

apttoteach.org


THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 3:1-2
Lesson #10
Apostolic Gospel
11/21/2021

2 Peter Finding our way as aliens in this World

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.	Control your expectations and responses.	Clarify true and false hope.
1:1-4	1:5-15 1:16-21	2:1-22	3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope



Alien life coaching

Aliens need to identify the Apostolic message as the Word and Way of the Cross.

1

2 Peter 3

“¹ This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of a reminder, ² that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.”

The message of Jesus’ apostles

2

The Gospel Message

The Word of the Cross

- What Christ DID FOR us
- Grace applied to us by God
- Substitutionary atonement out of love
- Virtue imputed through faith


The Way of the Cross

- What Christ DOES IN & THROUGH us
- Grace applied by us to others
- Self sacrifice out of love
- Faith expressed through love

3

1st century context


The incarnated Word and Way



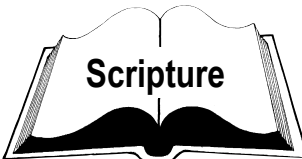
A message about the crucified & risen Messiah

The inculcated Word and Way

Oral tradition



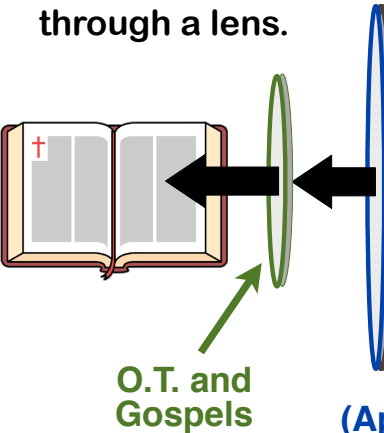
Indwelling Holy Spirit



Scripture

4

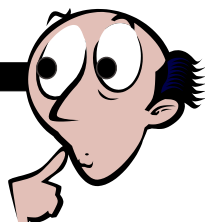
We read the Bible through a lens.



O.T. and Gospels

Epistles (Apostolic teaching)

All Scripture is written FOR us but not TO us or ABOUT us.

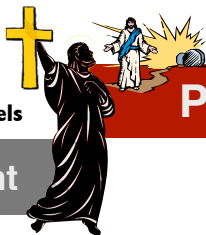


5

Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring **more revelation and understanding.**

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Old Covenant

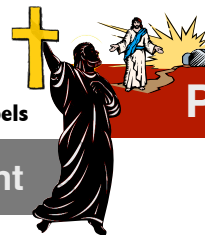
Acts - Epistles

6

The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as **the beginning of the Gospel community.**

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Old Covenant

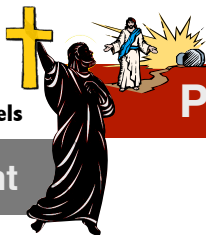
Acts - Epistles

7

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

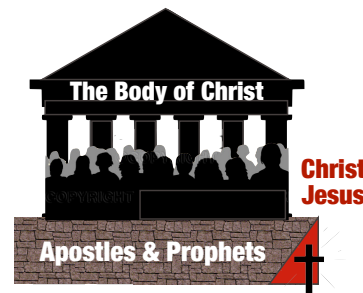
Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

8

Ephesians 2

“20 having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.”



The apostles' teaching is the foundation of the FAITH (noun) for all who have ears to hear.

9

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as **there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

Do we have the right Gospel?

? The Word and the Way of the Cross ?



10

There were many documents circulating in the early church.

GOSPELS

1. THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS (Gnostic)
2. THE INFANCY GOSPEL OF THOMAS
3. THE GOSPEL OF PETER
4. PROTOEVANGELIUM OF JAMES (devotion to Mary)
5. THE GOSPEL OF THE HEBREWS (Gnostic)
6. THE GOSPEL OF THE EGYPTIANS (Gnostic)
7. THE GOSPEL OF THE NAZARENES (like the Synoptics)
8. THE GOSPEL OF PHILIP (Gnostic)
9. THE BOOK OF THOMAS THE ATHLETE (Gnostic)
10. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATHIAS (Gnostic)
11. THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS (Gnostic)
12. EPISTLE OF AN APOSTLE
13. APOCRYPHON OF JOHN
14. THE GOSPEL OF TRUTH
15. THE GOSPEL OF THE EDIONITES

11

ACTS

1. ACTS OF JOHN
2. ACTS OF PETER
3. ACTS OF PAUL
4. ACTS OF ANDREW
5. ACTS OF THOMAS
6. THE CONTINUATION OF THE EARLY ACTS OF APOSTLES
7. LATER ACTS OF OTHER APOSTLES

EPISTLES

1. THE KERYGMA PETROU
2. THE KERYGMATA PETROU
3. THE EPISTLE TO THE LAODICEANS
4. THE APOCRYPHAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SENECA AND PAUL
5. THE PSEUDO-TITUS EPISTLE

