

The Legacy of the "SCROLL"

*The Canon of the
Old Testament*

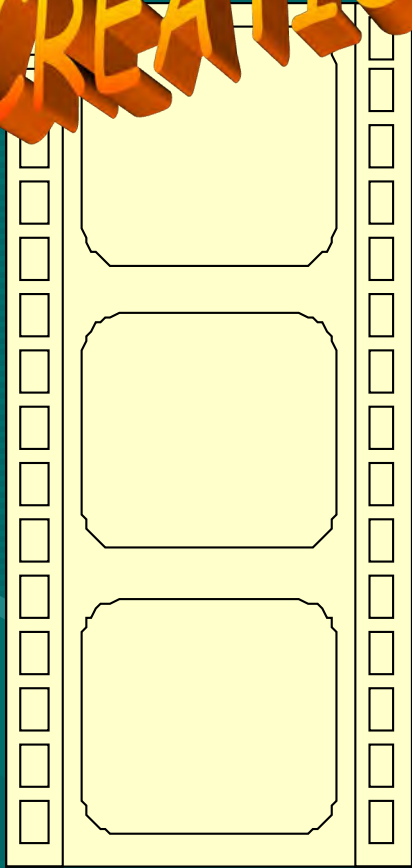
Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Objectives of the Session

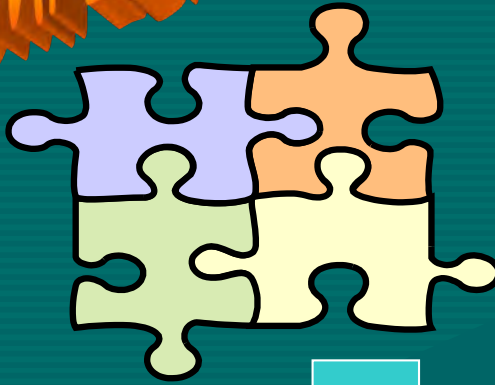
- Christ be Glorified!
- To have a brief but concise overview of the transmission of the OT Scriptures to what we have today
- Acknowledge a lapse in historical records but confidence in faithfulness of men and women in the preservation of Scriptures

Road Map

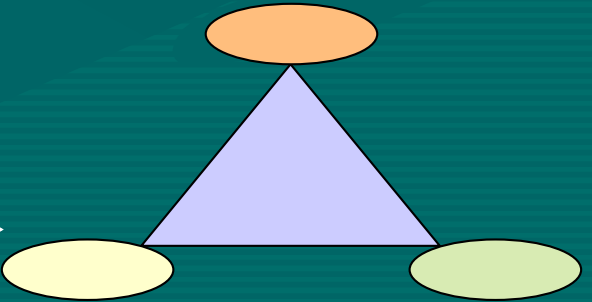
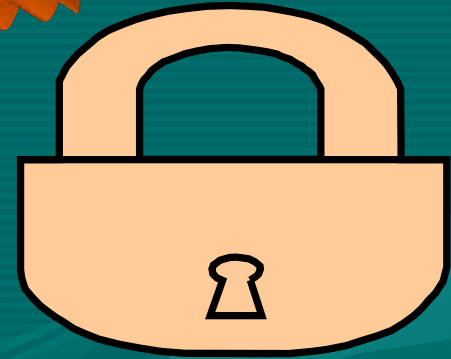
CREATION



COMPILATION



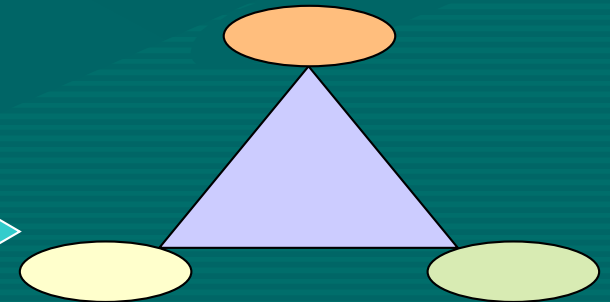
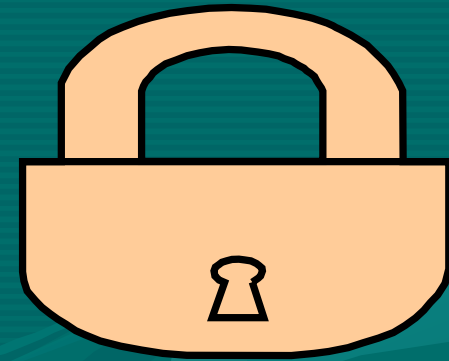
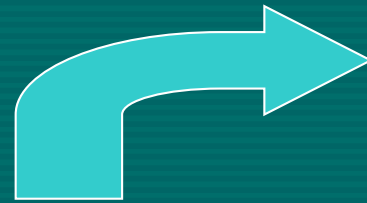
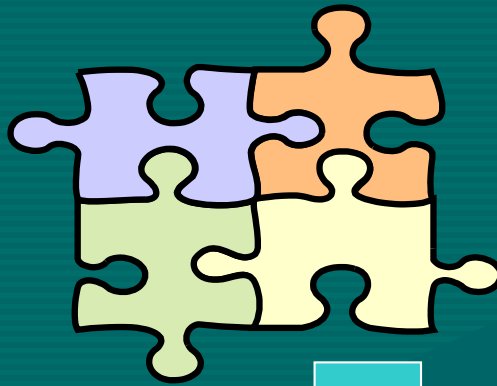
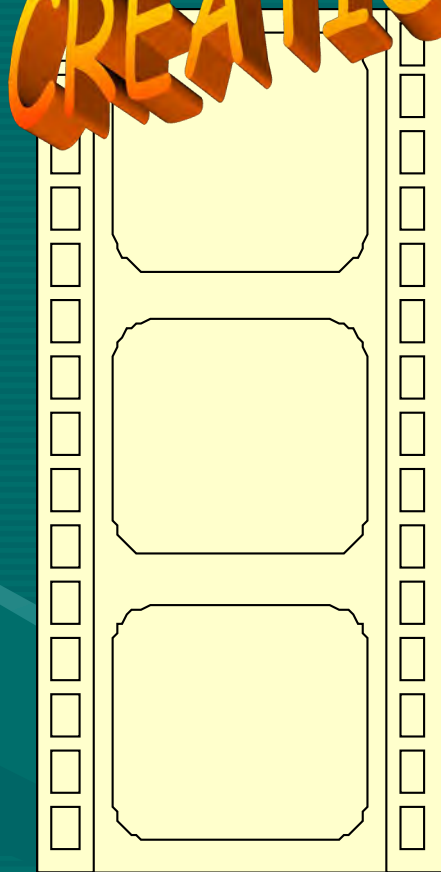
CONSERVATION



CONCOPTIONS

Road Map

CREATION



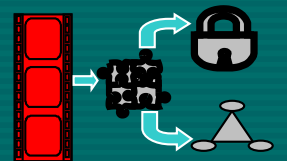
The Old Testament

How did we get from here...



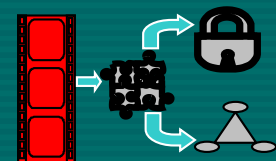
Torah scroll

To here?



What are the divisions of the OT?

- Torah (Law) also known as the Pentateuch
- Nebi'im (Prophets)
- Kethubim (Writings)
- The first consonant in each of these three sections make up the TaNaK, the OT as we know it.
- Canon is from Greek word *kanon*, meaning "rule" as in a "ruler."



