What are the translations of the Greek word μονογενής in Ancient Versions? Is it "only" or "only-begotten"?

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Amharic (Ethiopic)

According to Wikipedia,

Although Christianity became the state religion of Ethiopia in the 4th century, and the Bible was first translated into Ge'ez at about that time, only in the last two centuries have there appeared translations of the Bible into Amharic.

Accordingly, there are no extant early Amharic manuscripts of the New Testament although there is an 1874 version <u>here</u>.

Coptic

Coptic translations of the Greek New Testament occur in a variety of dialects, two primarily being **Bohairic** and **Sahidic**. Bohairic

For examination of the Bohairic, I reviewed the multi-volume *The Coptic Version of the New Testament in the Northern Dialect, Otherwise Called Memphitic and Bohairic,* compiled by George William Horner.

1. <u>John</u> <u>1:14</u>

2. <u>John</u> 1:18

> ¹⁸ Ф† йпе длі пат єроч єпед. пімопотепне ппот† фн єтхн Беп кєпч йпечит пооч пєтачсахі.

3. <u>John</u> <u>3:16</u>

> ¹⁶Плирн† гар а ф† мепре пікосмос дысте печщнрі пото тачалі інцірэтй течтич. Віна отоп півеп евпая форд птечщтемтако адда й фпштой торэтй

4. <u>John</u> 3:18

¹⁸Фн сөпад† срод сепа†дап срод ап. Фн 26 степдпад† срод ап. днан атотш ст†дап срод. хе йпедпад† сфрап йп. мопотепне пунрі пте ф†.

5. <u>1 John</u> <u>4:9</u>

> вогозь «†ф этй нпатат а саф пэд « срэпа прогоза «те артендй содэ индий прогоса эх «пэтндй синди содэ альто содо содо содэ дионоти пататат эра ос «ртотся кодэ дионэти

6. <u>Luke</u> 7:12

> ¹² Зис 26 єтадовит єтптун йтє твакі днипє патилі потал євол єгдиот сощнрі йматату пе йте тедика.

7. <u>Luke</u>

	<u>8:42</u>
	42 Хе отщерт пелататс спасятац пе. ес den
	эп тоцьплан 120 дого лплост Аг.
	ou pour zekveler uniexy er irubg
	ที่สะการเหลีา 43 0205 02051881 นะองอน 02-
	<u>Luke</u> 9:38
	38 Oroz Shuue ис ольтые своу реи штена
	адищ євол. хе піредтсви ттео єрок.
	хочщт єплщнрі. Хє очщнрі шелатач
	пні пє.
9.	<u>Heb.</u> 11:17
	17 Den ornagt abpaars agini nicaak egphi
	елевитьчая «рота пігація тибайны
	e chuhagin accords admi ancogunti

птата сбри ихефи слудаец инай

epoy & 18 \$H ETATCAXI NERRAL & XE PEU

Analysis of the Bohairic

The Bohairic manuscript is interesting in that it does not consistently use the same word to translate the Greek adjective μονογενής. Rather, in 6 of the 9 verses, **x** it uses the adjective *mawaa*. According to Crum in *A Coptic Dictionary*, **z** the Bohairic adjective *mawaa* means "alone, single."

B, mayeets F adj, alone, single (m+ oyass qv):

On the other hand, in 3 of the 9 verses, y it uses the adjective monogenes which is actually a loanword derived from the Greek adjective $\mu ovo\gamma \epsilon v \dot{\eta}\varsigma$.

Sahidic

For examination of the Sahidic, I reviewed the multi-volume *The Coptic Version of the New Testament in the Southern Dialect, Otherwise Called Sahidic and Thebaic,* by George William Horner.

