

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

1 Cor. 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”
20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the
disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of
this world?

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- A meek passive leader
- The change in the Disciples after the Resurrection
- Conversion
- The Spread of the Gospel
 - Without violence
 - Without political revolution
 - Against Polytheism
 - Against Oppression
- Brought together diverse groups

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A meek, gentle and passive leader

Matt. 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- Other meek and passive leaders
 - John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
 - 1 Peter 5: 1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- Change in behavior
- Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.
- Conversion
- Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- The Gospel was spread without violence
- Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,”[a] says the Lord. 20 Therefore
 - “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
 - If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
 - For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”[b]
 - 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Muslims follow not only the Quran, which they believe is a literal transcript of God's words, but also the Hadith, accounts of Muhammad's words and deeds. These words and deeds are considered inspired by God and an example for Muslims to follow. According to one widely accepted hadith, whenever Muhammad would send an out expedition, he would admonish his appointed commander:

When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. If they respond to any one of these, you also accept it and withhold yourself from doing them any harm. Invite them to [accept] Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them. ... If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the jizya. If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them.[12]

The jizya, a kind of tribute, was part of a larger deal in which non-Muslims submitted to several conditions. In addition to paying the jizya, non-Muslims were also required to wear distinctive clothing and mark their houses (which must not be built higher than Muslims' houses), must not scandalize Muslims by openly performing their worship services, nor build new churches or synagogues. Those who owned land were also required to pay a land tax.[13]

http://www.answering-islam.org/Terrorism/by_the_sword.html

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- The Gospel is not politically revolutionary
- Romans 13 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- The Gospel overcame polytheism
 - Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;
 - Acts 19:26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- The Gospel spread despite persecution
 - Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.
 - Tacitus - Annals (written ca. AD 116), book 15, chapter 44.

The Gentiles

- Eph. 3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

The Counter-intuitive Nature of the Gospel

- How do we explain the spread of Christianity?
 - The truth of the Gospel
 - Hope for salvation
 - Resurrection
 - Confirmed by Miracles
 - Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

Miracles

- Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.
- If we establish the existence of an immaterial God then miracles should not present a problem

Prophecy

Jesus' Life Foretold in the Scriptures**Prophecy****Fulfillment**

Jesus' Life Foretold in the Scriptures		Prophecy	Fulfillment
Seed of the woman	4000 B.C.	Gen. 3:15	Ga. 4:4, Rev. 12:5
Generation Human	2000 B.C.	Gen. 12:3, 18:18, 49:10, Is. 11:1	Jo. 1:45, Acts 3:25, 13:23, Ga. 3:8
Time of His Advent	530 B.C.	Dan. 9:24:25	Jo. 1:41, 4:25-26
Born of a Virgin	700 B.C.	Is. 7:14, Mi. 5:3	Ma. 1:23, Lu. 1:26-35
Descendant of Shem		Gen. 9:27	Lu. 3:36
Descendant of Abraham		Gen. 12:3, 18:18	Ma. 1:1-2, Lu. 3:34, Acts 3:25
Descendant of Isaac		Gen. 17:19, 21:12	Ma. 1:2, Lu. 3:34, Ro. 9:7
Descendant of Jacob		Gen. 28:14, Nu. 24:17	Ma. 1:2, Lu. 3:34
Descendant of Tribe of Judah		Gen. 49:10, Mi. 5:2	Ma. 1:2, 2:6, Rev. 5:5
Descendant of House of David	700 B.C.	Is. 9:7, Je. 23:5	Ma. 1:1,6, Lu. 3:31, Jo. 7:42
Jesus Birthplace	700 B.C.	Mi. 5:2	Ma. 2:1-6, Lu. 2:4, Jo. 7:42
Massacre of Innocents	627 B.C.	Je. 31:15	Ma. 2:17-18
Flight into Egypt	770 B.C.	Ho. 11:1	Ma. 2:15
Ministry in Galilee	700 B.C.	Is. 9:1-2	Ma. 4:15-16
To Be A Prophet	1500 B.C.	De. 18:15	Jo. 1:45, 6:14, Acts 34:22, Acts 7:37
Priest/Melchisedek	1000 B.C.	Ps. 110:4	Heb. 5:6, 6:20, 7:17,21
Purification of Temple	1000 B.C.	Ps. 69:9	Jo. 2:17
Rejected by Jews and Gentiles		Ps. 2:1	Jo. 6:66, Acts 4:25-26
Spiritual Graces		Ps. 45:7, Is. 11:2	Lu. 4:18
Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem	520 B.C.	Ze. 9:9	Ma. 21:1-10, Jo. 12:14-16
Betrayal by a Friend	1000 B.C.	Ps. 41:9	Ma. 26:15, Mk. 14:10,21
Betrayed for 30 pieces of Silver	520 B.C.	Ze. 11:12-13	Ma. 26:15, Mk. 14:10,21
Silence against Accusation	700 B.C.	Is. 53:7	Ma. 26:63, 27:12-14
Vicarious Suffering	700 B.C.	Is. 53:4-6,12	Ma. 8:17, Ro. 4:25, I Co. 15:3,
Death with Malefactors	700 B.C.	Is. 53: 9-12	Ma. 27:38, Lu. 23:40-43
Piercing of Hands and Feet	1000 B.C.	Ps. 22:16, Ze. 12:10	Jo. 20:27
Insulting and Mockery		Ps. 109:25, 22:6-7	Ma. 27:39, Mk. 15:19
Offered gall and vinegar		Ps. 69:21	Ma. 27:34,48, Jo. 19:29
Lots Cast for Vesture		Ps. 22:18	Mk. 15:24, Jo. 19:24
Not a Bone to be Broken		Ps. 34:20	Jo. 19:36
Burial with the Rich		Ps. 16:9, Is. 53:9	Ma. 27:57-60
Resurrection		Ps. 16:10, Ho. 6:2	Ma. 27:63, 28:6, Acts 2:27-31
Ascension		Ps. 68:18, 110:1	Lu. 24:51, Acts 1:9, Eph. 4:8-10, Heb. 1:3