I. Inspired Writings

A. Old Testament

1. Hebrew: Masoretic Text (MT)
2. Greek: Septuagint (LXX)
3. OT Canonicity

B. New Testament

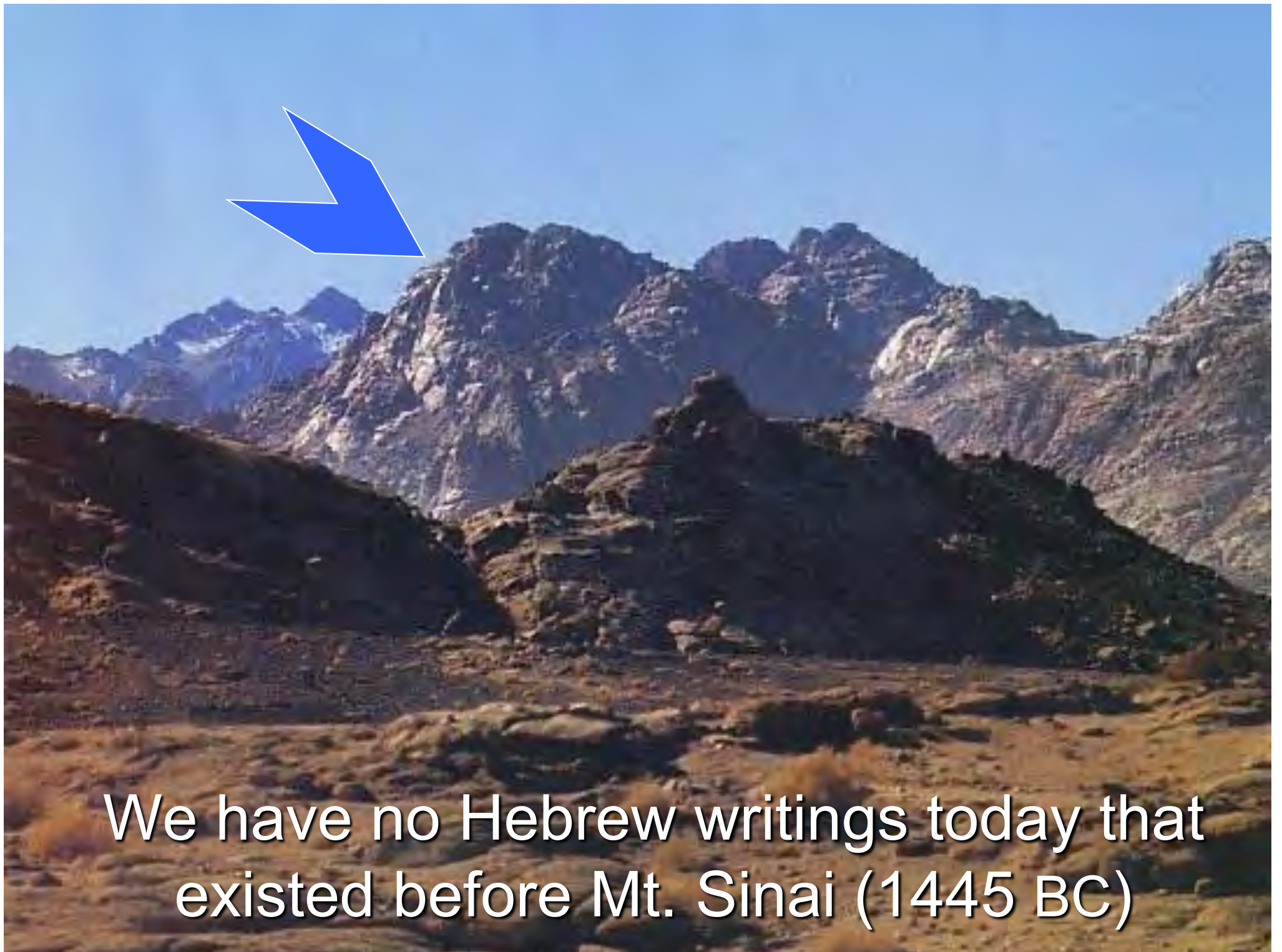
1. Dates
2. NT Canonicity



Jewish Writings



The Book of Psalms



We have no Hebrew writings today that existed before Mt. Sinai (1445 BC)

Jewish Primary Sources Began at the Tabernacle

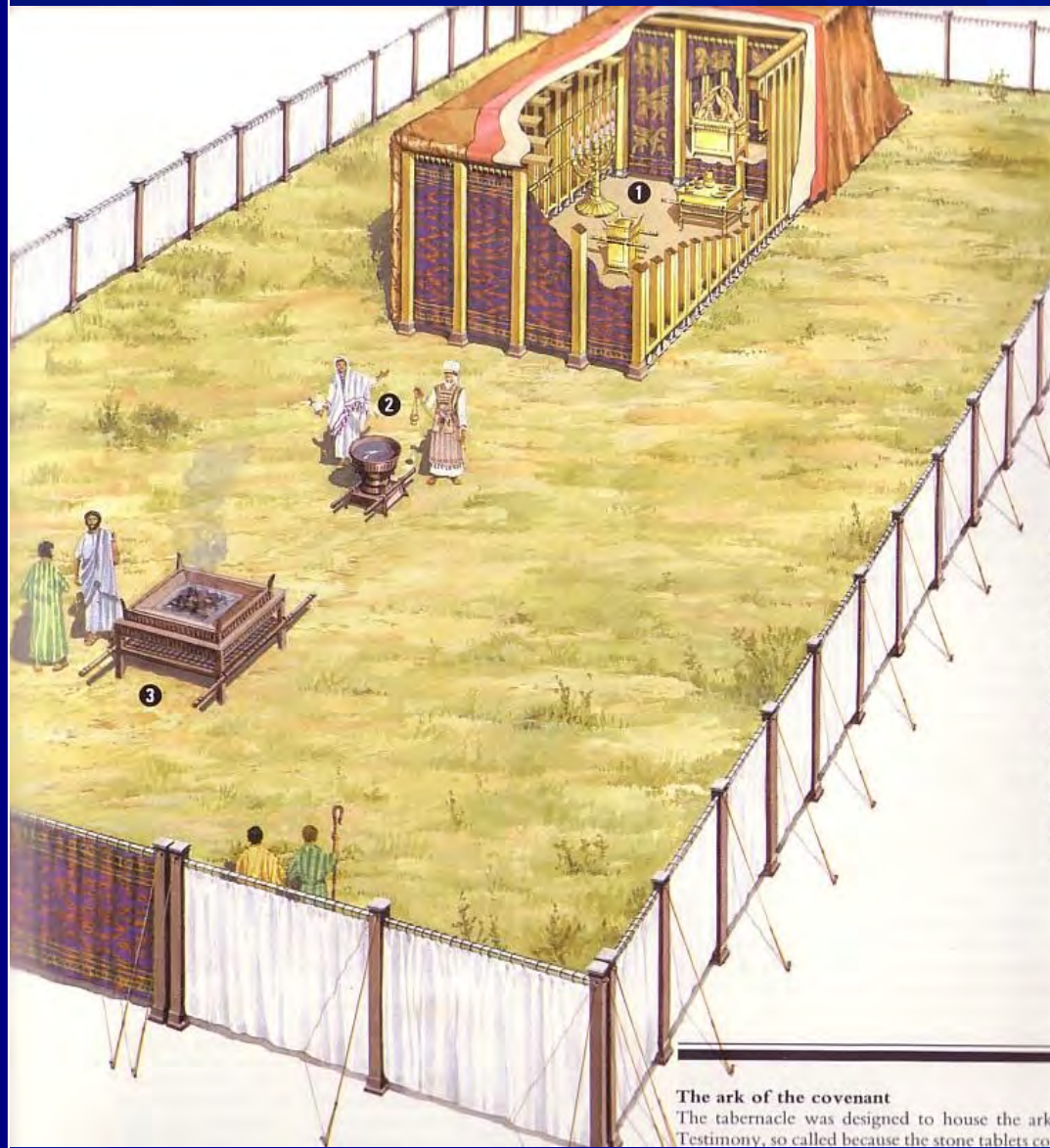
So that he might 'dwell in their midst', Yahweh gave the Israelites, through Moses, precise directions on how to build a portable sanctuary.

The heart of the sanctuary was the tabernacle, *t*, which was divided into two compartments by a veil called the *parokhet*. Made of finely woven linen, it was dyed 'violet-purple, red-purple and crimson and embroidered with great winged creatures'.



The first compartment was the Holy Place and contained an incense altar, a lampstand and the shewbread table. The incense burner was made of acacia wood and was covered with gold. It was 18in/0.4m square

The lampstand, or *menorah*, was in the form of a stylised tree and made of gold. From the base and central column stemmed six branches, rising to the same height as the centre. The seven lamps were







The ark of the covenant
The tabernacle was designed to house the ark of the covenant, so called because the stone tablets con

The Hebrew Canon

| Hebrew Bible | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| I The Law (Pentateuch) | Genesis |
| | Exodus |
| | Leviticus |
| | Numbers |
| | Deuteronomy |
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| | Judges |
| | Samuel |
| | Kings |
| | Isaiah |
| | Jeremiah |
| | Ezekiel |
| | Hosea |
| | Joel |
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| | Obadiah |
| | Jonah |
| | Micah |
| | Nahum |
| | Habakkuk |
| | Zephaniah |
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| | Malachi |
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| Ruth | |
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| Ezra | |
| Nehemiah | |
| Chronicles | |

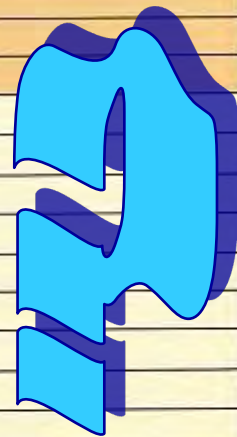
| Christian Bible |
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| Leviticus |
| Numbers |
| Deuteronomy |
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| Ruth |
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| Malachi |

- Jewish and Christian books are the same but in different order and classification

| | |
|---|-----------------|
|  | The Law |
|  | Prophets |
|  | Wisdom Writings |
|  | Historical |

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Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."





| | |
|--|-----------------|
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| | Prophets |
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The Hebrew Canon



















Luke 24:44 "... everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

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| | |
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The Hebrew Consonants

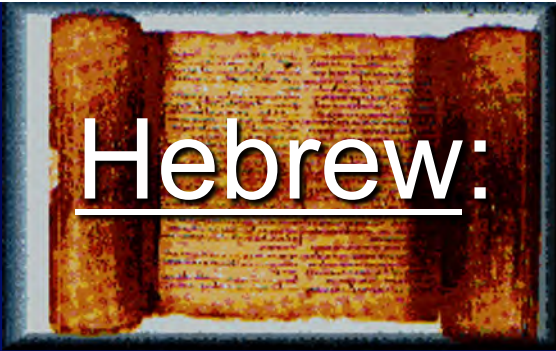
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tet (T) | Chet (Ch) | Zayin (Z) | Vav (V/O/U) | He (H) | Dalet (D) | Gimel (G) | Bet (B/V) | (Silent) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Samech (S) | Nun (N) | Nun (N) | Mem (M) | Mem (M) | Lamed (L) | Khaf (Kh) | Kaf (K/Kh) | Yod (Y) |

"tittle"

"yod"

Matt. 5:18 "... For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the **smallest letter** ["yod" or "jot"] or **stroke** ["tittle"] shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (NASB).

