



The Canon of Scripture

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Jonathan Wheatley

The Canon of Scripture

- A. Definition
- B. Criteria as applied to the Scriptures
- C. What is In
- D. What is Out

A. Definition

The word canon comes from the Greek word κανών kanón, kan-ohn'. κανών is found twice in the Received Text of the New Testament:

1. Not boasting of things without *our* measure, *that is*, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our **rule** abundantly, 2 Corinthians 10:15
2. To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's **line** of things made ready to our hand. 2 Corinthians 10:16

Old Testament

The Lord Jesus Christ defined what is the **canon of scripture** of the Old Testament:

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in **the law** of Moses, and *in the prophets*, and *in the psalms*, concerning me.

Old Testament Books

The Arrangement in the Hebrew Bible

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law of Moses**, and in **the prophets**, and in **the psalms**, concerning me.

In the law of Moses

THE LAW (Torah)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

and in the prophets

THE PROPHETS (Nevi'im)

- A. Former Prophets**
1. Joshua
 2. Judges
 3. Samuel
 4. Kings
- B. Latter Prophets**
1. Isaiah
 2. Jeremiah
 3. Ezekiel
 4. The Twelve

and in the psalms

THE WRITINGS (Ketuvim)

- A. Poetical Books**
1. Psalms
 2. Proverbs
 3. Job
- B. Five Rolls
(Megilloth)**
1. Song of Songs
 2. Ruth
 3. Lamentations
 4. Esther
 5. Ecclesiastes
- C. Historical Books**
1. Daniel
 2. Ezra-Nehemiah
 3. Chronicles

C. What is in: The Arrangement in the KJB

First edition KJB, 1611:

“The names and order of all the Books of the Old and New Testament, with the number of their chapters.”

The names and order of all the Books of the Old and New Testament, with the number of their Chapters.

G enes hath Chapters	50	Proverbs hath Chapters	31
Exodus	40	Ecclesiastes	12
Leviticus	27	The song of Solomon	8
Numbers	36	Isaiah	66
Deuteronomie	34	Jeremiah	52
Joshua	24	Lamentations	5
Judges	21	Ezekiel	48
Ruth	4	Daniel	12
I. Samuel	31	Hosea	14
II. Samuel	24	Joel	3
I. Kings	22	Amos	9
II. Kings	25	Obadiah	1
I. Chronicles	29	Jonah	4
II. Chronicles	36	Micah	7
Ezra	10	Nahum	3
Nehemiah	13	Habakuk	3
Esther	10	Zephaniah	3
Job	42	Haggai	2
Psalms	350	Zechariah	14
		Malachi	4

The Books called Apocrypha.

I. E sdras hath Chapters	9	Barnuch with the epistle of Jeremiah	6
II. E sdras	16	The Song of the three children	
Tobit	14	The story of Susanna	
Judeth	16	The idol Bel and the dragon	
The rest of Esther	6	The prayer of Manasseh	
Wisdom	19	I. Maccabees	16
Ecclesiasticus.	51	II. Maccabees	15

The Books of the New Testament.

M atthew hath Chapters	28	I. Theſſalonians hath Chapters	5
Mark	16	I. Timothie	6
Luke	24	II. Timothie	4
John	21	Titus	3
The Acts	28	Philemon	1
The epistle to the Romanes	16	To the Hebrews	13
I. Corinthians	16	The epistle of James	5
II. Corinthians	13	I. Peter	5
Galatians	6	II. Peter,	3
Ephesians	6	I. John	1
Philippians	4	I I. John	1
Colossians	4	III. John	1
I. Theſſalonians	5	Jude	1
		Revelation	22

The Canon of the Old Testament

1. Written by a Prophet
2. That which is written in the Hebrew Tongue
3. That which is held by the Hebrews to be Scripture
4. Nothing found it that is not Holy and True, or contrary to the truth

The Apocrypha

1. None of them are written by a prophet.
2. None of them are written in Hebrew.
3. They were never put in the Registry of Divine Books.
4. Most of these books are found untrue, impertinent, fabulous and contradictory, not agreeing with the Canonical books.

4. What is Out – The Apocryphal Books

Eusebius witnesseth, *Histor. Eccl.lib.4.cap.26*. that a certain ancient and excellent Teacher, named **Melito, Bishop of Sardis**, undertook expressly a journey towards the East for to enquire after the number and order of the Canonical books, and that among them none of these were reckoned, as out of the register itself may be seen.

