

Christopher Carlisle

Assignment 7A

October 4, 2017

Old Testament Life and Literature and The Canon articles

1. After reading the article (1), explain what is meant by canon. Then write a brief summary of each CANON that is outlined.

Canon is defined as the measure or standard for principles of belief and practice. They are writings accepted as authoritative for faith and teaching. The word “canon” is Greek for *kanon* and Hebrew for *kaneh* or *qaneh*, meaning “reed”.

The Jewish Bible has twenty-four books. One book in the Jewish Bible is called “The Twelve”, it contains twelve prophetic writings that are counted individually in Christian versions and four other writings that are treated as individual units in Jewish Bibles are sub-divided into two books by Christians. These books are I-II Samuel, I-II Kings, I-II Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah. The Vulgate was excluded from the Jewish canon.

The Protestant Bible has thirty-nine books in its canon. Later writings not accepted as canon are placed in The Apocrypha or the Pseudepigrapha.

The Eastern-Orthodox Bible has forty-three books in its canon.

The Roman Catholic Bible has forty-six books in its canon. Its canon considers the Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical, excluding I and II Esdras and the prayer of Manasseh, to be canonical.

2. Explain what happened at the Council of Jamnia. In what way did it contribute to the canon that we have today? When did this Council take place?

In 90 A.D. at the Council of Jamnia, a council met under the leadership of Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai to determine the Jewish canon. They debated over the books Song of Songs, Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Ezekiel. This Council agreed upon the Jewish books of today. The books of the Apocrypha was rejected by the Council. The Council stated that The Gospel and the books of the heretics are not Sacred Scripture.

3. Explain what happened at the Council of Trent? When did this Council take place?

The Council of Trent met in Tridentum, Italy and was formed in 1545. The Council met regarding the basis of traditional usage among Christians. The Council of Trent clarified church doctrine and teachings of the Canon, Scripture, sacred traditions, and how they are practiced. The Council had numerous sessions debating the topics between the years of 1545-1563.