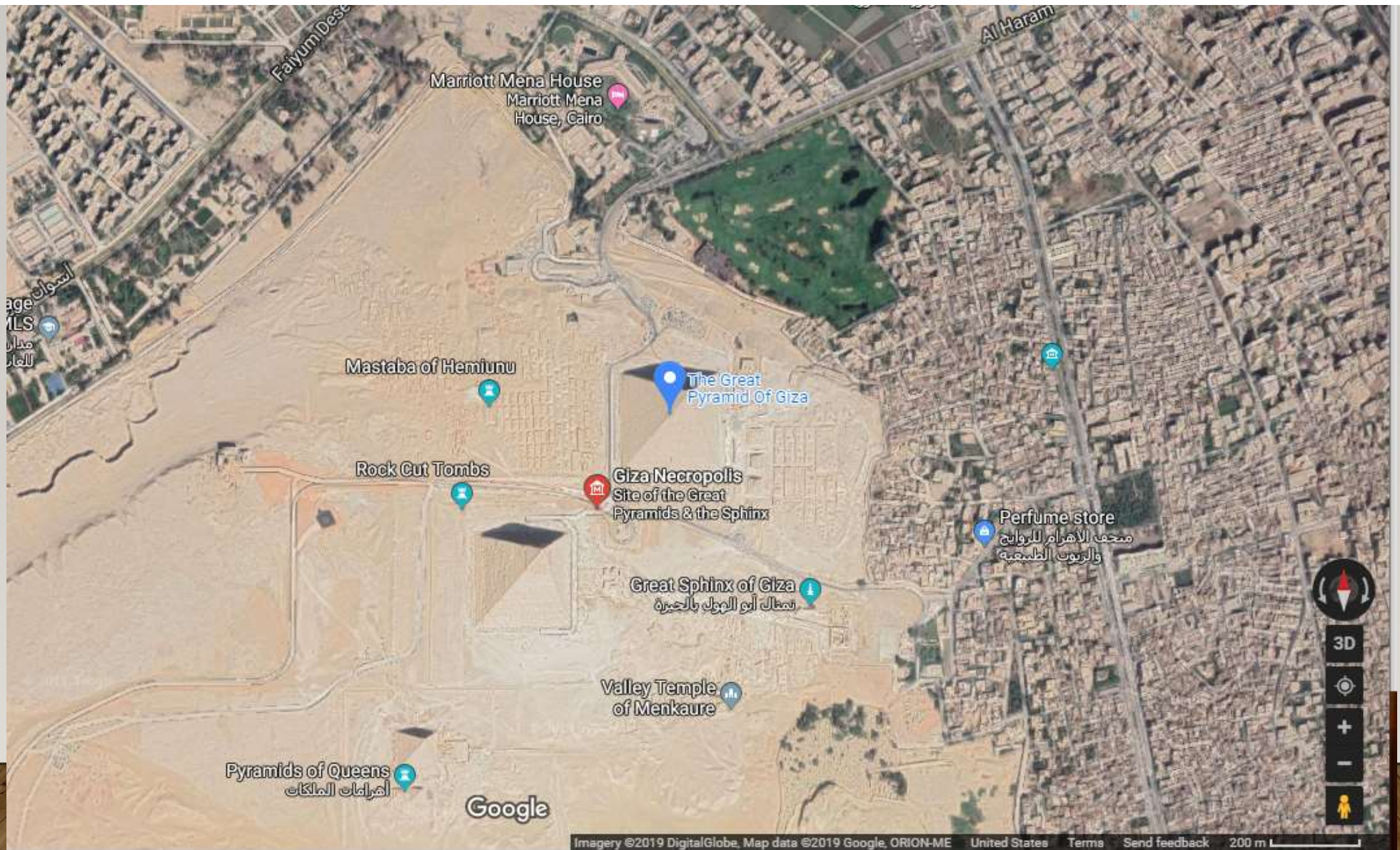


EXTRA-BIBLICAL LITERATURE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – THE MEMPHIS CHURCH – WINTER/SPRING 2019



Marriott Mena House
Marriott Mena
House, Cairo

Mastaba of Hemjunu

The Great
Pyramid Of Giza

Rock Cut Tombs

Giza Necropolis
Site of the Great
Pyramids & the Sphinx

Perfume store