12

APOCALYPSE

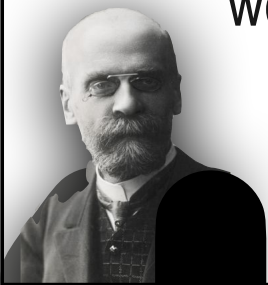
1. THE ASCENSION OF ISAIAH
2. APOCALYPSE OF PETER
3. THE FIFTH AND SIXTH BOOKS OF ESRA
4. CHRISTIAN SIBYLLINES
5. THE BOOK OF ELCHASAI
6. APOCALYPSE OF PAUL
7. APOCALYPSE OF THOMAS
8. BOOK OF ENOCH

BOOKS ACCEPTED BY SOME (apocrypha)

1. EPISTLE OF PSEUDO-BARNABAS
2. EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS (quotes from Hebrews)
3. SECOND EPISTLE OF CLEMENT (placed after Revelation)
4. SHEPHERD (like "Pilgrim's Progress")
5. DIDACHE (2nd century Christian theology)
6. ACTS OF PAUL & THECLA
7. EPISTLE TO THE LAODICEANS
8. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE HEBREWS
9. EPISTLE OF POLYCARP TO THE PHILIPPIANS
10. THE SEVEN EPISTLES OF IGNATIUS

13

"The Bible says that man is created in the image of God. History suggests that man has worked hard to return the favor."



Emile Durkheim
(father of modern sociology)

14

Critics insist that the early church invented the message and created the N.T. canon.



15

The Word and Way of the Cross
is not the kind of gospel that
"fallen humans" in the 1st cent.
or our day would make up.

1 Corinthians 1

"²³ but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

16

2 Peter 1

"²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**"

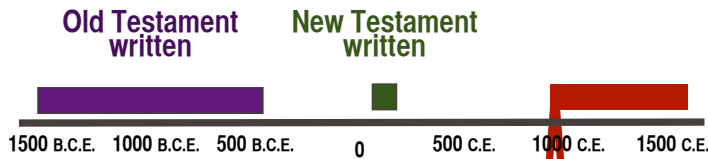
An unexpected narrative

- Crucified Messiah
- Cowardly human leaders
- Spread to and by the weak and poor
- Living sacrifice



17

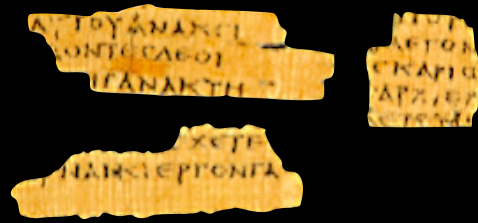
There are a large number of extant Biblical manuscripts.



93% of all extant Biblical manuscripts are dated after 900 C.E.

18

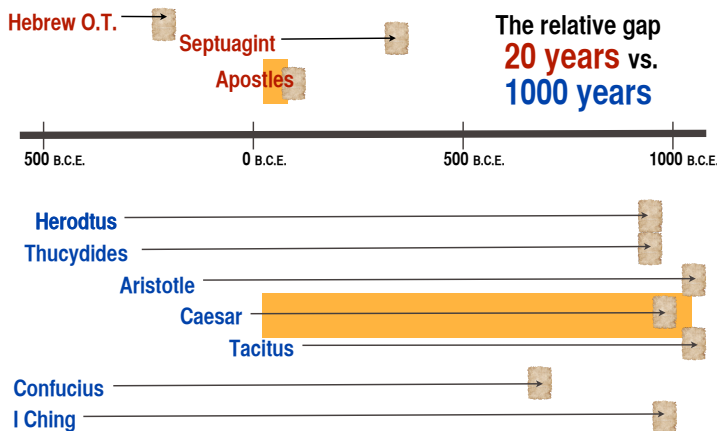
Magdalene Fragment (P₆₄)
30-60 C.E. A portion of Matthew



One of the earliest known copies of any portion of the New Testament

19

Ancient authors and extant manuscripts



20

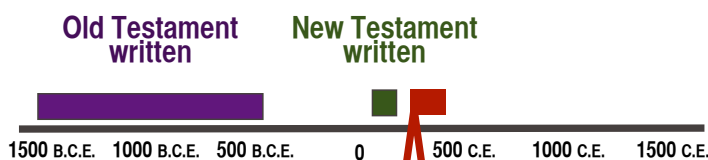
“If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded beyond all doubt.”



*F. F. Bruce
Manchester University*

21

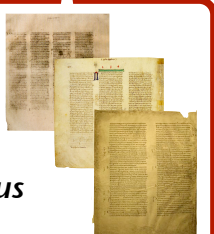
Three Greek manuscripts are at the core of our modern translations of the Bible.



Codex Sinaiticus
331 C.E.

