

# Scripture and Canon

## Origins of Christianity

### Outline

1. Jewish Scripture and Canon
2. The Shape of the Christian Scriptures
3. The Second Century
4. The Fourth Century

### Terms

Canon

Ketuvim

Septuagint

Tatian

Irenaeus

Torah

4<sup>th</sup> Esdras

scroll vs. codex

Diatesseron

Eusebius

Nevi'im

Letter of Aristeas

Justin Martyr

Marcion

Arianism

### From SCRIPTURE to CANON

#### Second Century Witnesses:

Justin Martyr

Tatian

Marcion

Irenaeus

#### Fourth Century Witnesses:

Eusebius (ca. 320)

Muratorian Canon

Codex Sinaiticus (ca. 340)

Codex Vaticanus (ca. 350)

Council of Laodicea (363)

Athanasius (367)

Council of Carthage (397)

## SCRIPTURE in CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

	Evangelical	Mainline Protestant	Catholic	Eastern Orthodox	Progressive
<b>Nature</b>	Inerrant	Doctrinally Inerrant	Doctrinally Inerrant	Doctrinally Inerrant	Sacred but Imperfect
<b>Grounds</b>	Divine dictation	Inspired	Apostolic	Apostolic	Human
<b>Interpretation</b>	Literalist	Interpreted by reason	Tradition and Church	Patristic Tradition	Radical Hermeneutics

*SOLA  
SCRIPTURA*

*SCRIPTURA ET  
ECCLESIA*

### DICTION

God writes through human hands; the writings themselves are revelation



### INSPIRATION

### ELEVATION

The author is elevated through witnessing the divine

### Athanasius, *Festal Letter*, AD 367

...2. But since we have made mention of heretics as dead, but of ourselves as possessing the divine scriptures for salvation; and since I fear lest, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, some few of the simple should be beguiled from their simplicity and purity, by the subtlety of certain men, and should henceforth read other books—those called apocryphal—led astray by the similarity of their names with the true books....

3. In proceeding to make mention of these things, I shall adopt, to commend my undertaking, the pattern of Luke the Evangelist, saying on my own account: 'Forasmuch as some have taken in hand,' **to reduce into order for themselves the books termed apocryphal, and to mix them up with the divinely inspired Scripture, concerning which we have been fully persuaded, as they who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word, delivered to the fathers; it seemed good to me also, having been urged thereto by true brethren, and having learned from the beginning, to set before you the books included in the Canon, and handed down, and accredited as Divine; to the end that any one who has fallen into error may condemn those who have led him astray; and that he who has continued steadfast in purity may again rejoice, having these things brought to his remembrance.** 4. There are, then, of the Old Testament, twenty-two books in number; for, as I have heard, it is handed down that this is the number of the letters among the Hebrews; their respective order and names being as follows...