

Chapter 3: The Canon of Scripture

1. Define *the canon of Scripture*.

a. The canon of Scripture is the list of all the _____ that belong in the Bible.

b. The words of Scripture are the words by which we _____ our spiritual lives.

— **Deuteronomy 32:47**

c. To _____ to or to _____ from God's words would be to prevent God's people from obeying him fully, for commands that were subtracted would not be known to the people, and words that were added might require extra things of the people which God had not commanded.

— **Deuteronomy 4:2**

d. If we are to trust and obey God _____, we must have a collection of words that we are _____ are God's own words to us.

2. The Old Testament Canon

a. The earliest collection of written words of God was _____.

— **Exodus 31:18**

b. This collection of absolutely _____ words from God grew in size throughout the time of Israel's history.

c. The first _____ books were written by _____.

d. After the death of Moses, _____ also added to the collection of written words of God.

— **Joshua 24:26**

e. Why did Joshua _____ to the word of God, unless he knew the LORD spoke to him and _____ him to write.

f. The content of the OT canon continued to grow until the time of the end of the writing process.

g. After approximately _____ there were no further additions to the Old Testament canon.

h. Where do we get our 39 OT books?

— Five books of Moses: 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy

— Thirteen historical books: 1. Joshua 2. Judges-Ruth 3. 1-2 Samuel 4. 1-2 Kings 5. 1-2 Chronicles 6. Ezra-Nehemiah 7. Esther 8. Job 9. Isaiah 10. Jeremiah-Lamentations 11. Ezekiel 12. Daniel 13.

- The Twelve Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
- Hymns and precepts for conduct: 1. Psalms 2. Song of Solomon 3. Proverbs 4. Ecclesiastes

- i. Jesus and the NT authors _____ the OT.
- j. According to one count, Jesus and the NT authors quote various parts of the OT Scriptures as divinely authoritative over _____ times.

3. What is meant by the term Apocrypha?

- a. The Apocrypha -- is a collection of books included in the canon by the _____ Church, but excluded from the canon by _____.
- b. These books were never accepted by the Jews as Scripture, but throughout the early history of the church there was a divided opinion on whether they should be part of Scripture or not.

4. The New Testament Canon

- a. The NT consists of writings of the _____.
 - It is primarily the _____ who are given the ability from _____ to recall accurately the words and deeds of Jesus and to interpret them rightly for subsequent generations.
 - **John 14:26**
 - **John 16:13-14**

5. The office of Apostle

- a. The office of apostle in the early church was seen to claim an _____ equal to that of the Old Testament _____.
 - **2 Peter 3:2**
- b. To lie to the apostles is equivalent to lying to the _____. (Acts 5:2-3)
- c. **1 Corinthians 2:13:** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- d. The apostles, then, have authority to write words that are God's own words, equal in truth status and authority to the words of the OT Scriptures. They do this to _____, _____, and _____ to the lives of believers the great truths about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

6. How did the NT authors understand the term Scriptures when they used it?

a. The word translated "Scriptures" here is *graphē*, a word that occurs fifty-one times in the NT and that refers to the OT Scriptures in every one of those occurrences.

b. We have most of the NT in the canon because of direct _____ by the apostles.

— This would include Matthew; John; Romans to Philemon (all of the Pauline Epistles); James; 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Revelation.

— This leaves five books, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, and Jude, which were not written by apostles.

7. What is the ultimate reason books are considered canonical?

a. For a book to belong in the canon, it is absolutely necessary that the book have _____ authorship.

b. If the words of the book are not God's words, it does not _____ in the canon.

8. Can more writings be added to the Scriptures?

a. We have in written form the _____ record of everything that God wants us to know about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and its meaning for the lives of believers for all time.

b. Since this is God's greatest _____ for mankind, no more is to be expected once this is _____.

c. Ultimately we base our _____ in the correctness of our present canon on the _____ of God.

9. Reminder of how the Holy Spirit leads us in our studying of the Scriptures.

a. As we read Scripture the Holy Spirit works to _____ us that the books we have in Scripture are all from God and are his words to us.

10. One final question...

a. Are there any missing books, books that should have been included in Scripture but were not?

— The answer must be _____.

— In all known literature there are no candidates that even come close to Scripture when consideration is given both to their doctrinal _____ with the rest of Scripture and to the type of _____ they claim for themselves (as well as the way those claims of authority have been received by other believers).