Codex Vaticanus
350 C.E.

Codex Alexandrinus
450 C.E.



22

“Biblical scholarship has increased the basis of my personal faith to see the firmness with which these materials have come down to us, with a multiplicity of copies, some of which are very, very ancient. I’ve asked questions all my life, I’ve dug into the text, I’ve studied this throughout, and today I know with confidence that my trust in Jesus has been well placed. Very well placed.”



Bruce Metzger

23

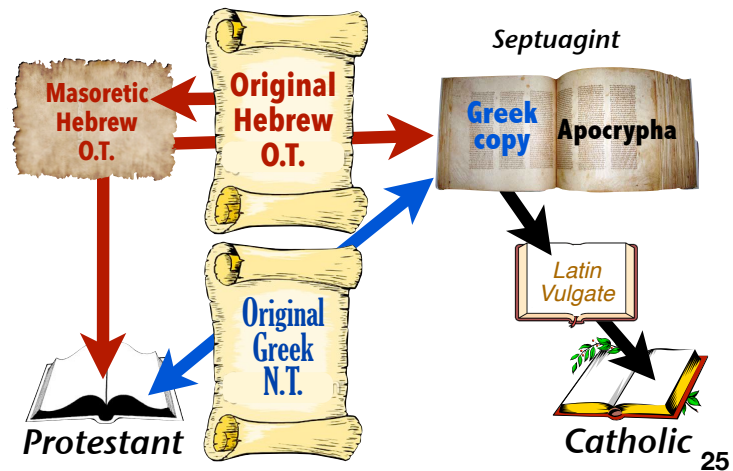
“Most of the changes found in our early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes, pure and simple - slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another.”



Bart Ehrman in Misquoting Jesus
pp. 10, 55-56, 62, 94, 177

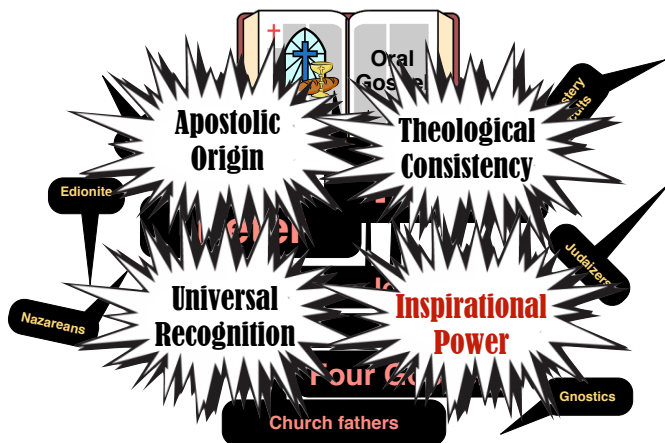
24

Why does the Protestant Bible differ from the Roman Catholic Bible?



25

Four guides to canonicity



26

The authority of the Gospel

- Does not rest primarily in the inerrancy of the Bible - Protestant fundamentalism.
- Does not rest primarily in the authority of the church - Roman Catholicism.
- Does not rest in the culture of the readers - Protestant liberalism.
- **It rests primarily in the power of the message itself** - in its appeal to the image of God in humanity.

27

Romans 2:15

“they show the work of the Law **written in their hearts**, their **conscience** bearing witness and their **thoughts** alternately accusing or else defending themselves,”

Romans 8:16

“**The Spirit** himself testifies with **our spirit** that we are children of God.”

God’s Spirit touches the image of God in us to notarize the message of the Gospel.

28

Lessons

- The authority and power of the Word is in the message itself, **and does not demand a precise inerrancy of the Biblical text.**
- The N.T. contains the **Apostles’ message**. It is not the kind of message that a Jew or Gentile would invent nor a narrative that man would write.
- When we give an account of our hope, we appeal to the power of the message.

1 Peter 3:15 “being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you”

29

How do we give an account?

2 Peter 3

"15 just as also our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all *his* letters, ... which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they* do also **the rest of the Scriptures**,"

- The witness of God through the **Scriptures properly understood.**

Acts 5:32

"And we are witnesses of these things; and **so is the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

- The witness of the **Spirit** to our spirit.

30

The Christian message
addresses
life's big
questions



better than the
alternatives

- ✓ Why do we die?
- ✓ What do we live for?
- ✓ Why do we do good?
- ✓ Why do we struggle?
- ✓ Why do we long for more?

31

1 John 2

"26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 27 And as for you, the **anointing which you received from Him abides in you**, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you **abide in Him.**"

Be a Berean - learn how to read the Scripture and don't duck your responsibility to own your faith.

32

2 Timothy 2:15

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**"

Rightly reading the Scripture is not a matter of special revelation, subjective impulse, or blindly following the crowd or a leader.

Be careful who you listen to.

33

There are two
natures in every
Christian.



The one we feed is the one that grows.

34



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