

The NT Canon

	Irenaeus of Lyons c. AD 130-200	Muratorian Canon AD 170-210	Eusebius' EH 3.25 c. AD 260-340	Athanasius' 39th Paschal letter AD 367	Present Order
Matthew					Matthew
Mark					Mark
Luke					Luke
John					John
Acts					Acts
Romans					Romans
1 Corinthians					1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians					2 Corinthians
Galatians					Galatians
Ephesians					Ephesians
Philippians					Philippians
Colossians					Colossians
1 Thessalonians					1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians					2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy					1 Timothy
2 Timothy					2 Timothy
Titus					Titus
Philemon					Philemon
Hebrews					Hebrews
James			D		James
1 Peter					1 Peter
2 Peter			D		2 Peter
1 John					1 John
2 John			D		2 John
3 John			D		3 John
Jude			D		Jude
Revelation					Revelation
Wisdom of Solomon					
Apocalypse of Peter			S		
Shepherd of Hermas		**	S	*	
Acts of Paul			S		
Epistle of Barnabas			S		
The Didache			S	*	
Gospel according to the Hebrews			S		

	Gospels		Apocryphal (selected works)
	Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85		Spurious
	'Catholic' Epistles		Permitted reading
	Disputed		Permitted reading but not for public worship

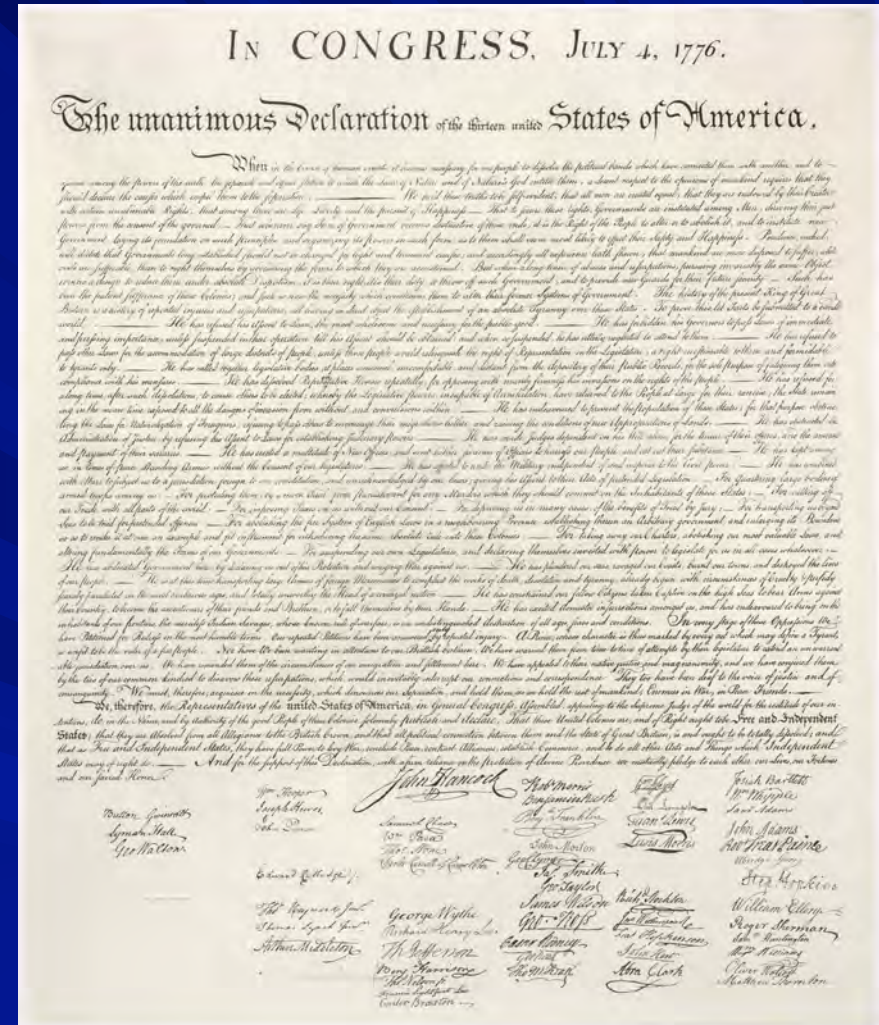
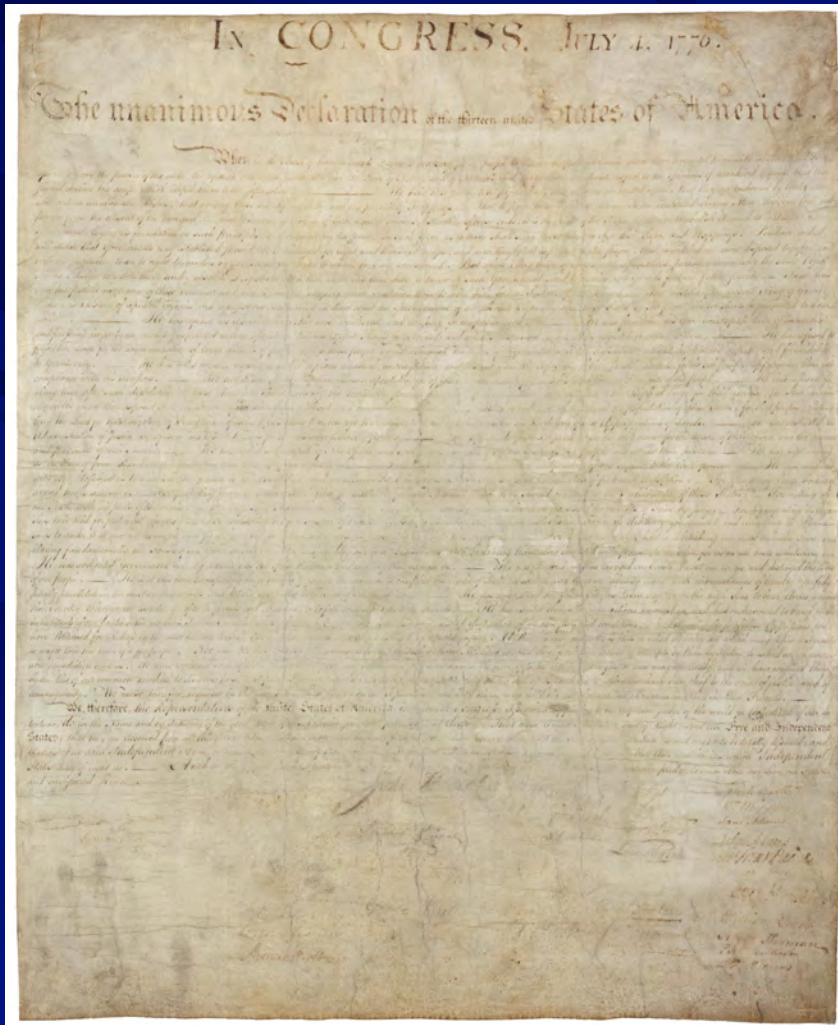
NT Canonicity

