


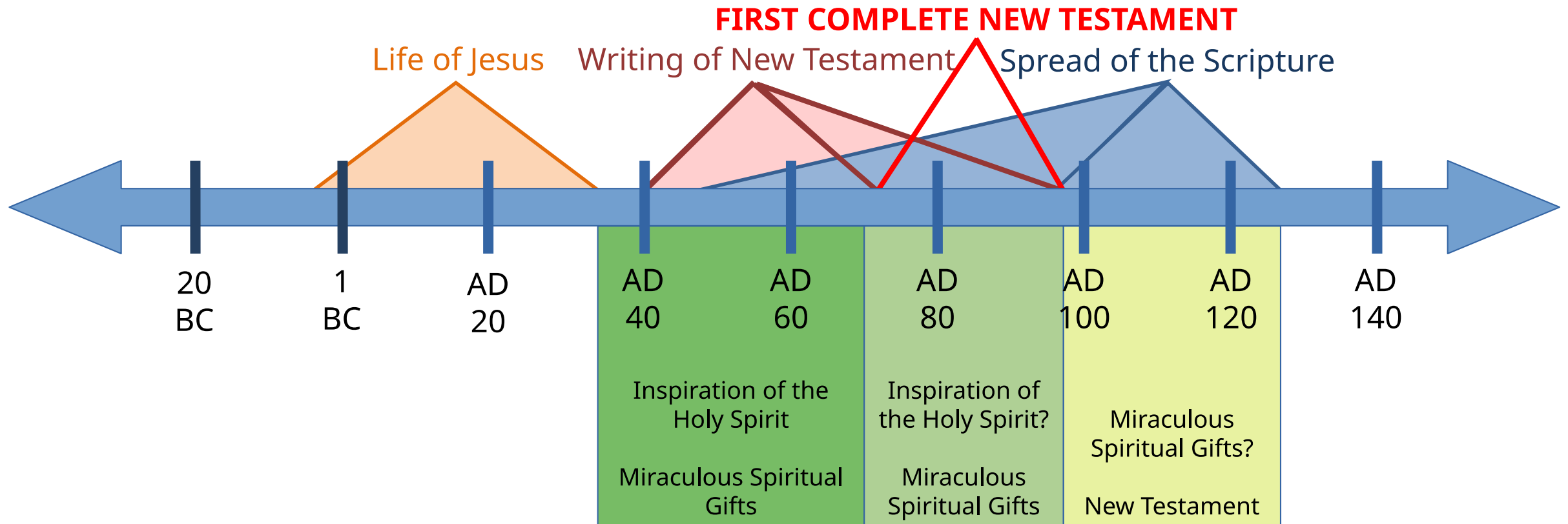
Parchments of Promise

Lesson 10: Canonization of the New Testament

Canonization

- Recall that Canon refers to the rule of God.
 - The litmus test for canonization is *inspiration*.
 - The Bible is humankind's attempt at identifying God's canon.
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Direct Inspiration Timeline




2nd and 3rd Century Questions

- Most lists identifying inspired Scripture include most of the books in our Bibles.
- Some 2nd and 3rd century sources question the inclusions of Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Revelation.
- Some 2nd and 3rd century source include books like the Shepherd of Hermas, Apocalypse of Peter, Epistle of Barnabas, the Didache, and the Gospel to the Hebrews.
- By the end of the 3rd century, most churches' Bibles recognized the same canon as the Bibles we use.

Question 1

How do the struggles for books like 2 John, 3 John, and James to be counted as inspired by Christians illustrate how seriously Christians took their charge to test the spirits (1 John 4:1) and self-proclaimed apostles (Revelation 2:2)?

My Answer

- Christians were not flippant; they were very careful about identifying what books were considered Scripture.
 - The smallest things invited additional scrutiny and questions (such as the lack of an identified author in Hebrews).
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Question 2.A

What does 2 Peter 3:15–16
also identify as Scripture?


My Answer

- Peter places the writings of Paul into the category of Scripture.
- By implication, if we reject Paul's writings, we must also reject Peter's.

Question 2.B

What does Acts 13:1–3 also identify as inspired?

My Answer

- Prophets and teachers received *direct* instruction from the Holy Spirit. In this case, Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - They were instructed to send Barnabas and Saul out for a special purpose.
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Question 2.C

What does Acts 13:9 also identify as inspired?

