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2


New Testament Introduction

1. A new addition - Inspired Scripture
2. A new covenant - The Biblical context
3. A new message - The Word of Life
4. A new lifestyle - The Way of the Cross
5. A new nature - The Spirit of Christ
6. A new Israel - The Body of Christ
7. A new mission - The Disciples of Christ
8. A new hope - The Return of Christ

3


“He who has ears to hear let him hear.”
What constitutes the Word of God?

It is embodied in the person and work of Jesus.




Personification (flesh & blood)
Son of God

It is the MESSAGE that enlightens those who have ears to hear.



It is written and passed on through documents.



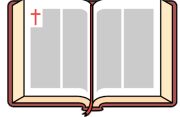
Propositions (oral narratives - written truths)
Scripture

4

New Testament

The Law	History
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther
Poetry	Major & Minor Prophets
Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of songs Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	
Gospels	History Paul's Letters
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Philemon
General Letters	Prophecy
Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation

How did the New Testament become a part of our Bible?



5

John 16

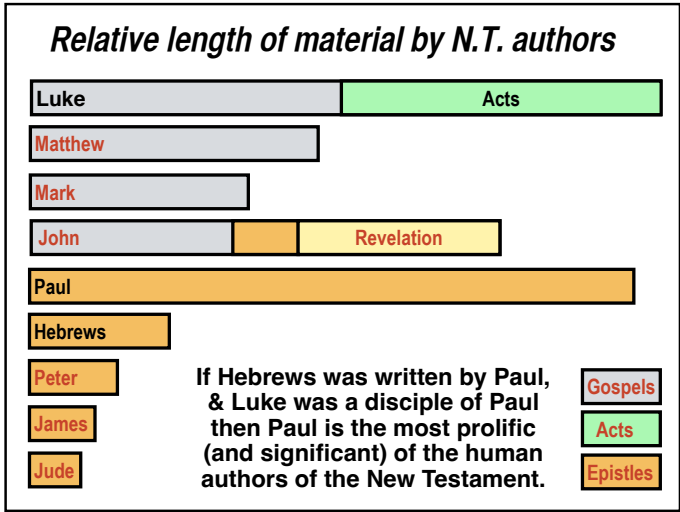
“12 I have **many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** 13 **But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.”

“The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.”

Jesus is the “main thing”

not the Holy Eucharist, Holy Mother, Holy Spirit,
Holy Self, Holy Church,
or Holy Bible.

6



7

Understanding Apostolic teaching is key to understanding Christianity.

1. Christianity cannot be reduced to **ethical piety, emotional encounter, or social justice.**
2. Justifying faith is rooted in **moral virtue**, but not our own.
3. The New Covenant is not a **doubling down on the O.C. Law** but fulfilling its demands.
4. The whole Bible is written FOR us, but not always **TO or ABOUT us.**
5. Godly behavior is **motivated by love not fear.**

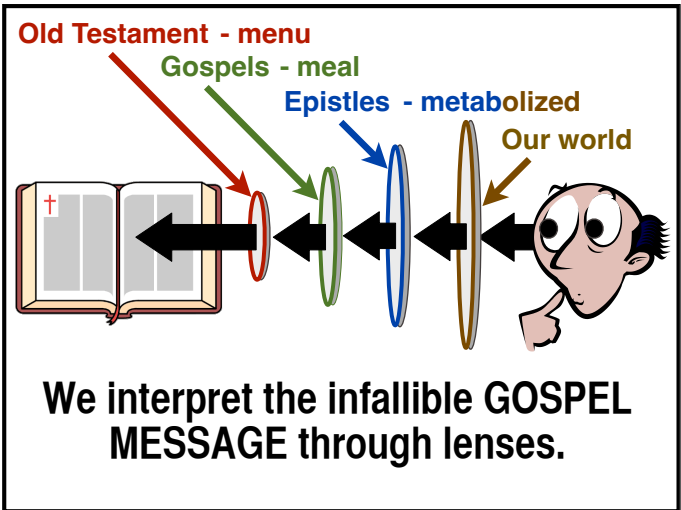
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John 1
 “4 **In Him was life**, and the life was the **Light** of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.”