1. Hebrew: The Masoretic Text (MT)



- Unpointed text
(1500 BC – AD 800)

בראשית ברא אלהים
 hthsrb rb mhl



Most Hebrew manuscripts lack vowel pointing. Both Hebrew and Greek manuscripts often lack space between words too!

י
ל
ד
ו
ע
ק
מ
ב

וְיָשָׁא יַעֲקֹב רִגְלָיו וַיִּלֶךְ אֶרְצָה בְּנֵי קְדָם
וַיֵּרָא וַהֲנֵה בְּאֵר בְּשָׂדֵה וַהֲנֵה שָׁם שְׁלֹשָׁה
עֲלִיָּה כִּי מִן הַבְּאֵר הָהוּא
חֶבֶן גָּדֹלָה עַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר
עַד רִיִּים וַיִּגְלְלוּ אֶת הַחֶבֶן
וְקָמוּ אֶת הַיְצָאן וַהֲשִׁיבוּ אֶת
לְמַקְמָה וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם
תָּם וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִזֶּרֶן אֲנַחְנוּ

וַיֵּשָׁא יַעֲקֹב רִגְלָיו וַיִּלֶךְ אֶרְצָה בְּנֵי קְדָם
וַיֵּרָא וַהֲנֵה בְּאֵר בְּשָׂדֵה וַהֲנֵה שָׁם שְׁלֹשָׁה
עֲלִיָּה כִּי מִן הַבְּאֵר הָהוּא
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ΠΟΙΗΕΝΤΗ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙ
ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΟΥΤΩΣ
ΠΑΣΑΙ ΑΙ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ
ΠΕΡΙΘΗΣΟΥΣΙΝ ΤΙ
ΜΗΝΤΟΙΣ ΑΝΔΡΑΣ
ΕΑΥΤΩΝ ΑΠΟ ΠΤΩ
ΧΟΥ ΕΩΣ ΠΛΟΥΣΙΟΥ
ΚΑΙ ΗΡΕΣΕΝ Ο ΛΟ
ΓΟΣ ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ
ΤΟΙΣ ΑΡΧΟΥΣΙΝ ΚΑΙ
ΕΠΟΙΗΣΕΝ Ο ΒΑΣΙ
ΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΘΑ ΕΛΛΗ
ΣΕΝΟΜΑ ΜΟΥΧΟΣ

י
ל
ד
ו
ע
ק
מ
ב



You can read without vowels too!

W rrlly rd nglsh wtht vwls
bt t s pssbl wth prctc. t's vn fn!



You can read without vowels too!

W rrlly rd nglsh wtht vwls
bt t s pssbl wth prctc. t's vn fn!

We rarely read English without vowels
but it is possible with practice. It's even fun!

1. Hebrew: The Masoretic Text (MT)



The Hebrew Canon

■ Unpointed text

(1500 BC – AD 800)

■ Pointed text by Masoretes

(AD 800 - present)

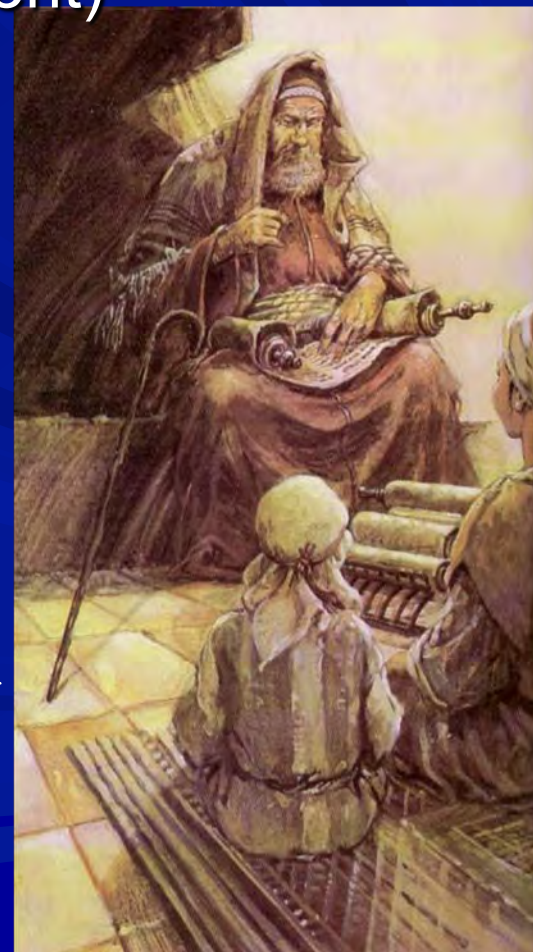
בראשית ברא אלהים

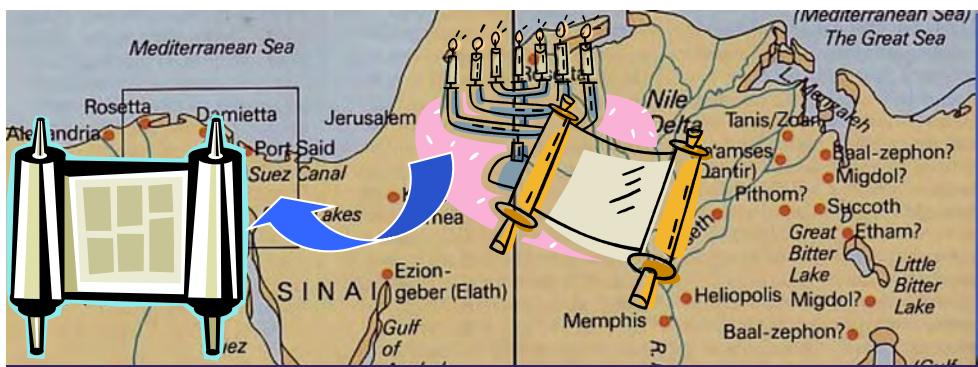
mihole arab htihserB

Bereshith bara elohim

In the beginning God created

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים



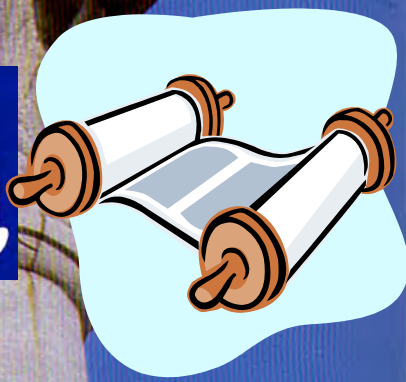


2. Greek: The Septuagint (LXX)

■ The OT Hebrew text was translated into Greek in Alexandria around 250 BC

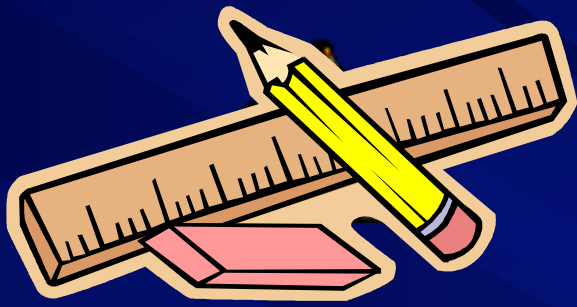


בראשית ברא אלהים



ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς





3. OT Canoncity

194
195

Why Adopted So Late? What Criteria was Used?

- Apocrypha
- LXX
- Antilegomena
- Samaritans
- Pharisaical Tradition
- Authoritative & Enduring
- Doctrinal Suitability
- Prophetic Authorship
- Claim to be God's Word
- Dynamic Character

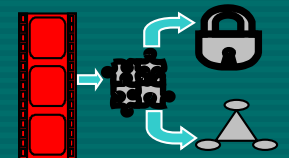


Canonicity is vital for those seeking God

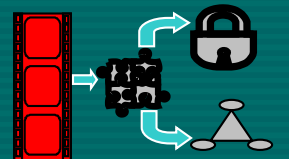
In the beginning...



From the time of Adam, commands given by God and traditions were probably passed down by oral tradition.



Discussion: Since stories passed by oral tradition for hundreds of years before Moses, what still gives you confidence that the Bible is God's Word, not just man's word?



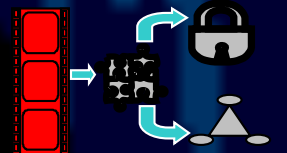
The Beginning

Moses first received the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai.

His five books are the first installment of the scriptural record.



Exodus 20:22-23:33



A Summation of God's Will

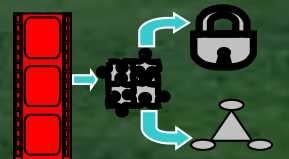


At the plains of Moab...

