

Church History

The Canon

Canon

- Canon – reed – “a measuring rod”, “a ruler”
- Allegorically interpreting the Old Testament.
- About 140AD – Marcion
- Between 156 and 172AD - Montanus

Canon – confirmed by Jesus

- *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Lk. 24:44 NIV)*
- Matthew 23:33-36 (2Chron. 24:20-22)
- Josephus – “We have not 10,000 books, but 22.”
- Origen confirmed the 22 books mentioned by Josephus: (1-5) Books of Moses, (6) Joshua, (7) Judges-Ruth, (8) 1&2 Samuel, (9) 1&2 Kings, (10) Chronicles, (11) Ezra-Nehemiah, (12) Psalms, (13) Proverbs, (14) Ecclesiastes, (15) Song of Solomon, (16) Isaiah, (17) Jeremiah-Lamentations, (18) Daniel, (19) Ezekiel, (20) Job, and (21) Esther...
- He left out (22) Book of the Twelve.

Canon – confirmed by Jesus

- *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)
- ²⁰ *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (Jn. 17:20-21 NIV)*
- Hebrews 2:1-4

Canon

Marcion's texts – 140AD

- Edited version of Luke
- 10 letters of Paul – excluding 1&2 Timothy and Titus

Muratorian Fragment - 200

- Four Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters (Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, James, 1&2 John, Jude, Revelation, Revelation of Peter, Wisdom of Solomon)

Canon

Origen – 250AD

- Four Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters (all 13), 1Peter, 1John, Revelation.
- Disputed by some:
- Hebrews, James, 2Peter, 2&3John, Jude, The Shepherd of Hermes, Letter of Barnabas, Teaching of the Twelve, Gospel of the Hebrews.

Eusebius (300AD)

- Four Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, 1Peter, 1John, Revelation
- Disputed by some, but well known:
- James, 2Peter, 2&3John, Jude

Canon

Council of Carthage – 400AD

- Four Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, Hebrews, James, 1&2Peter, 1,2&3John, Jude, Revelation.