



GOD'S WORD IN OUR

Hands

SUNDAY EVENING SERIES



**IF GOD'S WORD IS NOT
TRUSTWORTHY WE DO NOT AND
CANNOT KNOW GOD.**

QUESTIONS THAT DESERVE ANSWERS

- What books of the Bible are inspired and should be recognized as part of God's authoritative revelation?
- Are any inspired books missing from our Bible?
- Are any book included in our Bible that should not be there?
- Is our Old Testament Bible the same as the Lord's and is our New Testament the same as the Bible of the church fathers?

THE BIBLE & CANONIZATION

Lesson #10

INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY POINTS

1. Practicing Jews and conservative Christians alike have acknowledged the 39 books of the Old Testament as inspired
2. Evangelical Protestants have recognized the 27 books of the New Testament as being inspired
3. Roman Catholics have a total of 80 books since they include the Apocrypha as being semi canonical



WHAT MAKES A BOOK OF SCRIPTURE CANONICAL?

#1: THE BASIC ISSUE CONCERNING THE CANON

Why not include other works by other early church fathers?

1. Letter of Clement
2. Ignatius of Antioch
3. Quardratus
4. The Epistle of Barnabas



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#2: THE LOGICAL NECESSITY OF THE CANON

A. God has revealed himself to humanity through His Word



“

All Scripture is God breathed and profitable ...

- *2 Timothy 3:16*

“

No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- 2 Peter 1:20-21

#2: THE LOGICAL NECESSITY OF THE CANON

- A. God has revealed himself to humanity through His Word
- B. God is able to preserve His Word



“

I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?

- Jeremiah 33:27

#2: THE LOGICAL NECESSITY OF THE CANON

- A. God has revealed himself to humanity through His Word
- B. God is able to preserve His Word
- C. God desires to preserve His Word





The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

- Psalm 12:6-7

“

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

- Mark 13:31

“

The counsel of the Lord stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

- *Psalm 33:11*

“

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

- *Psalm 119:89*

“

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

- *Psalm 119:160*

“

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the
Word of God shall stand forever.

- *Isaiah 40:8*

“

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

- Matthew 5:18

“

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

- Matthew 24:25

“

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

- 1 Peter 1:25

#2: THE LOGICAL NECESSITY OF THE CANON

- A. God has revealed himself to humanity through His Word
- B. God is able to preserve His Word
- C. God desires to preserve His Word
- D. Therefore, it would be unreasonable to think God wouldn't preserve the revelation of Himself through His Word if he had the ability and desire to do so.



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#3: THE CANONICITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. Contributions of the Masoretes

- They took painstaking steps to ensure that there was an accurate transmission of the text.



#3: THE CANONICITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. Contributions of the Masoretes

B. The Masoretic Text

1. The Law or Pentateuch (5 Books)
2. The Prophets (Originally 8 Books, then 21)
3. The Writings (Originally 11 Books, then 13)



#3: THE CANONICITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Criteria for Discerning Old Testament Canonical Books:

1. Did the book indicate God was speaking through the writer and that it was considered authoritative?
2. Was the human author recognized as a spokesman of God, that is, was he a prophet or did he have a prophetic gift?
3. Was the book historically accurate?



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#4: THE CANONICITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Factors Prompting the Formal Canon Recognition & Lists:

1. False teaching regarding the Scripture
2. Persecution for the sake of Scripture
3. Translation of the Scripture for missions
4. Inherent authoritative quality of NT books



#4: THE CANONICITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Formation of the New Testament Canon:

1. In the Apostolic Era
2. In the Post-Apostolic Era



#4: THE CANONICITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Criteria for Discerning New Testament Canonical Books:

1. Apostolicity
2. Conformity to the “rule of faith”
3. Widespread acceptance



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#5: THE ISSUE OF THE APOCRYPHA

1 Esdras

2 Esdras

Additions to Esther

1 Macabees

2 Macabees

Tobias

Judith

Wisdom

Sirach

Baruch

Epistle to Jeremiah

Susannah

Prayer of Azariah

Prayer of Manasseh

Bel and the Dragon

Laodiceans

#5: THE ISSUE OF THE APOCRYPHA

CATHOLIC ARGUMENT

Early Christians quote from the Apocrypha

REBUTTAL

Early Christians quoted from many different uninspired works. Why not include those?

The Apocrypha was included in the LXX

The Jews & early church never accepted it as being part of the Scripture.

The seminal councils that finalized the 66 canonical books accept it (Hippo, 399 and Carthage 397, 419)

False. The canon of the NT was set from the 1st C. It is wrong to assume that the church councils gave us the Word of God.

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