

Why These Books?
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- The Gospels of **Matthew** & **John** were both written by apostles.
- The Gospel of **Mark** is a record of the memoirs of the Apostle Peter, written by Mark under Peter's apostolic authority.
- The Gospel of **Luke** (and the book of **Acts**) were both the product of a careful investigation and eyewitness testimony (Luke 1:2), research that would have included apostolic sources. Moreover, as the companion of the Apostle Paul, Luke wrote under Paul's apostolic oversight. (For instance, Paul affirmed Luke 10:7 as being part of the Scripture in 1 Tim. 5:18.)
- The **Pauline Epistles** (Romans–Philemon) were all written by the Apostle Paul.
- The authorship of **Hebrews** is unknown, but many in church history believed it to have been also written by Paul. If not penned by Paul himself, it was clearly written by someone closely associated with Paul's ministry—and therefore, by extension, under his apostolic authority.
- The **General Epistles** (the letters of James, Peter, and John) were written by apostles. Peter also acknowledged Paul's writings as being Scripture in 2 Peter 3:15–16.
- The epistle of **Jude** was written by the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3) who operated under the apostolic oversight of his brother James (cf. Jude 1).
- And finally, the book of **Revelation** was written by the Apostle John.

Every book of the New Testament was written under apostolic authority—either by an apostle or someone closely linked to their apostolic ministry. Thus, we submit to these books because they come from Christ's authorized representatives. In submitting to them, we are submitting to the Lord Himself.

The reason the canon is closed is because there are no longer any apostles in the church today, and have not been since the end of the first century, when the foundation age of the church ended (cf. Eph. 2:20).

So ... why these 66 books? Because God inspired them! They are His divine revelation. And Christ confirmed that fact. He *affirmed* the Old Testament canon, and He *authorized* the New Testament canon (cf. Heb. 1:1–2).

APPENDIX 1
UNINSPIRED WRITINGS IN CIRCULATION¹

Gospels	Acts	Epistles	Apocalypses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protoevangelium of James ▪ Infancy Gospel of Thomas ▪ Gospel of Peter ▪ Gospel of Nicodemus ▪ Gospel of the Nazoreans ▪ Gospel of the Ebionites ▪ Gospel of the Hebrews ▪ Gospel of the Egyptians ▪ Gospel of Thomas ▪ Gospel of Philip ▪ Gospel of May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts of John ▪ Acts of Peter ▪ Acts of Paul ▪ Acts of Andrew ▪ Acts of Thomas ▪ Acts of Andrew and Matthias ▪ Acts of Philip ▪ Acts of Thaddaeus ▪ Acts of Peter and Paul ▪ Acts of Peter and Andrew ▪ Martyrdom of Matthew ▪ Slavonic Acts of Peter ▪ Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third Corinthians ▪ Epistle to the Laodiceans ▪ Letters of Paul and Seneca ▪ Letters of Jesus and Abgar ▪ Letter of Lentulus ▪ Epistle of Titus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apocalypse of Peter ▪ Coptic Apocalypse of Paul ▪ First Apocalypse of James ▪ Second Apocalypse of James ▪ Apocryphon of John ▪ Sophia of Jesus Christ ▪ Letter of Peter to Philip ▪ Apocalypse of Mary

¹ Lee Martin McDonald, "Identifying Scripture and Canon in the Early Church: The Criteria Question," in *The Canon Debate*, ed. Lee Martin McDonald and James A. Sanders (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2002), 427.