

The Canon



of Scripture

The Canon of Scripture

Preservation and Restoration



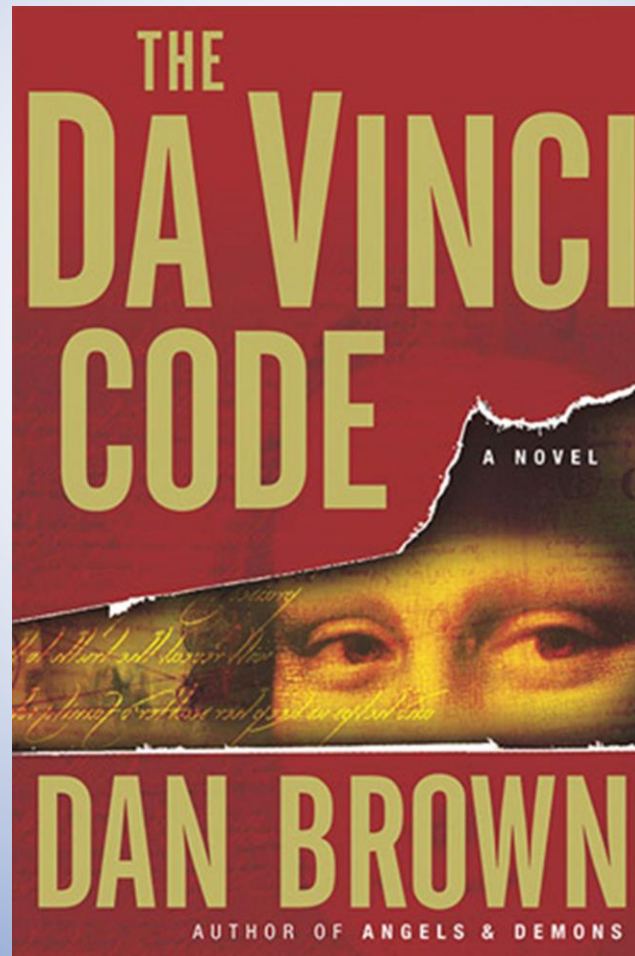
The Canon of Scripture

How Did the Bible Come Together?



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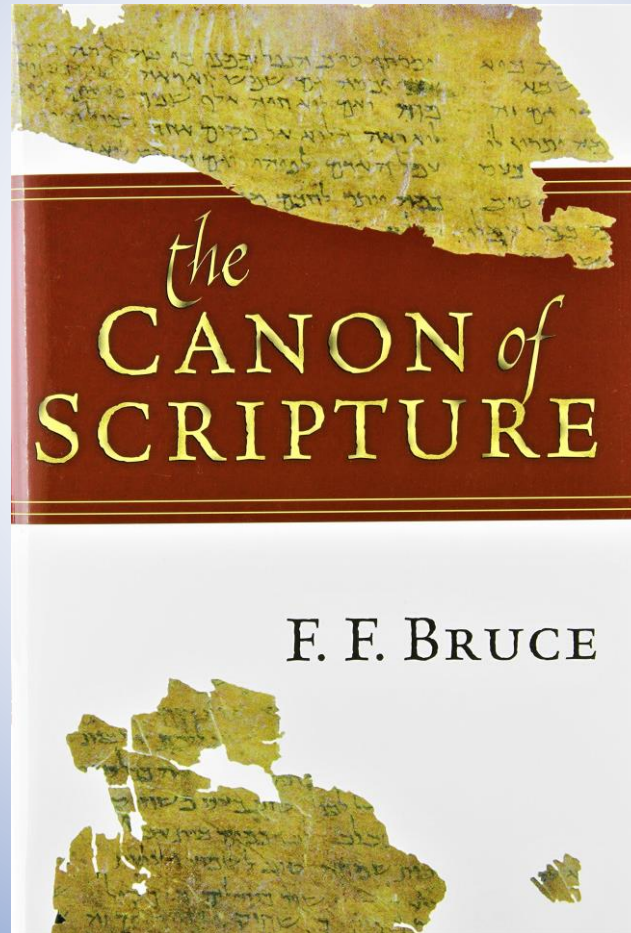
How Did the Bible Come Together?