The book of Deuteronomy
was added to the canon



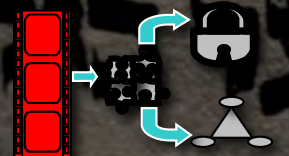
By the time of Moses'
death, Jews accepted
the Pentateuch as
from God himself



So!...The Command to Write

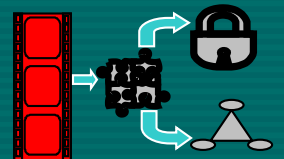
God explicitly commanded His servants to write down certain events and words:

- Words of God at Sinai (Exod. 24⁴)
- Tablets of Stone (Exod. 24¹² 34¹; Deut. 4¹³ 5²² 10^{2,4})
- Moses to write the Words of God (Exod. 34²⁷⁻²⁹; Num. 33² Deut. 31⁹)
- Joshua to write the Law (Deut. 27^{2-3,8}; Josh. 8³²)
- Josiah finds and reads the Law (2 Kings 22⁸⁻¹³)
- Ezra preserves/edits the Books (Ezra 7¹⁰; Neh. 9³⁸ 13¹)



Preserve the Scrolls

- Deuteronomy 31:26 "Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you."
- Notice, the Torah (and subsequent writings) were not kept IN the Ark but beside it! ...for ease of reference!

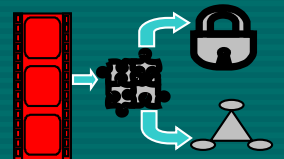


Adding to the Commands

- The Jews Considered the Torah not to be messed with! We see the command given:

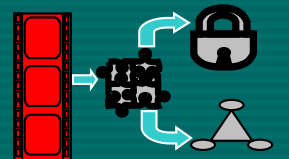
• "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you" (Deut. 4:2)

- But as for the Writings and Prophets...



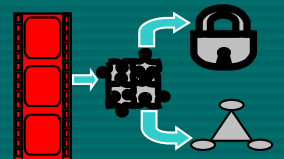
The Torah Only?

- That's all well and good, but so far, you've only mentioned the Torah (Pentateuch)
- What happened to the rest?
- No one really knows for sure... but here's the generally believed account...



Writings & Prophets Limits

- Joshua to write his own covenant (Josh 24²⁶)
- Prophets unlike Moses to come after Moses (Exod 33¹¹; Deut 34¹⁰)
- Samuel writes priestly ordinances (1 Sam 10²⁵)
- Prophets commanded to write (Isa 8¹⁶ 30⁸ Jer 30² 36^{2,4,17,18} 45¹ 51⁶⁰ Ezek 43¹¹ Hab 2²)
- Book read and explained to post exilic Jews (Neh 8¹⁻¹⁸) (Emendations made)







The Hebrew Canon

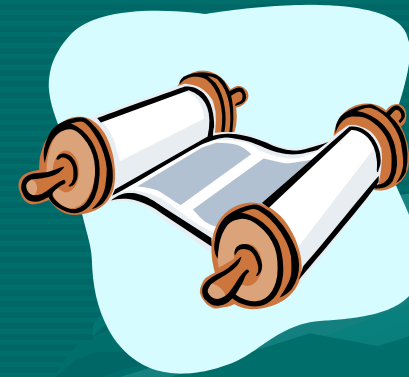
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| Joshua |
| Judges |
| Ruth |
| Samuel (1 and 2) |
| Kings (1 and 2) |
| Chronicles (1 and 2) |
| Ezra |
| Nehemiah |
| Esther |
| Job |
| Psalms |
| Proverbs |
| Ecclesiastes |
| Song of Solomon |
| Isaiah |
| Jeremiah |
| Lamentations |
| Ezekiel |
| Daniel |
| Hosea |
| Joel |
| Amos |
| Obadiah |
| Jonah |
| Micah |
| Nahum |
| Habakkuk |
| Zephaniah |
| Haggai |
| Zechariah |
| Malachi |

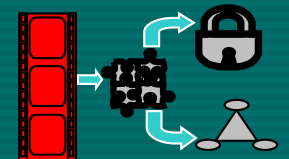
- Jewish and Christian books are the same but in different order and classification

| | |
|---|-----------------|
|  | The Law |
|  | Prophets |
|  | Wisdom Writings |
|  | Historical |

The Pentateuch (Torah)



- Ca 722 BCE, by the time of the exile of the Northern Kingdom, the Pentateuch (תורה) was canonized.
- And upon return from the exile, the Northern tribes already had the precursor of their current Samaritan Pentateuch (ca 110 BCE)



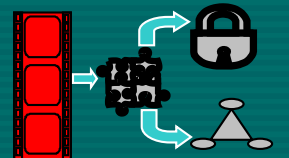
The Prophets and the Writings



The Prophets were probably canonized ca 400 BCE

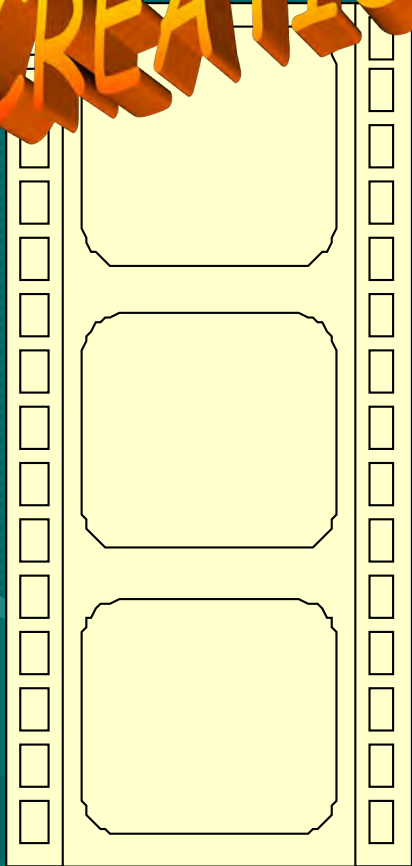


The Writings were probably canonized ca 300 BCE

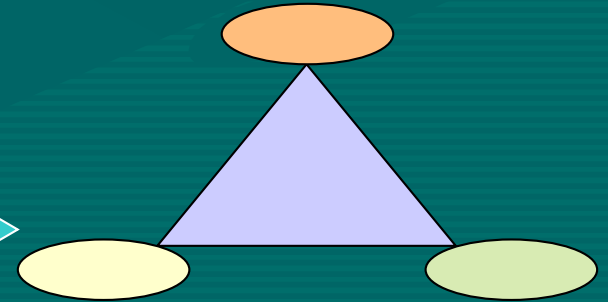
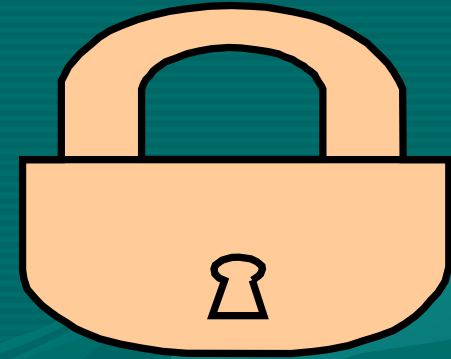
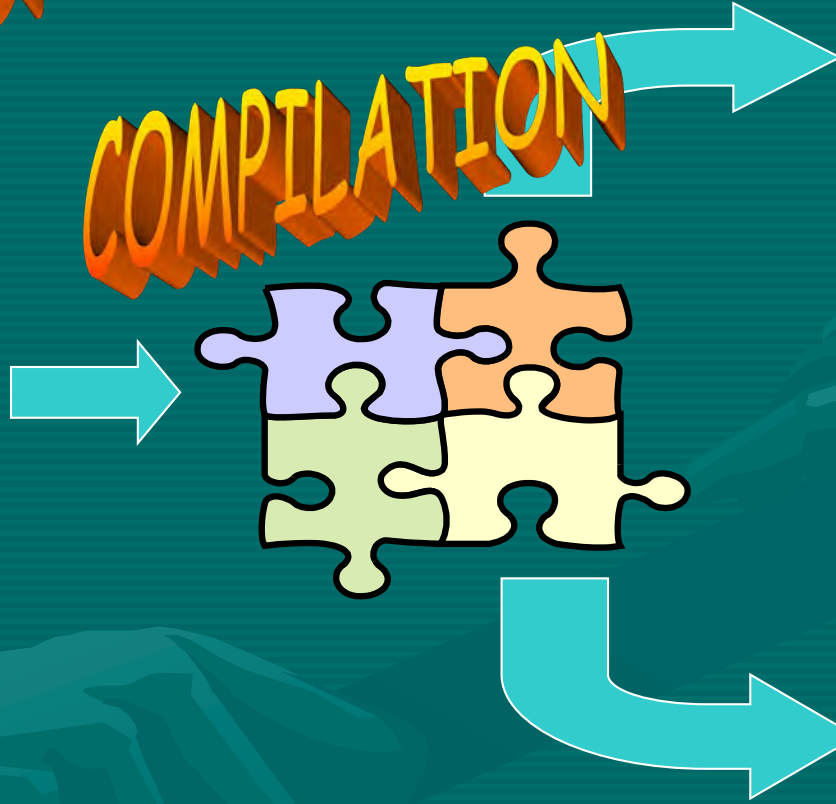