محف الأهرام للروائح
والزيوت الطبيعية

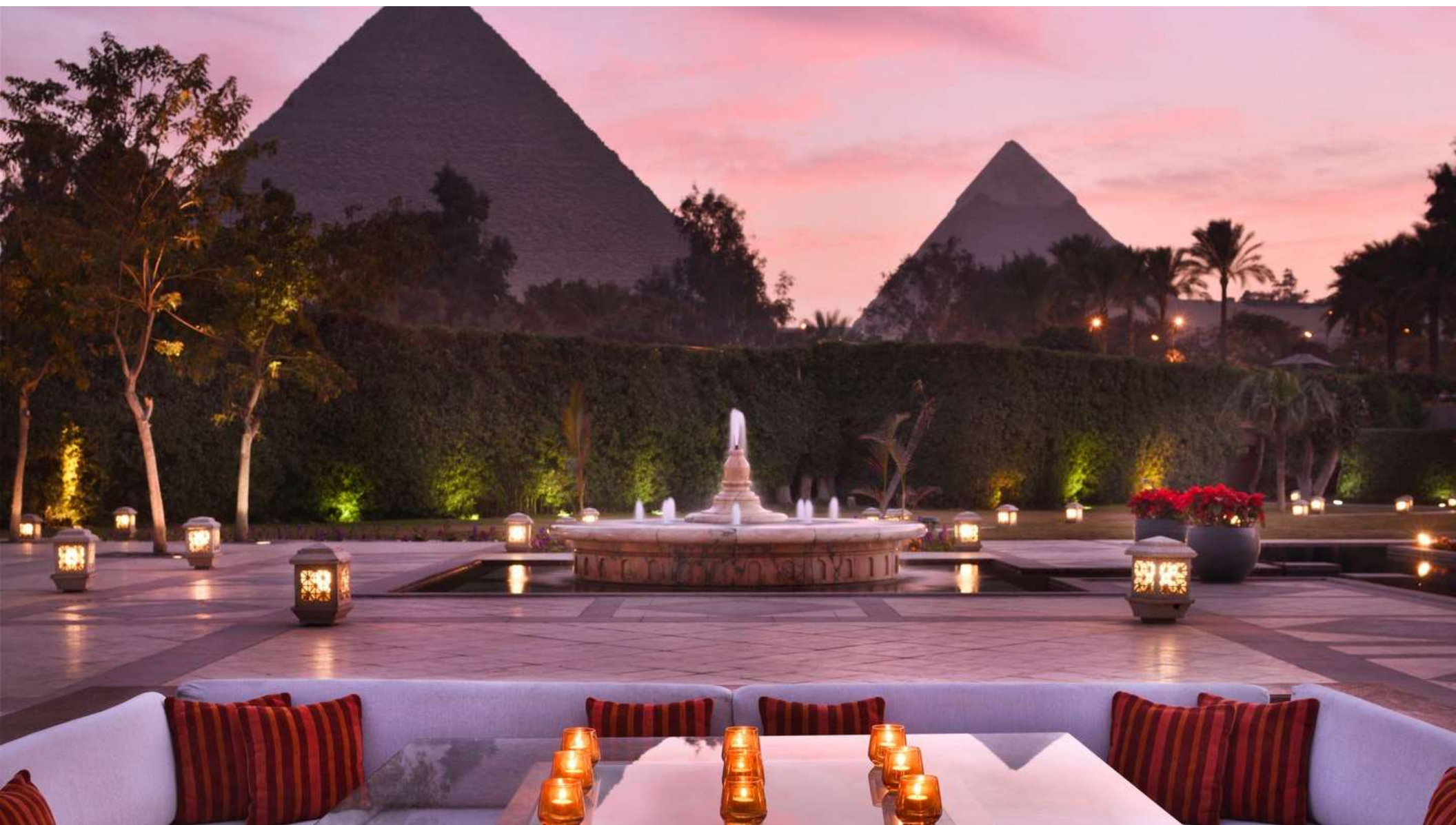
Great Sphinx of Giza
تمثال أبو الهول بالحيرة

Valley Temple
of Menkaure

Pyramids of Queens
أهرامات الملكات

Google

Imagery ©2019 DigitalGlobe, Map data ©2019 Google, ORION-ME United States Terms Send feedback 200 m





EBL – Schedule

Extra Biblical Class (20 Weeks)

