

I am in the midst of a thread in which I explain why it is puzzling that the Apocalypse of Peter did not make it into the New Testament, when the book of 2 Peter did. So far I have talked about both books, as well as the Gospel of Peter, another Petrine book that did not “make it.” Now I need to explain how church fathers decided which books would be accepted as official scripture and which not. I’ve dealt with the issue on the blog several times over the years, the first time being in response to a question on the matter I received some six years ago. What I said then is what I would still say now! Here it is:

### QUESTION:

I just read *Jesus, Interrupted* ... and have now seen that you have written quite a few books and articles. I am particularly interested in how the books of the New Testament were chosen and why/how the others were not. Can you recommend a good read for this?

### RESPONSE:

Ah, this is one of the BIG questions of early Christian studies! I have been interested in it for over 35 years. My first PhD seminar in graduate school was devoted to just this question, and I started thinking about it years even before that!

I do address the question in several of my books. As you know from having just read *Jesus Interrupted*, I devote a good chunk of chapter 6 to it; in particular it is the overarching subject of *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew* (that book is my long version of the answer!).

There are lots of other books worth reading on the topic. These are my two favorite: (1) For a very informative, reliable, and helpful nuts-and-bolts account ...

**The rest of this post is for blog members only. If you’re not a member of the blog, now’s the best time in the history of the human race for you to join! It won’t take much time or money, and every dime you pay (about five of them a week) goes to help those in need. So why not?**

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