

New Testament Canon

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The term canon comes from the Greek *kanon* which denoted a carpenter's rule or similar measuring rod (Stanley M. Horton, ed. *Systematic Theology*, p. 107).

These are the New **Testament** books confirmed by other New Testament books as **scripture**. **These** books comprise almost **52%** of the New Testament.

New Testament Books	Est. Date Canonization	Comments
Luke and Acts	Prior to 62-63 A. D.	1 Tim. 5:18 quotes from Luke 10:7 and establishes it as scripture. Luke and Acts were often contained on a single scroll: they were a single work in 2 parts. Thus, Acts is confirmed as well. Recognition of these books as scripture is significant because Luke was the only Gentile writer with works in the NT canon and his contribution to the canon was the largest--almost 27%.
Paul's Epistles	Prior to 04-66 A. D.	2 Pet. 3:17 confirms Paul's writings as scripture. Paul's contribution to the NT canon is the second largest--25%.

These are New Testament books written by one of the 12 Apostles. Acts. **2:42** affirms the **validity of** the Apostles teaching. These books comprise almost **40%** of the New Testament.

New Testament Books	Est. Date Written	Comments
Matthew's Gospel	58-68 A. D.	
Mark's Gospel	55-65 A. D.	This Gospel is thought to have been written with Peter's supervision
John's Gospel	60-90 A. D.	
Peter's Epistles	64-66 A. D.	
John's Epistles	90-95 A. D.	
Revelation	95-96 A. D.	Probably the latest addition to the NT Canon. It was immediately circulated among 7 prominent churches.

CONCLUSION. The overwhelming majority of the NT canon clearly was established during John the Apostle's lifetime. The book of Hebrews and letters from James and Jude are the only NT books missing from the above lists.

Manuscript evidence of collections of NT writings include Paul's letters except 2 Thess. and Philemon in P46 (parchment 46), dated ~200 A. D.; parts of Luke and John in P75, dated early 3rd century; and Matt 20:24 to Acts 17:17 in P45, dated 3rd century; and Jude with 1-2 Peter in P72, 3rd to 4th century.

The extrabiblical lists of the canon are a confirmation of the practice of the Christian church rather than an imposition of a new canon on the church. The closed Christian list of the OT canon comes from about 170 **AD** compiled by Melito, Bishop of Sardis. The first NT complete canon was given by Athanasius in 367 and recognized at the Third Council of Carthage in 397 and by the Eastern Church in 500.

	Pages	%NT
Matthew	52	12.9
Mark	33	8.2
Luke	55	13.6
John	41	10.2
Acts	53	13.2
Paul's Epistles	101	25.1
Hebrews	17	4.2
James	6	1.5
Peter's Epistles	10	2.5
John's Epistles	8	2.0
Jude's Epistle	2	0.5
Revelation	25	6.2
TOTAL	403	100.0