



Exploring the NT

Canon and Text.

Canon and Text

✦ *The Canon.*



The Core Canon

Irenaeus AD 200	Origen AD 250	Eusebius AD 325	Councils AD 400
Gospels Acts Paul 1 John 1 Peter Revelation	Gospels Acts Paul 1 John 1 Peter Revelation	Gospels Acts Paul 1 John 1 Peter Revelation*	Gospels Acts Paul 1 John 1 Peter Revelation

** If it seem proper*

The Disputed Canon

Irenaeus AD 200	Origen AD 250	Eusebius AD 325	Councils AD 400
1. Accepted: • Hebrews • 2 John • Jude 2. Unknown? • 2 Peter • 3 John	Hebrews James 2 Peter 2 John 3 John Jude	James 2 Peter 2 John 3 John Jude	

The Limited Use Canon

Irenaeus AD 200	Origen AD 250	Eusebius AD 325	Councils AD 400
Barnabas Didache Hermas 1 Clement Preach/Pet. Rev. of Pet. Wis./Sol.	Barnabas Didache Hermas	Barnabas Didache Hermas G/Hebrews Rev. of Pet. Acts of Paul	

History of the Canon

- Period of Use and Collections (90-180)*
 - The Four Gospels
 - Paul's Thirteen Letters
 - The Catholic Epistles
- Period of the Emerging Canon (180-225)*
 - Muratorian Canon (200)
 - Three Great Writers
 - Irenaeus (d. 190)
 - Clement of Alexandria (d. 215)
 - Tertullian (d. 225)

History of the Canon

- Period of Fixation (225-400)*
 - Church Fathers
 - Origen (d. 254)
 - Dionysius of Alexandria (d. 264)
 - Eusebius of Caesarea (325)
 - Athanasius of Alexandria (367)
 - Church Councils
 - Hippo (393)
 - Carthage (397)

History of the Canon

- Later Scholars*
 - Jerome (d. 419)
 - Augustine (d. 430)
- Later Developments*
 - Revelation: doubts in the East for centuries
 - Reformation: reopening of canon questions

History of the Canon

6. *Factors in Canon Development.*

A. Hindering development

1. Use of OT as scripture
2. Personal knowledge of Jesus
3. Available eyewitness testimony
4. Oral tradition more authority than written
5. Apostolic reflection on Jesus' significance
6. Eschatological expectations
7. The Holy Spirit as revelatory experience

History of the Canon

6. *Factors in Canon Development.*

B. Encouraging development

1. Eventual inadequacy of OT
2. Loss of eyewitnesses
3. Rise of heresy (Gnostic, Marcion, Montanus)
4. Proliferation of competing books
5. Use of codex book form
6. Persecution (What is worth dying for?)
7. Official publication of NT (Constantine)
8. Explicit expectations within the writings

History of the Canon

6. *Factors in Canon Development.*

B. Encouraging development

9. Highest value placed on Jesus' teachings

History of the Canon

7. *Principles of Canon Development.*

A. Apostolicity

1. Connections to an apostle
2. Anonymous Gospels are good example

B. Antiquity

C. Orthodoxy (example of Hebrews - content more important than known authorship)

D. Church reception, use in worship

E. Spiritual value

Canon and Text

• *The Canon*

• *The Text*



Handwritten Manuscripts

1. *The Two Materials*

- A. Papyrus (paper)
- B. Parchment (leather)

Handwritten Manuscripts

2. *The Two Writing Styles*

- A. Uncial (all capitals)
- B. Minuscule (cursive)

Handwritten Manuscripts

3. *The Work of Scribes*

*Scribe at work:
observe scraping
knife to erase
mistakes*



Studying Manuscripts

1. Example: Ending of

Mark

A. Sinaiticus = 16:1-8

Studying Manuscripts

1. Example: Ending of

Mark

B. Ms 274 = 16:9-20 +

"Shorter Ending"

Studying Manuscripts

2. Types of Mistakes

A. Faulty Vision

1. Line skipping (drop, duplication)
2. Letter Confusion

B. Faulty Hearing

1. Activity of scriptoriums
2. Wrong words; wrong vowels, etc.

Studying Manuscripts

2. Types of Mistakes

C. Mental Mistakes

1. Assimilation (similar passages)
2. Synonym substitution
3. Sequence variation
4. Letter transposition