Road Map

CREATION



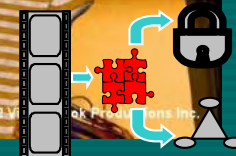
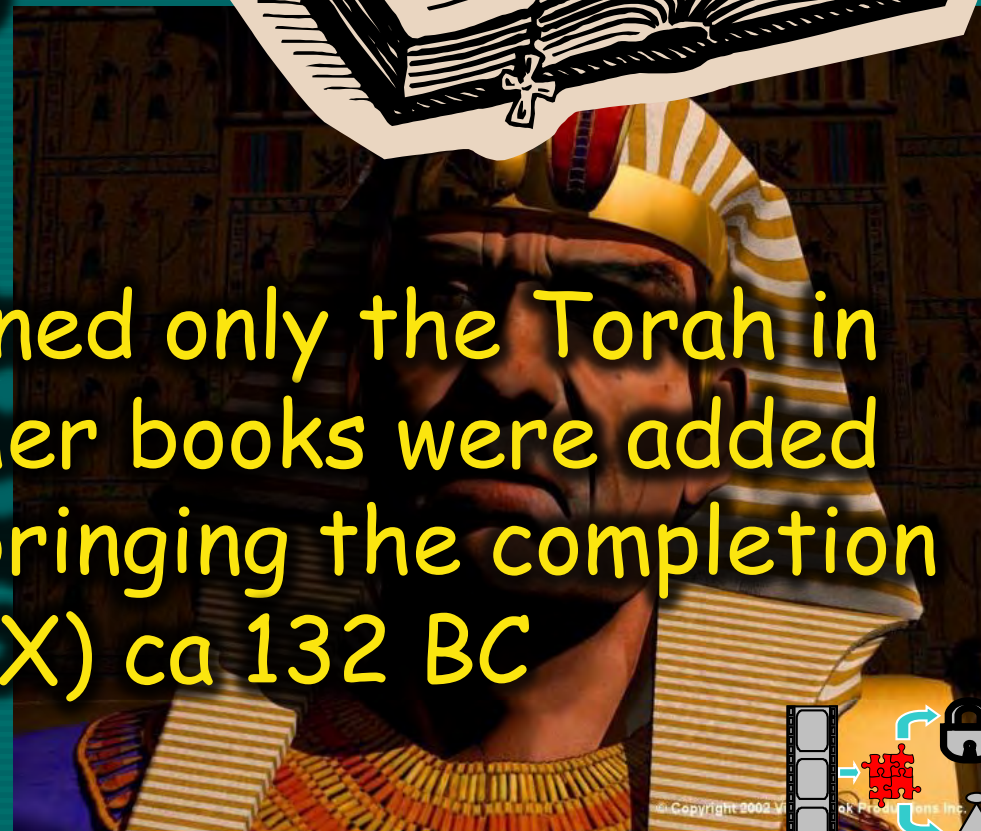
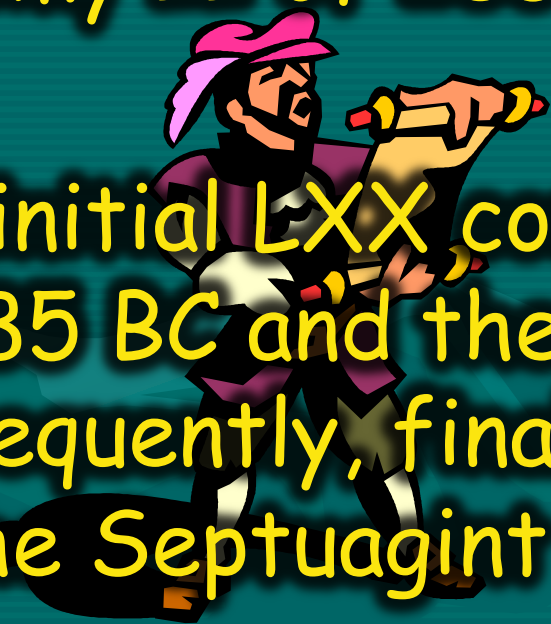
COMPILATION



Evidences of the Canon before (the Assumed) Council of Jamnia

Letter of Aristeas (ca 130 BC) to his brother Philocrates about King Ptolemy II of 285 BC

The initial LXX contained only the Torah in ca 285 BC and the other books were added subsequently, finally bringing the completion of the Septuagint (LXX) ca 132 BC





AP

The spectacular Bibliotheca Alexandrina cost S\$400 million and took 30 years to create. The city of Alexandria has handed over 5,000 original manuscripts from its archives.

Alexandrian library revived in Internet age

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt) — This is the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other dignitaries from around the world inaugurated what has been nicknamed the Fourth Pyramid, a long-awaited successor to one of the classical world's great marvels, the Library of Alexandria.

The ancient Alexandrian library

may have had as many as 700,000 items. It was founded by Ptolemy I, Alexander the Great's successor, in 306 BC with the mandate to acquire every scroll of its time.

The main library is said to have been destroyed by fire in 47 BC, though other parts of the collection were believed to have survived.

The new building, which cost

US\$225 million (S\$400 million) and took 30 years to create, also has a conference centre, museum space and a planetarium.

With a computerised card catalogue and 300 Internet-connected computers, it is the largest and most advanced such institution in the Arab world.

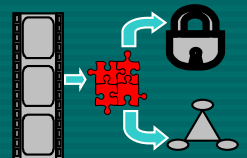
— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Septuagint (LXX)

- **This refers to the Greek translation of the Tanak. LXX means “seventy” in Latin.**
- **It is useful as it helps us get closer to earlier manuscripts which were lost or destroyed.**
- **Many versions of how they translated, such as...
6 representatives of each of the 12 tribes of Israel were sent to Alexandria with beautiful parchment of the Torah upon request of King Ptolemy to Eleazar the High Priest.**
- **They completed it in 72 days.**

Order of Books

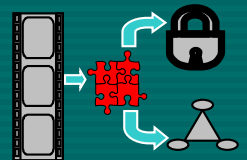
- Judas Maccabeus, at the end of the war, was said to have collected the lost books:
 - 2 Maccabees 2:14 "In like manner also Judas (Maccabeus) gathered together all those things that were lost by reason of the war we had, and they remain with us."
- He probably then established the traditional order of the books in 164 BCE.
- One traditional order is recorded in the Babylonian Talmud (Baba Bathra 14b-15a).



Council of Jamnia

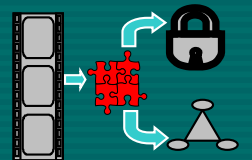


- A council is believed to have convened at Jamnia in AD 90 (this is debated)
- This was not so much to gather or decide the canon of the Tanak, but to confirm the places of the books already present
- Books disputed but still placed in the canon became known as the Anti-Legomena ("spoken against")



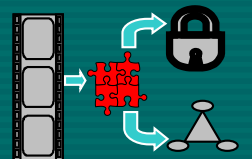
The Divisions of 'Scripture'

- Books that were undisputed are known as the Homologomena
- The books that were definitely thrown out are known as the Apocrypha
- Disputed books are now called the Antilegomena, which include Ezekiel, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and the Song of Songs
- Books that were never considered part of the Scriptures are known as the Pseudepigrapha



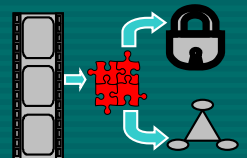
Homolegomena

- Undisputed for its content and doctrinal stability, accepted without reservation
- Thirty-four (34) out of the 39 Old Testament books fall under the category of Homolegomena
- Only five (5) fell under the category of Antilegomena



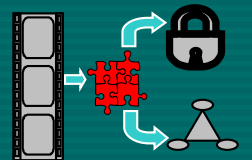
Disputed Books (Antilegomena)

- **Song of Solomon** - Considered too sensual
- **Ecclesiastes** - Considered too skeptical. However, the conclusion is very much in line with the rest of Scripture: the fear of the Lord is the key to meaning in life.
- **Esther** - The name of God is never mentioned in the book. However, it is clear that throughout the book, we see God preserving His people Israel.
- **Ezekiel** - Thought to contradict the teaching of the Mosaic Law (e.g., no ark in the temple).
- **Proverbs** - Thought to contain internal contradictions, this is and was not true of 26:4-5 and elsewhere.



Apocrypha

- Apocrypha is a Greek word meaning *things hidden*.
- Traditionally in Bibles but not read or taught to the unlearned public
- Considered by Protestants to be myth or uninspired due to content or doctrine



70 Scholars (LXX)



How Accepted are the 15 OT Apocryphal Books (250 BC-AD 100)?

Most

- Tobit
- Judith
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Ecclesiasticus

A few...