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------|---|
| 10-Feb | | Introduction to Topic, materials needed, & present the history/plan |
| 17-Feb | | Class 1 - Old Testament - Formation (42:26) |
| 24-Feb | Douglas Jacoby | Class 2 - Old Testament - Apocrypha (25:03) |
| 3-Mar | How the Bible Came to Be | Class 3 - New Testament - Formation (42:28) |
| 10-Mar | | Class 4 - New Testament - Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha (40:22) |
| 17-Mar | | Class 5 - Gospels - False & True (35:55) |
| 24-Mar | Apocrypha | Tobit |
| 31-Mar | | Judith |
| 7-Apr | | Additions to the Book of Esther / Wisdom of Solomon |
| 14-Apr | | Ecclesiasticus (Part 1 of 2) |
| 21-Apr | | Ecclesiasticus (Part 2 of 2) |
| 28-Apr | | Baruch / Letter to Jeremiah / Additions to the Book of Daniel |
| 5-May | | 1 Maccabees |
| 12-May | | 2 Maccabees |
| 19-May | Apostolic Fathers | 1 Clement |
| 26-May | | 2 Clement |
| 2-Jun | | The Letters of Ignatius |
| 9-Jun | | Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians / Martyrdom of Polycarp / Didache |
| 16-Jun | | Shepherd of Hermas |
| 23-Jun | Wrap-up / Party | |

Definitions

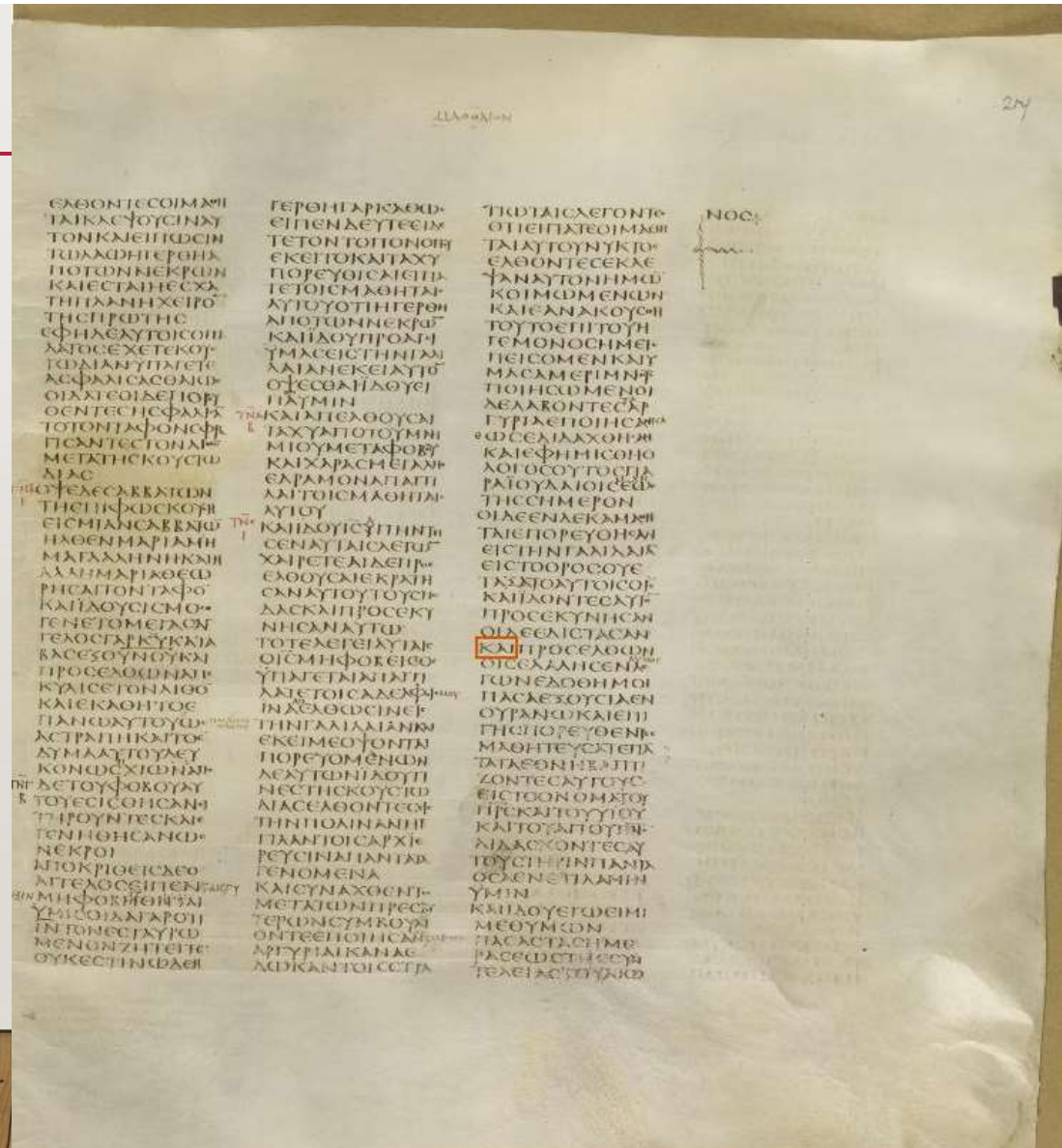
Canon (Greek=“a measuring rod”, “Standard”, “rule”). Initially the term was used of a rod or rule to measure distances, but in time it came to refer to standards or guidelines in various areas of art, architecture, philosophy, and even literary standards for authors to follow. It eventually came to refer to the collection of sacred “Scriptures that make up the Christian Bible”.



