

‘the apocrypha controversy’

HOW MANY BOOKS SHOULD BE IN THE
BIBLE?

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Sponsored in part by Russ Jones, DDS

The Bible: Taken for granted

- But “What Bible?”
- Issues:
 - Translation (John 1:1)
 - Textual Platform (John 1:18, Jeremiah, Job, NT/LXX)
 - Interpretation even when same text! (Acts 15)
 - + Canon



State of the Union

- The Jewish Canon (and text)
 - MT / Leningrad Codex / but Psalm 22
- The Protestant Canon
 - Since when? Vulgate... KJV...
- The Roman Catholic Canon
 - The Vulgate + a turning point: Trent 1550
- The Orthodox Canon
 - An open issue?
- The Ethiopian Canon
 - Two collections

Under discussion

- Baruch + Letter of Jeremiah
- Additions to Daniel
- Additions to Esther
- Form of Ezra / Nehemiah
- Judith
- Tobit
- Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
- Wisdom of Solomon
- 1,2,3,4 Maccabees

Definitions:

- Bible
- Septuagint | Masoretic Text
- Canon and Canonical
- Apocrypha (Jerome / Modern)
- Protocanonical
- Deuterocanonical – two senses
- Pseudepigrapha
- Inspired – what does that mean?

Questions...

- Who should decide?
- Who has decided?
- On what basis?
 - Internal canon
 - “Inspiring”
 - “Consistent”
 - “Authentic / True”
- Does it matter?

How it happened

- The NT and the OT – two stories...
- Gradual acceptance
- The LXX and its legend
- The sacred 22/24
- The Christian Era
- The NT use of the OT
- The Bible of the Early Christians
- The “Jamnia” reaction

Two basic views

- Origen
- Augustine

- Athanasius
- Jerome

- Why?

- Carthage / Rome
- The Eastern lists
- An open issue until Trent! (Gregory / Cajetan / Polyglot)

The Roman Catholic view



- Council of Trent (1546)
- “But if any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately condemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema”

- The Protestant objection(s)



Objections

- Not directly quoted in NT (“it is written”)
- Canon was closed
- The Jews should decide
- Inaccurate
- Not written in Hebrews
- “False doctrines”

Orthodox Hesitations and Solution

- Early Christians (Origen)
- But...
- Athanasius
- Hesitation and compromise...
- An open canon and its implications...

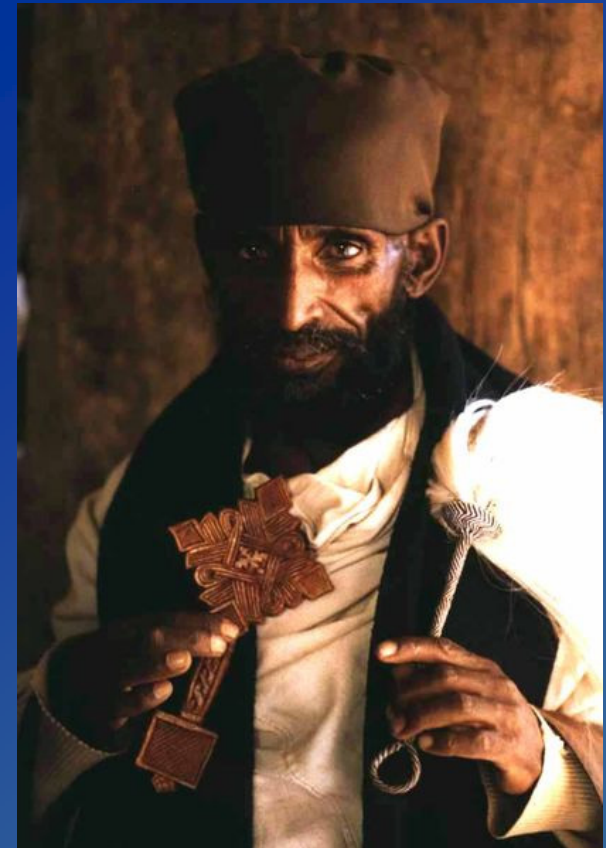
'Protein is useful'

- Nature = essential!
- Residue?
- Source (but Paul / Jude) (McDonald)
- Quantity
- Identifiable?

What about the Ethiopian canon?

- Two canons:
- Vol. 1. the 'protestant' Canon, Genesis - Esther.
- Vol. 2. the 'protestant' Canon, Job - Malachi (omitting Psalms).
- Vol. 3. Jubilees, 1, 2, 3 Maccabees, Enoch, Ezra Apocalypse, 1 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, 'the rest of Jeremiah', Susanna, 'the rest of Daniel'.
- Vol. 4. Psalms and the New Testament as universally accepted.

<http://www.islamic-awareness.org/Bible/Text/Canon/ethiopian.html>



Scripture, Tradition, Church and the Holy Spirit

- The Scripture are indispensable witnesses to the Truth
- There is a hierarchy in the canon
- We need the “deutero-canonical books” and LXX readings in our Bibles
- Towards a convergence: the NRSV

Questions and Answers