- 1 Esdras
- 2 Esdras
- Prayer of Manasseh

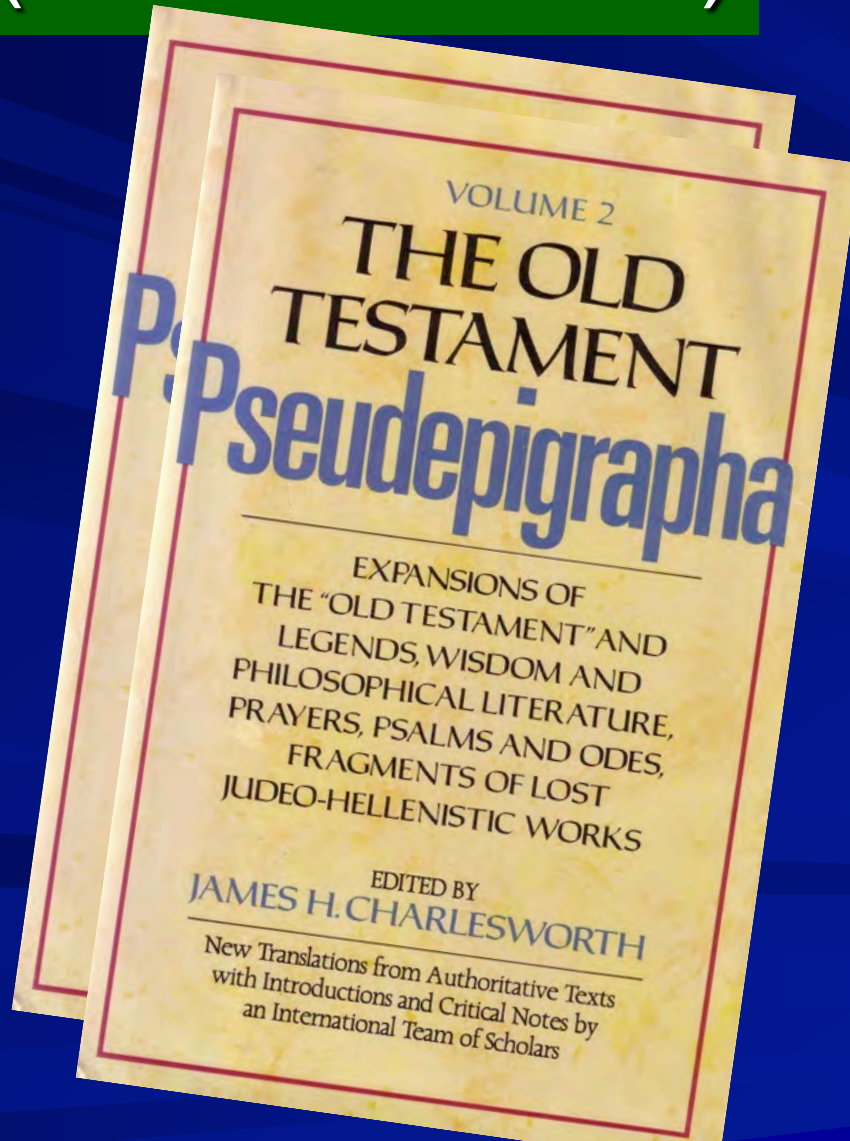
Many

- Baruch
- Letter of Jeremiah
- Additions to Esther
- Song of the Three Children
- Susanna
- Bel and the Dragon
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees

- Psalm 151
- 3 Maccabees
- 4 Maccabees

Pseudepigraphal

Selected Pseudepigrapha (200 BC-AD 200)



1 Enoch
Psalms of Solomon
Letter of Aristeas
Sibylline Oracles
Life of Adam & Eve
Testament of the 12 Patriarchs
Book of Jubilees
Lives of the Prophets
3 Maccabees
4 Maccabees
Assumption of Moses
2 Baruch
Ascension of Isaiah

Literary Categories

APOCALYPTIC

1 Enoch

2 Esdras

WISDOM

Ecclesiasticus

**Wisdom of
Solomon**

HISTORY

1 Esdras

1 Maccabees

2 Maccabees

FICTION

Tobit

Judith

Letter of Aristeas

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

3 Maccabees

Sibylline Oracles

No Gaps in Genesis 5

Jude quotes 1 Enoch

7 {
Adam
Seth
Enosh
Kenan
Mahalalel
Jared
Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech
Noah

1. State lengths of time
2. Shorter lengths
3. Most natural
4. Show father-son
5. Jude 14

"Enoch, in the **seventh generation from Adam**, prophesied saying. . ."
(Jude 14a, NASB)

Enoch as a Prophet

"Enoch, who lived
in the seventh
generation after
Adam, **prophesied**
about these
people"
(Jude 14a NLT).



Quoting The Book of Enoch

Jude quotes 1 Enoch

[Enoch] said, “Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones¹⁵ to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 14b-15 NLT).

Terminology of Authoritative Writings

194d

| | <i>Jews</i> | <i>Protestants & Anglicans</i> | <i>Catholics</i> | <i>Eastern Orthodox</i> |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 39 OT Books | Bible (inspired) | Old Testament (inspired) | Old Testament (inspired) | Old Testament (inspired) |
| 27 NT Books | New Testament (uninspired) | New Testament (inspired) | New Testament (inspired) | New Testament (inspired) |
| 4 Apocryphal Books (Tobit, Judith, etc.) | Apocrypha (uninspired; not in MT but in LXX) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Deuterocanonical (canonical since 1546) | Apocrypha (canonical since 1673) |
| 8 Apocryphal Books (1-2 Macc) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Deuterocanonical (since 1546) | Apocrypha (authoritative) |
| 3 Apocryphal Books (Esdras, Manasseh) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Non-canonical (but in appendix) | Apocrypha (authoritative) |
| 3 Pseudepigraphal Books: 3-4 Macc, Psalm 151 only | Pseudepigrapha | Pseudepigrapha (uninspired) | Apocrypha (but in appendix) | Apocrypha (authoritative) |
| 60+ Pseud Books (esp. 1 Enoch) | Pseudepigrapha (uninspired) | Pseudepigrapha (uninspired) | Apocrypha (uninspired) | Pseudepigrapha (uninspired) |

Why are these books doubted?

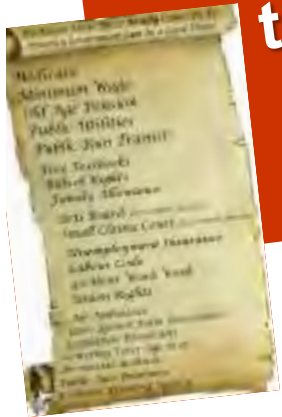
- Never recognized as authoritative
- False theology

PURGATORY:

The result of sacrifices for pagan dead—"and thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from their sin" (2 Maccabees 12:46)

SALVATION BY WORKS:

"It is better to give to the poor than to store up gold. Such generosity will save you from death and will wash away all your sins." (Tobit 12:8b-9a GNB)



Why are these books doubted?

194c

- **Never recognized as authoritative**
- **False theology**
- **No claim of inspiration**
- **Lack of dynamic character**
- **Suspicious history of RCC acceptance**



So do these books have any value?

Yes!

- Intertestamental history
- Jewish sects and institutions
- Theological beliefs (e.g., angels)



Archangel leaving the Family of Tobias

- *Pictured on the front of the NT Backgrounds class notes*

Rembrandt, 1637

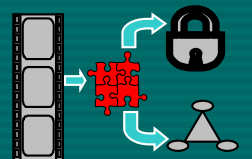
So do these books have any value?

Yes!

- Intertestament history
- Jewish sects and institutions
- Theological beliefs (e.g., angels)
- Lexical backgrounds (e.g., "age to come")
- Literary forms (e.g., letters)
- Balance to rabbinic writings

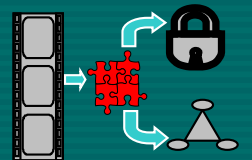
Pseudepigrapha

- **The Pseudepigrapha refers to the books that did not make it to the canons of either the Protestant and Catholic Bibles.**
- **Books were taught to have “fake” authorship or authors with pseudonyms.**
- **Content also appeared fictitious to say the least and contradictory to doctrine of the Torah.**



Criteria for the Canon

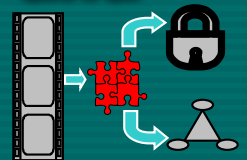
- **D**octrinal Stability (to Torah)
- History of **A**uthoritative use and usage
- **C**laimed itself to be “Word of God”
- Prophetic **A**uthorship
- **D**ynamic Character



Jesus' Testimony to the Canon

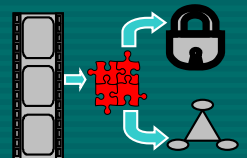
195a

- **Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- **Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- **Luke 11:51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah (2 Chron24:21), who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.
- **Matthew 23:35** so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah (2 Chron. 24:21), whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.
- Law and Prophets (**Matthew 5¹⁷ 7¹² 22⁴⁰**)



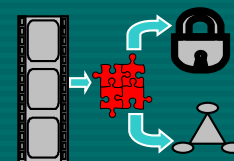
New Testament Testimony to the OT Canon and Authority

- **Jesus** (Luke 18³¹⁻³³ 24²⁵⁻²⁷ John 10³⁵)
- **Peter** (Acts 1¹⁶)
- **Stephen** (Acts 7³⁸)
- **Paul** (Romans 3²)
- **James** (James 4⁵)



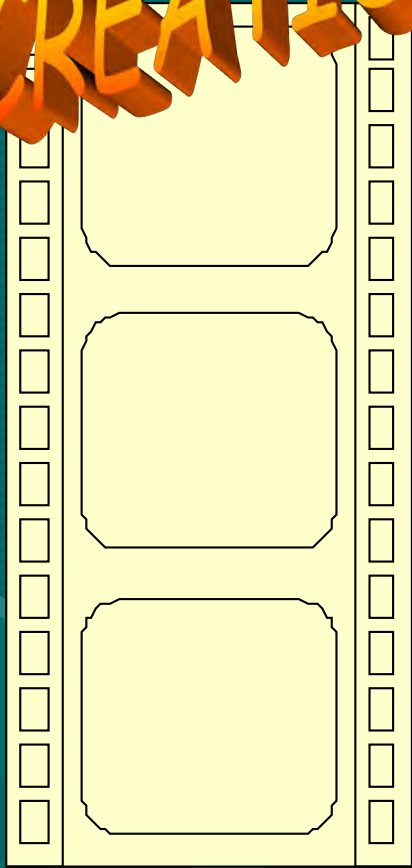
Close of the Canon

- The prophetic gift was said to have ceased
- 1 Maccabees 9:27 So was there a great affliction in Israel, the like whereof was not since the time that a prophet was not seen among them.

