

## Practical Theology – Lesson 11 – “Scripture”

### “The Protestant Canon”

#### The Old and New Covenant

- Old Testament Covenant – Mt Sinai – Exodus 19:1-9
- Promise and Attributes of a New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Jesus declares the New Covenant – Matthew 5:17 (17-18), 26:28 (26-30)

#### Requirement for Canon – God Inspired authorship by Prophets or Apostles

- The Jews as the Custodians of Scripture – Romans 3:1-2 (Genesis 12:3)
- The Apostles as the Custodians of Scripture – I Corinthians 15:7-10 (1-11)
- NT passages quote OT – Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 3:3 (count 283 quotes from 27 of the 39)
- NT passages quote NT – Peter cites Paul (II Peter 3:15), Paul cites Luke 10:7 (I Timothy 5:18), but also see I Corinthians 15 (above).
- Many NT warnings about False Teachers – those guys had ink too! II Peter 2:1 (1-22)

#### The Closed Canon

- Old Testament – Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32 – Law, Prophet, Writings = Protestant OT
- New Testament – Revelation 22:18-19 (10-21) – Last words from the last Apostle regarding the last Book

#### The ‘History’ of Canon (in a nutshell)

- AD 100-300 ‘lists’ exist, with some variance, NT Canon established in AD 332, Damasine Council of Rome, 397 Council in Carthage.
- Council of Trent (1545-63), in direct reaction to Martin Luther’s 95 Theses (1517), adds the OT ‘Deuterocanon’ as authoritative.

#### Catholic / Orthodox Deuterocanon

##### Church Authority over Scripture & Open Canon

- Tobit – Story of Romance, Angels & Devils
- Judith – Heroine who beheads enemy general
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Wisdom of Ben Sirach
- Baruch & Letter of Jeremiah (“Scribe of Jeremiah”)
- 1 & 2 Maccabees – Two divergent views of the Maccabean Revolt – Hanukkah
- Additions to Esther and Daniel

#### Examples (of Many) of New Testament Non-Canonical or ‘Pseudepigrapha’

Essentially any early Christian letters written by early church leaders or circulated in the first (or second) century.

- 1 & 2 Clement – Written to Corinth about 100 AD
- Shepherd of Hermas – Allegorical work of visions and parables
- Didache – Catechism and Church Orders
- Epistle of Barnabas – Mystical allegorical interpretations
- Apocalypse of Peter – Included detailed accounts of punishments in Hell
- III Corinthians – “Paul” sends to correct “misinterpretations’ of I & II Corinthians

### Questions regarding Jude:

- V9 – Origen (185-254) cites apocryphal “The Assumption of Moses,” which no longer exists, as the source for the account referred to in Jude 9.
  - Deuteronomy 34:5-6 is the Old Testament account of Moses’ death and burial by God – what Jude describes is unknown to us except by his writing, but that does not invalidate Jude v9, or authenticate a ‘lost’ book, which may have been written because of Jude 9.
- V14 – Jude quotes Enoch, providing a prophecy which is not otherwise provided in Scripture. This is supposedly sourced for this is an apocryphal book, 1 Enoch (300-100 BC), which contains the prophecy.
  - This also compares to Deuteronomy 33:2 – The fact that Jude quotes this passage validates this passage, but does not validate the Book of Enoch.