

How We Got The Bible

History of the
Canonization of the
Bible

Part XIV

From Jesus to Us

Transmission of the
Gospel Traditions

Step 1: The Historical Jesus

The things Jesus actually did
and said

Step 2: Early

Unpreserved Traditions

- ✓ Oral: People shared what they remembered about Jesus
- ✓ Written: Some wrote down what they remembered

Step 3: Redaction of the Gospel Traditions

Writers took, merged, and
edited the early
traditions into codices
(books) in response to
the delayed *parousia*

Other Existing Gospels

Gospel of:
James, Peter,
Hebrews,
Thomas,
Mary

Infancy Gospel
of Thomas,
Apocryphon
of James,
Dialogue of
the Savior

Step 4: Preservation of the Manuscripts

- Papyrus Scrolls → Vellum
Manuscripts (*Codex*)
- Individual devotees and
Scriptoriums

Despite the concern and
dedication to accuracy,
errors were made in the
copying process

Resolving Copying Errors

Textual Criticism

- ✓ Compile, compare, and analyze all available manuscripts
- ✓ Give greater emphasis to older manuscripts: *unical* v. *minuscules*

Resolving Copying Errors

- ✓ The more difficult reading is assumed to be more accurate, e.g. Luke 2:41,43 & 23:32

Resolving Copying Errors

- ✓ Shorter readings are preferred because copyists tended to err on the side of inclusion versus exclusion e.g. Luke 24:53

Step 5: Translation from Greek to Other Languages

✓ Translating the Bible
(Vulgate) was considered
an act of *heresy* e.g.

William Tyndale 1526

Issues in Translating

- Differences in language systems – translation requires interpretation e.g. *parakletos*.
- Any non-Greek Bible is an interpretation

Accuracy v. Clarity

Accuracy

- ✓ Quality of the manuscript for translation e.g. scholar's concern with the KJV
- ✓ Scholars prefer literal translation for academic study

Clarity

✓ *Dynamic Equivalence:*
more concerned with
translating thoughts and
concerns than word-for-
word e.g. NIV, Message

Issues in Translating

- Translations need translating – e.g. NKJV (Ps. 119:147, Mk 7:37)
- Inclusive Language e.g. Matthew 4:19

Paraphrase

A reproduction in lively,
reader-friendly, evangelical
language, e.g. Living Bible,
Cotton Patch, Seaman's

Step 6: Reception

- ✓ We read about the life and works of Jesus in our modern Bibles
- ✓ Modern emphasis on *hermeneutics*

Step 7: Proclamation

- ✓ We go into the world sharing our understanding of the work and life of Jesus

The Gospels

Four Pictures of Jesus

Matthew

Portrays Jesus in the light of
Moses for a Jewish-
Christian community with
emphasis on the founding
of the church

Mark

Is a fast paced, action packed
history of the *Son of Man*
whose life is only
understood in His suffering
and death

Luke

Portrays Jesus as the great liberator who interacts with the oppressed and focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit

John

Emphasizes Jesus as the
revelation of all that can be
known about God through
signs that require a decision

Next Week:

The Gospel of Mark