

New Testament Notes

I. The Canon of Scripture

A. Canon from the Greek, measure, or rule

B. The Stages in the development of the New Testament Canon

1. The Historical Jesus - words are spoken and deeds are performed by Jesus himself during his lifetime on earth.
2. Oral Tradition - traditions and beliefs about Jesus are developed and passed on by early Christian communities.
3. Written Sources - some of the miracles and/or sayings of Jesus are compiled and recorded in early written documents.
4. Written Texts - individual letters, full Gospels, etc., are written with particular messages for particular situations.
5. Distribution - some writings are copied and shared with other Christian communities throughout the Mediterranean.
6. Collection - certain Christians begin collecting the letters of Paul and gathering together several different Gospels.
7. Canonization - four Gospels, several collections of letters, and a few other texts are accepted as authoritative scriptures.

C. The Need for a Canon

1. The Gnostics – 130 A.D. Changing Text - not an issue by 3rd century because of the number of copies in written form

Who are today's Gnostics? Do they have a different Bible?

2. Numerous Lists are formed Justin Martyr et.al.

D. The Canon as we know it

1. 350 A.D. Cyril of Jerusalem
2. 363 A.D. First official Synod to consider the Canon
3. East and West argued the Canon
4. Western Canon – Vulgate Bible 384.A.D.

II. Outline of the New Testament – 27 Books

A. The Four Gospels

B. The Acts of the Apostles

C. Letters sent to Christian communities in the following cities by Paul or his associates:

1. Romans – 58 A.D. by Paul in Corinth
2. 1 Corinthians 57 A.D. by Paul at Ephesus
3. 2 Corinthians 58 A.D. by Paul at Philippi or Thessalonica
4. Galatians 57/58 A.D. by Paul at Corinth
5. Ephesians 62 A.D. by Paul from Rome
6. Philippians 61/62 A.D. by Paul in Rome
7. Colossians 57/62 A.D. by Paul from Rome
8. 1 Thessalonians 52 A.D. by Paul from Corinth
9. 2 Thessalonians 52 A.D. Soon after the first by Paul from Corinth

D. Letters sent to individuals

1. 1 Timothy 66/67 A.D. by Paul from Philippi
2. 2 Timothy 67/68 A.D. by Paul from Rome
3. Titus 66/67 by Paul from Crete
4. Philemon 57/62 by Paul from Rome

E. A Biblical Sermon – Hebrews

1. Before 70 A.D. (The destruction of the Temple)
2. Author unknown

F. The Pastoral Letters

1. James Before 62 A.D. Martyrdom - James, the brother of the Lord
2. 1 Peter 60 A.D. Rome – not the Apostle Peter – Literary Greek
3. 2 Peter 60s A.D. may have been the Apostle Peter – Koine Greek
4. 1 John 80 – 90 A.D. by the Apostle John from Ephesus
5. 2 John 80 + A.D. not the Apostle John
6. 3 John 80-90 A.D. not the Apostle John
7. Jude 80-10 A.D. Jude the Brother of James

G. The Revelation to St. John 96 A.D. by John at Patmos

III. Mark – Evangelist

- A. Earliest Gospel dated from 50 A.D.
- B. John Mark cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10)
- C. A Jew he traveled with Paul and Barnabas
- D. Served as Peters Translator according to Papias
- E. Probably the source is Peter’s teaching
- F. He is self identified as the young man in the Garden of Gethsemane 14:51

IV. Matthew – Apostle and Evangelist

- A. Gospel dated 65 – 70 A.D.
- B. Hebrew Gospel
- C. Historically it was thought that this was the first Gospel written
 - 1. Noted by Ireanaeus to have been written in Aramaic
 - 2. Papias noted that Matthew collected the sayings of Jesus in Hebrew
- D. Modern Analysis shows the sources to be more complex
 - 1. Matthew knew the Gospel of Mark
 - 2. Analysis of the Greek shows that it was the original language

V. Luke - Evangelist, may have been one of the 70 sent by Jesus

- A. Gospel dated from 64 – 70 A.D.
- B. Traveled with Paul, Philippi, Jerusalem and Rome
- C. Probably recorded Paul’s preaching as the source of his unique material
- D. Written in Greek and all the Aramaic and Hebrew is translated

VI. John – Apostle and Evangelist

- A. dated 100 A.D. or later
- B. One of the Sons of Zebedee
- C. Present with Jesus when:
 - 1. Raising of Jairus Daughter
 - 2. The Transfiguration
 - 3. Agony in the Garden
 - 4. Thought to be the disciple who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper

D. Gospel is the most theological and unlike the Synopics

E. According to tradition: John travel to Asia Minor and then was exiled to Patmos by Domitian wrote Revelation on Patmos and then returned to Ephesus and wrote the Gospel

What do we learn from this?

Remember the stages of the development of the New Testament Canon?

Jesus Dies – 37-40 A.D.

Last Book of the New Testament 100 – 120 A.D.

Canon (In written form) accepted by the Church – 384 A.D.

From Jesus to Canon 347 years – The Old Testament evolves over thousands of years.

What does this say about accuracy and our confidence in the Gospel?

Remember there are multiple written sources for the New Testament.

VII. The Four Source theory of the Gospels

A. Why the Synoptic Gospels exist?

B. The Synoptic Problem

C. The Source Theory

D. Qoheleth – Q Source

VIII. Translation and Transliteration

A. The question of Language

B. Cultural Translations

1. Pence - denarius

2. Transliterations – Story Telling