1. <u>John</u> <u>1:14</u>

¹⁴ αφρεαρχ. αφοτως παιαπ. ατω απηατ επεψεσοτ. πθε απεσοτ ποτщηρε ποτωτ εβολ ειτα πεψειωτ. εψαηκ εβολ πχαρίς ει αε. ¹⁵ ιως απημε εραπτρε

2. <u>John</u> <u>1:18</u>

εβολ 2ιτή ις πεχς. ¹⁸ πηοστε απε λαατ ματ ερος επες. πηοστε πωμρε ποτωτ πετωοοπ 2π κοτης απεςειωτ πεταιατ πεηταςωατε ερος. ¹⁹ ατω

3. <u>John</u> 3:16

> שָׁם פּױפָסָ. ¹⁶ דמו שמף דפ פּפּ פּױדם חווסדדפ מּפּּףפּ חוּוּסכּמּסכ. סַשְּכדפּ חפּקשַאףפּ חפּקשַאףפּ חוּסדשד מק-דממק. בפאמכ סדסא אופי פּדחוכדפדפ פּףסק. הוופקסָפּ פּוּסָל. מללמ פּקפּבּו הסדשוק השֵׁם פּױפּסָ. ¹⁷ הדם ohn

4. <u>John</u> 3:18

סדבמו בעסל צודססדק. ¹⁸ הבדהוכדבדב בעסק. הכבחמ-איר האווי העסק מו. הבדבהקהוכדבדב שב מו. אשא מדארווים העסק. שב החקהוכדבדב בהקמו החשאיר הסדטד הדב האסדדב. ¹⁹ דמו דב דבאירוכו. שב מ הסדס-5. <u>1 John</u>

3. <u>1 join</u> 4:9

> דמרימווא. ⁹ לא המו א דמרימווא אוווסדדר סדשוק באסא הפאדה. שר א המסדר דהמססד אהרביןשאףר הסדשד בפאמו ההאסכבנסר. שר במבשוק באסא אודססדק.

6. <u>Luke</u> 7:12

யூலபு. ¹² птерецоюн ас еботи етптан птполи ею оннте атп ота свод есноотт. ступре потыт пе пте тесниаат. птос ас истхира те. истп отминије ас пте тподи ишмас пе. ¹³ а паоси uke

7. <u>Luke</u> 8:42

9:38

ερος. ³⁸ εις δημιτε σε ατρωπε ει εβολ δα υπημώε αλαιώκας εβολ είσω απος. σε υςαδ. 4 couc aποκ. ωώμτ εσα υνώμρε. σε οτώμρε μολωτ μαι με. ³⁹ ατω εις δημιτε ώσρε οτυμα ταδοί μίζαιώ-Heb.

9. <u>Heb.</u> 11:17

> атсовте пар потполіс. ¹⁷ оп отпістіс аврадаці ацтале ісаан пецщире потыт едраг. потпентацщып ероц ппернт. ¹⁸ наі птатщахе нашац.

Analysis of the Sahidic

Each of the verses used a declension of the Sahidic adjective NOYWT (*nouōt*). According to *The Sahidica Lexicon: A Basic Sahidic-English Lexicon*, the Sahidic adjective NOYWT translates into English as "one, the only, alone."

NOY=: your (p) **

NOYB: m. gold *

NOYTE: m. god, (w/def art) God **

NOYODT: one, the only, alone

NOY2: m. rope

NOY2M: to save, rescue *

NOYX: false, lying *

Georgian

The earliest extant Georgian manuscript is known as the Adysh Gospels (Geo. ადიშის ოთხთავი), dated to the late 9th century A.D.

- 1. John 1:14
- 2. John 1:18
- 3. John 3:16
- 4. John 3:18
- 5. 1 John 4:9
- 6. Luke 7:12
- 7. Luke 8:42
- 8. Luke 9:38