F.F. Bruce

The Canon of Scripture

How Did the Bible Come Together?



The Canon of Scripture

How Did the Bible Come Together?



“*Kanon*”: reed, measuring rod, ruler = standard.

The Canon of Scripture

How Did the Bible Come Together?

“The canonization of early Christian writings did not so much confer authority on them as recognize or ratify an authority that they had long enjoyed, making regulative what had previously been customary.”

– S.E. Porter

The Old Testament Canon

GENESIS

Exodus

Leviticus

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

Josua

JUDGES

RUTH

1 SAMUEL

2 SAMUEL

1 KINGS

2 KINGS

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

EZRA

Nehemiah

ESTHER

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The Old Testament Canon

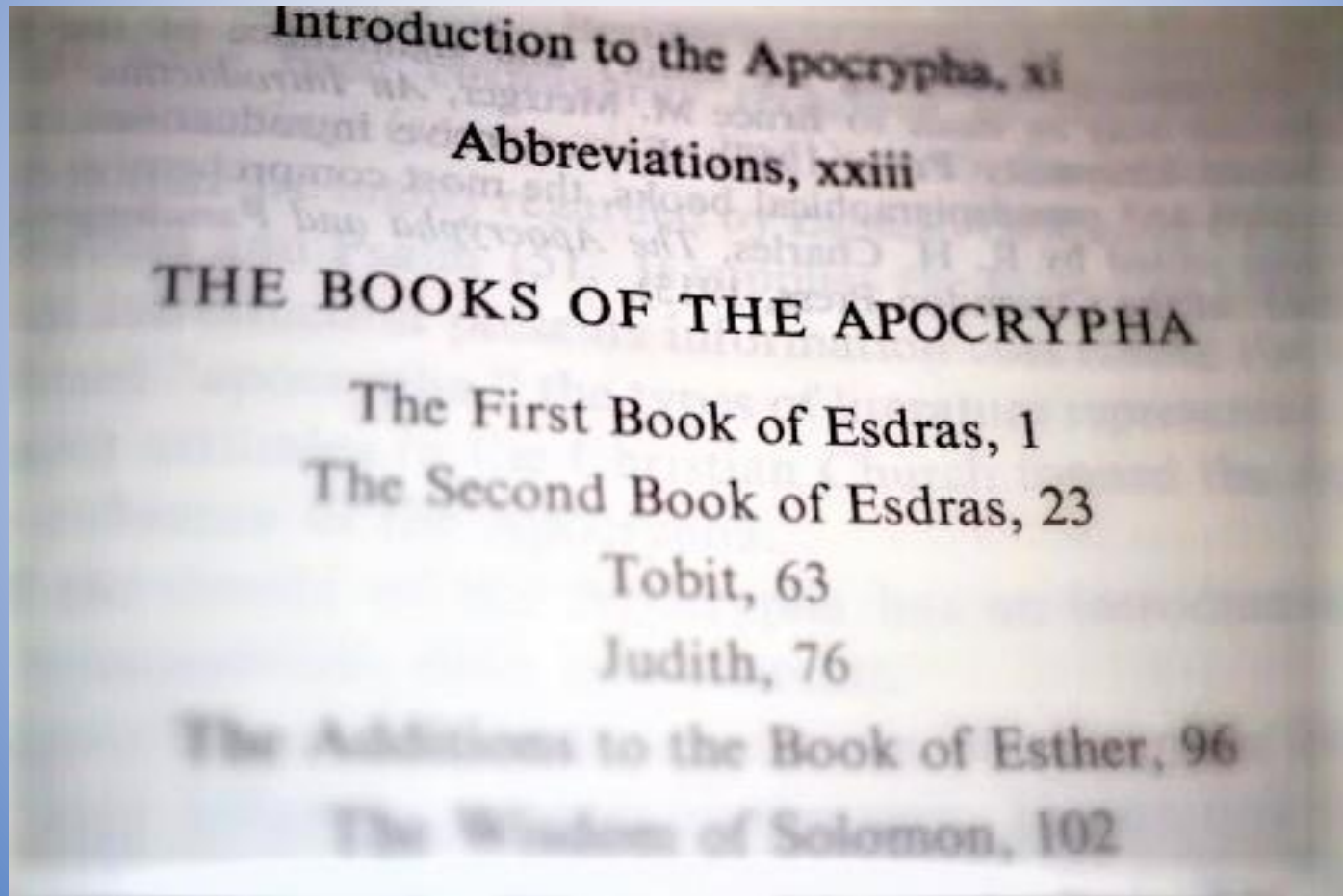
THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1, 2 Samuel
1, 2 Kings
1, 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi



