

The Origin of the Bible
Part 3 - Transmission of the New Testament



# Series Outline

Accuracy of the Transmission (Lower Textual Criticism)

Old Testament

New Testament

More on the Apocrypha and the Canon

Inspiration (Scripture as God-Breathed)

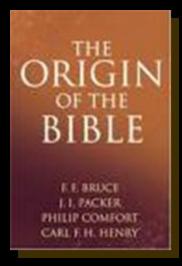
Inerrancy and Infallibility

Translation of Scripture

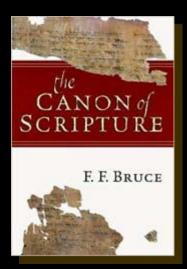




# Series Outline



Authority and Inspiration
Inerrancy and Infallibility
Canon of the Old and New Testament
The Apocrypha
Bible Literature / Comparative Literature
Literary Genres
Bible Texts and Manuscripts
Bible Translation
Biblical Languages
History of the English Bible
Versions of the Bible



Old Testament
Greek Old Testament
Christian Canon of the Old Testament (Eastern Church & Western Church)
Old Testament Canon During and After the Reformation
New Testament Writings
Early Heresies and the Development of the Canon
Church Fathers and the Canon
The Canon during the First Four Centuries
The Canon in the Middle Ages
Criteria for Canonicity
Criticism of the Canon



#### Some Background:

In the Hebrew Tradition: Oral transmission was often trusted more than written transmission.

In the Greek Tradition: The written word was often trusted more than oral transmission.

Jesus left no writings of His own.

The sayings of Jesus were highly cherished and widely taught by His disciples. They may have circulated in writing before any Gospels were authored in written form (i.e., "Q" Theory).





#### Dating New Testament Books(\*):

Jesus died and was resurrected in 30 CE.

1.	James	45-49	14/15. Philippians/Philemon	63
2.	Galatians	<i>5</i> 1	16. 1 Peter	63-64
3/4.	1 & 2 Thess.	51	17. 1 Timothy	63-66
5.	Mark	50s or 60s	18. Titus	63-66
6.	Matthew	50s or 60s	19. Hebrews	64-68
7.	1 Corinthians	<i>55</i>	20. 2 Peter	66
8.	2 Corinthians	56	21. 2 Timothy	67
9.	Romans	57-58	22. Jude	68-80
10.	Luke	60	23. John	85-90
12.	Acts	61	24-26. 1,2 & 3 John	85-90
12.	Colossians	61	27. Revelation	90-95
13.	F phesians	61	4	SEE STORM SERVICE

(\*) No purchase necessary. Actual results may vary. Check local listings. Not valid in all states. Must be 18 to play.



Early on, we start to see Jesus words referenced as "Scripture"

1 Timothy 5:18:

"For the scripture says, 'Do no muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' [Deut. 25:4] and 'The worker deserves his wages' [Luke 10:7]."

We also see Paul's letters referred to as "Scripture"

2 Peter 3:15:

"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contains some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."



The Early Church Fathers continued this view:

Clement of Rome (c. 96CE) - Quotes the words of Jesus along with other quotations of scripture and attributes the entire string of quotations to what "The Holy Spirit says..."

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch (c.  $110 \, \text{CE}$ ) – Answering in the affirmative the question, "Is the gospel scripture?" and summing up the authority of Jesus Christ.

Epistle of Barnabas (c. 130 CE) - "It is written" referring to NT

Others: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (110 – 120) Dionysus, Bishop of Corinth (170)





#### <u>Manuscripts</u>

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Oldest Surviving Manuscript:

"P52" - Fragments of John 18 (c. 110-125 CE)
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Chester Beatty Papyri:
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"P46" - All of Paul's Epistles + Hebrews (Late 1st - Early 2nd Century CE)
"P45" - Portions of all Four Gospels and Acts (2nd Century CE)
"P47" - Portions of Revelations (Ch. 9-17) (3rd Century CE)
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#### Bodmer Papyri:

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"P66" - Most all of John (c. 175 CE)

"P72" - All of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude (3rd Century CE)

"P75" - Large Portions of Luke 3 - John 15 (c. 200 CE)
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#### Codex Sinaiticus - "aleph" or "א" (c. 350 CE)

- Discovered by Constantin von Tischendorf in St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai.
- Contains the entire New Testament





Codex Sinaiticus



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# Codex Alexandrinus - "A" (c. early 5th Century CE)

- Entire New Testament



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- Entire New Testament

Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus - "C" (c. 5th Century CE)

- Most of the New Testament
- Covered over by other writing ("palimpsest")



Overall, there are over 6,000 manuscript copies of all or parts of the Greek New Testament.

Closest number of existing manuscripts of Greek writing:

- Homer's *lliad* 650 manuscripts
- Euripides' Tragedies 330 manuscripts

Alexandrian Scribes were attempting to recover the original text during the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries, long before our time.

Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus were part of this Alexandrian scribal tradition.





What about the period between the original writing and the first manuscripts?

Speculation that Christian scribes did not copy accurately.

Scholars generally rebut this view:

- 1. Early Christians followed Jewish scribal customs
- 2. Many Christians already understood sacred nature of the text.
- 3. All early papyri indicate use of uniform nomina sacra
- 4. Christianity was unique in uniform use of codices
- 5. Paleographers note many papyri written in a "documentary hand"



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