

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE GREEK
MANUSCRIPTS OF 1 PETER WITH
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON
METHODOLOGY

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The Problem

Due to either methodological flaws or inadequate databases, Greek manuscripts of 1 Peter have not been satisfactorily examined. This study is an attempt to establish a better textual-critical method and to apply it to a larger database. The method identifies new quantitative analysis techniques that are necessary to establish the tentative groups used for profiling manuscripts.

The Method

The method used for the classification of Greek manuscripts of 1 Peter combines the computer-generated profile method and a statistical technique known as factor analysis. The profile method has been used for the last thirty-five years, whereas factor analysis is applied to textual criticism for the first time. Factor analysis eliminates hours of laborious computation usually associated with the quantitative analysis of the Revised Claremont Profile Method, while at the same time yielding accurate results because tentative groups are formed in an efficient process. The computer-generated profile method refines and modifies the tentative groups made by factor analysis, thus enabling the establishing of the final groups.

The Results

When factor analysis is applied to 106 Greek manuscripts of 1 Peter, three groups of Alexandrian and thirteen groups of non-Alexandrian manuscripts emerged. When the computer-generated profile method was applied to those tentative groups, twenty-seven of the manuscripts were characterized as Alexandrian in text-type (three groups), sixty-three as Byzantine (ten groups), and sixteen as Mixed (three groups).

Conclusions

Factor analysis and the computer-generated profile method used in this study are presently the most efficient methods for the classification of the Greek manuscripts. The Greek manuscripts included in this study are also helpful resources for understanding textual groupings of 1 Peter.