

## MATTERS OF THE CANON

### Question #1:

Damn lies.

For a christian, you can lie!!

Google the history of the bible. In fact, John the Apostle could not have even seen the bible in its full form. Someone that was mentioned in the new testament and we all know that the new testament was compiled at least at 321 AD. John died at 100 AD.

Do your research.

The catholic church compiled the bible you are using today.

Read about the latin vulgate, st Jerome and the council of Nicea.

Bloody ignorant protestant

### Response #1:

John was the last Apostle to write. His book The Revelation of Jesus Christ was the last book of the Bible written. Chances are that he did in fact see the completed Bible before his death.

During the weekly meetings of believers commonly held on Sunday in every city in ancient times, the full Bible was read to Christians so that they got to know what it said. This is why copies of the inspired letters and Gospels and the prophecy of Revelation in addition to the Old Testament were available in the places where they gathered. It wasn't common that believers owned copies because they were generally poor and making copies of any text at all was expensive.

Because of the limitations of technology at the time, these copies were not bound into a single volume. But not only did they exist, believers knew that they were Scripture although other texts also existed that sometimes claimed to be Scripture but the apostles and the existing Old Testament set the gold standard for what was Scripture. If anything was written to contradict what was taught in the Old Testament and in writings from the Apostles (and special messengers like John Mark, Luke, James, and Jude), then it obviously was not Scripture. Additionally, inspired Scripture was and is its own witness, so any truly interested reader could tell if something was Scripture and if it wasn't.

Therefore, when councils were held, they certainly did not "create" the Bible or determine a Canon by any means. The councils were ostensibly reacting to heresies that attacked the Scriptures. But one unwise decision does not become wise because it attacks another unwise one. The Bible has never really been in question as to what it says. People have always tried to corrupt it by adding to it or trying to take away from it. The answer is always to judge what they add by the Spirit and to question why anything is to be removed. The answer is not to impose a definition on anybody else.

So, no, no council created the Bible. Book technology did improve primarily because of Christians' desire to have all the Scriptures in one volume, but no council defined the Canon. The Canon was self-evident right from the writing of the Scriptures themselves.

## **Question #2:**

I seriously hate people who cannot admit that they are wrong.

Rather than admitting that you are wrong, you are writing nonsensical epistles to prove that you know something.

Everything you wrote in bold is false. Not only are those things false, they are laughably false.

How can the whole bible be read at christian meetings? What a foolish lie!

How can canon be self evident when even the catholic church, historians and early christians all disagreed on what was or is canon?

You are a clown.

**Response #2:**

I can't help who and what you choose to hate, JeromeBlack. That is your prerogative, isn't it?

I am wondering if you think that the world has always been the way it is now. I think you might.

Complete literary works were recited to audiences in ancient times. That was how books got read by the vast majority. Where did you think the Roman Church got the tradition of reading the Bible to Catholics at mass so that they discouraged private ownership and personal study until recently?

The Jews met at synagogues every Sabbath to have the Old Testament read to them. Every week, they heard a little more. Christians carried on the practice with the difference that they met on Sundays and read the New Testament too. That way, within a year, the whole Bible would have been read to a given local church. That was how many believers back then read the Bible: by going to local assemblies and listening to an educated member read or recite it to them.

In ancient Greece, that was the job of people called rhapsodes. They were the ones who read literary works (actually they recited from memory for the most part) like Homer's The Odyssey to audiences. That practice was common in Bible times. But Scripture reading to believers was mandated even by Moses. That was what priests were supposed to be doing. Ezra did it too. Christians only inherited it.

As for disagreement on the Canon, even today, there is disagreement on what belongs in the Bible and what doesn't. The Bible accepted by Roman Catholics is slightly different from the one accepted by the Eastern Orthodox Church which is also different from the one accepted by the Egyptian Coptic Church and from the Ethiopian Church. So, even the pronouncement of a Canon amounted to very little. It did not produce a uniform idea about what was Scripture and what wasn't.

But even so, Scripture witnesses to itself. The fact that people disagree as to what is Scripture only proves that human beings are sinful and arrogant. Each person who is unwilling to humble himself to God will eventually start putting words in God's mouth. That was true even in the times of the Old Testament. It is true today still.

**Question #3:**

You have nothing to say. Good night.

**Response #3:**

(No Response.)