The Canon of Scripture

The Old Testament Canon



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THE BOOKS OF THE APOCRYPHA

The First Book of Esdras, 1

The Second Book of Esdras, 23

Tobit, 63

Judith, 76

The Additions to the Book of Esther, 96

The Wisdom of Solomon, 102

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The Old Testament Canon

Areas of focus:

Providence—A constant awareness that the God who created all is involved with his creation and active in human history.

People—The people who descended from the great patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—are chosen and set apart by God for unique service in, to, and for the world.

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Areas of focus:

Place—The land of Israel promised to this people by God if they would faithfully follow him.

Promise—This people and God were united by a covenant or agreement that God would be with them, guide them, bless them if they would follow his ways.

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Areas of focus:

***Prophecy*—Warnings against injustice, idolatry, and social evil, and prophecy predicting future events, including the coming of a Messiah to save and deliver.**

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Areas of focus:

Jesus Christ—

“[Jesus said], ‘You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life. And it is they that bear witness about me.’” (John 5:39)

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Areas of focus:

Jesus Christ—

*“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,
[Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures
the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25-27)*

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The Septuagint (Greek Old Testament)

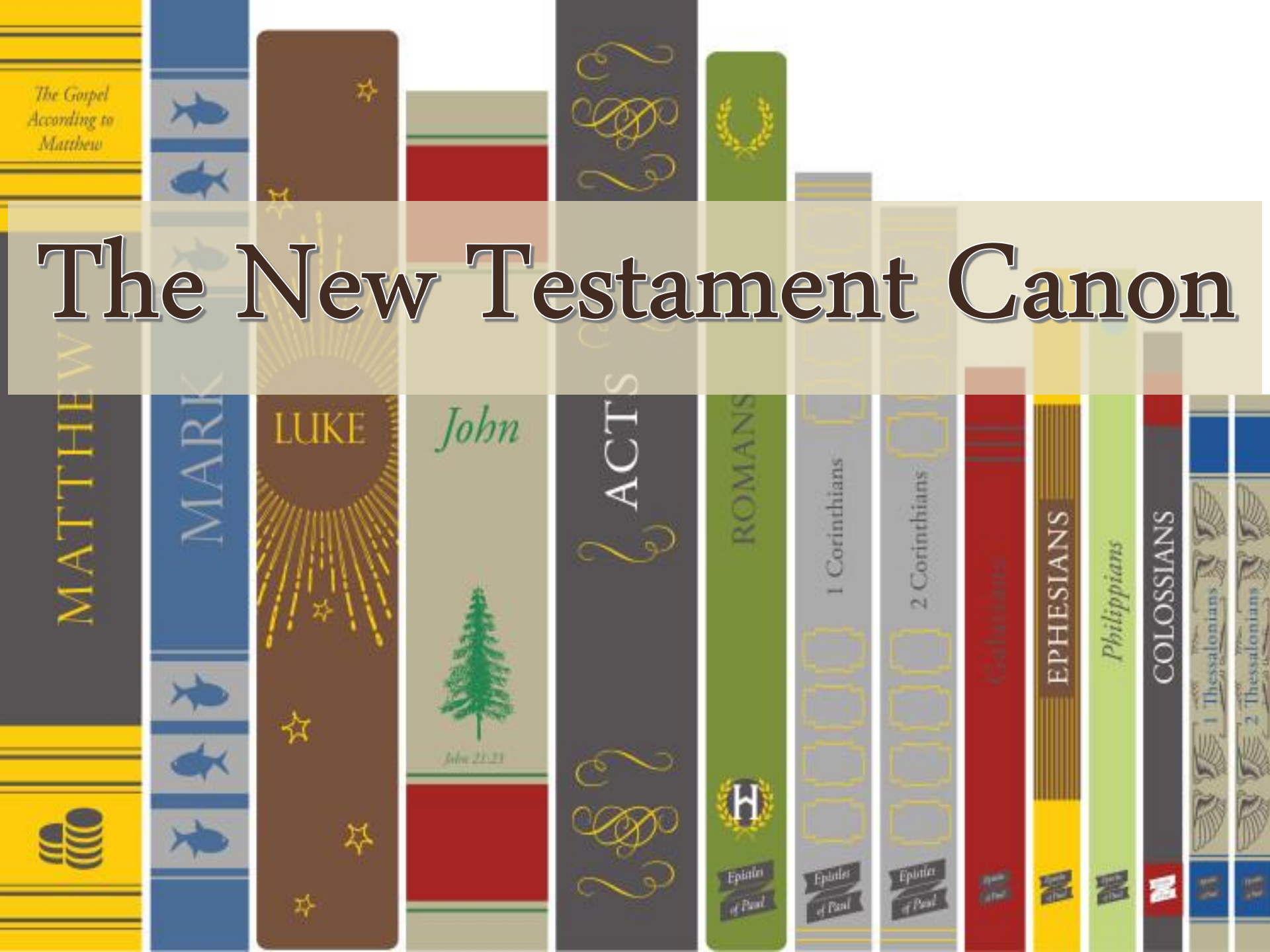
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“They accepted the Old Testament scriptures as they had received them: the authority of those scriptures was sufficiently ratified by the teaching and example of the Lord and his apostles.” – F.F. Bruce