Prophecy

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”

Prophecy

Matt. 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet

Prophecy

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

HEAD OF GOLD
KINGDOM OF BABYLON

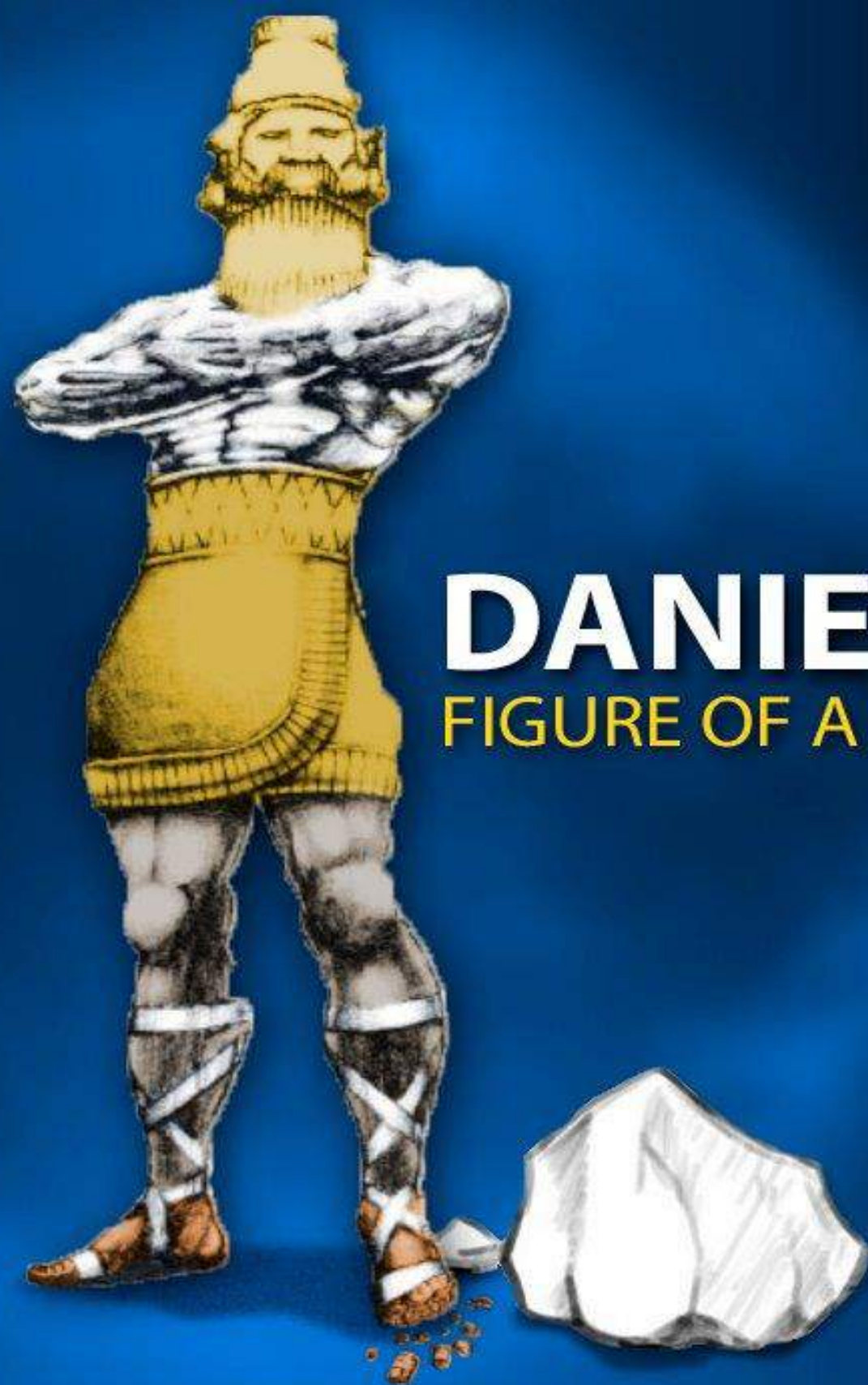
**CHEST & ARMS
OF SILVER**
KINGDOM OF MEDES
& PERSIANS