 Apostolic

 Accepted



Why No Original NT Documents?



- Original Declaration of Independence
- AD 1776

- Engraving of the Declaration by printer William J. Stone
- AD 1823

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Gospels

Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85

'Catholic' Epistles

Disputed

Apocryphal (selected works)

S Spurious

• Permitted reading

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NT Canonicity

■ Apostolic

■ Accepted





Macedonia
Paul Wrote 1 Timothy
AD 62

For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "**The worker deserves his wages**" (1 Timothy 5:18).

Paul Called
Luke's Gospel
"Scripture"
within 5 years!

Caesarea
Luke Written
AD 57-59

Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for **the worker deserves his wages...** (Luke 10:7)



Rome

Peter Wrote 2 Peter

AD 64



Paul's Letters Written
AD 49-62



**Peter Also
Called Paul's
Letters
"Scripture"!**

"...Our dear brother **Paul also wrote to you** with the wisdom God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, **as they do the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16)

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NT Canonicity

■ Apostolic

■ Accepted

■ Doctrine



The New Testament Canon During the First Four Centuries 36

H. Wayne House

Acceptance of
the Four
Gospels Before
Nicaea

X= Citation
or allusion

O= Named
as authentic

Individuals **Canons** **Translations**

Pseudo-Barnabas (70-130)
Clement of Rome (95-97)
Polycarp (110-150)
Hermas (115-140)
Didache (120-150)
Papias (130-140)
Irenaeus (130-202)
Justin Martyr (150-155)
Origen (185-254)
Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
Marcion (140)
Muratonian (170)
Barococcio (206)
Apostolic (300)
Tatian Diatesseron (170)
Old Latin (150-170)
Old Syriac (200)

Matthew	X	X	X	X	X		O	X	X	O		O	O	O	O	O	O
Mark	X		X	X			O	X	X	O		O	O	O	O	O	O
Luke	X		X		X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
John		X	X			X	O	O	X	O		O	O	O	O	O	O

1st

Cent.

Geisler & Nix, *Introduction to the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1968)

AD 325

Council of Nicaea

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Mark	X		X	X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Luke	X		X		X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
John				X		O	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

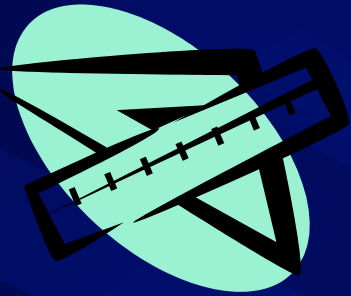
Gospel of
Thomas
AD 50-140

Gospel of
Judas
AD 170?

1st
Cent.