The New Testament Canon



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The New Testament Canon

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts of the Apostles
Romans
1, 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1, 2 Thessalonians
1, 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1, 2 Peter
1, 2 and 3 John
Jude
Revelation



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The New Testament Canon

Early Recognition:

Clement (96 A.D.) quotes or alludes to Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Titus, Hebrews, and 1 Peter.

Ignatius (98-117 A.D.) quotes or alludes to Matthew, John, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Hebrews, 1 Peter and 1 John.

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Early Collection Recognition:

“The apostles, in the memoirs composed by them which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them.”

– Justin Martyr, 155 AD

“The Word, the architect of all things...has given us the Gospel in fourfold form, but held together by one Spirit.”

– Irenaeus, 185 AD

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Early Collection Recognition:

The Muratorian Fragment (170-200 AD)

It lists Luke as the “3rd Gospel,” then John, Acts, Paul’s thirteen “church epistles,” followed by Philemon, Titus, 1 and 2 Timothy, Jude, 1 and 2 John, Revelation, 1 Peter.

It leaves out Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 3 John.

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Early Collection Recognition:

“By the end of the second century, the core of the canon was established.”

– F.F. Bruce

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The New Testament Canon

Early Collection Recognition:

Origen (early-mid 3rd century) is the first to list all 27 New Testament books, but categorizes a few as still “disputed.”

Eusebius (4th century) includes the similar full list, but qualifies the disputed books by then as “recognized by the majority.”

