

Study Guide Questions for McKowen's "Which Books Belong in the Bible?" ASA

1. What is inspiration and how does it differ from canonization?
2. What is meant by the term "canon"? What is its original root meaning in Greek?
3. What is the Apocrypha? How does the Apocrypha differ from the pseudepigrapha?
4. Who is Josephus and when did he think the OT canon "jelled"?
5. What does McKowen propose as the three stages for accepting the OT canon?
6. What is the TANAK? What is that Jewish title for the OT derived from?
7. What are three categories of the Apocrypha and in what period were they produced?
8. Was the Apocrypha accepted by the Jews at the Council of Jamnia (90 AD)?
9. When did the Catholic church declare the Apocrypha to be deuterocanonical? What did the church place on those who rejected their view? –what does "anathema" mean?
10. How did the Apocrypha get into some Bibles? What are the Septuagint and Vulgate? What role did they play in getting the Apocrypha into some Bibles?
11. Does Jesus quote from the Apocrypha?
12. In the New Testament canon discussions in the early church which seven books were questioned?
13. Who and when is Athanasius and how many books does he list as canonical?
14. What two synods accepted the 27 books as canonical?
15. On what basis did the early church decide whether a book was canonical or not?
16. What 3 types of books are the New Testament Apocrypha composed of?
17. What types of things are found in the Gospel of Thomas and Pseudo-Matthew? What time in Jesus' life to most of those stories occur?
18. Look over McKowen's section on "Some Review Questions and Answers" he summarizing things there
19. What books did Luther have problems with and why? What was his basic principle?
20. How are things like the Unknown Life of Christ and Aquarian Gospel of Jesus separated from things like the Dead Sea Scrolls or Oxyrhynchus papyri?

Think about the processes God used in getting the Bible from God to us:

inspiration,

canonization,

scribal copying,

translation into English