

In Search of Spiritual Treasure
Lesson #4
“Doctrine of the Bible”
Do the Present Books Belong There?

Introduction

- A. “The books of the Bible contain all God has chosen to reveal about Himself, and all man needs to know concerning God, His work and salvation.”
Deuteronomy 4: 1-2; Revelation 22: 18, 19.
 - B. The title given to Scripture when referring to its completion is Canon.
 - C. Canon comes from the Greek “karon” and means a Standard by which something is measured.
 - D. Books were included in the canon because they were believed to be inspired.
 - E. It is widely believed the Old Testament canon was complete by the time of Jesus’ ministry on earth.
 - F. It has been traditionally believed the critical period in the history of the New Testament canon was AD 140-200.
 - G. Consensus was important for the early church, because they needed to know which books were worth dying for if one’s life was put on the line.
- I. Tests that Affirmed Inspiration of New Testament Books.
- A. Was the book authored by or sanctioned by an apostle or prophet?
 - B. Was the book widely circulated ?
 - C. Was the book Christologically centered?
 - D. Was the book faithful to the teachings of the Apostles?
 - E. Did the book give internal evidence of its unique character as inspired and authoritative?
- II. Reasons the Apocrypha is not included in the Canon.

- A. The Apocrypha are Old Testament in nature, but were written in Greek.
- B. The Apocrypha is not quoted by Christ or any of the New Testament writers.
- C. There are no Messianic prophecies in the Apocrypha.
- D. The Apocrypha makes no claim of inspiration.
- E. The Apocrypha were not included in the original Hebrew canon.
- F. Key early Church Fathers did not mention the Apocrypha.
- G. The Apocrypha implies Doctrine contrary to Scripture.