

Why Do I Believe?

APOLOGETICS 101: LEARNING WHAT I BELIEVE AND WHY
THE NEW TESTAMENT & JESUS

Overview

- ▶ The Canon
 - What is Canon?
 - How the New Testament was canonized.
- ▶ Extra-biblical support for Jesus (Yeshua)



The Canon of Scripture

What is canon?

Is a standard or rule used to measure something.

The Bible: specifically the **New Testament**

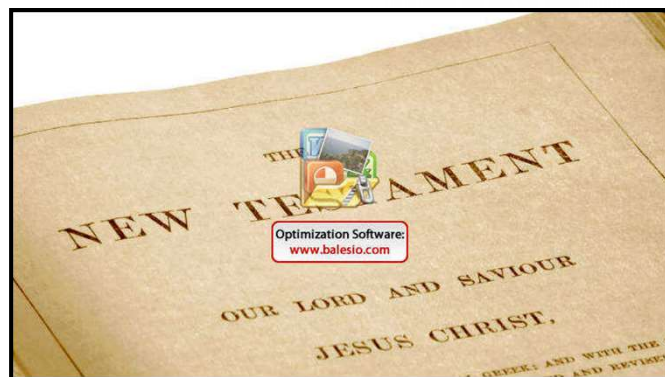


The Canon of Scripture

How was the New Testament compiled into one book?

How did we get the 27 books we have today?

Should there be more books?



The Canon of Scripture

Understood Criteria for Canonicity

- ❖ **Apostle or a colleague**
- ❖ **Orthodox**
- ❖ **Relevant**
- ❖ **Widespread/Longstanding**



The Canon of Scripture

Authoritative Literature

- ❖ Luke referred to as "Scripture" (1Tim 5:18) → (Luke 10:7)
- ❖ Paul's letters referred to as "Scripture" (2 Pet 3:16)

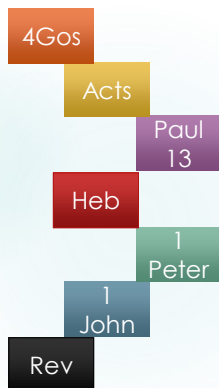
The Canon of Scripture

Historical View

- ❖ Between AD 40-100 the writings of the Apostles begin to circulate
- ❖ AD 125 Polycarp quotes Ephesians and refers to it as a part of the "Sacred Scriptures"
- ❖ Marcion (writing 130-140 AD) first to create a canon of scripture for the New Testament, but was branded a heretic.
- ❖ Justin Martyr c.150 AD "memoirs of the Apostles"
- ❖ Irenaeus c.AD 180 "fourfold form of the Gospel"
- ❖ By the mid 200's AD 17-22 of the NT books with 5 in question

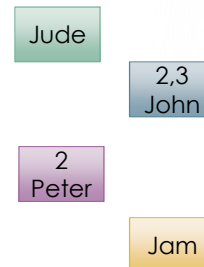
The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (22)



Doubtful (5)

Eusebius c.320-330 AD



The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (26+1)

Doubtful (1)



Cyril of Jerusalem
350 AD

Rev

The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (26)

Doubtful (1)



Laodicea Synod
363 AD

Rev

The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)



Athanasius
367 AD

The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)



Gregory of Nazianus
390 AD

The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (26)

Doubtful (1)



The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)



The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)



Jerome
394 AD

The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)

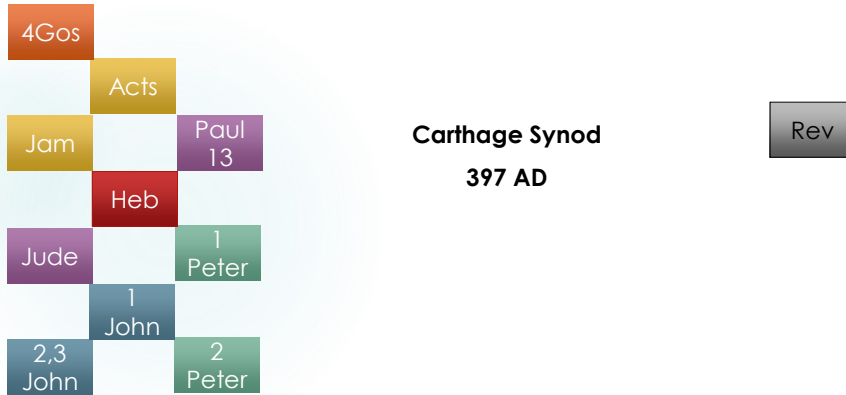


Augustine
c.395-400 AD

The Canon of Scripture

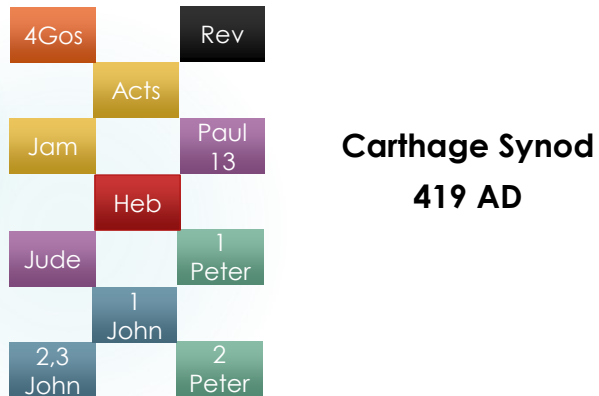
Recognized (26)

