



Defending The NT as Containing the earliest most accurate information on Jesus!

AD 70 → Carthage AD 397 & backwards to AD 30.

B.A. Seybold



Menorah on the Arch of Titus in Rome

-----30 T -----70 -----100-----397

X=Citation or Allusion O=Named as Authoritative ?-Named as Disputed	Clement of Rome (c. 95-97)	Ignatius (c.110)	Polycarp (c.110-150)	Papias (c.130-140)	Irenaeus (c. 130-202)	Justin Martyr (c. 150-155)	Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-215)	Tertullian (c. 150-220)	Origen (c. 185-254)	Cyrus of Jerusalem (c. 315-386)	Eusebius (c. 325-340)	Jerome (c. 340-420)	Athanasius (AD 367)	Augustine (c. 400)	Muratorian (c. 170)	Apostolic (c. 300)	Athanasius(c. 367)	Nicea (c. 325-340)	Hippo (c.393)	Carthage (c. 397)	Carthage (c. 419)
	Individuals														Canons			Councils			
Matthew	X		X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Mark			X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Luke			X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
John	X		X	X	O	O	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Acts			X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Romans	X		X		O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
1 Corinthians	O		X		O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2 Corinthians			X		O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Galatians			X		O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Ephesians	X	X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Philippians		X	X		O		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Colossians		X	X		O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
1 Thessalonians		X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2 Thessalonians		X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
1 Timothy	X		X		X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2 Timothy					X			X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Titus	X				X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Philemon		X								O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Hebrews	X				X		O	X	?	O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O	O
James	X									O	?	O	O	O		O	O	?	O	O	O
1 Peter			X		O	X	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O		O	O		O	O	O
2 Peter	X								?	O	?	O	O	O		O	O	?	O	O	O
1 John			X		O		O	X		O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O
2 John			X		X				?	O	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	?	O	O	O
3 John									?	O	?	O	O	O		O	O	?	O	O	O
Jude					X		O	X		O	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	?	O	O	O
Revelation				O	O	X	O	X	O		O	O	O	O	O		O		O	O	O

Heretics

Irenaeus of Lyon (Mid-late 2nd century Southern Gaul) → Said to the Gnostic heretic Valentinus – “You have no predecessor

(Eph. 2:20). “*God’s household having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,*”

Marcion of Sinope, 2nd century in Asia Minor and Rome. Marcion was a dualist (ditheist); i.e. contrasted the Heavenly Father of the NT – god of love – as allegedly greater than the creator god of the OT.

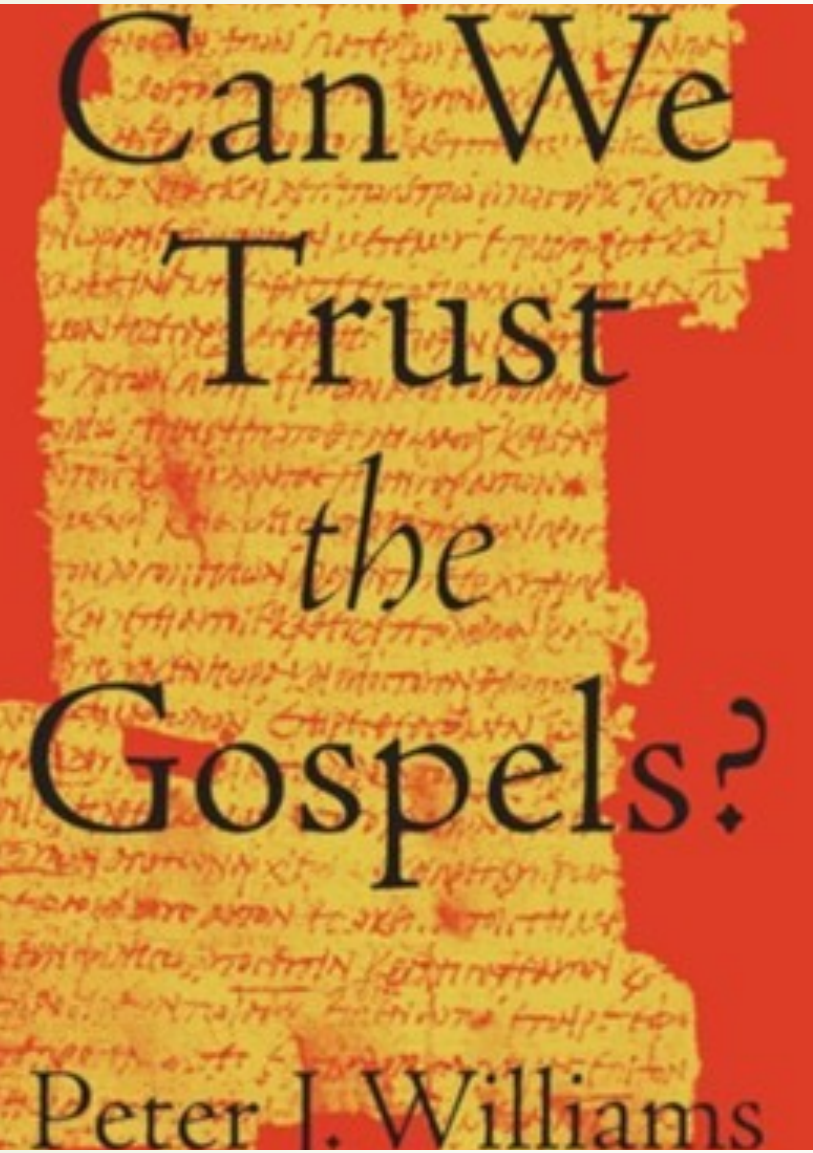
Docetism – Jesus wasn’t fully human but merely appeared in the flesh.

