3-C and 3-D.

However, we do not know if manuscript 2-B will be more correct than 3-A and 3-B.

2. Some say *Yes!* Reason: Egyptian mss divide much more often than Majority mss do.



Prodigal has 50% of Duke's DNA, while Prince only has 25% of Duke's DNA. Even so, Prince probably looks much more like Duke than does Prodigal.

3. Summary of the case for the Majority Family of Manuscripts

All Egyptian manuscripts come from one locale and are relatively early. Despite having these advantages, they disagree with each other often enough to evidence sloppy copying.

Majority manuscripts come from widely separated areas and generally are not as old as Alexandrian manuscripts, but (despite these disadvantages) they have a remarkable level of similarity with one another. This evidences careful copying.

Summary: Older is not the only factor in determining if a manuscript is superior. The fact of the matter is that the Egyptian witnesses are divided over whether to include or to omit the words *in Ephesus*.

- C. Who? Where? When? in regard to the audience? The Ephesians? (or a circular letter?)
Some say, Since Paul was in Ephesus for almost three years (Sept 53–May 56), why would a letter written to Ephesus alone lack personal greetings? They say that this favors a circular letter.

1. However, Paul's longest greetings were in letters to cities he had never visited:

Romans 1:13–15; 15:22ff.

Romans 16

Colossians 2:1

Colossians 4:7ff.

Donald Guthrie says, "It was apparently against his policy to single out any individuals in churches that he knew well since he considered all the Christians to be his friends. But in a church like Rome, where he was not personally known, it would serve as a useful commendation that so many of the Christians there were his former acquaintances."

2. Conversely, letters that Paul wrote to some churches where he had been, lack greetings (as does Ephesians). Note 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1–2 Thessalonians

Exposition of Ephesians 1:1–2

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary: Paul greets the Ephesian believers with grace and peace from God.

Conclusion