



### ***RCC Phoenix – 5.22.22 – The Bible (Week 3)***

- How Was the Bible Put Together? Who Made the Final Decisions?

The Bible was not \_\_\_\_\_ on by a democratic process.

The Early Church believed the contents of the Bible were not \_\_\_\_\_ upon by Christians but were \_\_\_\_\_ by Christians.

Writings of the Bible were completed by approx. \_\_\_\_\_ AD.

In \_\_\_\_\_ AD Christian authors begin recording a list of NT writings Christians are treating as Scripture.

We can assemble nearly all the NT just from the early church fathers quoting Scriptural passages in their correspondence to each other.

Constantine (Emperor of Rome) called 300+ Christian leaders together in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD to settle some disagreements within the church including the nature of Jesus Christ, the proper date to celebrate Easter, and other matters. These leaders met in the city of Nicea (located in modern-day Turkey.)

This gathering of Christian leaders is referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Nicea.

Each book of the Bible had to pass 4 tests before it was considered to be Scripture.

- TEST 1 – Is the writing connected to Jesus or does Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the author?
- TEST 2 – Does the writing make \_\_\_\_\_ with itself and other books of Scripture?
- TEST 3 – Is it historically \_\_\_\_\_?
- TEST 4 – Have Christians regarded this writing as Scripture? Has it been \_\_\_\_\_ and confirmed to be real by Christians?

\_\_\_\_\_ Books of the Bible were included with no one objecting or raising any concerns (34 OT / 20 NT)

OT Books That Needed Further Discussion:

- Ezekiel – Hard to Understand Imagery
- Song of Solomon – Sensuality & Sexual
- Ecclesiastes – Seemed Dark in Nature
- Esther – the only book of the Bible that doesn't mention \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs – a collection of “truisms” and some could appear to conflict with each other at first glance

NT Books That Needed Further Discussion:

- James – does it point to salvation being works based
- Hebrews – Author Unknown
- 2 Peter – Was it written by Peter
- 2 John – Seemed Personal in Nature
- 3 John – Seemed Personal in Nature
- Jude – The author quotes the book of Enoch which is not included
- Revelation – Hard to Understand Imagery

*Rejected Books Not Included in the Bible:*

Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ – Mixture of Greek philosophy and teachings of Jesus. It presented the idea that the physical is bad and the Spiritual is good. It was written in the name of Judas (not actually by Judas) with ideas that were contrary to the rest of the Bible.

Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ – Was written a long time after the Bible was complete. Scholars discovered the author was not Thomas and the ideas are contrary to the Bible (even scholars who are anti-Bible agree this isn't part of Christianity).

Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ – Obvious that Philip wasn't the author as it refers to the church being well developed making it written more than 100 years after the rest of Scripture. It also contains Gnostic theology.

Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ – Discovered in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the grave of a monk clutching the scroll. Some early Christian leaders mention it and that it was written much later in Peter's name but not by Peter. A few of its strange ideas include Mary being a virgin for the rest of her life, Jesus didn't die, there is a talking cross that announces Jesus went to hell, etc.

*Summary:*

Incalculable amounts of time, discussion, thought and study happened to assemble and preserve the Scripture.

*TIME Magazine – Dec 18, 1995*

“Reputable Scholars now believe that the New Testament account ***is reliable history.***”