The Synod of Laodicea likewise, which was kept in the year of our Saviour **318**.

Citing in the **59 Canon**, the Register of the books: as neither do the ancient Ecclesiastical writers, when they also relate the Register of the Canonical books: as among others, Origen by Eusebius Hist. Eccl. Lib. 6.cap. 24. **Cyprianus** in Symb.

Athanasius in Synopsi. Helarius in prol. Psal. Heironym. In prol. **Gaeato**, in prasat. In lib. Estera, lib. Salom. Daniel. & amp; Maccab. **Nazianzenus** in Carm.

Ephiphanius Hares. 8. in lib. De pond, & amp; mens. **Cyrillus** Hierosolymitanus Catech. 4. **Ruffinus** in expos. Symb.

The 59 Canon = 35 Old Testament (see previous chart) + 27 New Testament

The Apocrypha: Some Examples of Fabulous & Untrue Things

Fourth book of Esdras (2 Esdras)

14:21 For thy law is burnt, therefore no man knoweth the things that are done of thee, or the works that shall begin.

4:41 Then said I , No Lord, that can thee not. And he said unto me, In the grave, the chambers of souls is like the womb of a woman:

Clearly opposite unto the Canonical writings:

Eccles. 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

2 Cor. 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Apocrypha: Some Examples of Fabulous & Untrue Things

The book of Tobias (Tobit) 12:15 I am Raphael one of the seven holy angels, that present the prayers of the Saints, and which go in and out before the glory of the holy one.

5:18 he said that he is Azarias the son of the great Ananias. There is also related, that the Angel should have taught the young Tobias to chase away the evil spirit with the roasting and perfuming of the heart and the liver of a fish. Chap. 6:5,8. and Chap. 8:2. which favors not a little after the fained Talmudish fables. Likewise it is not credible what is said in Chap. 3.8. that an evil spirit Asmodi should have killed seven Bridegrooms of Sara. In Chap.3:7 are two things contrary one to another, as that Sara dwelt in the city Rages, and Chap. 9:6 that the Angel was sent out of her father's house to go to Rages.

The Apocrypha: Some Examples of Fabulous & Untrue Things

In the **book of Wisdom**, besides that it is unjustly attributed unto Salomon, as is shown here above, there are also to be found things which agrees not with the Canonical writings. In Chap. 8:19-20. The Author speaks as if he were born without Original sin, contrary to Psalm 51:7. And what he saith, in Chap. 14:15. of the first invention of the service of Images;

Wisdom 8:19-20 For I was a witty child, and had a good spirit. 20 Yea, rather being good, I came into a body undefiled.

Contrary to **Psalm 51:7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

14:15 For a father afflicted with untimely mourning, when he hath made an image of his child soon taken away, now honoured him as a god, which was then a dead man, and delivered to those that were under him, ceremonies and sacrifices.

The Apocrypha: Some Examples of Fabulous & Untrue Things

Finally, there are also things found contrary to the Doctrine of the Canonical books: for 2 Mac.14: 37, 41, 42, 46. is the Act of on Razis commended, who killed himself, contrary to the sixth commandment, Exod. 20:13. and in 2 Mac.12: 43, is commended the action of Judas Maccabeus, offering for the dead, which is contrary unto the Law, which offering for the dead is nowhere commanded, but expressly forbidden, Psal. 49: 8. and that this second book of the Maccabees is no Canonical book, appeareth plainly, because it is a short abridgment of five books written by one Iason of Cyrene, who was no Prophet, 2 Mac. 2: 24. And the Author that hath abridged these books, telleth us that he hath done it with great trouble and pains, 2 Mac. 2: 27 and intreateth the Readers to excuse him, if he hath done this work slenderly or meanly, 2 Mac.15:39. which beseemeth not a Divine writer, moved by the Spirit of God.

The Apocrypha: Summary

Hence it appeareth plainly, that the forenamed books are not Canonical, but Apocrypha: which consequently ought not to be read in public in the Church and from which, as human writings, no proofs may be drawn to confirm any one Article of Faith, but that our faith ought to be builded upon the foundation of the Prophets and Apostles, Ephes. 2: 20.

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; Ephesians 2:20