

GOD'S FINISHED BOOK

THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF CANONIZATION PART III

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ..."

~ Colossians 1:25

1. All Scripture is Given

- a. *"all scripture"* – 2 Tim 3:16, do we have it all? Is there more?
- b. Canon was a) ordained by God, b) collected by prophets and apostles
- c. The canon is now closed, God's book is finished. All scripture is given.
- d. How do we know? (*hint: numerology is not a good argument*)
 - i. By studying what God is doing. (dispensational change) Col 1:25

2. The Hebrew Bible (OT)

- a. God gave his book ~1500 BC with Moses, ~1000 David, ~500 Ezra/Neh
 - i. *Did God ordain more books after Malachi? ... not until Christ.*
- b. God spake unto the fathers by the prophets - Heb 1:1
- c. There were times God did not speak (usually due to transgression)
 - i. *"word of the Lord was precious... there was no open vision"* - 1 Sam 3:1
 - ii. *"LORD answered him not... by dreams... by Urim... by prophets"* 1Sa 28:6
 - iii. *"We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet"* – Psa 74:9
- d. Israel's covenant curses included blindness and not hearing (the vision/the word)
 - i. *"ye shall not have a vision"* - Micah 3:6-7, Isa 6:9-10, 29:10, Eze 7:26
 - ii. *"a famine ... of hearing the words of the LORD"* - Amos 8:11-12
- e. 400 years without a prophet til John – Mal 3:1, 4:5, Lk 1:17, Matt 11:13
 - i. With no open vision, books become valuable (Daniel, Malachi, etc.)
 - ii. Apocrypha was written in those 400 years – 1 Macc 9:27, 14:41

3. The Christian Addition (NT)

- a. *"hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son"* - Heb 1:2
- b. They believed scripture and the word of Jesus due to a sign – John 2:22
- c. Apostles received authority from Christ – Jud 17, 1Jn 4:6,1:1, 2Pe 1:12-21
- d. Epistles were circulated and read by the churches – Col 4:16, 1Th 5:27, 2Th 3:14
- e. The early church could acknowledge by prophecy – 1 Cor 14:37, 2 Cor 12:12
- f. There were corrupters and false apostles – Rev 2:2, 2 Cor 2:17, 2 Cor 11:13
- g. Peter, John, Paul (Tim) involved in collecting the books – 2 Tim 4:13, 2 Pet 3:16,

4. Closing the Book

- a. *Is the Christian canon closed?*
- b. Relies upon (1) what you think happened to Israel – Rom 3:2 (2) what you think happened to the apostles and prophets – Eph 2:20, 4:11-13 (1 Cor 13:9-10)
- c. Jesus did not come to destroy, but to fulfil prophets – Matt 5:17
- d. Paul said Christ gave it to him to fulfill the word of God – Col 1:25
- e. What would fulfill it? The mystery of Christ – Col 1:26-27, Eph 1:10, 3:10
- f. There is nothing more for God to write – the work is done, it is finished. 2Ti 4:7