

|

# Why I believe:

The rationality of Christian belief

Session V: The Canonization of Scripture



# Outline

- 
- Defining Canon
  - Criteria used to determine canon
  - What is the Deuterocanon?
  - Conclusions

# What is the Canon?

Canon = refers to the group or collection of Christian writings that are considered inspired and thus authoritative for Christian belief and practice

# What is the Canon?

Canon = refers to the group or collection of Christian writings that are considered inspired and thus authoritative for Christian belief and practice

There are multiple Christian Canons:

Protestant: 66 books

Romans Catholic: 73 books

Eastern Orthodox: 76 books

# What is the Canon?

1. Canon
2. Deuterocanon
3. Pseudepigrapha

# Criteria used to Determine Canon

## Old Testament Criteria:

1. Is it recognized as God's revelation?
2. Does it contradict with other books considered inspired?
3. Is it accepted as authoritative?

# Criteria used to Determine Canon

## Old Testament Criteria:

1. Is it recognized as God's revelation?
2. Does it contradict with other books considered inspired?
3. Is it accepted as authoritative?

"<sup>34</sup> Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. <sup>35</sup> And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar."

# What is the Deuterocanon?

- Wisdom of Solomon
- Ecclesiasticus
- Tobit
- Judith
- I Esdras
- I Maccabees
- II Maccabees
- Baruch
- Letter of Jeremiah
- II Esdras
- Addition to Esther
- The Prayer of Azariah
- Susanna
- Bel and the Dragon
- The Prayer of Manasseh



# Conclusions

- The canonization process was an organic one, not formal
- The Church recognized inspired books, it didn't declare them inspired
- There are good reasons to believe that deuterocanonical books are not inspired
- Deuterocanonical books can have value and benefit to Christians though not inspired or authoritative
- Christian writings exist on two tiers: Canon and Deuterocanon. A third tier of writings that claim to be Christian but are not, is the Pseudepigrapha.
- We can have confidence our Protestant canon is the correct and right Bible.