AD 325

Council of Nicaea



NT Canonicity Requirements

What did it take for early documents to be considered Scripture?

- **Written by Apostle (or under an Apostle)**
- **Widely Accepted (used by churches)**
- **Theologically Sound (no false doctrine)**

None of these applied to the books Dan Brown says were the "real Scripture," such as the *Gospel of Philip* & *Gospel of Thomas*

Extant Copies of Pagan vs. NT Writings

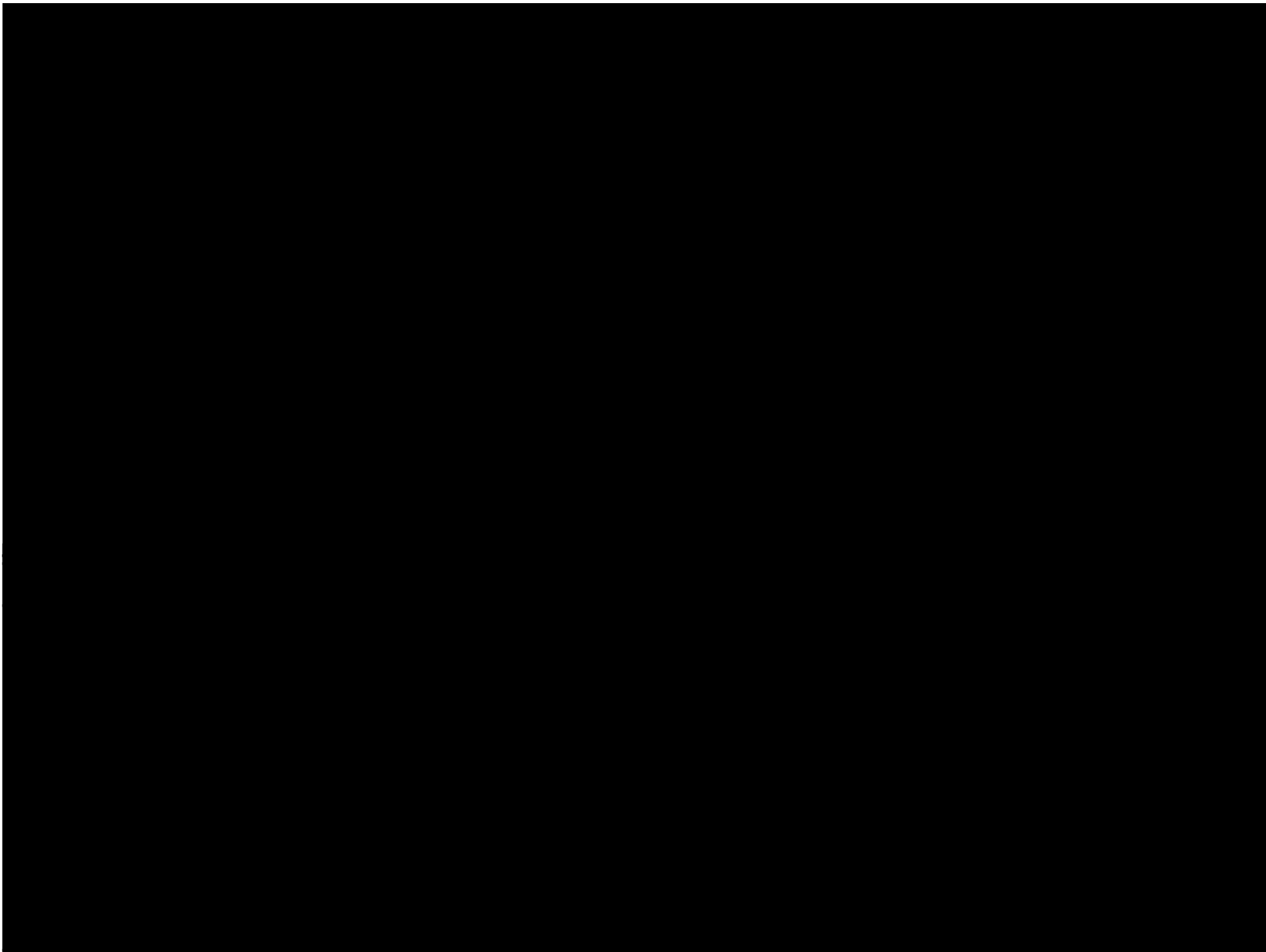
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12	Catullus	54 BC	AD 1550	1600 yrs	3
14	Pliny	AD 113	AD 850	750 yrs	7

Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, 40;
 John Grassmick, "NT Introduction," Dallas Seminary class notes, 160

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14	Pliny	AD 113	AD 850	750 yrs	7
NT	Paul, Luke, etc.	AD 95	AD 200	100 yrs	24,772

Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, 40;
 John Grassmick, "NT Introduction," Dallas Seminary class notes, 160



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