

CANNONICITY OF THE BIBLE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments form a Canon because of the fact that they are Authoritative Oracles.

The Basis of their Authority

They are the voice of God, speaking to men "Thus saith the Lord" or "the Spirit explicitly says" **1Tim 4:1**.

They are not what they are because an ecclesiastical council has declared them to be so. The Scriptures judge all such councils.

Authority presupposes that the Scriptures set forth penalty for both councils and men when they do not comply with its demands.

The basis for questioning the Authority of the Scriptures rests with the realization that men have been involved with both the writing of the words and the determination of the placement of the Books in the Canon.

As to the writing of the Books **2 Pet 1:20-21**

Jesus Christ attested to the Inspiration of the Scriptures:

1. "It is written..." **Matt 4:4,7,10**
2. He quoted texts as being true **Lk 4:16-27**
3. He testified to its truth **Matt 5:17-18**
4. He assumed OT individuals were real **Matt 8:4,11; 10:15; 12:3,4, 40-42**
5. He states that OT prophecies would be or were being fulfilled

Matt 11:10; 13:14,15; 24:15

6. He calls the OT "For God said..." **Matt 15:3-6**, "the Word of God" and "have you not read that which was spoken to you by God" **Matt 22:31.32**
7. He assumes that the Authority behind what is found written is Supreme
Matt 21:42

Jesus came to bear witness to the truth **Jn 18:37** with **Jn 17:17**.
God is the One who bears witness to the Person of Christ **1Jn 5:9**

That witness is the Scriptures **Rom 15:8**

Jesus includes the NT Writings as a continuation of the OT Authority
Rev 22:12,13,16,18,19,20

- 1) The Congregation of Israel was not to create or edit Scripture. They were to obey it because it was God's Word.
Deut 4:1-2
- 2) The King was to be ruled by this Word of God. **Deut 17:18-20**.
He could exercise the power of death over his subjects but he could not alter God's Word.
- 3) Judges were overseen by Levitical priests – the Word of God being the final determination. **Deut 17:8-12**

4) The Levites were to keep the "Book" beside the Ark of the Covenant.

Deut 31:26

5) The prophets' part in delivering the message was judged by the message. **Deut 18:20-22**. All Israel was held accountable to receive and heed the prophets' message.

a. OT Prophets ran from Abel to John the Baptist **Matt 11:13,14**

(**Malachi 4:5**)

b. The NT Cannon closed with the lost writing of the last Apostle.

Rev 22:18,19

c. The church is built upon the ministry of these two groups **Eph.2:20**

NOTE: The church did not bestow apostolic and prophetic authority upon men but rather chosen men, moved by the Holy Spirit, received and delivered the truth to the church.

6) Characteristics of the Word of God

a) Enduring Power

b) Divine Power (**Rom 1:16; 10:17; Heb 4:12**)

c) Sanctifying Power **Jn 17:17**

d) Accurate

e) Its prophetic program can be seen as fulfilling as time progresses.