

The Canon (Part 1)

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I. The Meaning of Canon

- Canon: comes through the Latin, from the Greek
- Used to refer to:
 - A straight rod/rule
 - A rule or a standard
 - A series or a list



The Canon of Scripture

1. The list of books acknowledged to be inspired.
2. The rule or standard of belief or practice.



II. Official Church Recognition: The Criteria

- Apostolicity
- Antiquity
- Orthodoxy
- Catholicity
- Lection
- Inspiration



II. Official Church Recognition: The History

- Age of Apostles
 - Paul
 - Peter
- Post-apostolic
 - Clement of Rome (c. 95 AD)
 - Ignatius (c. 115 AD)
 - Polycarp (c. 108 AD; a disciple of John)
 - Irenaeus (185 AD)
 - Hippolytus (170-235 AD)
- The Muratorian Canon (170 AD)
- Athanasius (367 AD) cited the 27 books of the NT as being the only true books from God
- Council of Laodicea (363 AD)
- Council of Hippo (393 AD)
- Council of Carthage (397 AD)



III. The Biblical Criteria



A. The Old Testament

- The OT
 - Jewish canon
 - Hebrew OT
 - Law
 - Prophets
 - Writings
 - Poetical books
 - Megilloth
 - Historical books
- Canon settled before Christ
 - Jewish scholarship
 - Josephus
- Christ endorsed this canon



How was the OT Universally Accepted?

- God unmistakably and undeniably chose Moses as His mouthpiece to the people (Ex. 19; Num. 12).
- Moses predicted that others like him would continue to speak for God (Dt. 18:15-19).
- Moses provided two criteria by which future prophets must be judged:
 - Dt. 18:21-22
 - Dt. 13:1-5
- Moses also seemed to indicate God would often authenticate true prophets with miracles (Ex. 4:1-5).
- The true prophet's word was immediately accepted.



The Progression of Writing Prophets

- Moses (Dt. 31:24-26)
- Joshua (Josh. 24:26)
- Samuel (1 Sam. 10:25)
- 1 Ch. 29:29
- 2 Ch. 9:29
- 2 Ch. 12:15
- 2 Ch. 13:22
- 2 Ch. 20:34
- 2 Ch. 32:32
- 2 Ch. 33:19
- The Major & Minor Prophets



Immediate Acceptance

- Joshua accepted the writings of Moses.
- Micah quotes Isaiah, his contemporary (Mic. 4:1-4).
- Isaiah quotes Micah (Is. 2:2-4).
- Daniel accepts Jeremiah, his older contemporary, as speaking God's truth (Dan. 9:2).
- Dan. 9:2 refers to the writing of Jeremiah in Jer. 25:11ff as the word of the Lord, because Jeremiah was God's prophet.

