

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears of various sizes inside the brain area. The background is a solid blue color.

A Reasonable Faith in An Uncertain World

Is believing in God and Jesus Christ a matter of blind faith or are there reasons to believe?

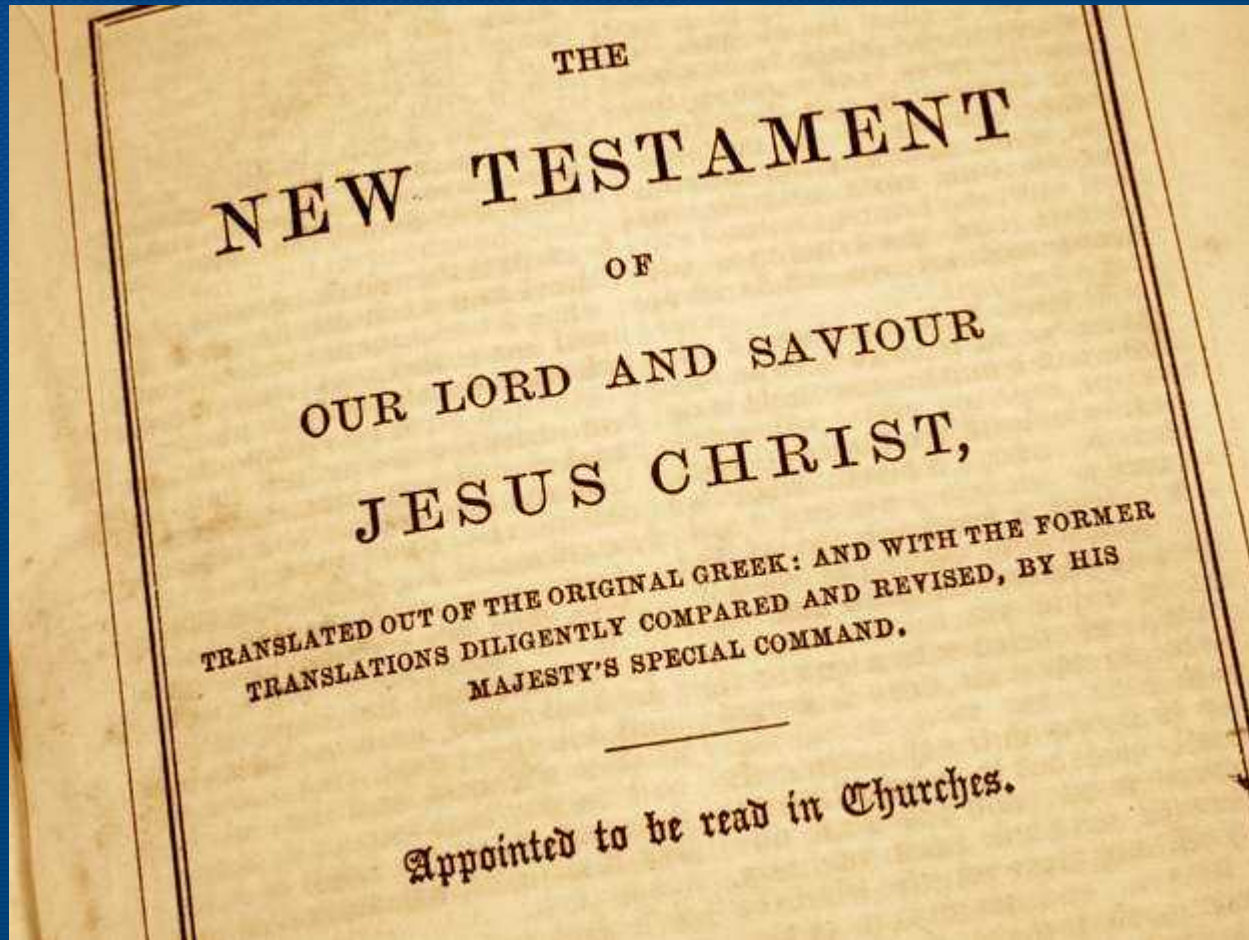
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Can We Trust
the
New Testament Cannon?



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Proverbs 26:4-5 (NIV)

*Do not answer a fool
according to his folly,*

or you yourself will be just like him.

*5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
or he will be wise in his own eyes.*



A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or reasoning. The background is a dark blue gradient.

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

– 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

See the Questioner Behind the Question

The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

1. The New Testament books
are the Earliest
Christian Writings
We Possess

Adapted from Michael J. Kruger, President
and Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity
at Reformed Theological Seminary



The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

2. NT Apocryphal Writings are
All Written in the Second Century
or Later



The Facts You Need to Know
About the New Testament!

