



Parchments of Promise

Lesson 11: Apocrypha, Pseudopigrapha, and Antilegomena


Categories of Questionable Books

- Apocryphal – hidden books of doubtful authenticity
 - Pseudepigraphal – written by someone other than the book's identified author
 - Antilegomena – books *spoken against*, often as heretical or known to be uninspired
 - Books may be in multiple categories.
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Old Testament Books

- Many books were written between the last recognized prophet of the Jews and the time of John the Baptist.
 - The Jews read these books in synagogues, but they didn't have the same status of *Scripture*.
 - Many try to use some of these books to teach heresy.
 - Most use these books to teach history.
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New Testament Books

- The early church was very picky about which books were considered *Scripture*.
 - If the book wasn't apostolic, or it claimed to be written by someone who could not have written it, it was rejected.
 - Many of the books mixed religions that we would identify as being "Gnostic" with Christianity.
 - Some books were rewritten by heretics to push their agenda.
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Question 1

Is popularity a good metric for determining if a book should belong to the canon of Scripture?

My Answer

- While we can rely on faithful Christians of the past to inform us of why some books were accepted and others are not, the primary decision of if a book is canonical is if it's *inspired*.
 - Some books did not enjoy wide circulation, and that circulation made some churches doubt their canonicity.
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Question 2.A

Identify the Amanuensis:
Jeremiah 36:4

My Answer

- Baruch

Question 2.B

Identify the Amanuensis:
Romans 16:22

My Answer

- Tertius
- Note also Galatians 6:11

Question 2.C

Identify the Amanuensis:
1 Peter 5:12

My Answer

- Silvanus (Silas)

Question 3

What can happen if you accept an uninspired book as inspired? (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

My Answer

- False letters and books can “shake the mind” and cause “alarm.”