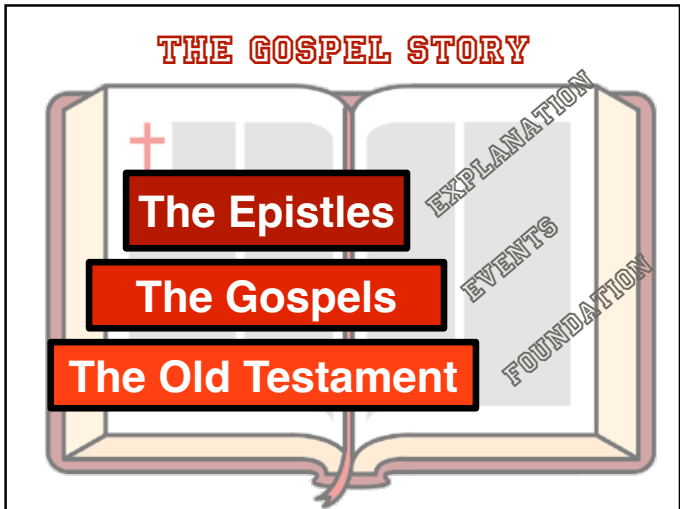
John 12
 “25 **He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.** 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

John 17:26
 “... that the **love wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them.**”

9



10



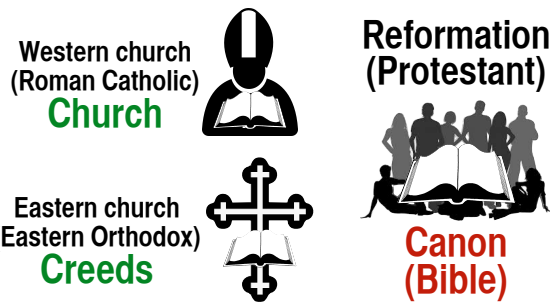
11

2 Timothy 3
 “15 and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings**, which are able to **give you the wisdom that leads to salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- The Bible was a **wise MESSAGE** from God through human writers for those who listen.
- The Torah was **dictated** in stone by God, the N.T. is **REVEALED** through the Spirit of Christ.
- The message of **APOSTOLIC TEACHING** and writing shaped the theology of the church.
- The O.T. is the **MENU**, the N.T. is the **MEAL.**

12

After the Apostles died,
Christians needed an authoritative
guide to the **GOSPEL MESSAGE**.



13

2 Peter 3

“15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which **the untaught and unstable distort**, as they do **also the rest of the Scriptures**, to their own destruction.”

- ✓ The early church respected a canon of authoritative / **INSPIRED TEXTS**.
- ✓ The canon included **APOSTOLIC LETTERS**.
- ✓ Sound **TEACHING** is vital for a healthy church.

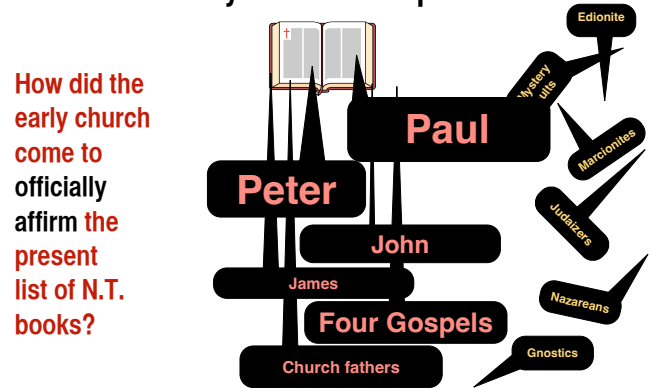
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THE REJECTED BOOKS (pseudepigrapha or “false writings”)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>GOSPELS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS (Gnostic) 2. THE INFANCY GOSPEL OF THOMAS 3. THE GOSPEL OF PETER 4. PROTEVANGELIUM OF JAMES (devotion to Mary) 5. THE GOSPEL OF THE HEBREWS (Gnostic) 6. THE GOSPEL OF THE EGYPTIANS (Gnostic) 7. THE GOSPEL OF THE NAZARAEANS (Synoptics) 8. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATHIAS (Gnostic) 9. THE BOOK OF THOMAS THE ATHLETE (Gnostic) 10. THE GOSPEL OF PHILIP (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 <p>APOCALYPSE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>ACTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACTS OF JOHN 2. ACTS OF PETER 3. ACTS OF PAUL 4. ACTS OF ANDREW 5. ACTS OF THOMAS 6. EARLY ACTS OF APOSTLES 7. LATER ACTS OF APOSTLES <p>EPISTLES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE KERYGMA PETROU 2. THE KERYGMATA PETROU 3. THE EPISTLE TO THE LAODICEANS 4. THE BETWEEN SENECA & PAUL 5. THE PSEUDO-TITUS EPISTLE <p>BOOKS ACCEPTED BY SOME (apocrypha)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
|---|---|