9. Heb. 11:17 Analysis of the Georgian

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Gothic

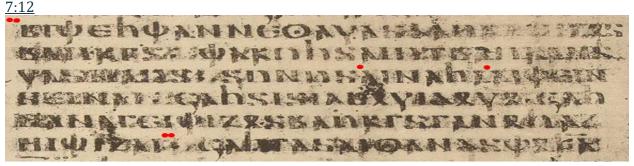
The earliest extant Gothic manuscript is known as the Gothic Bible or Wulfila Bible, which was translated by Wulfila ($\gamma \Box \lambda \vdash I \lambda \uparrow$) in the 4th century A.D. According to <u>Wikipedia</u>, Surviving fragments of the Wulfila Bible consist of codices from the 6th to 8th century containing a large part of the New Testament and some parts of the Old Testament, largely written in Italy. These are the Codex Argenteus, which is kept in Uppsala, the Codex Ambrosianus A through Codex Ambrosianus E, containing the epistles, Skeireins, and Nehemiah 5–7, the Codex Carolinus (Romans 11–14), the Codex Vaticanus Latinus 5750 (Skeireins), the Codex Gissensis (fragments of the Gospel of Luke) and the Fragmenta Pannonica, and fragments of a 1 mm thick metal plate with verses of the Gospel of John.

It does contain the Gospel of John, but it omits the relevant verses. It also omits 1 John and the Epistle to the Hebrews.

The text of the Wulfila Bible is available at <u>www.wulfila.be</u> with corresponding interlinear of the Greek NA26th/27th ed., Latin Clementine Vulgate, English King James Version, Dutch Statenvertaling, and/or French Louis Segond Version. It also features lexical linking to *Gotisch-Griechisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch* by Wilhelm Streitberg. In addition, facsimiles of the Codex Argenteus are available at:

http://app.ub.uu.se/arv/codex/faksimiledition/contents.html.

- 1. John 1:14 omitted
- 2. John 1:18 omitted
- 3. John 3:16 omitted
- 4. John 3:18 omitted
- 5. 1 John 4:9 omitted
- 6. <u>Luke</u>



Single red dots encompass the word אַרְאָאָאָן (ainaha); double red dots encompass Luke 7:12. Facsimile of entire page of manuscript containing Luke 7:9-14 (Ms. 147 r.) is available [here].

ΒΙΨΕΊ ΨΛΝ ΝΕΌΛ ΥΛΣ ΊΛΠΚΛ ΨΊΖΩΣ ΒΛΠΚΓΣ, ΨΛΚΠΊ ΣΛΙ, ΠΤΒΛΠΚΛΝΣ ΥΛΣ ΝΛΠΣ, SINNS **ΛΙΝΛΊΛ** ΛΙΨΕΊΝ SEINΛΙ, GΛΊ SI SIλΒΩ ΥΊΊΩΥΩ, GΛΊ ΜΛΝΛΓΕΊ ΨΊΖΩΣ ΒΛΠΚΓΣ ΓΛΝΩΊΊΛ ΜΊΨ ΙΖΛΙ. Gothic

biþeh þan nehva was daura þizos baurgs, þaruh sai, utbaurans was naus, sunus **ainaha** aiþein seinai, jah si silbo widowo, jah managei þizos baurgs ganoha miþ izai. **Romanization**

7. <u>Luke</u>

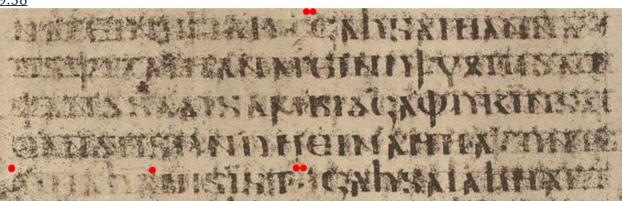


Single red dots encompass the word NNQNQ (*ainoho*); double red dots encompass Luke 8:42. Facsimile of entire page of manuscript containing Luke 8:38-43 (Ms. 155 r.) is available [here].