My Answer

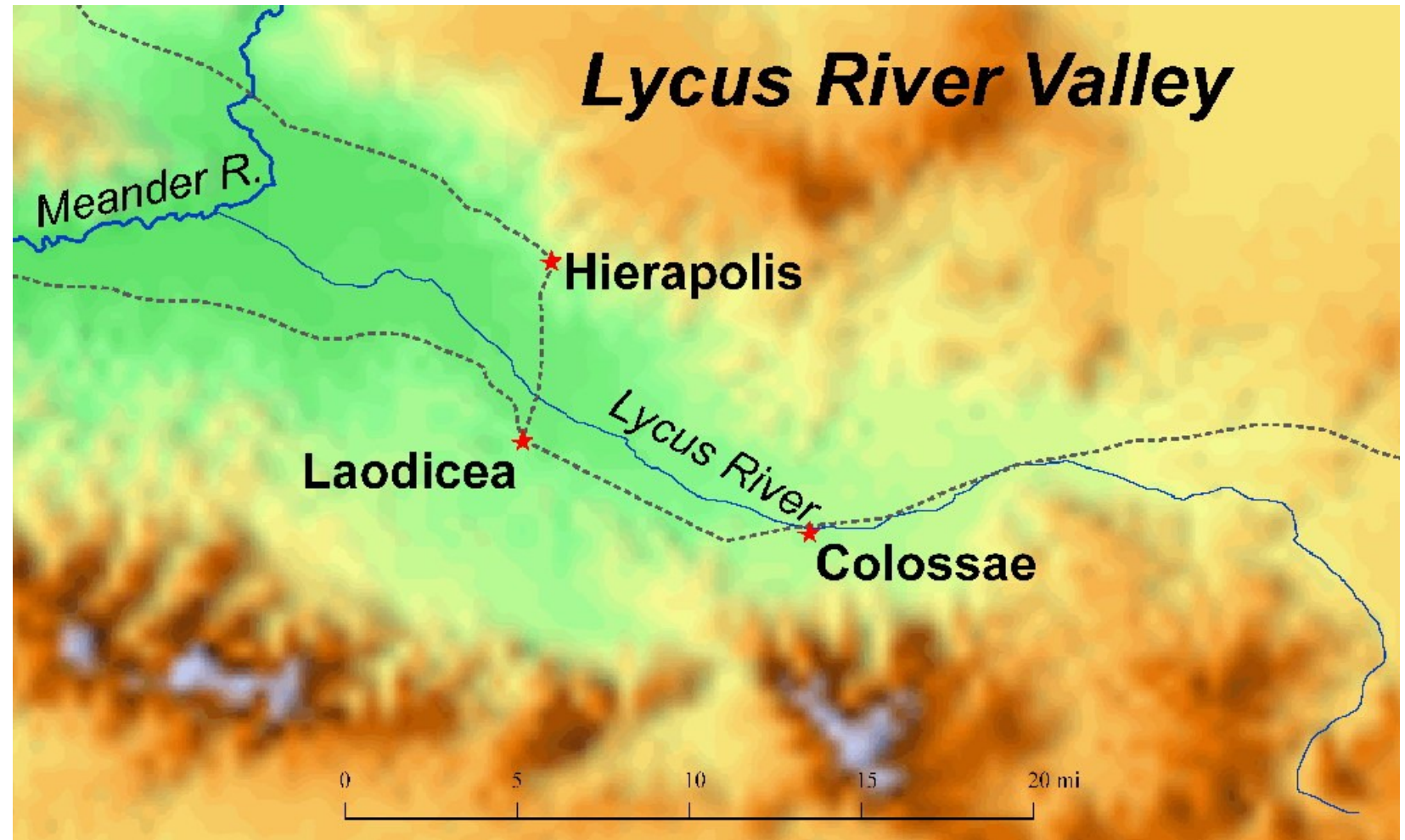
- The words of Paul when rebuking unbelievers and teaching others were identified as inspired.

Question 3.A

What does Colossians 4:16 say
should be done with Scripture?

My Answer

- Paul instructs the church at Colossae to receive a letter coming from the Laodiceans.



Map obtained from Bible Mapper on Ferrell Jenkins's travel blog.

Source: <https://ferrelljenkins.blog/2009/02/17/hierapolis-and-the-lycus-river-valley/>

Bible Mapper: <https://biblemapper.com/>

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Question 3.B

What does 1 Thessalonians 5:27 say should be done with Scripture?

My Answer

- Read this letter to all the brethren.
- Apostles had an expectation that their writings and letters would be circulated among the brethren.