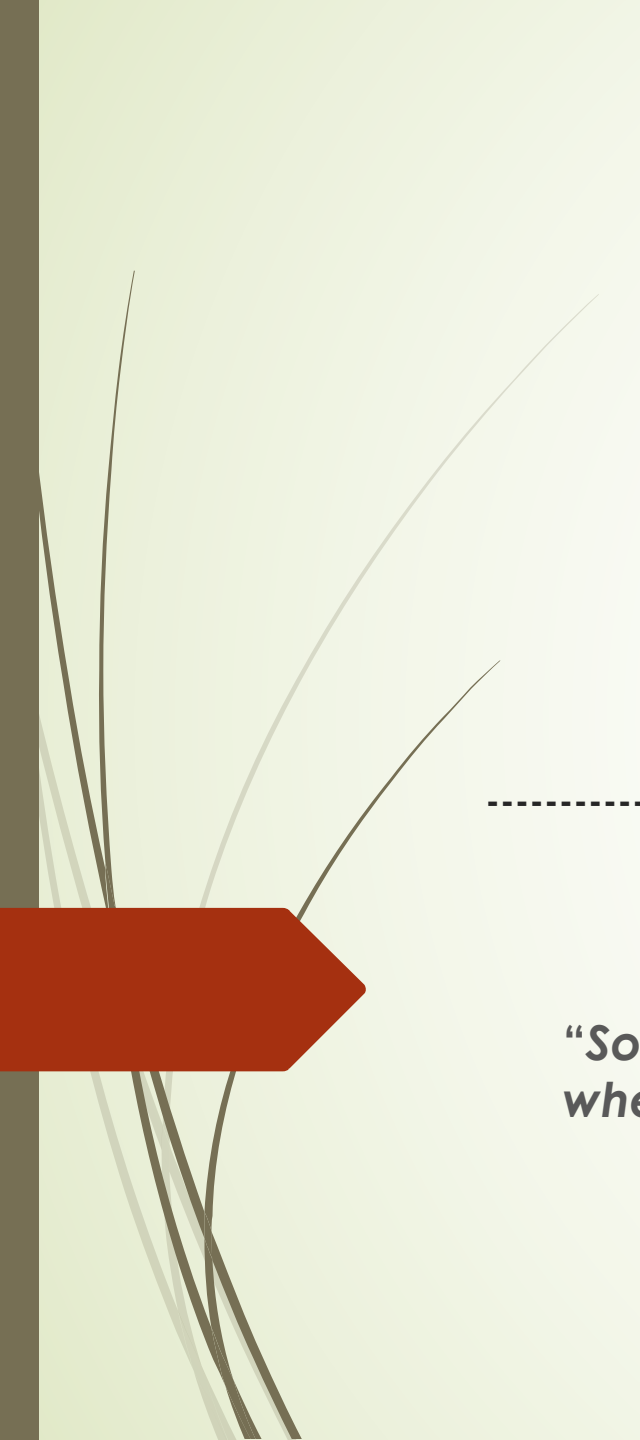
Marcion’s Canon: He limited it to 10 of Paul’s letters and a mutilated version of Luke’s Gospel.