Definitions

Codex (pl. codexes or codices, essentially a book form). As a successor to the ancient scroll, the codex presented writings in a book format. Initially codices were used as notepads and non-formal writing vehicles, but by the beginning of the second century Christians generally adopted the codex for most of their writings. By the fourth century AD, most authors in the Greco-Roman world also adopted the codex format for their writings.

<http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/> - Codex Sinaiticus is one of the most important books in the world. Handwritten well over 1600 years ago, the manuscript contains the Christian Bible in Greek, including the oldest complete copy of the New Testament.



Fun Facts

Several books were more 'popular' than NT books and were more widely read in Christian worship:

- Shepherd of Hermas
- The Didache
- The Letters of Ignatius
- And 1st and 2nd Clement

there are more surviving copies of the Shepherd of Hermas in the first few centuries than all of the other New Testament books except for the Gospels of Matthew and John.

This book was also included in a well-known copy of the church's complete Scriptures (Codex Sinaiticus) in the late fourth century AD



Fun Facts

‘New Testament’ from Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,

“when I will make a **new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel

after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Fun Facts

The term “Bible” comes from the Greek *ta biblia*, and it translates the Hebrew expression *ha-sefarium* (“the books”).

The Latin term for writings is *scriptura*

Those books alone were canon or rule for Christians to follow in order to:

- discern the will of God
- and their mission in the world

Fun Facts

Initially, there was no great interest in developing a Christian set of Scriptures, since there was a strong and widespread belief that Jesus was going to return soon and establish his kingdom on earth:

Acts 1:6-8

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



Fun Facts

2 Thessalonians 3:6-11

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ... 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

11 We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.



Fun Facts

The first step in the process of canon formation, then, began with the recognition of the usefulness of the Christian writings in worship, instructions, and advancing the missions of the Church....

...It took centuries to form widespread agreement on the essence of the Christian faith and what in general could be called “Christian”.



Fun Facts

The first step in the process of canon formation, then, began with the recognition of the usefulness of the Christian writings in worship, instructions, and advancing the missions of the Church....

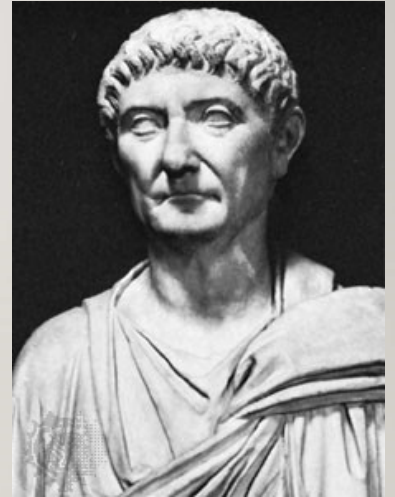
...It took centuries to form widespread agreement on the essence of the Christian faith and what in general could be called “Christian”.

Aren't we still fighting and doing this today?!



Two Historical Issues

During the early-fourth-century persecutions (303-313) under the Emperor Diocletian, Christians were forced under penalty of torture and death to hand over their sacred texts to local governmental authorities to be burned.