15

What criteria was used
to identify a text as inspired?



How did the early church come to officially affirm the present list of N.T. books?

16

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How did the early church come to officially affirm the present list of N.T. books?

17

Centers of early Christianity.



18

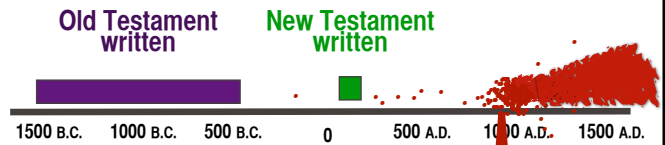
End of the Gospel of Thomas

“Let Mary go away from us, because women are not worthy of life. I shall lead her in order to make her a male, so that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Does this sound like the Gospel message of Jesus and the Apostles?

19

There are a large number of extant Biblical manuscripts.



93% of all extant Biblical manuscripts are dated after 900 A.D.

20

History of the Canon of the New Testament



- Most books were **accepted when written**.
- The first list of books was a response to the Gnostic heretic **Marcion**. (140 C.E.)
- The **Council of Nicea** (325 C.E.) and the work of **Eusebius** established an **official canon**.
- The present list by **Athanasius** (367 C.E.)
- The final official canon at the **Council of Carthage** (397 C.E.)

21

Why did it take so long for the N.T. books to be compiled together?

1. The originals were **scattered** across the whole Roman empire.
2. No **scroll** could contain more than one or two books.
3. Christ was expected to **return** soon.
4. No one church or leader dominated or represented a **headquarters**.
5. The Apostles were still **alive**.
6. The rise of **heretical** teaching.

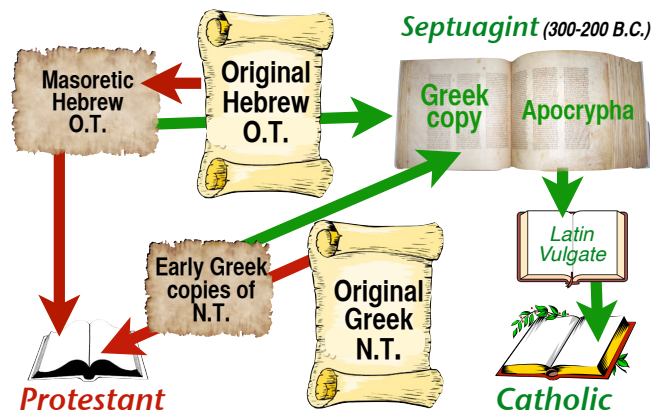
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Which books were in dispute and why?

- **Hebrews** - uncertainty of authorship
- **James** - conflict with Paul’s letters
- **2 Peter** - different in style from 1 Peter
- **2 & 3 John** - private nature and limited circulation
- **Jude** - it quotes from Enoch (vs.14-15)
- **Revelation** - its teaching of the millennium

23

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



24

What should we learn from this?

1. An appreciation of the **importance of the Apostolic message** recorded in the documents of the N.T.
2. An understanding of the **criteria used to authenticate** the N.T. cannon and its wisdom.
3. An understanding of variations in **differing Christian translations.**



25

When the Son shines
all other stars
lose their shine.

26

New Testament

Next week
Gal. 4:1-5

How does the
N.C. relate to
the O.C.?

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