

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Introduction to Canon, Text

[1] What three topics are covered in this lesson?

a.

b.

c.

II. The New Testament Canon

[2] What is the difference between the Protestant and the Roman Catholic canons?

[3] What is the Apocrypha?

A. Pseudepigrapha

[4] What is a Pseudepigraphal book?

[5] What two things are we concerned about in the study of the New Testament?

a.

b.

B. Books of the New Testament

[6] At the time of Tertullian, around 200 A.D. what concept was suggested that argued for an authoritative list of New Testament books?

[7] What specifically did Jeremiah prophesy that led to a belief in the need for a New Testament canon?

[8] What saying of Jesus in John 14:26 suggested the need for a NT canon?

[9] What happened in the 300s, 400s and 500s that contributed to the formalizing of the NT canon?

III. Criteria

[10] What three major criteria were established to determine if a book was to be included or excluded?

a.

b.

c.

A. Consistency

[11] Summarize in one sentence what the following criteria deals with: Consistency.

B. Catholicity

[12] Summarize in one sentence what the following criteria deals with: Catholicity.

C. Apostolic Authority

[13] Summarize in one sentence what the following criteria deals with: Apostolic Authority.

D. Books Left Out

[14] Summarize in one sentence what the following criteria deals with: Books Left Out.

[15] Why were the “apostolic fathers” writings left out of the canon?

[16] Why were the gnostic writings left out?

IV. Accuracy of the Text

[17] What, in addition to the question of knowing, “*That we have what are most likely to be the documents that God genuinely inspired and gave as the new covenant revelation,*” is the second question?

[18] What fact must we confess that makes this question exist?

A. Textual Evidence

[19] What quality of textual evidence for the New Testament books do we have?

B. Older Translations

[20] How old are the earliest complete copies of the New Testament?

[21] Are there any differences between the older and the later texts?

C. Modern Translations

[22] What are the three most widely-used Protestant translations?

[23] Are the textual variants in the texts used in these translations major or minor?

[24] What are the two more lengthy passages where the texts differ?

[25] How confident can we be that the biblical text is accurate?

V. Formation of the Gospels

[26] What is the final introductory question about the formation of the Gospels?

[27] Although different from modern biographical writing, the gospels are “perfectly in keeping with the standards of ancient biographical writing where...” What difference between ancient and modern biographical writing did Blomberg mention here that explains how the Gospels were arranged?

A. External Evidence for the Life of Jesus

[28] Blomberg introduces “An interesting pair of problems.”

a. What is the first problem?

b. Who is the Jewish historian who did write about Jesus?

[29] Why did ancient history not focus much on Jesus?

B. Synoptic Gospels and Gospel of John

[30] What problem exists when we compare the gospels?

[31] Name the three “Synoptic Gospels” and explain what “Synoptic” means.

[32] What is a “Harmony” of the gospels?

[33] What is the “Synoptic Problem?”

IV. Biblical Criticism

A. Source Criticism

[34] Briefly describe the focus of Source Criticism.

B. Form Criticism

[35] Briefly describe the focus of Form Criticism.

C. Redaction Criticism

[36] Briefly describe the focus of Redaction Criticism .

D. Literary Criticism

[37] Briefly describe the focus of Literary Criticism .

Reflection

Write at least one fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

How confident are you that the New Testament is really the New Testament? Any concerns?

Does Canonicity affirm or shake your confidence? Briefly explain.

Does Textual Criticism affirm or shake your confidence? Briefly explain.