**Eph. 2:20. “God’s household
having been built on the
foundation of the apostles and
prophets, Christ Jesus Himself
being the corner stone,”**





-----30 † -----70 -----100-----397

“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” (2 Thes. 2:15)

Papius - on Oral tradition

(Eusebius, chapter 39, par. 3,
150. - Quoting Papius)

"If, then, any one came, who had been a follower of the elders, I questioned him in regard to the words of the elders,—what Andrew or what Peter said, or what was said by Philip, or by Thomas, or by James, or by John, or by Matthew, or by any other of the disciples of the Lord, and what things Aristion and the presbyter John, the disciples of the Lord, say. For I did not think that what was to be gotten from the books would profit me as much as what came from the living and abiding voice."



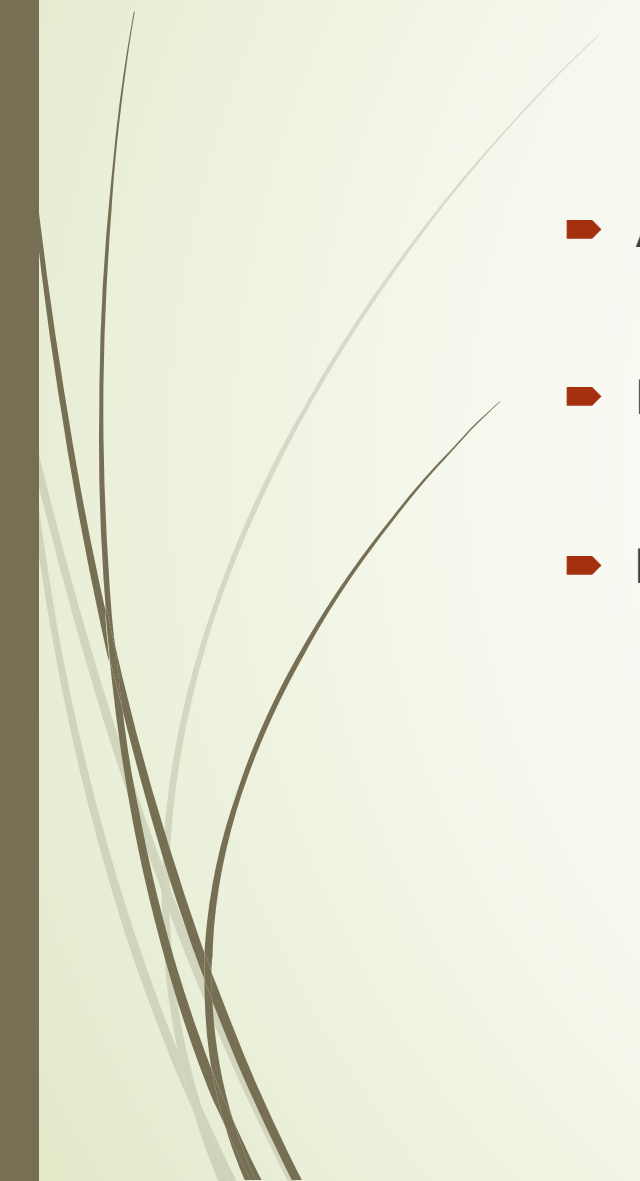
Norma Geisler, *From God to Us*, 101

- ▶ “Since Christianity was an international religion from the beginning, there was no tightly knit prophetic community which received all inspired books and collected them in one place. Local and somewhat complete collections were made from the very beginning, but there is no evidence of a central and official clearinghouse for inspired writings...within about two hundred years after the first century, nearly every verse of the New Testament was cited in one or more of the over thirty-six thousand citations by the Fathers.”



