

How We Got the Bible – Lesson 3 – Old Testament Canon

Overview of the word, “Canon”

Greek: **kanon** meaning “standard” or “rule”

Books of Scripture meet a particular standard of revelation and inspiration

Ancient Divisions of the Old Testament (Luke 24:44)

Law (Torah)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Prophets (Nevi'im)

Joshua
Judges
Samuel
Kings
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
“The Twelve” (Minor Prophets)

Writings (Ketuvim)

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Canticles (Song of Sol.)
Ruth
Lamentations
Ecclesiastes
Esther
Daniel
Ezra/Nehemiah
Chronicles

The Principle of Canonicity

1. The most important question that ancient people had concerning canonicity is _____?
2. If the author was a _____, the book was _____ as canonical

The Canonicity of the Torah (Law of Moses)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Moses was regarded as a prophet (Exodus 24:3-4; Deut. 31:24-26)

Joshua accepted these books as canonical (Joshua 1:6; 8:34-35)

David accepted these books (1 Kings 2:3; Psalm 1:1-3)

Josiah accepted these books (2 Kings 22:8-11)

Daniel accepted these books (Daniel 9:11-13)

Ezra accepted these books (Neh. 8:1-8)

Jesus accepted these books (Matt. 5:17-19)

Synagogues accepted these books (Acts 13:15)

The Canonicity of the Prophets:

Joshua

Num. 27:18-23 – Had Moses' authority

Joshua 24:22-26 – Wrote words in "The book of the Law of God"

Samuel

1 Samuel 3:19-21 – Everyone regarded him as a prophet

1 Samuel 10:25 – Wrote in a book and deposited it before the Lord

(Deut. 31:26) -- Possibly this was Judges (Judges 21:25)

Isaiah

2 Kings 19:1-2 – did not have to ask if Isaiah was a prophet

Isaiah 30:8-9 – Wrote on a scroll; people knew it was inspired

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 36:1-4 – dictates to Baruch; the product is inspired

Daniel 9:1-2 – Daniel read Jeremiah's writings, and knew them to be God's Word

The Canonicity of the Writings:

Psalms

David (Psalm 22, 23, 24, 51) – 2 Sam. 23:1-7; Acts 2:30

Asaph, Jeduthun, Heman (Psalm 62, 77, 88) – 1 Chr. 25:1-6

Moses (Psalm 90)

Solomon

Solomon (1 Kings 3:28) – had God's wisdom to do justice

When was the Old Testament Canon complete? How do we know?

Malachi, Nehemiah and Chronicles written about the same time – 450-420 B.C.

Jews quit accepting any more books after this point – no recognized prophets of God

-- Joel 2:28-32

-- Malachi 3:1