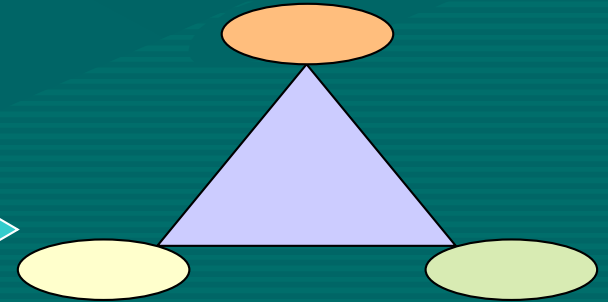
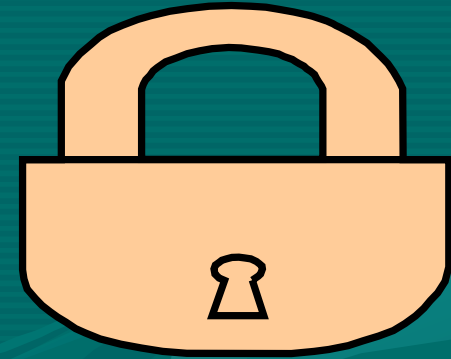
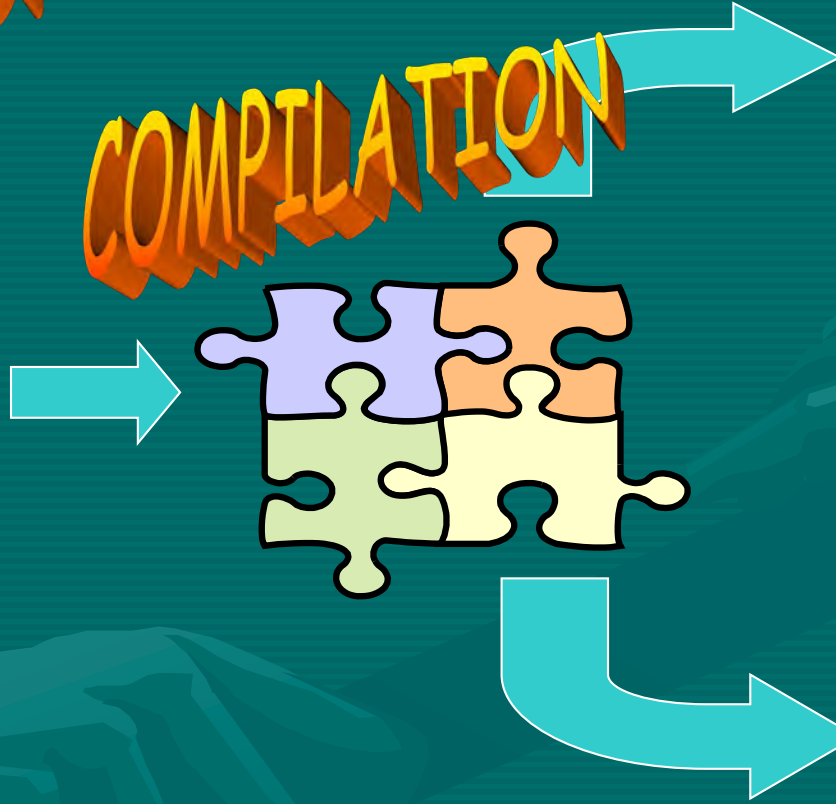


Road Map

CREATION



COMPILATION



CONCOCTIONS

Number of Books?

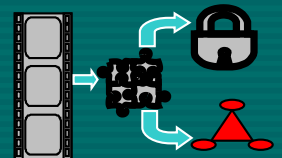
Persons have come up with differing versions

22

- There are 22 consonants in the Hebrew alphabet
- Some authors say there are 22 books, like the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet (some say 24)
- Josephus was the first to mention the number 22 around AD 96
- The number 24 was 1st recorded in 2 Esdras 14⁴⁴⁻⁴⁸
- The Qumran library had all OT books all but Esther

24

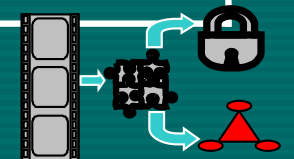
23



Which Books?

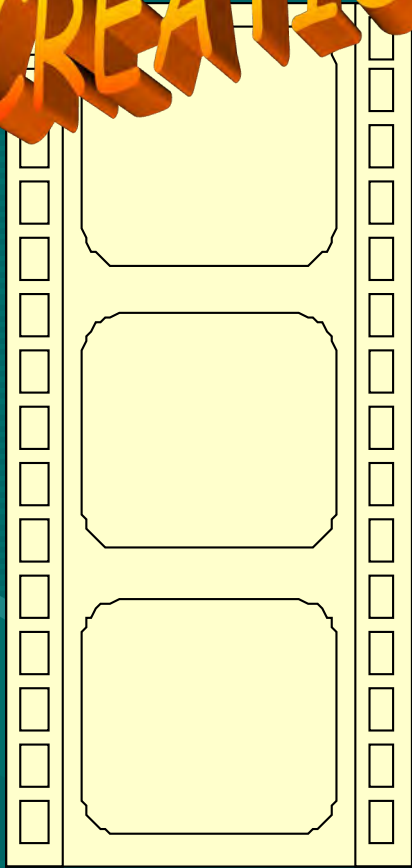
| Books | Josephus AD 96 | Melito AD 170 | Origen AD 230 | Athanasius AD 367 | Our Bible Today 195c |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Torah | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Joshua | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ruth & Judges | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Samuel and Kings | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Chronicles | 1 (Includes Samuel + Kings) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Ezra & Nehemiah | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Psalms | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Proverbs | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ecclesiastes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Song of Songs | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Isaiah | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Jeremiah & Lamentations & Epistle of Jeremiah | 1 (Jeremiah & Lamentations) | 1 (Jeremiah & Lamentations) | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Daniel | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ezekiel | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Job | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Esther | 1 | | 1 | Epistle to Jeremiah | 1 |
| Prophets | 6 | 1 (the 12) | 1 | 12 | 12 |
| Jesus Naue | | 1 | | | |
| Total | 22 | 23 | 22 | 39 | 39 |

Now are you confused?

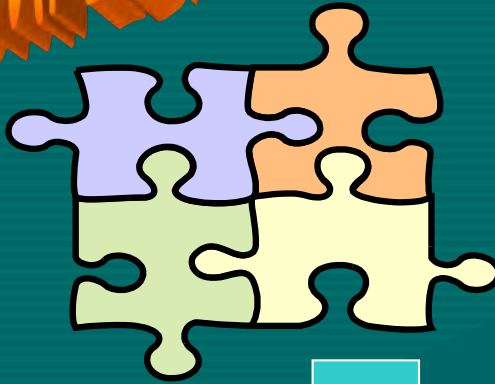


Road Map

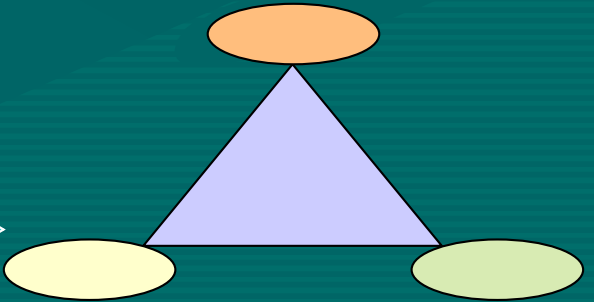
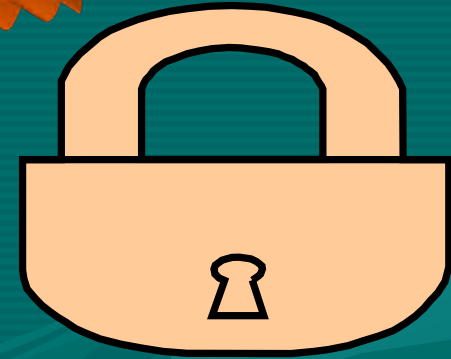
CREATION



COMPILATION



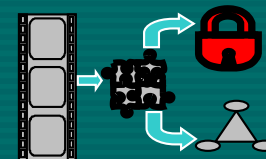
CONSERVATION



CONCOCTIONS

The Chronology

- Ca 722 BCE Pentateuch
- Ca 400 BCE Prophets canonized
- Ca 300 BCE Writings canonized
- Ca 285 BCE Septuagint (LXX Torah)
- Ca 132 BCE Septuagint (LXX Full Version)
- Ca 130 BCE letter of Aristeas
- AD 90 Council of Jamnia 39 OT books affirmed
- AD 96 Philo testifies to the OT Canon
- AD 600 Masoretes added vowel points, accents and the Masora to lock in the Scriptures
- Ca AD 918 full codex found from Ben Asher Family



What the text looked like...

