

## Scripture and Resistance Hybridity: Without Canon (Hal Taussig)

### Ballots for Christianity Seminar, Session 2 of 4:

1. The collection now known as “The New Testament” did not exist even in an implicit form for at least 330 years after Jesus died.
2. The first 500 years of “Christianity” produced books called the New Testament that included the specific 27 little “books” that now make up the New Testament.
3. The Council of Nicea produced the first New Testament.
4. In the spring of 367 C.E. when Athanasius, a bishop in North Africa, wrote a “festal letter” at Easter, instructing the Christians of North Africa to read 27 books as their authoritative literature. This was the first New Testament.
5. It seems that the provisional inversions and creative identities in hellenistic Israel and early Christ people use and undermine the classical Greek and Roman civilizing pretensions. \*
6. “Hellenistic” Israel’s creative “resistant hybridity” was not a “canon,” and neither was the literature of the first two centuries of the Christ movements.

\*Cf, the creative analysis and definition of Jonathan Z. Smith in “Sacred Persistence: Toward a Redescription of Canon.” In *Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown*, edited by Jonathan Z. Smith, pp. 36–52. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.