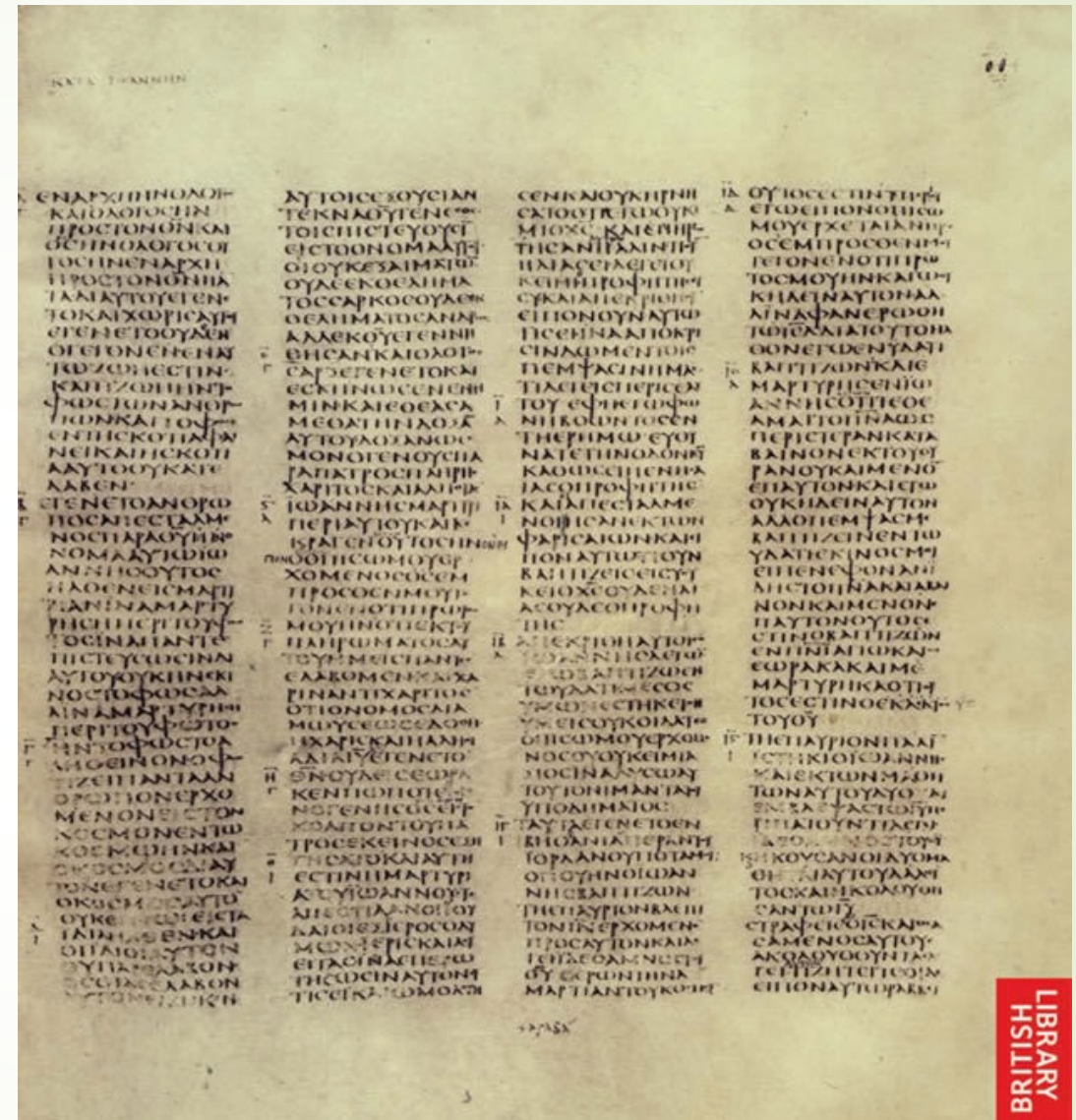


Conditions for Canonicity:

