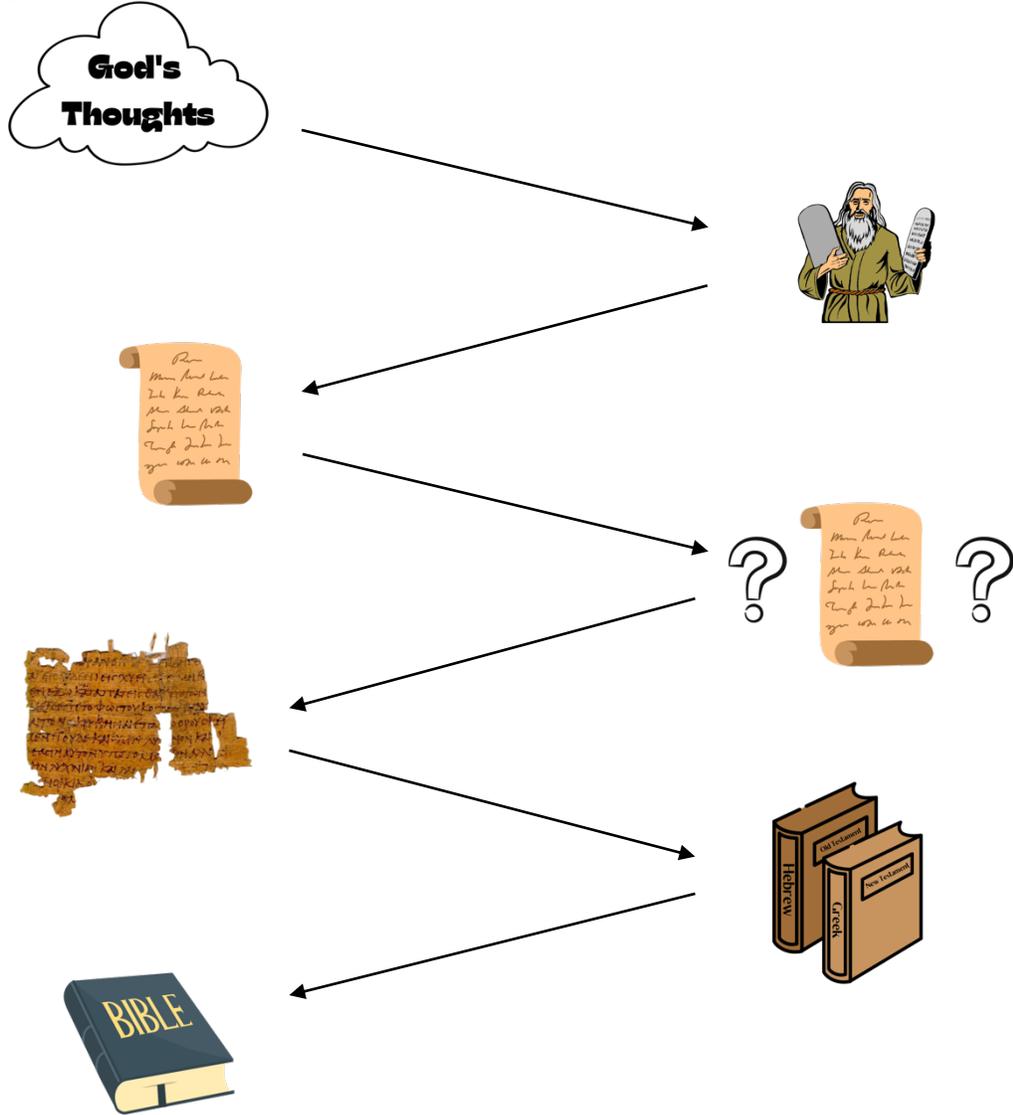


Making Sense of the Bible – Part 3

An overview of Bibliology

Introduction and Overview

The Big Picture



Step 3: Canonicity

1. Definition:

A. Origin of the word

- Greek – “_____” = a measuring stick or ruler; _____
- Passive – The _____ by which a writing was judged to be _____
- Active – The Bible is the _____ by which all else is to be _____
- “A Rule of _____” or “The _____”

2. Determination of Canonicity

A. Inadequate Views

- _____ determines _____
- The _____ determines _____
- _____ determines _____

B. A Common Mistake

- The Church _____ the canon or Christians “_____” the 66 books of the Bible
- We DO NOT _____, we _____. We Do Not _____, we _____.
- God alone determined which books belonged in the Bible, and He was their origin. He sovereignly and providentially wrote the books; the Word is His, and mankind doesn't get to decide what is His Word and what isn't.