**BELLY & THIGHS
OF BRONZE**
KINGDOM OF
ANCIENT GREECE

LEGS OF IRON
KINGDOM OF
ANCIENT ROME

**FEET OF IRON
& CLAY**
KINGDOM OF
RESTORED ROME

CRUSHING ROCK
KINGDOM OF GOD



DANIEL 2
FIGURE OF A MAN

Prophecy

Daniel 9:25 “Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street[a] shall be built again, and the wall,[b]
Even in troublesome times.

<https://carm.org/does-daniel-9-24-27-predict-jesus>

Prophecy

Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,

“That I will raise to David a Branch of
righteousness;

A King shall reign and prosper,

And execute judgment and righteousness in the
earth.

Prophecy

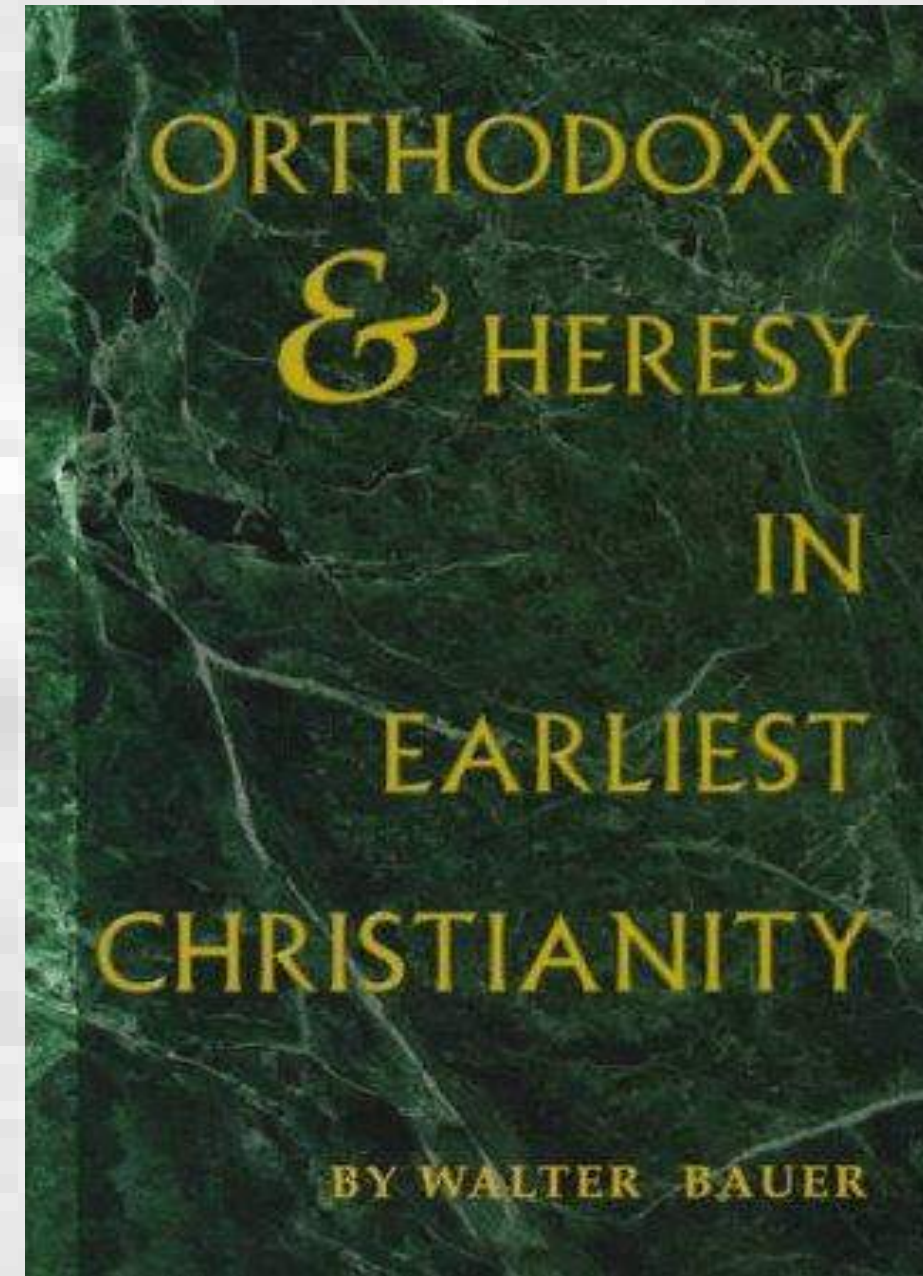
Isaiah 42 :1“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold,
My Elect One in whom My soul delights!
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