- Apostolicity
 - Recognized as Orthodox by Churches
 - Internal authority
- 

Early Complete NT Codices

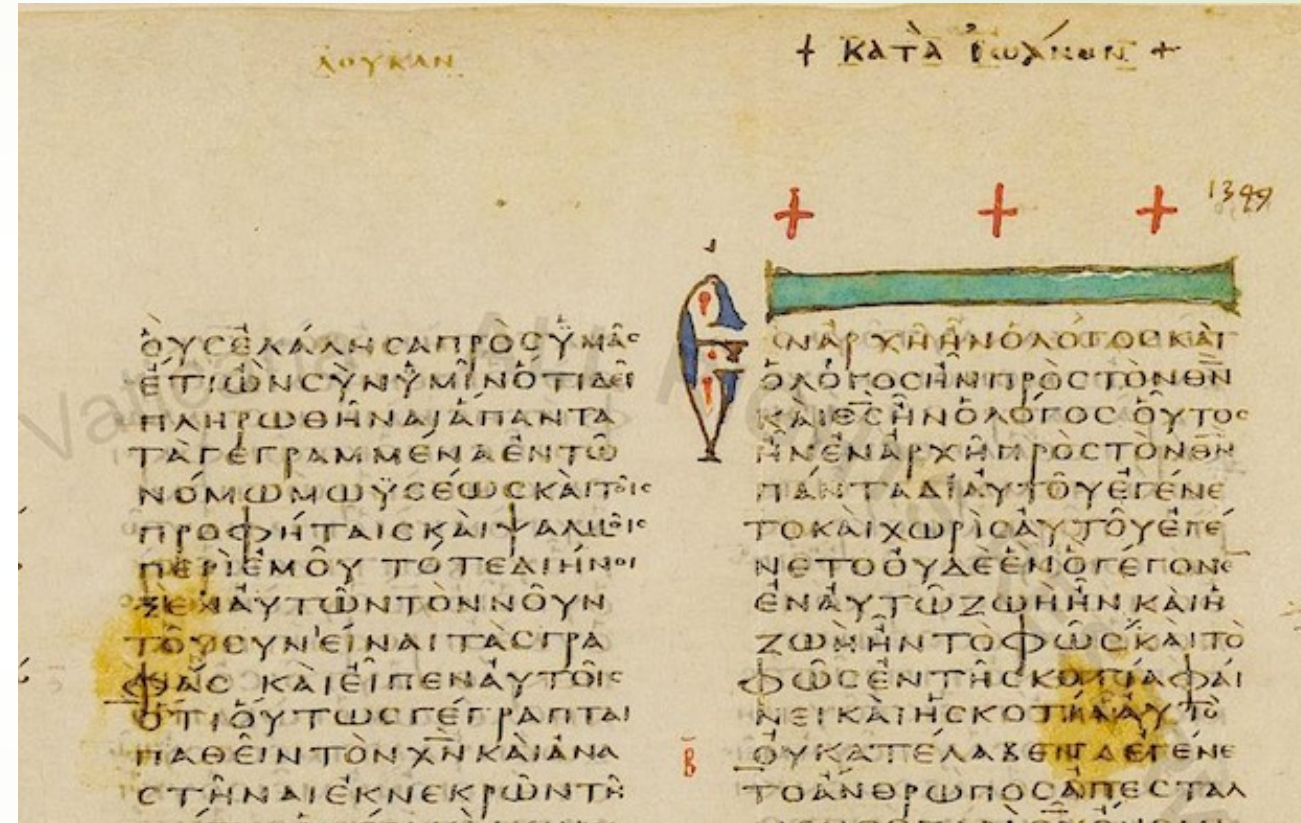
Sinaiticus: Complete NT -
St. Catherine's Monastery -
350 A.D.



