

The Question of Canon: Challenging the Status Quo in the New Testament Debate

Michael J. Kruger

The twenty-seven books of the New Testament are considered “canon.” That means that they are considered authoritative Scripture, the Word of God. But how did that collection come to be in the form that we have today? What was the process by which these books came to be viewed as Scripture, as authoritative as the Old Testament?

In this book, Michael Kruger not only seeks to answer that question, but also to challenge the view, held by many (especially skeptical) scholars, that the canon list was a late development, as late as the fourth or fifth century, and that it was imposed on the church by an authoritative body. Kruger dismantles the common scholarly arguments against the early development of the canon. Rather than a “late” canon, Kruger makes the case that these books were looked upon as carrying apostolic authority very early, and that their authority came not from the decision of a church hierarchy, but rather from their apostolic character.

I must point out that this is written on a scholarly level, and Kruger does pre-suppose some knowledge of the subject matter. But even still, Kruger’s writing is very clear and straightforward, and his presentation is very well-laid out and not difficult to follow.

I recommend this book for anyone who wants to take a deep dive into the origins of the authority of the New Testament. Because I “read” this book as an audio book, I don’t have a physical copy to place on the bookshelf at this time. Previous recommendations can be found here: <https://church.stjohnsnapa.org/resources/pastor-mikes-bookshelf>

