

How we got our Bible: Part I
The Formation of the Old Testament
Pastor Mike Golay

I. Laying the foundation

- A. The Bible did not drop from Heaven “ _____ ”

- B. The Bible was written over a _____

- C. The Bible was written in primarily _____ (O.T.) and _____ (N.T.) with portions of the O.T. in _____

- D. The Bible was not formally printed in any language until about _____

II. The Canon: What is it?

III. The formation of the Old Testament

- A. _____ and his contributions

- B. The _____, _____, and _____

C. The _____ (LXX)

D. Yohanan ben Zakkai and the _____ of Yavne (Jamnia)

The Criteria the council used to recognize canonicity:

1. The writing had to be composed in Hebrew. The only exceptions, which were written in Aramaic, were Daniel 2-7, writings attributed to Ezra (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26), who was recognized as the founding father of post-Exilic Judaism, and Jer. 10:11. Hebrew was the language of Sacred Scripture, Aramaic the language of common speech.
2. The writing had to be sanctioned by usage in the Jewish community. The use of Esther at Purim made it possible for it to be included in the canon. Judith, without such support, was not acceptable.
3. The writings had to contain one of the great religious themes of Judaism, such as election, or the covenant. By reclassifying the Song of Songs as an allegory, it was possible to see in this book an expression of covenantal love.
4. The writing had to be composed before the time of Ezra, for it was popularly believed that inspiration had ceased then. Jonah was accepted because it used the name of an early prophet and dealt with events before the destruction of Nineveh, which occurred in 612. Daniel, a pseudonymous writing, had its setting in the Exile and therefore was accepted as an Exilic document.

E. The witness of _____

1. The Qumran Scrolls
2. Jesus' appeal to the Hebrew Scriptures

3. Josephus

IV. Copying the scrolls: The method of the scribes

A.

B.

C.

D.

How we got our Bible: Part II
The Formation of the New Testament
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I. The Formation of the New Testament

- A. The importance of the “_____” or Old Testament

- B. The importance of the _____ of Jesus

- C. The importance of the words of the _____

- D. The importance of the _____ of the Church Fathers
 - 1. _____ of Rome (to Corinth)

“By reason of jealousy and envy the greatest and most righteous pillars of the Church were persecuted, and contended even unto death. *Let us set before our eyes the good Apostles.*” **1 Clement 5:3-4**

“The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ. Both therefore came of the will of God in the appointed order. Having therefore received a charge, and having been fully assured through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and confirmed in the word of God with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth with the glad tidings that the kingdom of God should come. **1 Clement 42:1-6**

- 2. _____ Bishop of Antioch (2nd Century)

- 3. _____, Bishop of Hierapolis (in Phrygia – central Turkey)

4. _____ (Bishop of Alexandria) in A.D. 367 identifies a similar canon to our present New Testament in his 39th Festal Letter:

“Continuing, I must without hesitation mention the scriptures of the New Testament; they are the following: the four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, after them the Acts of the Apostles and the seven so-called catholic epistles of the apostles -- namely, one of James, two of Peter, then three of John and after these one of Jude. In addition there are fourteen epistles of the apostle Paul written in the following order: the first to the Romans, then two to the Corinthians and then after these the one to the Galatians, following it the one to the Ephesians, thereafter the one to the Philippians and the one to the Colossians and two to the Thessalonians and the epistle to the Hebrews and then immediately two to Timothy , one to Titus and lastly the one to Philemon. Yet further the Revelation of John These are the springs of salvation, in order that he who is thirsty may fully refresh himself with the words contained in them. In them alone is the doctrine of piety proclaimed. Let no one add anything to them or take anything away from them...

But for the sake of greater accuracy I add, being constrained to write, that there are also other books besides these, which have not indeed been put in the canon, but have been appointed by the Fathers as reading-matter for those who have just come forward and which to be instructed in the doctrine of piety: the Wisdom of Solomon, the Wisdom of Sirach, Esther, Judith, Tobias, the so-called Teaching [Didache] of the Apostles, and the Shepherd. And although, beloved, the former are in the canon and the latter serve as reading matter, yet mention is nowhere made of the apocrypha; rather they are a fabrication of the heretics, who write them down when it pleases them and generously assign to them an early date of composition in order that they may be able to draw upon them as supposedly ancient writings and have in them occasion to deceive the guileless.”

5. The _____
6. The Shepherd of _____

II. Influences Bearing on the Development of the New Testament Canon

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

How we got our Bible: Part III
The Canonization of the New Testament
Pastor Mike Golay

I. Some Early Lists of the New Testament

A. The _____ Canon List (A.D. 100-200 ?)

- It contains:
 1. The Gospels
 2. The Acts (Luke's version)
 - "Acts of all the apostles are written in one book." (directed against Marcion or the New Testament Apocrypha)
 3. The Epistles of Paul (all 13 of them)
 - Singles out the Epistle to the Laodiceans and the Epistle to the Alexandrians as promoting the heresy of Marcion and were therefore NOT included
 4. Other Epistles (Jude, 1-2 John, Wisdom of Solomon)
 5. Apocalypses (John, Peter, and the Shepherd of Hermas)
- It is organized as follows:
 1. Books *universally* accepted (includes Wisdom of Solomon)
 2. *Apocalypse of Peter* which was in dispute
 3. *Shepherd of Hermas* which was rejected, but still ought to be read privately
 4. Several heretical books

B. _____ Canon List (A.D. 265-340)

C. The Canon of the Synod of _____ (A.D. 363)

D. The Canon of _____ (A.D. 367)

E. The Canon of the 3rd Synod of _____ (A.D. 397)

II. Discussion on the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal Books

A. The meanings

1. _____ “Hidden Writings”

2. _____ “False Writings”

B. Examples from the non-canonical writings

1. 2 Maccabees 15:37-39 (demonstrating how “un-canonical” it appears).

[37] This, then, is how matters turned out with Nicanor. And from that time the city has been in the possession of the Hebrews. So I too will here end my story.

[38] *If it is well told and to the point, that is what I myself desired; if it is poorly done and mediocre, that was the best I could do.*

[39] For just as it is harmful to drink wine alone, or, again, to drink water alone, while wine mixed with water is sweet and delicious and enhances one's enjoyment, so also the style of the story delights the ears of those who read the work. And here will be the end.

2. Adam and Eve, Enoch, Apocalypse of Moses, etc.

3. The Infancy _____ 2:1-5

II. 1 This little child Jesus when he was five years old was playing at the ford of a brook: and he gathered together the waters that flowed there into pools, and made them straightway clean, and commanded them by his word alone. 2 And having made soft clay, he fashioned thereof twelve sparrows. And it was the Sabbath when he did these things (or made them). And there were also many other little children playing with him.

3 And a certain Jew when he saw what Jesus did, playing upon the Sabbath day, departed straightway and told his father Joseph: Lo, thy child is at the brook, and he hath taken clay and fashioned twelve little birds, and hath polluted the Sabbath day. 4 And Joseph came to the place and saw: and cried out to him, saying: Wherefore doest thou these things on the Sabbath, which it is not lawful to do? But Jesus clapped his hands together and cried out to the sparrows and said to them: Go! and the sparrows took their flight and went away chirping. 5 And when the Jews saw it they were amazed, and departed and told their chief men that which they had seen Jesus do.

III. The _____ for the New Testament Canon

These were the primary ways the church fathers recognized canonical books from the non-canonical.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____