

# Tough Questions about the Bible

What about the other writings in that time period? Why aren't they scripture? In other words, how did we get our Bible?

## How we got the Bible

The Jews & early church fathers used 6 tests to recognize if a writing was from God.. They RECOGNIZED it was from God, they didn't DETERMINE it.

**1. Was the book written by a prophet of God?** It must be written by or come from the community of those who have been attested to as representatives of God for the purpose of revelation. Deut 18:18...a prophet was a person who declared what God had revealed to him. Thus only prophetic writings were canonic. Whatever is written by a prophet of God is the word of God. In most cases, it is simply a matter of establishing who wrote the book...Heb 1:1 & 2Peter 1:19,20.

**2. Was the writer confirmed by "acts of God"?**...in other words, did miracles of God confirm the writer?....2Cor 12:12....Heb 2:4

**3. Did the message tell the truth about God?** Any teaching about God that was contrary to what the people already knew to be true about God, was to be rejected.....the person teaching these false things was to be rejected to. Also, any predictions made that didn't come true was a reason to reject what the prophet said....Deut 18:21,22...Gal 1:6-9

**4. Does the writing have the transformative power of God?**....Heb 4:12.....when the people of God read & meditated on the writing, did it transform them? Many writings of that early time period fell by the wayside because they lacked transformative power in people's lives. Psalm 119:97-105

**5. Was it accepted by the original people of God?** The OT was already recognized by Israel & Jesus. The NT was recognized by God's people immediately after the individual books were written. 2Pete 3:15-16 Peter speaks of all of Paul's writings as scripture. Paul quoted from Luke 10:7 in the same way that he quoted from OT scripture (1Tim 5:18). Therefore, a book that was never accepted by the whole body of believers was not accepted as scripture. While some churches or regions may have liked a particular book, it was ineligible as scripture if it wasn't accepted by the wider body of Christ. See 1Thess 2:13.

**6. Did the people who knew of the alleged events of a 'new' writing have a chance to falsify them?** A book's events must have occurred within the lifetime of the prophets of God, so that they could judge them. Therefore, someone who appears with a 'new' gospel after 100 AD, could not have their gospel tested because the eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death & resurrection would not be alive to affirm or deny its claims. This is why Luke said Luke 1:1-3 & Peter could say 2Peter 1:16 & Paul could prove the resurrection of Jesus by saying 1Cor 15:1-4. Many of the Gnostic Gospels fall into this category of being written after 100 AD. They also have revealed NEW ideas about God & Jesus and a host of other basic biblical ideas (creation, sin, the fall, etc.)