

WHEN A MODERN BIBLE SKIPS A NUMBER

# Was a verse *removed?*

OR IS A READING DISPUTED?

WHAT A NOTE MEANS

*Some manuscript evidence does  
not include this reading.*

17  
DISPUTED

18

A number printed centuries later cannot tell us  
by itself what an apostle originally wrote.

FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE, NOT THE GAP →

## THE KEY QUESTION

# What did the biblical author write?

“Removed” already assumes that the longer reading is original. Sometimes it is. Sometimes a scribe skipped words. But scribes also repeated, harmonized, or added words. Both kinds of copying error are documented.

**Verse numbers** **A**

The familiar New Testament numbering came long after the apostles. It is a reference system, not inspired evidence for a reading.

**Visible disputes** **B**

Many modern Bibles keep major disputed passages in brackets or notes. That is not hiding the evidence; it lets the reader see the question.

**Textual criticism** **C**

It simply means comparing witnesses and other evidence to ask which wording best explains the rest.

**Grant this:** modern editors and translations can make bad decisions. The answer is careful evidence, not treating every inherited verse number as a separate manuscript.

**BOTTOM LINE**

A skipped number can alert you to a textual question. It cannot settle the question.

**NEXT QUESTION**

5 of 12 · Are TR, Majority, Byzantine, and KJV identical?



Look for notes. Ask what the author wrote.

Sources 11, 17, and 28 in the full dossier



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