ΠΝΤΕ ΔΛΠΠΤΑΚ **ΑΙΝΩΝΩ** ΥΛS ΙΜΜΑ SYE ΥΙΝΤΚΙΥΕ ΤΥΑΛΙΒΕ, GAN SQ SYAAT. ΜΙΨΨΑΝΕΙ ΨΑΝ ΙΔΔGA IS, ΜΑΝΑΓΕΙΝS ΨΚΑΙΝΠΝ ΙΝΑ. Gothic

unte dauhtar **ainoho** was imma swe wintriwe twalibe, jah so swalt. miþþanei þan iddja is, manageins þraihun ina. **Romanization**

- 8. <u>Luke</u>
 - <u>9:38</u>



Single red dots encompass the word אוא (*dinaha*); double red dots encompass Luke 9:38. Facsimile of entire page of manuscript containing Luke 9:36-42 (Ms. 160 v.) is available [<u>here</u>].

ՀՆԻ ՏՆԼ МՆՈՒՆ ՈՏ ѰӏΖՆԼ МՆՈՆՐЄԼΝ ՈӺҮՉПԼՆՆ ԱԼѰՆՈՆՏ։ ՆՆԼՏՆҚԼ ВԼՆՀՆ ѰПК ԼՈՏՆԼՕՆՈ ՆП ՏПNП МЄІNՆMMՆ, ПNTЄ **ՆԼՈՆՆՆ** MIS IST. Gothic jah sai, manna us þizai managein ufwopida qiþands: laisari, bidja þuk insaihvan du sunu

meinamma, unte **ainaha** mis ist. Romanization

9. Heb. 11:17 omitted

Analysis of the Gothic

Each of the three Lukan texts found in the Wulfila codices use a declension of the Gothic adjective Λ INADS (*ainahs*) to translate the Greek adjective μ ovoyɛvής. According to Streitberg, 2 Λ INADS (Λ INADA) is equivalent to the Greek adjective μ ovoyɛvής and German adjective <u>einzig</u> (which translates into English as "only, sole; unique").

ainaha sw.Adj. (187,1) μονογενής einzig N. L 7,12 9,38; N.Fem. ainoho (für ainaho) L 8,42.

Hebrew

There are no extant early Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament.

Latin

The earliest extant Latin manuscript of the gospels is perhaps the Codex Vercellensis dated to the 4th century A.D. According to <u>Wikipedia</u>,

Old Latin Codex Vercellensis Evangeliorum, preserved in the cathedral library is believed to be the earliest manuscript of the Old Latin Gospels. Its standard designation is "Codex a" (or 3 in the Beuron system of numeration).

It does not contain the First Epistle of John or the Epistle to the Hebrews. I could not find the digitized manuscript of the Codex Vercellensis available online, but I found a book entitled *Codex Vercellensis Iamdudum Ab Irico Et Bianchino Bis Editus Denuo Cum Manuscripto Collatus In Lucem Profertur*, by Francis Aidan Cardinal Gasquet, which contains the collated text of the Codex Vercellensis.

1. <u>John 1:14</u>

nati sunt et verbum caro factum est et inhabita uit in nobis et vidimus gloriam eius gloriam sicut **unici** filii a patre plenus gratiae et veritate

2. John 1:18

Dm nemo vidit unquam nisi **unicus** filius solus sinum patris ipse enarravit

3. John 3:16

nam sic eni dilexit deus hunc mundum ut filium suum **unicum** daret ut omnis qui credit in eum no pereat sed habeat vitam aeternam

4. <u>John 3:18</u>

Ideo qui credit in eum non iudicatur qui autem non credit iam iudica tus est quia non credidit in nomine **unici** filii dei

5. 1 John 4:9 Omitted 6. <u>Luke 7:12</u>

Factum est autem cum adropinquaret portae civtatis et ecce efferebatur mortuus filius **unicus** matris suae et haec erat vidua et turba civitatis magna cum illa

7. <u>Luke 8:42</u>

quia filia unica erat ille fere annorum duodecim et haec moriebatur et factum est dum iret turba ... at et con[pri]me[bat]

8. <u>Luke 9:38</u>

et ecce virde [tur]ba exc[lam]avit dicens magister oro te respicias in filium meum quia **unicus** mihi est

9. Heb. 11:17 Omitted

Analysis of the Latin

Each verse examined contains a declension of the Latin adjective *unicus* which Lewis & Short define as "one and no more, only, sole, single (class)," as well as "unique."1

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ūnīcus, a, um, adj. [id.], one and no
more, only. sole, single (class.). I. Lit., of
number: tuus unicus gnatus, Plaut. As. 1,
1932
703; id. Phoen. 89.—II. Trop., of nature,
character, or quality, alone of its kind, sin-
gular, uncommon, unparalleled, unique (cf.:
egreg:us, eminens): homo unica est natura
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Slavonic

The earliest extant Slavonic manuscript is ...