The Canon of Scripture

The New Testament Canon

Early Collection Recognition:

In Athanasius' *Festal Letter* (367 A.D.), all 27 books without distinction are publicly ratified as authoritative.

“These are the fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied...Let no one add to these neither let him take any from these.”

— Athanasius

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The New Testament Canon

Collective Criteria:

Authorship—Prime authority was given to books written by those with first-hand knowledge of Christ and his teachings.

“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you...” (1 John 1:3)

“We were eyewitnesses of his majesty...” (1 Peter 1:16)

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Collective Criteria:

Age—A work must have been dated from the time of the Apostles.

Many works perhaps considered orthodox were excluded as a result of this criteria.

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The New Testament Canon

Collective Criteria:

***Doctrine*—Was the book consistent with the themes and truths of the rest of accepted Scripture?**

“The most important question to ask about any one of them was: ‘What does it teach about the person and work of Christ?’”

– F.F. Bruce

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Collective Criteria:

***Doctrine*—Was the book consistent with the themes and truths of the rest of accepted Scripture?**

“Does it maintain the apostolic witness to him as the historical Jesus of Nazareth, crucified & raised from the dead, divinely exalted as Lord of all?””

– F.F. Bruce

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Collective Criteria:

Acceptance—Was the book accepted by the church as a whole, and did it also see consistent, traditional use in each church along with other accepted books?

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Collective Criteria:

Inspiration—Could it be demonstrated that the book originated from the breath of God?

This depended on the other criteria of authorship, age, and doctrine.

It was also dependent upon the spiritual change a book caused in the life of the believer.

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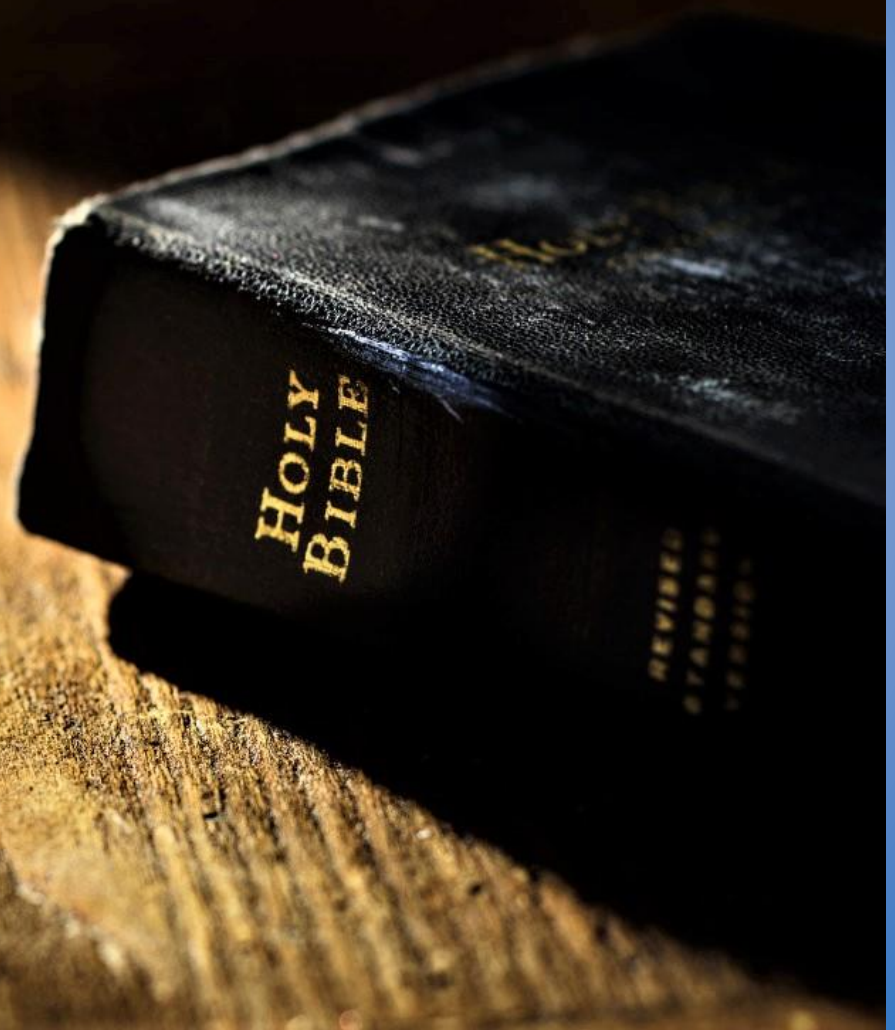
“Canonicity is determined and fixed authoritatively by God.

