

Corporate Reception?

Divine Qualities?

Resources

Hill, C. E. *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

This is a scholarly book written with a sense of humor, as its tongue-in-cheek subtitle indicates. Hill concludes that there was no conspiracy and that no-one chose the Gospels. They imposed themselves on the church as divine revelation.

Grudem, Wayne A. "Scripture's Self-Attestation and the Problem of Formulating a Doctrine of Scripture." In *Scripture and Truth*. Edited by D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

In this article Grudem demonstrates from a multitude of passages that Scripture claims to be Scripture. That is, Scripture claims to be divine revelation.

Kruger, Michael J. *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books*. Crossway, 2012.

This is probably the single best introduction to the subject of canon. Kruger surveys different approaches to the canon, argues that the Scripture authenticates itself through the work of the Spirit, and then demonstrates how it does so.

Kruger, Michael J. *The Question of Canon*. InterVarsity, 2013.

In this book Kruger effectively challenges positions that have become standard in canon scholarship but which are contrary to a conservative doctrine of the canon.

Canonicity: A Neglected Doctrine

Brian Collins

Catechism 6: "We know that the holy scriptures are inerrant because they claim to be and because the Spirit of God bears witness with them in our hearts."

The Scriptures Claim to Be Scripture The Problem of Circular Reasoning

"Circularity in a system is properly justified *only* at one point: in an argument for the *ultimate* criterion of the system."

"A rationalist can prove the primacy of reason only by using a rational argument. An empiricist can prove the primacy of sense-experience only by some kind of appeal to sense-experience. A Muslim can prove the primacy of the Koran only by appealing to the Koran." John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*, 130.

Test Case: Do the Apocrypha Claim to Be Scripture?

In 1 Maccabees 4:46 we are told that the people did not know what to do with the stones of the temple altar, which had been defiled by the Gentiles. So they "stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them" (NRSV).

1 Maccabees 9:23 notes that at the death of Judas Maccabaeus "there was great distress in Israel, such as had not been since the time that prophets ceased to appear among them" (NRSV).

1 Maccabees 14:41—"The Jews and their priests have resolved that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until a trustworthy prophet should arise,"

Sirach 24:33—"I will again pour out teaching *like* prophecy, and leave it to all future generations" (NRSV) "I will yet pour out doctrine *as* prophecy..." (KJV).

The Bible Claims to Be the Speech of God

The Spirit of God Bears Witness with Them

What This Does and Does Not Mean

“The testimony of the Holy Spirit is no separate revelation outside the Word, like a voice from heaven. The Spirit does not add a special message to the Word. . . . When the Holy Spirit works in our hearts, he employs the testimony of Scripture as a tool. He accompanies the words of scripture with his convincing power to such an extent that they resonate and are effectual” Van Genderen/Velema, *CRD*, 110f.

The Spirit of God bears witness to the Scriptures through:

- Breathing them out by the Apostles and Prophets
- Their divine qualities
- Guiding the church corporate to recognize canonical books

Test Case: Sirach

Apostolic or Prophetic Origin?

Divine Qualities?

Corporate Recognition?

Test Case: Gospel of Judas

Apostolic or Prophetic Origin?

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Corporate Recognition?

Test Case: Shepherd of Hermas

Corporate Reception?

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Test Case: Hebrews

Apostolic or Prophetic Origin?