- 1. John 1:14
- 2. John 1:18
- 3. John 3:16
- 4. John 3:18
- 5. 1 John 4:9
- 6. Luke 7:12
- 7. Luke 8:42
- 8. Luke 9:38
- 9. Heb. 11:17

Analysis of the Slavonic

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Syriac

The <u>earliest extant Syriac manuscript</u> containing the gospels appears to be the Curetonian Syriac. For examination of the Syriac, I reviewed the two-volume *Evangelion da-Mepharreshe: the Curetonian Version of the Four Gospels, with the Readings of the Sinai Palimpsest and the Early Syriac Patristic Evidence,* by Francis Crawford Burkitt.

1. John 1:14 mbulsot. Hoselton est moto on site and out another when the the second the server and the second .KILO 2. <u>Iohn</u> 1:18 at un rada a ralalis non aus sar ator au עושתי. בעודא כוא דרק בגבה דאבהה, הה אצולבו לן. 3. <u>Iohn</u> 3:16 "דבהל "אנא המתיבן כמי נמחה למי יייא הלבלת. "מבוא Lis nue. NLON Lelen. neen elego uuen anc. דבל אנא דרמינה, כה נהסה לה עוא דלבות. יולא ביו 4. <u>John</u> 3:18 כח נוא. "דע הכתובן כח לא מאדין. הבן הלא היו מתובן מעוב הם. גלא הנה בוכה גבוה גאלמא נענגא. "הנא הם 5. 1 John 4:9 Omitted 6. Luke 7:12 נאין האלגבינהה, אולין שהה בדמה הכוצא שליאא ייסוב this recentr [ours as aloc], [and runsin] and LARED. DOR. NIRLAS MORE. DALE MON LEM CLIM

שליאא בל בני בניקאא גיוש יצטר טאניות לוש טאבי

7. <u>Luke</u>

Analysis of the Syriac

The Curetonian Syriac manuscript consistently translates the Greek adjective μονογενής by a declension of the Syriac adjective حست (*yechidaya*). According to Robert Payne Smith in *A Compendious Syriac Dictionary*,**** the Syriac word حست means "sole, only, only-begotten."

المُعْسَبُ اللَّهُ from مِعْدَ a) sole, only, the only-begotten; الحُرْ الْحُرْ الْحُرْ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ مُعْدَ اللَّهُ مُعْدَى اللَّهُ مُعْدى مُعْدى مُعْدى اللَّهُ مُعْدى اللَّهُ مُعْدى اللَّهُ مُعْدى مُعْدى اللَّهُ مُعْدى مُعْدى اللَّهُ مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْحُدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْ مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَ مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْ مُعْدى مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْلَى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْ عُلْهُ مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْدى الْعُلْمَة مُعْلَى الْعُلْمَ مُعْلَى مُعْلُ عُلْهُ مُعْلَى مُعْلَى الْعُلْمَة مُعْلَى مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْمَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَمَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَا مُعْلَي مُعْلُي مُعْلَمَ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَالِي عُلْعُلْعُ مُعْلَى الْعُلْعَامِ مُعْلَى الْ

Footnotes

1 p. 1932, ūnĭcus 2 p. 4 x Luke 7:12, 8:42, 9:38; John 1:14, 3:16; Heb. 11:17 y John 1:18, 3:18; 1 John 4:9 z p. 198 aa p. 191

References

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