The first page of the Gospel of John from Codex Sinaiticus

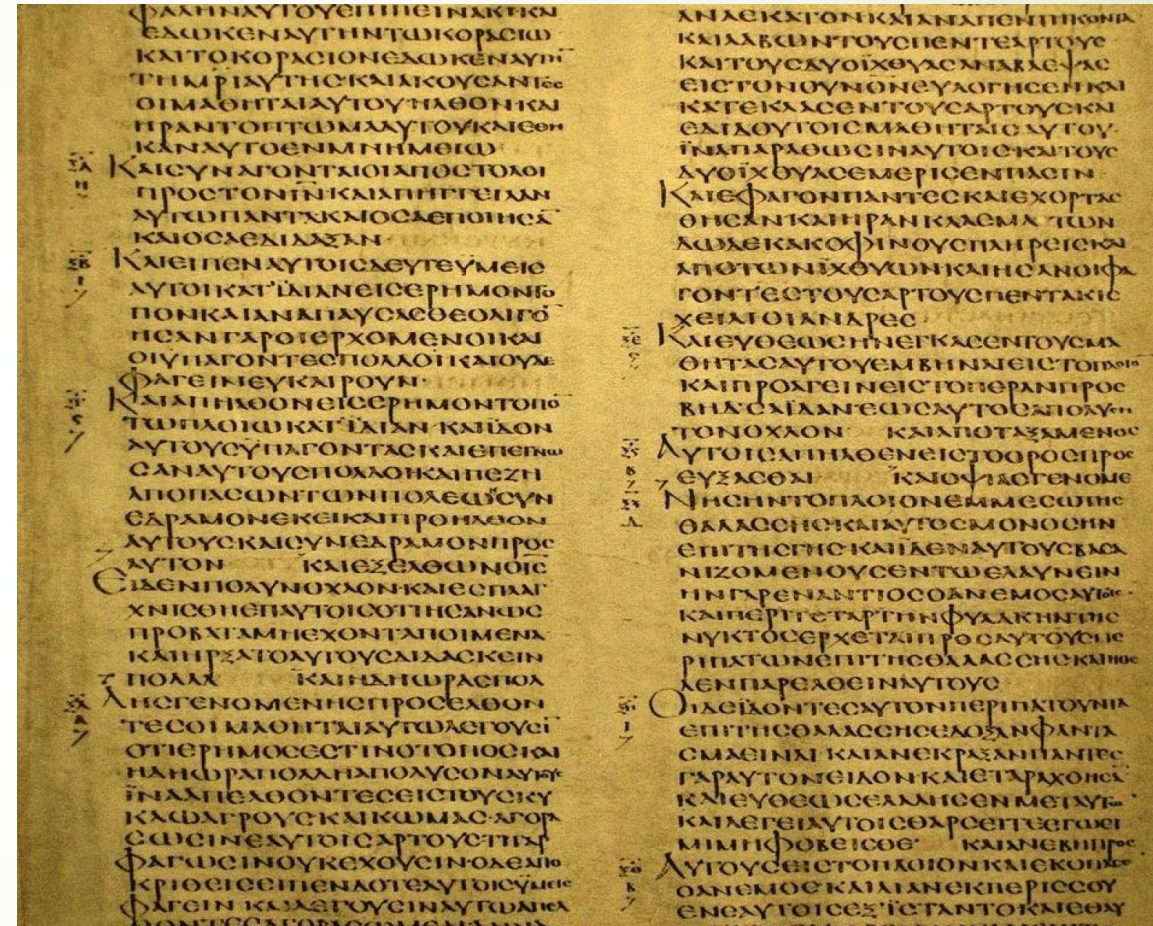
Early Complete NT Codices

**Vaticanus: Nearly
Complete NT – Rome – 350
A.D. missing pastoral
Epistles & Philemon.**



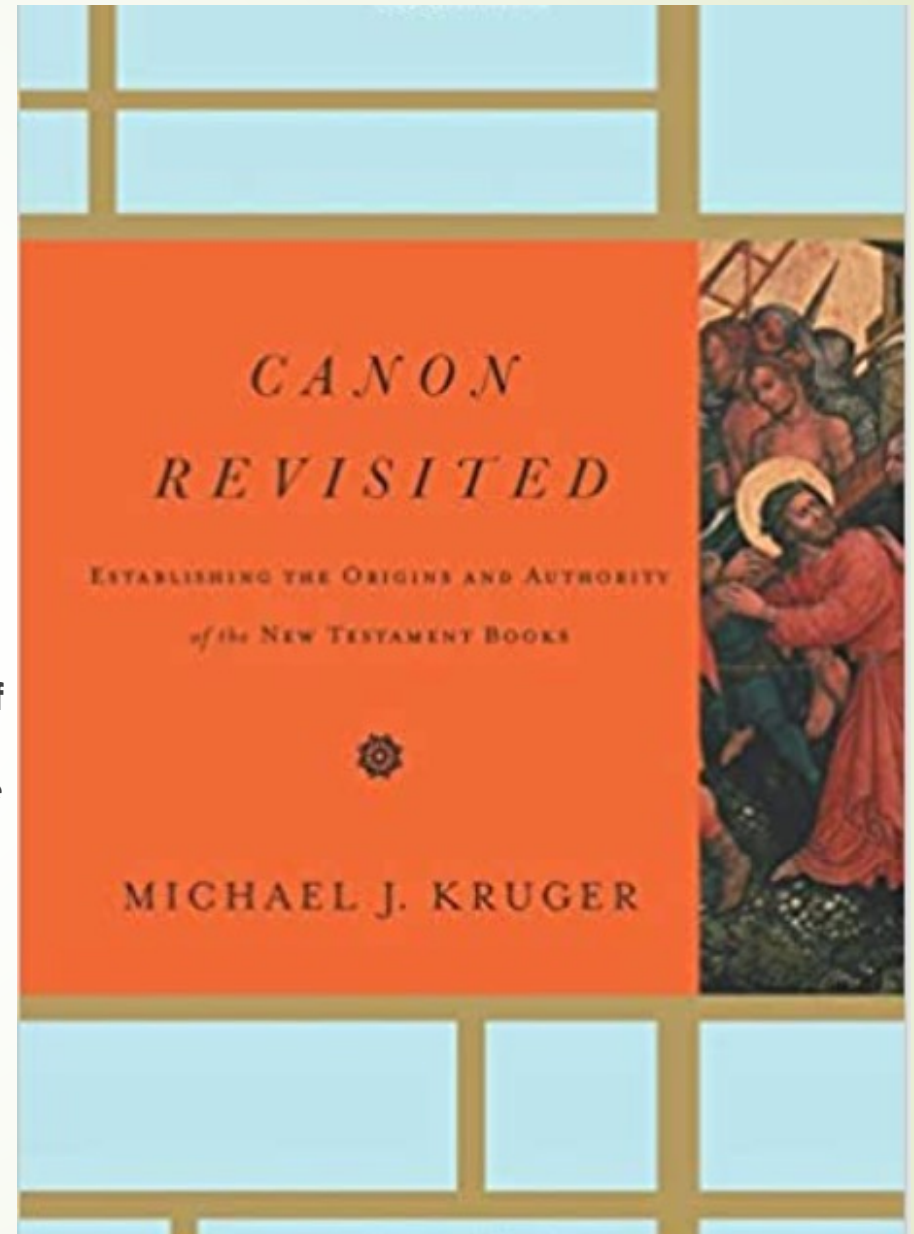
Early Complete NT Codices

Alexandrinus: Complete
NT – Alexandria – 400-450
A.D.



Apologetic Advantages of Late Canon date of 397 A.D.

- Freedom enabled through the legalization of Christianity by Constantine in 313 – Edict of Milan
- It actually undermines the corruption argument because of the 27 original NT books.
- various apostolic authors
- Multiple locations
- All of those copies.
- “...after all, if the canon bears the very authority of God, to what other standard could it appeal to justify it?” Kruger, Michael J. *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books*. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012), 89.