Doubtful (1)

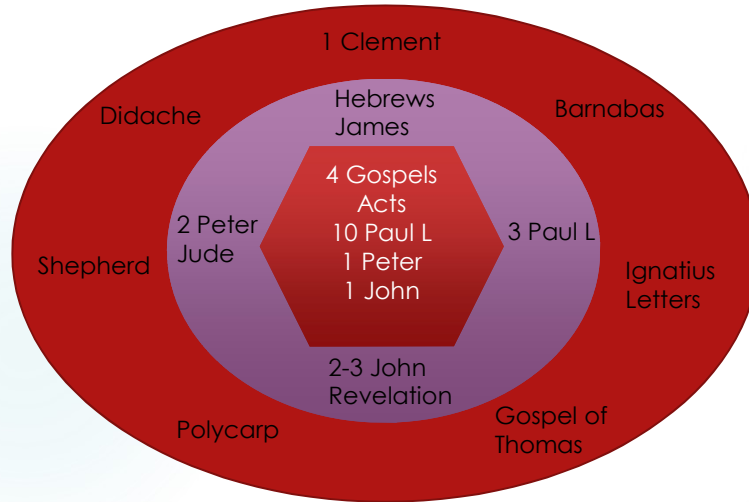


The Canon of Scripture

Recognized (27)



The Canon of Scripture



Gospel of Mary
Gospel of Egypt
Gospel of Phillip
Gospel of Peter
Gospel of Paul
Gospel of the Hebrews



Extra-biblical Writings Mentioning Jesus

Extra-biblical Confirmation

Jewish historian Josephus (37 A.D.–100 A.D.) recorded the history of the Jewish people in Israel from 70 A.D. to 100 A.D. In his work *Antiquities*, he states:

Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the gentiles. He was the Christ and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. For he appeared alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day.

Extra-biblical Confirmation

Pliny the Younger, Emperor of Bythynia in northwestern Turkey, writing to Emperor Trajan in 112 A.D. writes:

They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God, and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed, but to abstain from all fraud, theft and adultery, never to break their word, or deny a trust when called upon to honor it; after which it was their custom to separate, and then meet again to partake of food, but ordinary and innocent kind.

One of the most important Romans historians is Tacitus. In 115 A.D. he recorded Nero's persecution of the Christians, in the process of which he wrote the following:

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, . . . but even in Rome.

Extra-biblical Confirmation

Suetonius (c. A.D. 69 - c. A.D. 140)

Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition.

Mara Bar-Serapion (70AD)

Sometime after 70AD, a Syrian philosopher named Mara Bar-Serapion, writing to encourage his son, compared the life and persecution of Jesus with that of other philosophers who were persecuted for their ideas.

“What benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death? Famine and for burning Pythagoras? In one moment their country was covered with sand. Or the Jews by murdering their wise king?...After that their kingdom was abolished. God rightly avenged these men...The wise king...Lived on in the teachings he enacted.”

Extra-biblical Confirmation

Lucian of Samosata: (115-200 A.D.)

Lucian was a Greek satirist who spoke sarcastically of Christ and Christians, but in the process, he did affirm they were real people and never referred to them as fictional characters:

“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account....You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property.” (Lucian, *The Death of Peregrine*. 11-13)

Extra-biblical Confirmation

Celsus (175AD)

Celsus was quite antagonistic to the claims of the Gospels, but in his criticism he unknowingly affirmed and reinforced the Biblical authors and their content. His writing is extensive and he alludes to 80 different Biblical quotes, confirming their early appearance in history. In addition, he admits the miracles of Jesus were generally believed in the early 2nd century:

who out of *"Jesus had come from a village in Judea, and was the son of a poor Jewess who gained her living by the work of her own hands. His mother had been turned out of doors by her husband, who was a carpenter by trade, on being convicted of adultery [with a soldier named Panthéra (i.32)]. Being thus driven away by her husband, and wandering about in disgrace, she gave birth to Jesus, a bastard. Jesus, on account of his poverty, was hired out to go to Egypt. While there he acquired certain (magical) powers which Egyptians pride themselves on possessing. He returned home highly elated at possessing these powers, and on the strength of them gave himself out to be a god."*

Resource

- ▶ <http://coldcasechristianity.com/2014/is-there-any-evidence-for-jesus-outside-the-bible/>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu6jo7qCrel>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCTZ9LgMwPE>