C. Principles for Discovering Canonicity

- _____ – Does it convey divine authority?

- _____ – Is there a Prophetic or Apostolic authority?
- _____ – Is there factual and doctrinal veracity?
- _____ – Does it spiritually nourish God’s people?
- _____ – Was it initially received by God’s people?

3. The OT Canon

A. The Development of the OT Canon

- A _____ Collection of _____ Books
- The Evidence of _____
- The OT Canon was _____ with the _____

B. The Document Debates of the OT Canon

- _____ = meaning “false writings”; these books were rejected by all
- _____ = meaning “hidden” or “concealed”; These are additions to the OT books. They advance some of the intertestamental history.
- _____ – meaning “to speak against”; these were books debated at one time or another for one or more reasons
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

4. The NT Canon

A. The Development of the NT Canon

- Recognition, Acceptance, and Collection of the Writings of _____
- _____ of Canon by _____
- _____ of Canon by Earliest _____

B. The Document Debates of the NT Canon

- NT Pseudepigrapha = these books were rejected by all
- NT Apocrypha = these books were rejected by nearly all
- NT Antilegomena = books debated at one time or another

New Testament Book	Reason
Hebrews	Authorship
James	Accuracy
2 Peter	Authorship
2 & 3 John	Authorship
Jude	Accuracy
Revelation	Accuracy

Short List of Old Testament Pseudepigrapha

Apocalyptic Literature

This broad literary type contains writings in which an Old Testament hero claims to receive further revelation or disclosure, often concerning the end of time and history as well as information about heaven. This genre often contains visions. There is a heavy emphasis on angels in this genre.

- *1 (Ethiopic Apocalypse of) Enoch*
- *2 (Slavonic Apocalypse of) Enoch*
- *The Fourth Book of Ezra*
- *2 (Syriac Apocalypse of) Baruch*
- *3 (Greek Apocalypse of) Baruch*

Testaments

This literary type is based on the genre of a last will and testament, as seen in Gen 49. These writings claim to record the last words of certain biblical characters, providing their final monologues and dealing with theology and ethics.

- *Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs*
- *Testament of Job*
- *Testament of Abraham*
- *Testament of Moses*

Expansions and Legends

This literary type includes expansions of biblical narratives, new stories couched within the biblical context about the biblical figures, and legends surrounding the biblical text's transmissions. Some of these texts are classified as parabiblical or rewritten Bible, while others are simply legends about the biblical figures or figures related to the Bible's transmission.

- *Jubilees*
- *Ascension of Isaiah*
- *Jannes and Jambres*

Prayers, Psalms, and Odes

This literary type represents the poetic prayers, psalms, and hymns that Jewish people might have used in addition to the psalms found in the Old Testament.

- *Psalms of Solomon*
- *Prayer of Jacob*

OT Apocrypha

The Apocrypha is composed of a wide variety of Jewish literary texts, which cover a large span of interests, topics, styles, and human history. It includes histories, liturgies, wisdom sayings, and stories. Approximately 20 texts are included in this collection:

- Tobit (sometimes Tobias)
- Judith
- Additions to Esther
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Sirach (sometimes Ecclesiasticus or Wisdom of Ben Sira),
- Baruch
- Letter of Jeremiah
- Additions to Daniel
 - Prayer of Azariah
 - Song of the Three Young Men
 - Susanna
 - Bel and the Dragon
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees
- 3 Maccabees
- 4 Maccabees
- 1 Esdras (sometimes 3 Ezra or 2 Esdras)
- 2 Esdras (sometimes 3 Esdras or 4–6 Ezra)
- Prayer of Manasseh
- Psalm 151
- *Odes*