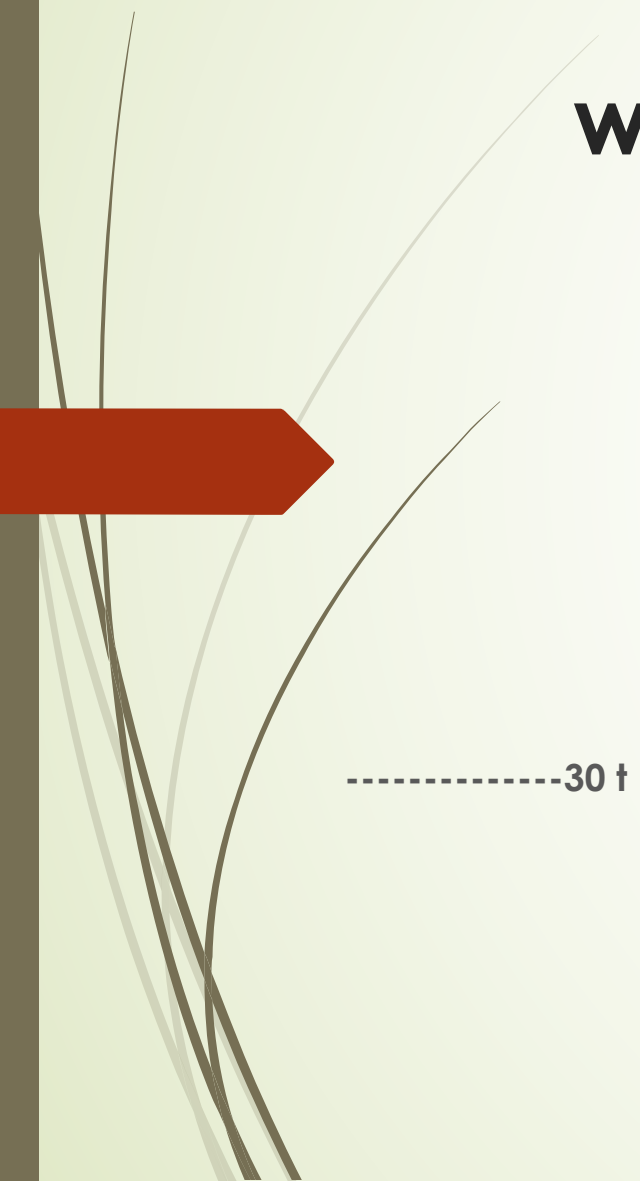




Intertextual web – (Internal Apologetics)

- 1 Timothy 5:18 → Luke 10:7 “The worker is worth his wages”
- 2 Peter 3:16 → Peter refers to Paul’s letters with “the rest of the scriptures”
- Acts 15: Church at Jerusalem writes a letter to Antioch
- Colossians 4:16 → Believers at Colossae & Laodicea were to swap letters and read them.
- 2 Timothy 4:11-13 → Paul refers to Luke’s presence, possibly prompting Paul to remind Timothy to bring his parchments; Was Luke possibly currently penning Luke & or Acts at the time?
- Luke 24:27 & 44 → Jesus refers to 2-part & 3-part division of OT and interprets the OT’s entirety as finding its fulfillment in him!

2 Thessalonians 2:15 – word/letter/traditions → Transition towards creeds argument/message!



-----30 † -----70 -----100-----397

Dating the Gospels

-----30 † -----70 -----100-----397

- Skeptics date the Gospels after 70 because their philosophical naturalism doesn't allow predictive prophecy.
- And if the Gospels were written 70 or after it's still very early by ancient standards.
- Most scholars think that Mark wrote first, but the early church held a tradition lead by Papias that Matthew wrote first.
- What is certain is that Luke did not: Others who drew up accounts – Luke 1:1 → So Luke wrote after Matt. & Mark.
- However, Luke also wrote Acts & Acts 1:1 makes it clear that that Luke's Gospel was first.
- And we know how Luke concludes Acts; with Paul, his main character (along with Peter) still alive under house-arrest in Rome.
- But Luke tends to report when significant people die and or get martyred; e.g. Stephan (Acts 7) and the Apostle James (Acts 12) → An entire litany of voices from the 1st-5th centuries seem convinced that Paul was beheaded in Rome und Nero whose reign ended in 68 --- 2 years prior to 70.
- How unlikely is it that Luke doesn't record the martyrdom of his main character? Internally it looks as if Acts can not only be dated prior to 70 but prior to 68. And what does that do Matthew, Mark, & Luke → Pushes them back into the mid to early 60s. (2 Timothy 4:11-ff. – Only Luke is with me...bring my parchments & scrolls.)



Characteristics of Pre-textual Creed, Confessions, Hymns & Kerygmatic Material:.

- Texts introduced by deliver, confess, or believe.
- Contextual dislocations or interruptions.
- Repetition. Lists / bullet points.
- Often rhythmical.
- Often lines of equal or similar length, or other structure.
- Use of language not employed elsewhere or differently by the author.
- Elementary theology chiefly regarding the Gospel message. (Death, burial, resurrection, exaltation, return and deity of Jesus Christ)



List of Several Pre-Textual Creeds, Confessions, Kerygma and Hymns Embedded in the New Testament.

- Galatians 1-2 highly influential to early church
- Romans 1:3-4
- Romans 10:9
- 1 Cor. 8:6
- 1 Cor. 12:3
- 1 Cor. 15:3-7 (note v. 11 as well)
- 2 Cor. 5:19
- Phil 2:6-11.
- Luke 24:34
- Romans 4:25
- Col 1:15-20
- 2 Timothy 2:11-13
- 1 Tim. 6:12
- 1 Tim. 3:16
- Hebrews 1:2-4
- 1 Thess. 1:9-10
- Acts 1:21-22; 2:22-36; 3:13-16; 4:8-10; 5:29-32; 10:39-43; 13:28-31; 17:1-3 & 30-31.
- 1 John 4:2-3