It is merely *discovered* by man.”

– Norman Geisler

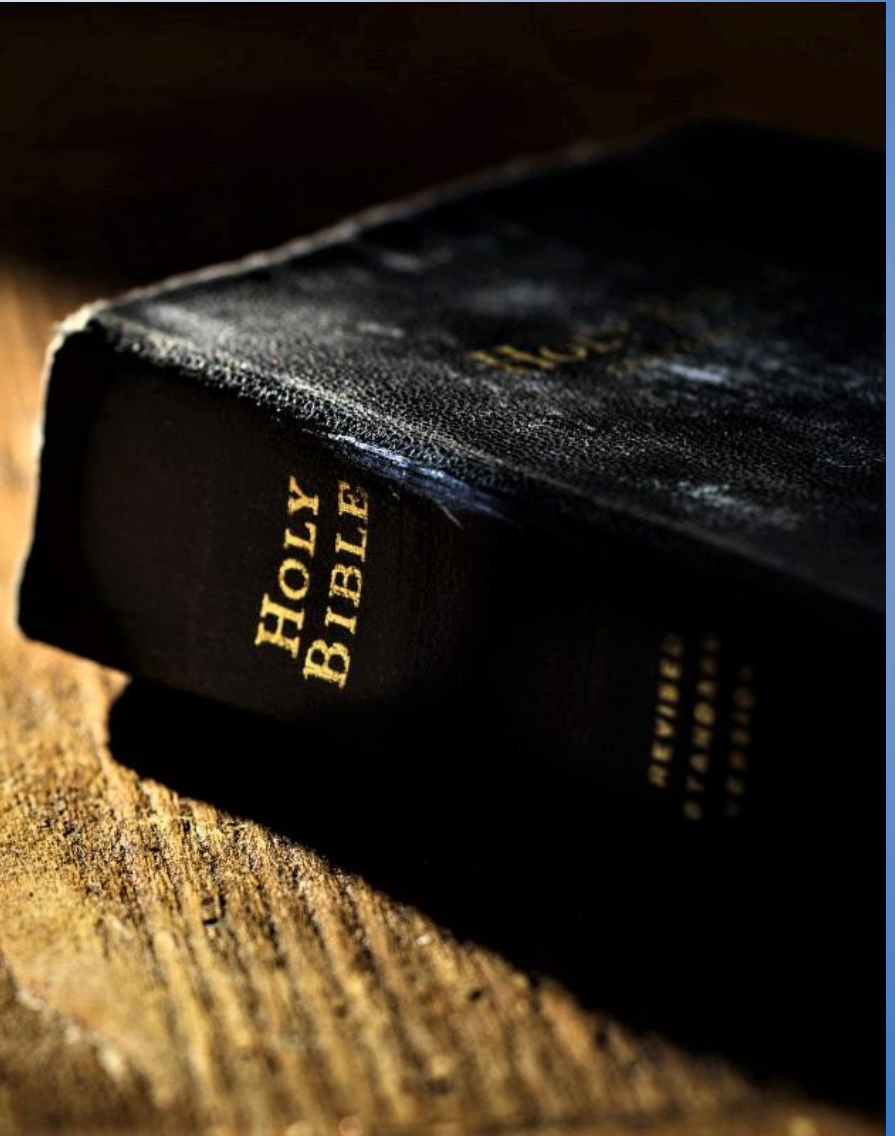
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“The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings. They are given by one Shepherd.”
(Ecclesiastes 12:11-13)