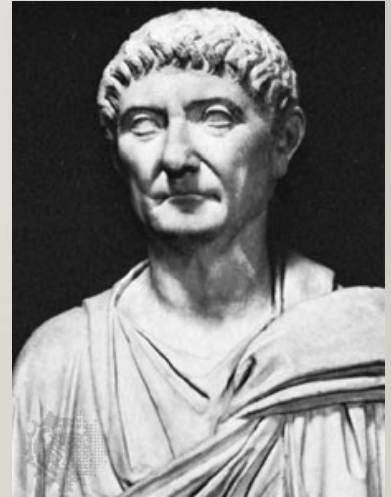


Two Historical Issues

During the early-fourth-century persecutions (303-313) under the Emperor Diocletian, Christians were forced under penalty of torture and death to hand over their sacred texts to local governmental authorities to be burned.

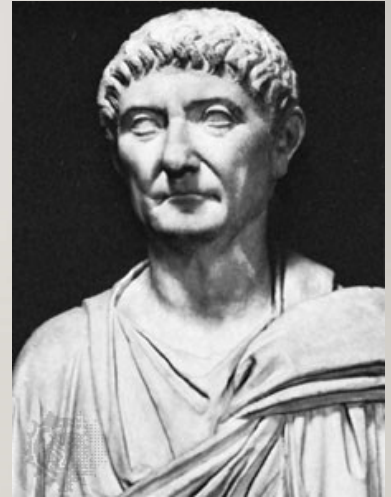


Decree of Constantine (313), the persecutions ceased



Two Historical Issues

During the early-fourth-century persecutions (303-313) under the Emperor Diocletian, Christians were forced under penalty of torture and death to hand over their sacred texts to local governmental authorities to be burned.



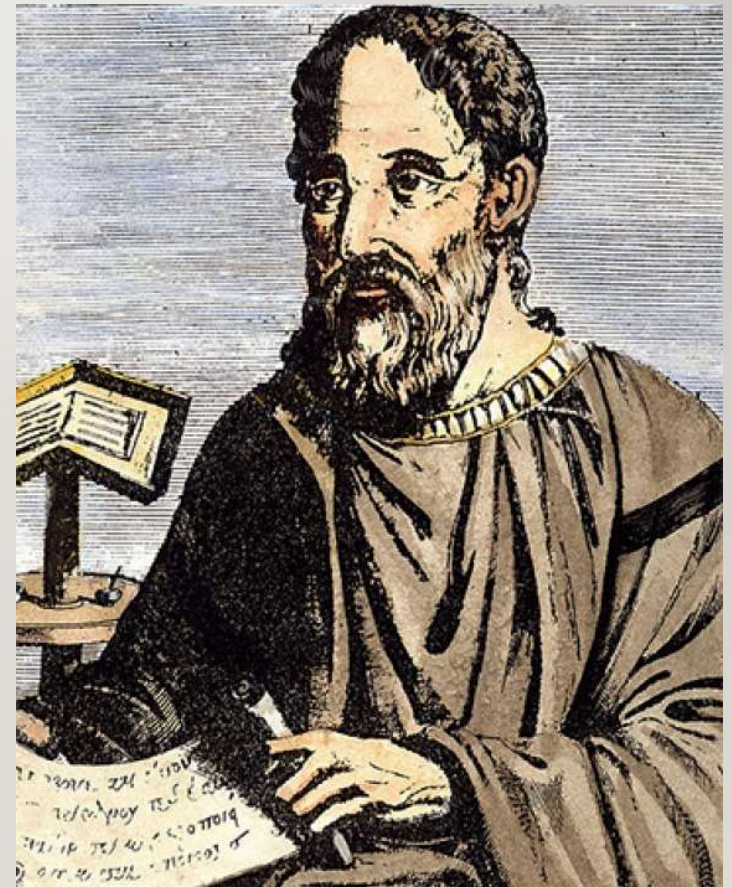
Decree of Constantine (313), the persecutions ceased

To protect texts that Rome deemed not sacred but illegal was to commit treason against the Empire and its Emperor; to give up the texts was to betray the church and one's faith in Christ as Lord.



