**A close-up of a score

Description automatically generatedCanonicity**

Final Exam

# True or False (5 pts each)

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| **True of False** | **True** | **False** |
| 1. The original word for the “canon” referred to a “measuring rod.” | * X |  |
| 1. In class, we agreed with this definition of the canon: “[The Canon is] the list of the writings acknowledged by the Church as documents of the divine revelation.” |  | * X |
| 1. Seven books were disputed for the NT canon: Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. | * X |  |
| 1. There were only 10 Gnostic gospels, and none of them were ever considered for the NT canon. | * X |  |
| 1. The Muratorian Fragment lists 22 out of the 27 books in the NT, and it dates to AD 170. | * X |  |

# Multiple Choice (5 pts each)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **6:** If Christians need a universally accepted list of books affirmed by an ecumenical council before they knew the canon, they would be waiting until when?

1. Origen’s list in AD 250
2. Athanasius’ list in his 39th Pascal Letter in AD 367
3. The Council of Nicea in AD 325
4. The Council of Trent in AD 1546

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **7:** Circle three reasons why we should NOT require a list in order to define the canon.

1. This would mean that Christians did not have a Bible for at least three centuries.
2. This would mean that the list would need to be in the Bible itself.
3. The need for a canonical list leads to an infinite regress.
4. This makes a philosophical error that confuses the BEING of Scripture with the KNOWING of Scripture.

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| **8. Humans did not determine the canon, but they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** | | |
| ☐  Debated the canon. | ☐  Discovered the canon. | ☐  Fired the cannon. |

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| **9. How do we know the NT authors believed they were writing Scripture? (PICK TWO out of the three)** | | |
| ☐  The apostles believed that their apostolic teaching was inspired. So, these written teachings would also be inspired. | ☐  Jesus pre-authenticated the apostles to write Scripture. | ☐  Paul wrote that “all Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). |

# Scripture Memorization (5 pts each)

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| **10. Respond to this statement with citing two passages below:**  **“The NT authors never referred to other NT books as ‘Scripture.’”**  **(Pick the two examples below.)** | |
| ☐ Jude 9 | ☐ 1 Timothy 5:18 |
| ☐ Luke 11:49 | ☐ 2 Corinthians 12:12 |
| ☐ 2 Peter 3:15-16 | ☐ Matthew 10:20 |

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| **11. Respond to this statement with citing a passage below:**  **“Paul didn’t believe that his own writing was Scripture.”** | |
| ☐ 1 Peter 3:15 | ☐ Matthew 10:20 |
| ☐ John 14:26 | ☐ John 16:13 |
| ☐ 1 Thessalonians 4:2-8 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 14:36-38 |

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| **12. Where did Jesus pre-authenticate the fact that the disciples would write Scripture?** | |
| ☐ John 14:26 | ☐ Matthew 10:20 |
| ☐ Matthew 10:40 | ☐ John 16:13 |
| ☐ Gospel of Thomas, saying 114 | ☐ Matthew 5:17-18 |

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| **13. Write down a memory verse that responds to this statement:**  **“The Israelites had no way of knowing who was a true prophet.”** |
| (Deuteronomy 13:1-5) Sound doctrine.  (Deuteronomy 18:21-22) Fulfilled predictions. |

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| **14. Write down a verse that responds to this statement:**  **“The Jewish people didn’t know the canon until AFTER the time of Jesus.”** |
| (Romans 3:1-2) What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.  (Luke 11:51) From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah.  Matthew 22:29-31 |

# Short Answer (10 pts each)

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| **15. We have 39 books in the Old Testament Canon. What are three ancient sources that support that these books (and no others) belong in the Old Testament?** |
| *[Any of three of these answers would receive full credit.]*  The Dead Sea Scrolls  Josephus  Baba Bathra  Philo  The New Testament |

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| **16. What are two reasons for rejecting the Gnostic gospels as authentic biographies of Jesus’ life?** |
| *[Any of these answers would receive full credit.]*  The earliest Gnostic gospel dates to AD 150—not the 1st century.  Even critics of the Bible agree that the Gnostic gospels offer no credible history of Jesus.  The Gnostic gospels were never considered for the canon—even by Gnostics.  The Gnostic gospels have a very low view of women. The Four Gospels are countercultural in this regard. |

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| **17. What are the five OT books that were most disputed by ancient rabbis?** |
| (1) Ecclesiastes  (2) Song of Songs  (3) Proverbs  (4) Ezekiel  (5) Esther |

# Bonus Question (5 PTS)

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| **18. What are two reasons that could help explain why Esther wasn’t quickly accepted in the canon?** |
| *[Any of two of these answers would receive full credit.]*  (1) The author might have omitted God’s name for stylistic reasons.  (2) Apocryphal additions to Esther appear in the LXX.  (3) The book doesn’t contain God’s name, and the protagonist marries a Gentile king. |