6 “I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness,
And will hold Your hand;
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the Gentiles,

A Great Conspiracy

The Story: There was no consensus in the church before 325 A.D. of the Canon of Scripture

Constantine wanted to unify the church so decided what books should be in the New Testament



The Development of the Canon

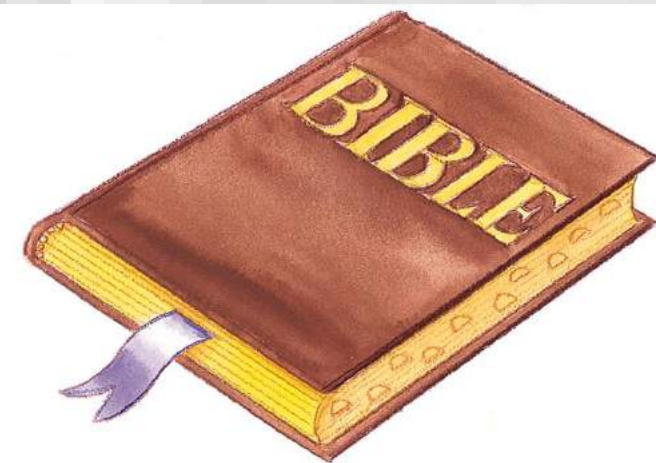
What does the word Canon mean

- the Greek word for “measuring rod”

Reasons for the development of the Canon

- to have the words of the Apostles
- to combat heresy - Marcion

What are you willing to die for?



The Church accepted the Canon it did not choose it

John 14:23-26

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

(NKJ)

Worldview – inspired writers vs. late history

The Word was confirmed to us

Heb 2:2-4

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

(NKJ)

Divine Word

Gal 1:11-12

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(NKJ)

The Spirit to the Apostles

Eph 3:1-5

- 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--
- 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
- 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
- 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

(NKJ)

The Commandments of the Lord

1 Cor 14:37

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

(NKJ)

Evidence for the current Canon

Quoted by the church fathers

Clement quotes from: the four gospels, Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Ephesians, Hebrews, Titus, James, 1st Peter and Revelation

Eusebius lists the books he said had been traditionally accepted without question as inspired

Disputed books: James, Jude, II Peter, 2nd and 3rd John and Hebrews

Tests for inspired books



Does the book claim inspiration?

Clement did not claim to be inspired

Is it written by an Apostle or someone closely associated with an Apostle?

Is its content in keeping with Apostolic teaching?

Was it accepted by loyal Churches?

Does it have the ring of “genuineness”?

The Canon

By 175 - 20 of the NT books were considered inspired

By 250 all 27 were considered inspired

The following church councils only confirmed what the church had already accepted - they did not decide on the books to be included in the NT

325 – Council of Nicea – Did not even bring up any issues of the Canon. Discussion was on the nature of Christ.