3. The New Testament Books
Are Unique Because
of Their Apostolic Connections




The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

4. Some NT Writers Refer to/Quote
Other NT Writers as Scripture




2 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)

*And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—
16 speaking of these things in all of his letters.*

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears visible inside the brain area. The background is a dark blue gradient.


2 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)

Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.



1 Timothy 5:18 (ESV)

For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!"



Cp Deuteronomy 25:4 & Luke 10:7

The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

5. The Four Gospels are Well Established


by the End of the Second Century

Irenaeus (180, AD) – Four Gospels “Handed Down”

Tatian’s *Diatesseron* – A Harmony
of the Four Gospels (170 AD)



The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!


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- A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. Inside the head, there are several interlocking gears of different sizes and colors (blue, grey, and white), symbolizing thought, logic, or machinery.
6. At the End of the Second Century,
the Muratorian Fragment
lists 22 of our 27 NT books
Origen Lists all 27 in 250 AD

The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

7. Early Christians Often Used Non-Canonical Writings



The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. Inside the head, there is a large, light blue gear with a darker blue center. The gear is positioned behind the number '8.' which is the start of the main text.

8. The NT Canon Was Not Decided
at Nicea —
Nor Any Other Church Council

The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

9. Christians Did Disagree about the Canonicity of Some NT Books



The Facts You Need to Know About the New Testament!

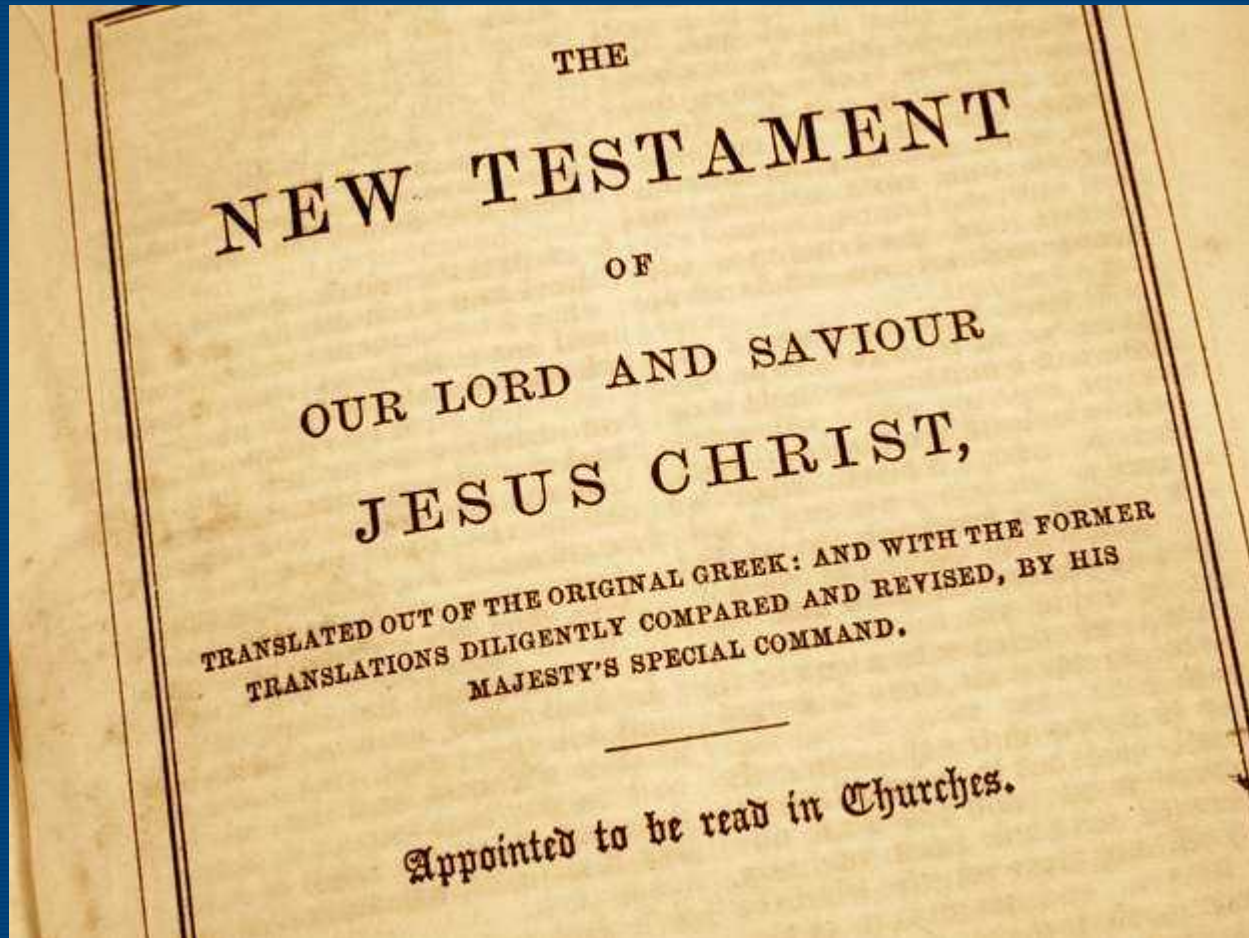
10. Early Christians Believed that Canonical Books were Self-Authenticating

