

II. The Official Church Recognition of the Canon: the Criteria

- Age of Apostles
 - Paul re Luke (1 Tim. 5:18; cf. Dt. 25:4; Lk. 10:7)
 - Peter re Paul's letters (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
- Post-apostolic
 - Clement of Rome (95 AD)
 - Ignatius (115 AD)
 - Polycarp (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 the only true NT era books from God
 - Council of Laodicea (363 AD)
 - Council of Hippo (393 AD)
 - Council of Carthage (397 AD)



A. The Old Testament

3. Multiple witnesses confirm that the OT canon matches our OT and was settled before the time of Christ.
 - a. The common view of Jewish scholarship
 - b. Josephus
4. Christ endorsed this canon (Mt. 5:18; Lk. 24:44).



What the “Apocrypha” Is

- Meaning: “Things that are hidden”
- Content: *LXX* minus the Jewish OT
- Includes these writings...
 - 1 & 2 Esdras
 - Tobit
 - Judith
 - The Rest of Esther
 - The Wisdom of Solomon
 - Ecclesiasticus (a.k.a., Sirach)
 - Baruch
 - The Song of the Three Holy Children
 - Susanna
 - Bel & the Dragon
 - The Prayer of Manasseh
 - 1 & 2 Maccabees



The History

The NT Era

- 1 Tim. 5:18
- 1 Cor. 14:37-38
- 2 Th. 2:5
- 2 Th. 3:6, 14
- 1 Th. 2:13

The Early Church Fathers

- Clement (95 AD): 8 (books)
- Ignatius (115 AD): 7
- Polycarp (108 AD): 15
- Irenaeus (185 AD): 21
- Muratorian Canon (170 AD): 24
- Athanasius (367 AD): 27
- The Councils (300s AD): 27



The Five Non-Apostolic Books

- Mark
 - Luke
 - Acts
 - Hebrews
 - Jude
- Mark → Peter
 - Luke → Paul
 - Acts → Paul
 - Hebrews → Paul
 - Jude → James (Jesus' half-brother)