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ:

בְּרָא נִשִּׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

How the text was written, and how it was read

The kethiv - what was written

The qere - what was read



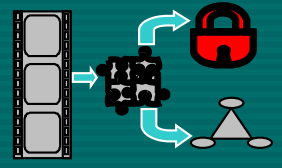
Handwritten Hebrew text with Masorah notes. The text is arranged in columns, with some notes written in the margins. The Masorah Magna is visible as a block of text at the top of the page, and the Masorah Parva consists of smaller notes interspersed throughout the main text.

The Masora

The Masora is made up of two parts:

The Masora Magna is the 4 top lines and the bottom 7 lines

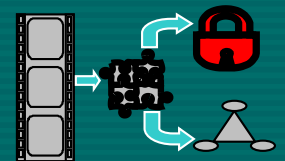
The Masora Parva is the notes written on the side



A Fence to the Scriptures

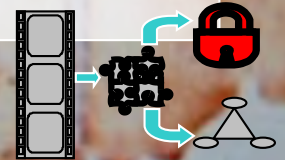
The Masorah or Masoretic Text (MT) is written in 3 columns for ease of reading:

- The Masora, was written like a fence around the three columns of the page to ensure no one adds to the letter of the book
- Masora Magna basically give a word count of the number of times certain words appear in the Scriptures
- Masora Parva indicates variant forms of the word (e.g. 'daud' vs 'dauid')



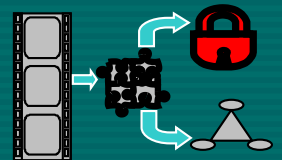
Sopherim

- The Sopherim were believed to be the authorized revisers of the text of the Masorah
- After the return from exile (Neh 8⁸), the Law was read and explained to the people
- The Scribes or Sopherim were the official revisers of the text, amending the text before it was passed on to the Masoretes, who were the official custodians of the MT



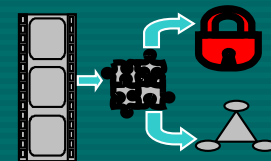
Division of the Torah

- The Babylonian Jews divided the Torah up into 54 parts that it may be read in a year [Parashiyyoth (parashah)].
- The Palestinian Jews had the Torah paragraphed into 154 divisions to cover it in three years [Sedarim (seder)].



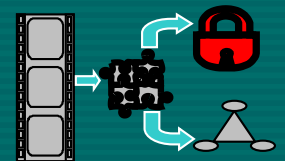
Ancient Texts We Have Today

- AD 850 Codex of Pentateuch
- AD 895 Cairo Codex - Prophets
- AD 916 Leningrad Codex - Prophets
- Ca AD 930 Aleppo Codex - Whole OT
- Ca AD 918 Standard Division of OT by Masoretes of the Ben Asher Family
- Ca AD 1000 Leningrad OT



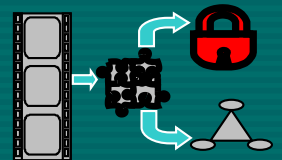
Dead Sea Scrolls

- In 11 mountain caves west of Khirbet Qumran, ancient manuscripts of all the canonical books except Esther were discovered in 1947-1956
- Manuscripts found were dated from the middle of the 3rd Century BCE to AD 135. Prior to this, manuscripts used for the Hebrew Bible dated from AD 900-1000
- Only minor discrepancies appeared compared to the MSS 1000 later—mostly of grammar!
- The 7th edition of Kittel's BHS (Hebrew Bible) incorporates the textual variants



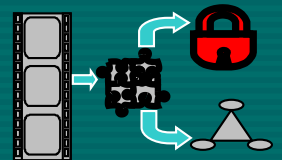
Division of Chapters

- AD 1228 Stephen Langton divided the Latin Vulgate into chapters
- AD 1518, the chapters were applied to the Hebrew Bible (Bomberg Edition)
- AD 1571, chapters each received a number
- Verses were subsequently added, first to the Bomberg's Great Bible



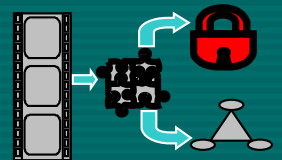
The Bible Today

- 1488 - Soncino - 1st Full Hebrew Bible
- 1937 - Kittel - Biblia Hebraica - 3rd Ed
- 1951 - Kittel - 7th Ed - Included readings from the Dead Sea Scrolls



What Does This Mean to Me?

- Scripture has been transmitted us from the originals with great care
- We can have confidence in the reliability of the Scriptures that we have now
- The challenge of our predecessors to preserve, instruct and propagate the Scriptures still remains with us

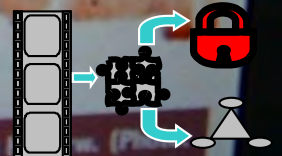


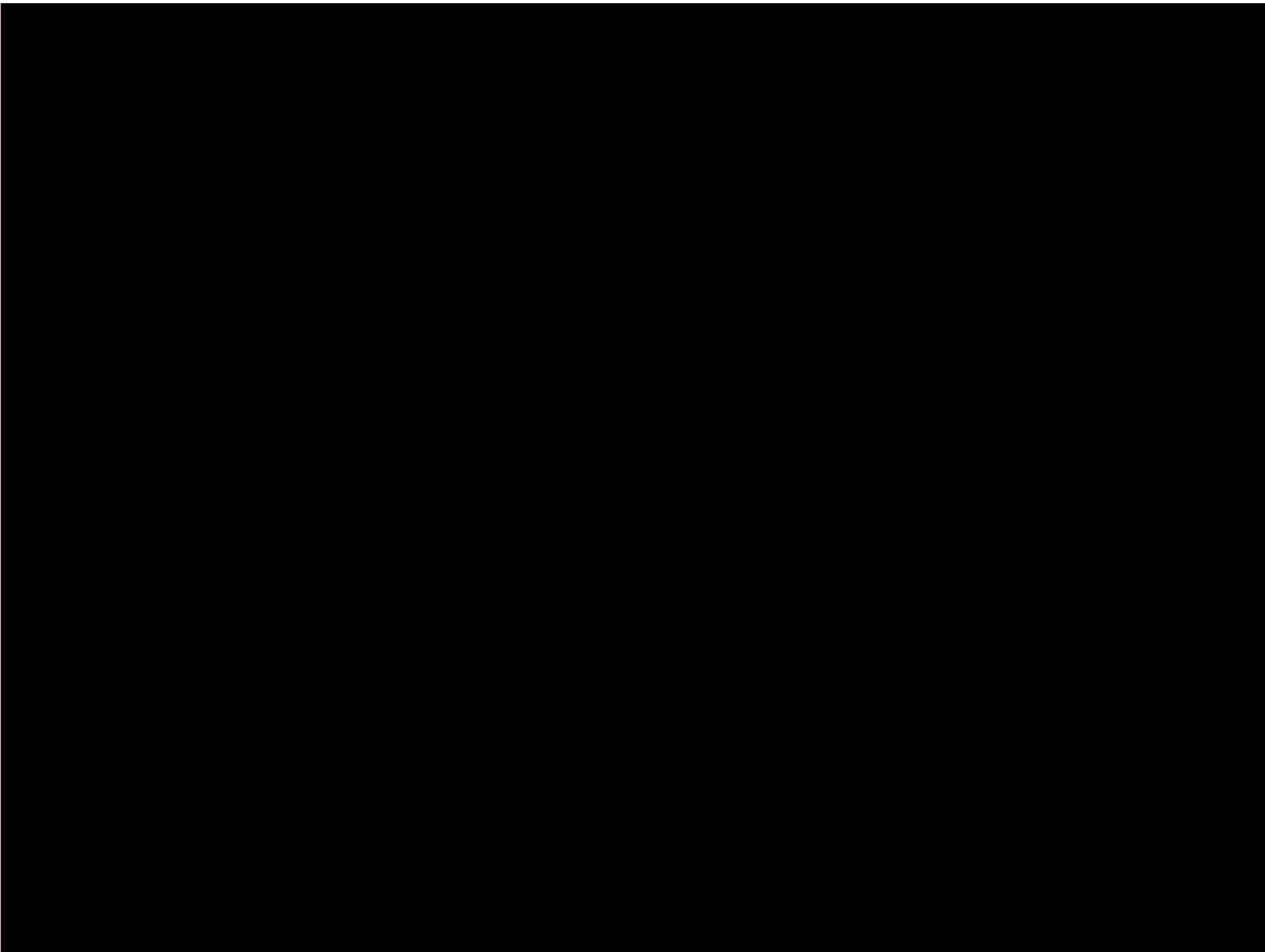
Isaiah Scroll

Challenge

Are you convinced the Bible
comes from God
and is indeed the very word of God?

LIVE LIKE IT IS!





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