

“McDonald provides the most thorough account of the formation of the Biblical canon currently available. He considers the texts not only from the perspective of formal discussions and manuscript evidence of ‘canon’ but, even more importantly, from the perspective of their functioning as ‘scripture’ across a broad spectrum of religious communities prior, and prerequisite to, such discussions. He considers as well the historical developments that contributed to the delineation of ‘canon’ as opposed to the fluid collection of ‘scripture.’ The present two-volume work is the culmination of a career-long fascination with, and investigation into, the question of how the collections of both testaments came about; it is nothing less than a landmark contribution.”

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“Lee McDonald’s work on the canon is the culmination of a lifetime’s work. It is simply the most comprehensive and thorough treatment of the subject available. It should be a basic reference work.”

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“Lee McDonald’s book on the biblical canon has been revised and expanded into two volumes, one on the formation of the Old Testament, and the other on the New Testament. Between the covers of these volumes lies a wealth of material, shifted and discussed, pertaining to the development of the authoritative scriptures of ancient Israel, Judaism and the Early Church. The scope of the undertaking is nothing less than the whole Biblical Canon. No stone is left unturned in this comprehensive, reference work. Scholars will want to have the two volumes sitting prominently on their book shelf.”

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“The question of canon is both interesting and crucial. What was the process that led to the recognition of the sacred collection of Scripture as we now know it? Lee McDonald has devoted much of his distinguished career to the question of the canon of the Old and the New Testaments. In *The Formation of the Biblical Canon* McDonald shares his considerable knowledge as he presents the evidence that we have from antiquity and then carefully assesses its significance. It goes without saying that his work is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the question of canon.”

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“Lee McDonald continues to amaze us with his wisdom, wide experience and knowledge on the formation, nature, and content of the biblical canon. This enriched edition is an absolute must for all those interested in all the literatures and religions covered by this book.”

Emanuel Tov, Dead Sea Scrolls Publication Project, Israel

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