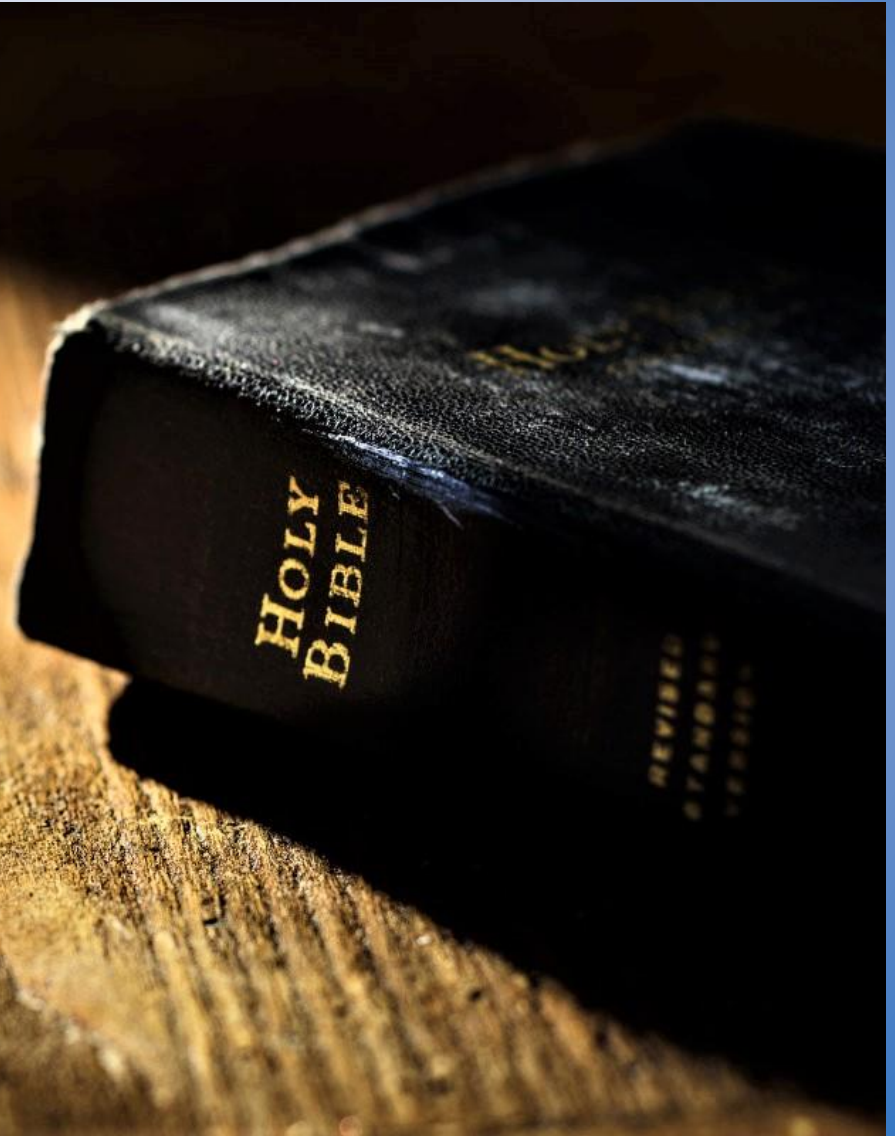
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“My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh”
(Ecclesiastes 12:11-13)



The Canon of Scripture

“The end of the matter,
all has been heard. Fear
God and keep his
commandments, for this
is the whole duty of
man.”
(Ecclesiastes 12:11-13)



The Canon



of Scripture