Understanding the Relationship Between Successive Biblical Translations

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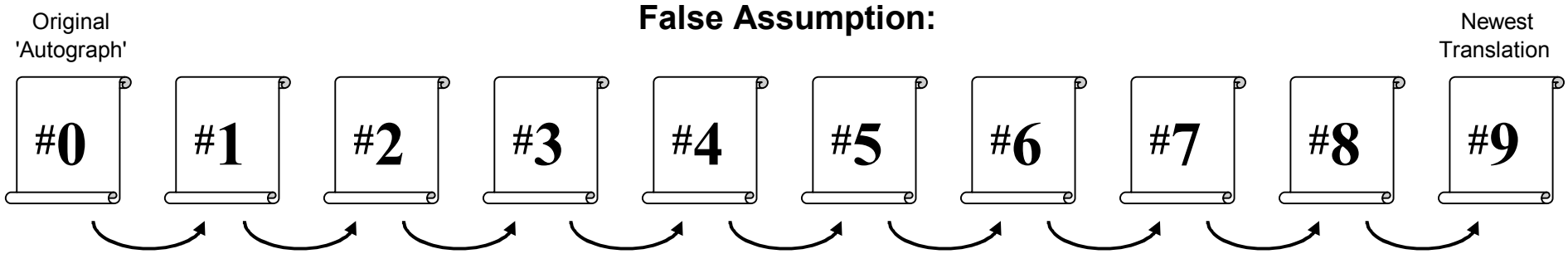
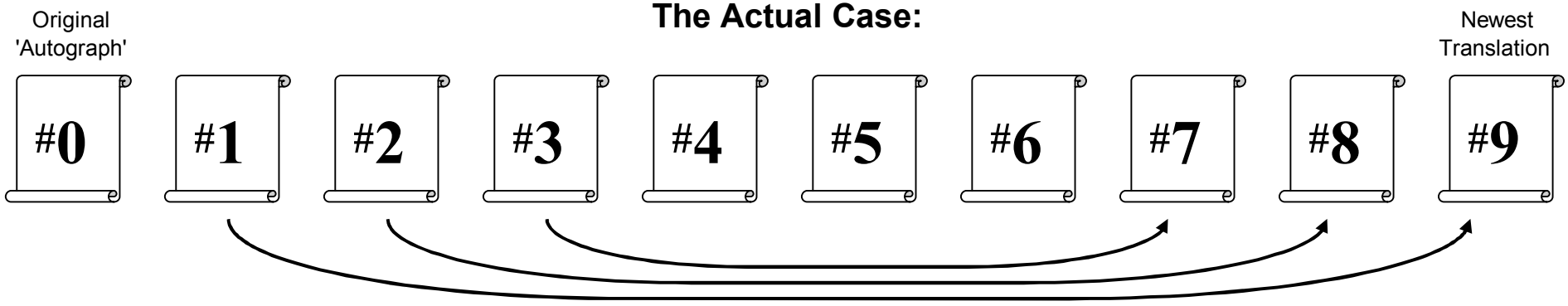
False Assumption about Biblical Translations: Continuing Degradation Over Time

Many people mistakenly assume that biblical translations have been made in historical succession, with the newest translation being based on the one before it, with the previous translation based on the one before that (and so on). They therefore assume that modern translations of the Bible must suffer from years of degradation, with mistakes and mistranslations having been incorporated at every step. Thus, they surmise that as time passes, our modern translations become less and less accurate representations of the original. This is simply not the case.



True Nature of Biblical Translations: Increasing Accaccuracy Over Time

New translations of the Bible are <u>not</u> based on the one before them in a successive order, but on ancient biblical manuscripts written in the original Hebrew and Greek languages. Hundreds of original language Scripture manuscripts exist in museums and libraries across the world. Over the years, as archaeologists have discovered older and older manuscripts of the Scriptures, the texts on which our modern Bibles are based actually become <u>closer</u> to the original. In addition, as scholars continue their research into the use of ancient languages, their ability to understand and translate the nuances and meaning of ancient words and phrases increases. Most modern translations are much more precise and accurate than those of just a few hundred year ago.