

The Origin of the Bible – NT

*How do we **know** what books should be in God's Word, the Bible?*

REVIEW – Keys to Canonicity:

- a. It **Claims** to be God's Word (Exodus 20:1, Isaiah 55:11)
- b. **God's People** accept it as such, and do so **Immediately** (Exodus 17:14, Deuteronomy 25:17)
 - Writers are **Eyewitnesses**; Recipients are **Contemporaries**
 - Scripture is **Protected** (Exodus 40:20-21, Deuteronomy 31:24-26, 1 Samuel 10:25) and **Honored** (Leviticus 10:11, Deuteronomy 31:11-12, Deuteronomy 17:18-19)
- c. Writers are usually attested with **Signs and Miracles** (Exodus 4:29-31)
- d. It is accurate in all **Predictions** (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Matthew 2:4-6)
- e. It does not **Contradict** earlier Scripture (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Galatians 1:8-9)
- f. It is **Confirmed** by subsequent Scripture (1 Kings 13:2, 2 Kings 23:16)

What about the New Testament?

1. The NT everywhere _____ God is speaking in the OT

- John 1:17
- Luke 24:25-27

2. The _____ principles of canonicity apply to the NT

a. The writers are Eyewitnesses

- 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 1 John 1:1

b. ... especially to the Resurrection

- Acts 1:3
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- Acts 26:26

c. Short-term Prophecy

- Acts 5:9-11

d. Signs & Miracles

- John 10:38
- Acts 3:6-8a
- Acts 19:11-12

e. Quoting earlier NT writings

- 1 Timothy 5:18: quotes _____ (OT) and _____ (NT)
- Jude 17-18: quotes _____

3. Self-testimony

- Hebrews 1:1-2a = The _____ of Scripture, OT and NT

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17 = The Author: “All Scripture is _____”
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 = Human authors: dynamically inspired by Holy Spirit (passive verb)
- Matthew 5:21-22a, 7:28-29 = _____ self-testimony
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 = _____ self-testimony
- 2 Peter 3:15-16 = Peter’s _____ of Paul’s writings

4. Other Cool Stuff

- All NT books written by “**apostolic men**” → **requirement**: had **seen** and were commissioned by the **resurrected** Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
 - But what about Mark, Luke, Jude?
- Jesus’ words** were brought to their remembrance **by the Holy Spirit** (John 14:25-26)
- Special revelation** _____ with the apostles (Jude 3)
 - Never again: **contemporaries** of Jesus, the _____ Prophet (Acts 3:15, 22; Deut. 18:15, Acts 7:37)
- NT was **begun** at the _____ possible date
 - People of the Book: **Written** accounts would have been **demanded** ASAP!
 - Evidence of Gospels **in Britain by mid-30s**
- NT was **completed** _____ the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70
 - ... to seal up vision and prophecy ... – *Daniel 9:24*
 - **Key Q**: *Why is there no reference in NT to this **earth-shaking event** having **already** happened?*
- Overwhelming manuscript evidence** → No question of NT accuracy or authenticity
 - Bonus!

5. The Testimony of the Early Church

- NT books were not canonized (“made canon” – i.e., selected/chosen by men **to be** God’s word) **rather**, they were _____ and _____ **as** canon, **as** God’s word
- Early writings **quoted** from NT books **as Scripture**, yet did not themselves claim to be Scripture
- **pseudepigrapha**: ancient writings falsely attributed to biblical figures

What about the Apocrypha = _____ ?

- Historical, poetic, devotional literature from the **Intertestamental** period (400 B.C. to A.D. 30)
- Never considered Scripture **by Jews**
 - when written (fail every test of canonicity)
 - in Christ’s day (Note: NT never quotes from as Scripture)
 - Jude 14-15 is no different than Acts 17:28 or 1 Corinthians 10:23
 - and they still don’t today
- Jerome (AD 383-404) when translated Greek NT into the Latin Vulgate, also 14 books in LXX
- Never considered Scripture by the Church until “canonized” at Council of Trent in 1545, basically in reaction to the *Sola Scriptura* thrust of the Protestant Reformation.