

Challenge

*The Biblical Canon has NOT
been a Set Number of Books*

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In Byzantine times:

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“Byzantines seldom encountered the text of the Bible as a whole, but rather in manuscripts that divided scripture into smaller units, combined at times with other contents, so that the sum of the parts was greater than the whole. The early modern print revolution transformed the Bible fundamentally and, in the opinion of most people positively...



In Byzantine times:

but it also froze the Bible in time cut it off from lived tradition, and turned it into a dead artifact. Byzantium's Bible was a Bible before print, a Bible so diverse, multifarious, multitudinous, that it cannot be easily imagined, explained, or encapsulated by one accounting."

In Byzantine times:

“The fourth century witnessed not only the formulation of official Christian doctrines endorsed by councils and enforced by imperial legislation; it also saw the closing of the canon of scripture authorized for use in Christian worship...

Considering the New Testament in Byzantium..

In Byzantine times:

Challenge

invites us to rethink our assumptions about scripture's primacy as a fixed and continuous text, or even a text at all, a legacy of the Protestant reformation and the invention of printing; and, in particular, to reconsider our notion of the Bible as a physical object, like the present book that we hold in our hands, as opposed to oral, ephemeral discourse."

In Byzantine times:

“The Codex Sinaiticus, penned in the fourth century, originally contained the Old and New Testaments and included some writings, such as the epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas, that were later decisively excluded from the New Testament canon.”

In Byzantine times:

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“The fifth-century Codex Alexandrinus, also a complete Bible, included First and Second Clement in its New Testament. That volume appends to the book of Psalms, as an aide or commentary, Athanasios’s Letter to Markellinos concerning the chanting of the Psalms.”

Question:

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If the Byzantine Bibles were 'the word of God' and our modern Bibles are also 'the word of God', why has 'the word of God' changed – books left out & books added?

Question:

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**Who has the authority to change
'the word of God' then?**

Isn't his word never-changing????

Answer:

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Our priority is the *rhema* word of God
that we receive **NOW**.

This is what the OT prophets desired
and what Israel needed for their
continued existence.

Remember:

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We have been told by the Spirit to:

**Focus on The Word of God
himself, not 'the word of God'.**

BTW:

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The “ministry of the word” in Acts 6:4 is preaching and teaching under the inspiration of Holy Spirit, not quoting the Bible or bible study.

In this way the Jerusalem apostles provided the word of God as *rhema* to their hearers.

Challenge



So, it's your challenge to come to grips with this information

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