Two Historical Issues

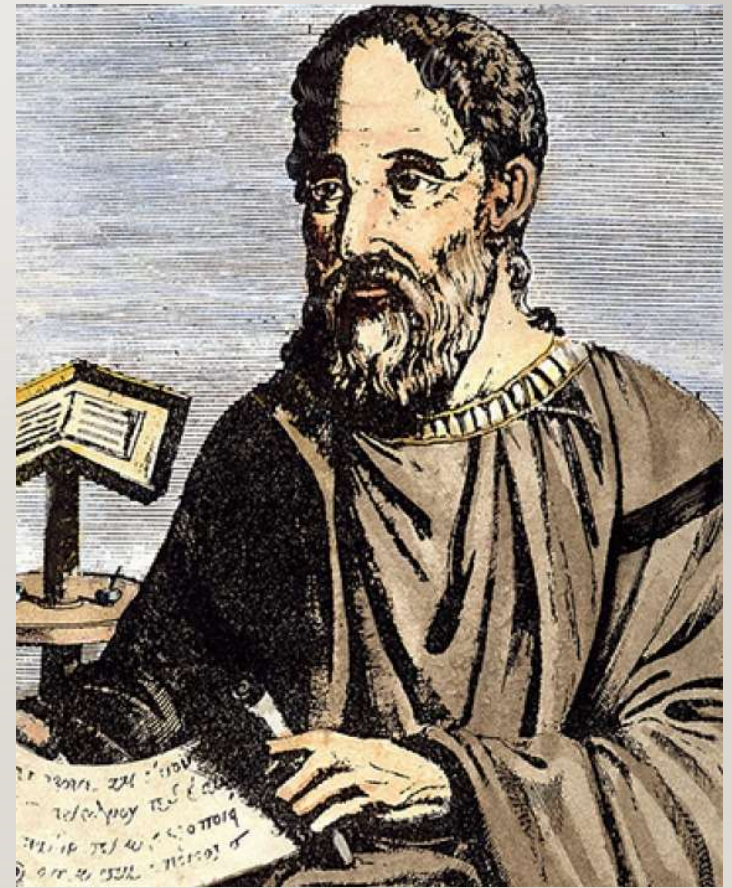
After the conversion of Constantine and the cessation of the persecutions of the church, Constantine requested from Eusebius in Caesarea that he produce fifty copies of the Church's Scriptures for the churches in the 'New Rome' – Constantinople.



Two Historical Issues

After the conversion of Constantine and the cessation of the persecutions of the church, Constantine requested from Eusebius in Caesarea that he produce fifty copies of the Church's Scriptures for the churches in the 'New Rome' – Constantinople.

*Constantine's fifty copies of the Scriptures likely had a significant influence on the acceptance of individual books that eventually formed the New Testament canon, **but the deliberate production of complete Bibles may well have been the more important consequence of his request.***



The Criteria Question – Canonization

The early Churches never left behind a clear statement on the processes or criteria that they used to select the books that best reflected their faith and mission in the world. The following list is not found in any one place, and no early church father mentions them all, but these are the most common criteria found in the surviving church traditions:



The Criteria Question – Canonization

Apostolicity – was it written by an apostle...Hebrews?

The Criteria Question – Canonization

Apostolicity – was it written by an apostle...Hebrews?

Orthodoxy – did it conform to the generally accepted understanding of the Christian faith

The Criteria Question – Canonization

Apostolicity – was it written by an apostle...Hebrews?

Orthodoxy – did it conform to the generally accepted understanding of the Christian faith

Antiquity – was the writing produced during the time of the Apostles? – Gospels of Mark and Luke?



The Criteria Question – Canonization

Apostolicity – was it written by an apostle...Hebrews?

Orthodoxy – did it conform to the generally accepted understanding of the Christian faith

Antiquity – was the writing produced during the time of the Apostles? – Gospels of Mark and Luke?

Use – widely used or cited by Christians in the majority of major churches in the first three centuries?



The Criteria Question – Canonization

Apostolicity – was it written by an apostle...Hebrews?

Orthodoxy – did it conform to the generally accepted understanding of the Christian faith

Antiquity – was the writing produced during the time of the Apostles? – Gospels of Mark and Luke?

Use – widely used or cited by Christians in the majority of major churches in the first three centuries?

Adaptability – can the book adapt, or to be continually adapted, to changing circumstances and needs.

source: “Formation of the Bible – The story of the Church’s Canon”, 2012, Lee Martin McDonald



Next Week – Tobit!