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know
them, and they follow me.* Luke 10:27

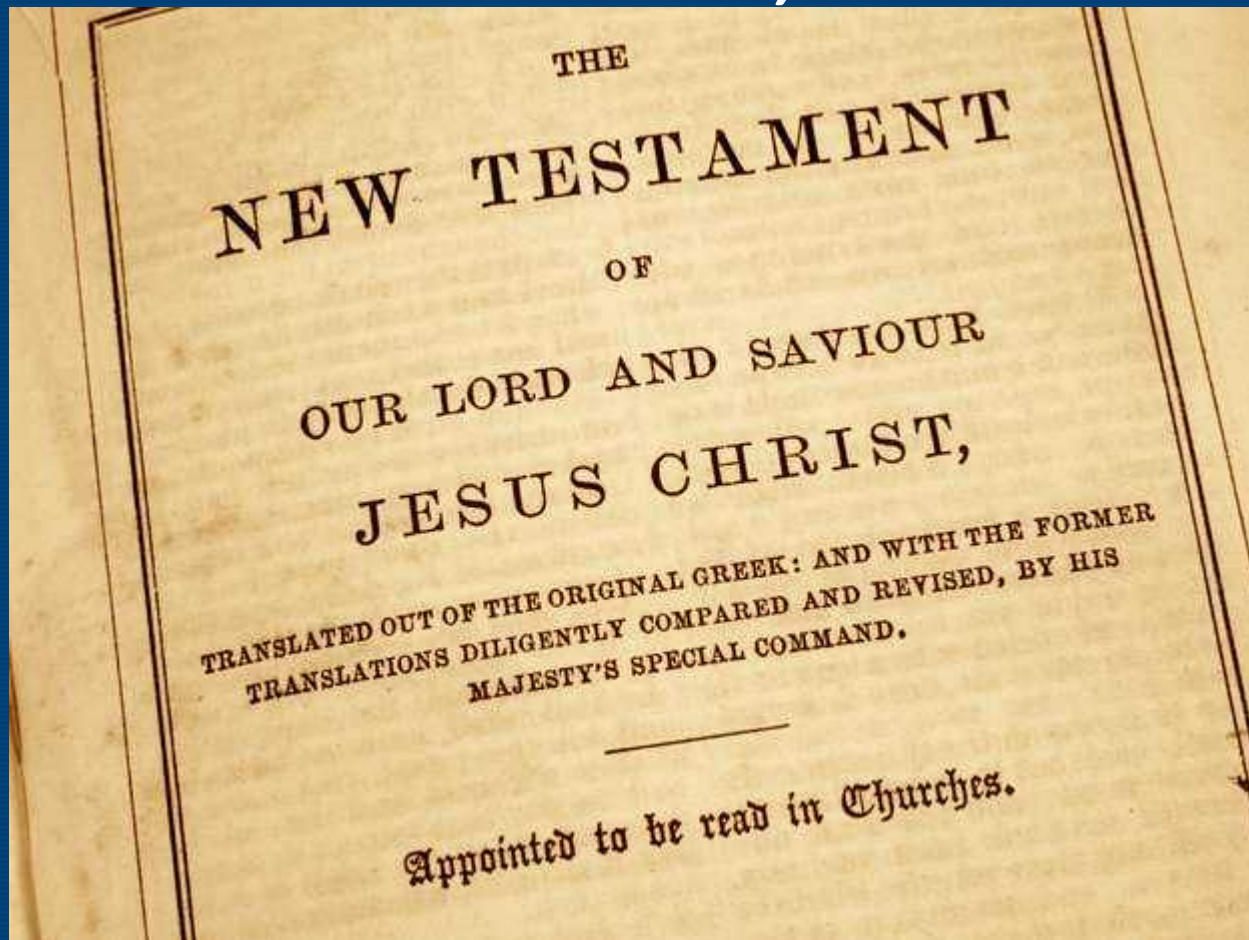
(ESV)



We have the NT canon not by to the machinations of later church leaders, or to the political influence of Constantine, but due to the fact that these 27 books imposed themselves on the church through their internal and eternal qualities.



The New Testament traveled ancient roads, crossed oceans, survived those who would destroy or discredit it for two millennia, has been translated into thousands of languages, so that you could possess it and live it...



Don't let this well traveled library
of God's Holy Scriptures sit on a shelf.

