

Canon

Jewish Canon

- Closed Canon
 - No more books to be added
 - Decided before Christ's time (about 500 BC)
 - Holy presence of God inspired

Evidence of Jewish OT Canon

- Moses' books
 - Oldest manuscripts and language (1000 BC)
- Josephus (Jewish Historian)
 - “It is true our history has been written since Artaxerxes very particularly but has not been esteemed of the like authority with the former by our forefathers, because there has not been an exact succession of prophets since that time”

Evidence of Jewish OT Canon

- The Council of Jamnia (90 AD)
 - Canon Authoratively for all Jews
- Septuaint (LXX) (no later than 180 BC)
 - Greeks translated the OT from Hebrew to Greek. Evidence in manuscripts suggests its authoratative nature at the time of translation.
- Philo
 - His work quotes from all major books: Law, Prophets, Writings

NT Canon

- **New Testament Canon (c.35-90)**
- Apostolic Fathers (90-160)
 - *Gospels* Generally accepted by 130
 - *Pauline Corpus* Generally accepted by 130, yet quotations are rarely introduced as scriptural
 - *Philippians, 1 Timothy*: x Justin Martyr
 - *2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*: x Polycarp, Justin Martyr
 - *Hebrews* Not considered canonical but quoted

NT Canon

- Irenaeus to Origen (160-250)
- Muratorian Canon (c.190)
 - Excludes *Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter*

NT Canon

- *Origen to Nicaea (250-325)*
 - *Gospels, Acts, Pauline Corpus Accepted*
 - *Hebrews * Accepted in the East*
 - *James x, ? Still disputed in the East*
 - *1 Peter Fairly well accepted*
 - *2 Peter Still disputed but accepted*
 - *1 John Fairly well accepted*
 - *2, 3 John, Jude Still disputed*
 - *Revelation Disputed, especially in the East*
x Dionysius

Accuracy?

- **Scribes**
 - Checked every letter 5 times
 - Counted all letters
 - Edited each other's work by comparison to original signatures
 - Dead Sea Scrolls

Criteria for the formation of the Bible

- Writer and writings must be confirmed by facts and acts of God (Deut. 18.18-21)
- The Book must come with the power of God to transform believers' lives (Heb 4.12; 2 Tim. 3.17)
- The book is accepted by the people of God initially and over time.



