

- **Council of Jamnia AD 90-100**

- No records of what occurred.
- Not to decide what should be included.
- To discuss those already included.



- **Muratorian Canon AD 150**

- First list of books in the NT received by the church
- Did not include 1 and 2 Peter, James, and Hebrews

- **The church only ever used 4 gospels**

- No more than a dozen or so other “gospels” exist

- **By AD 180, 22 of 27 NT books were universally accepted**

- James, Jude, 2 & 3 John, 2 Peter, Hebrews, and Revelation
- Only a few churches had struggles with these.



- **The two earliest translations were the Syriac and the Old Latin. Each of these translations was completed by the year A.D. 170.**
- **The Syriac churches were located in the eastern Roman Empire. A translation of the books of the New Testament, known as the Peshitta, was made into Syriac at an early date. This translation included all of the present books of the New Testament except 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude, and Revelation.**
- **The books omitted in the Peshitta were originally sent to destinations in the western part of the Roman Empire. This explains their omission in the eastern part of the empire. Eventually all of these books were accepted in the east.**

- **The New Testament was also translated into Latin in the second century. The Old Latin New Testament contains every book except Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter. These writings were originally sent to the eastern part of the Roman Empire. Eventually the churches in the west accepted these books as Scripture.**
- **Therefore, since A.D. 170 there has been consensus on nineteen of the twenty-seven books. Only Hebrews, James, 1,2 Peter, 2,3, John, Jude and Revelation were not universally attested.**

- **AD 150 Muratorian Canon – 24**
- **AD 180 Irenaeus' testimony – 23**
- **AD 240 Origen of Alexandria – 27**
- **AD 325 Eusebius of Caesarea – 27**
 - 22 unquestioned and 5 widely used
 - Advisor to Constantine
- **AD 367 Athanasius of Alexandria – 27**
 - Identical to modern lists
- **AD 397 Council of Carthage**

- 1. Originals were scattered across the Empire.**
- 2. No scroll could contain more than 1 or 2 books.**
- 3. 1st century Christians were expecting Christ.**
- 4. No one leader dominated the others.**
- 5. Early Christians all assumed the authority of Scripture.**
- 6. Only when false writings arise are the true writings appreciated.**

Why did it take so long?

Pseudepigrapha

- **60 documents**
 - Preaching of Peter, Acts of Peter, Apocalypse of Peter, Gospel of Thomas, Epistle to the Laodiceans, etc.
- **Vastly different, unused by the church, written too late, inaccurate details.**



False Writings

- **Codex Sinaiticus – complete NT AD 350**
 - From Alexandria found on Sinai
- **Chester Beatty Papyri – 15 books c. AD 200**
- **John Rylands Papyrus – 5 verses, c. AD 125**
 - Egypt
- **Qumran fragment 7Q5 – AD 68**
 - Mark's gospel
 - Dead Sea in 1955

Available texts

- **Was something included that maybe should not have been included?**
 - No. Through thousands of years of faithful believers following the Spirit, something would have been noticed by now.
- **Is there a book out there we are missing?**
 - No. With all the extra-canonical books out there, none are contemporaries with the others nor are they orthodox in their teachings.



Critical Questions