

The Doctrine of Scripture (2)

Why we believe the Bible is the Word of God

Review: Part One

1. *Inspiration* – the Holy Spirit moved men to write the word of God (*theopneustos*)
2. *Inerrancy* – the Bible in its original autographs and properly interpreted is wholly true in everything it affirms (without error)
3. *Authority* – the Bible is the only and absolute rule of faith and practice (God's authority)

Part Two: Overview

1. *Canonicity* – which writings belong in the Bible? who determines this?
2. *Transmission* – are copies of the manuscripts reliable?
3. *Translation* – how accurate are our English translations? which one should I use?

Canonicity: Introduction

Relationship to Inspiration:

- Inspiration – the *recording* of God's Word
- Inerrancy – the *result* of inspiration
- Canonicity – the *recognition* of inspiration
the acceptance by God's people of those writing which are inspired and authoritative

Canonicity: Introduction

Meaning of the word "canon"

Kanon (Gr.) – a straight rod used as a rule

"the canon of Scripture is understood to be the list of books which are acknowledged to be, in a unique sense, the rule of belief and practice" (F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*, p.18)

Canonicity: Introduction

Key questions:

- How did this recognition come about?
- What criteria was used to determine whether a given writing was authoritative and inspired?

Canonicity: Old Testament

Hebrew Scriptures

- The Hebrew Canon was complete and recognized by 400 B.C. (not developed by the church)
- Jesus affirmed the canon of the Hebrew Scriptures (decisive for Christians)
- The 24 books of the Hebrew canon are identical to the 39 books of our Old Testament

Canonicity: Old Testament

Hebrew Scriptures ("Tanak")

- Torah (Law):
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Nebi'im (prophets):
Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings (former prophets)
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Twelve (latter prophets)
- Ketubim (writings)
Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations,
Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

Canonicity: Old Testament

Criterion of Canonicity:

- *authorship* – the writings of the prophets (God's spokesmen)
 - included Moses, Joshua, Nathan, David, Solomon, the Psalmist
 - the histories were written by the prophets (1 Chron. 29:29; 2 Chron. 32:32)
 - no more prophets after Malachi (canon closed)