

Week 2: Old Testament (Which books are in the Old Testament?)

Quiz: In what language(s) was the Bible originally written?

Review:

The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew with 268 verses in Aramaic, a very similar and related language. The New Testament was written in Koine (Common) Greek.

- Aramaic: Ezra 4:8-6:18, 7:12-26; Daniel 2:4b-7:28; Jeremiah 10:11

The Hebrew Old Testament was divided into three parts: Torah (Law), Nebi'im (Prophets), and Kethuvim (Writings) with 22 books.

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. -
Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

1. **Torah (Law):** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. **Nebi'im (Prophets):**
 - "Former Prophets" Joshua, Judges, Samuel (1 & 2), Kings (1 & 2),
 - "Latter Prophets" Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
3. **Kethubim (Writings):** Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra & Nehemiah, and Chronicles (1 & 2)

The Bible was written by highly trained people called scribes by hand onto papyrus (made from the papyrus plant) or parchment (made from stretched animal skins) on scrolls. (Jer. 36:27-28)

The Jewish people spoke Hebrew, a "Semitic" language (named for Shem the son of Noah) related to Amorite, Ugaritic, Edomite, Ammonite, Moabite, Phoenician, and others probably from the time of Abraham through the Babylonian Exile and into the Persian, then Greek periods.

- 2100 BC (Abraham)- 586 BC (Destruction of Jerusalem): Hebrew
- 585-445: Hebrew moving towards Aramaic, the *lingua franca* of the Persian Empire (Nehemiah 8:7-8)
- 334-323: Alexander the Great conquered the known world and made Greek the *lingua franca* of the known world
- Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament, LXX) was written between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC.

Until 1946 the Greek manuscripts of the Old Testament (LXX) that we possessed were centuries older than the Hebrew manuscripts. But then, the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found with significant books and portions of the Hebrew Bible dating to as early as the 3rd century BC which confirm the 9th century text (Masoretic text).

Our 39-book Old Testament is identical in the books (not in the arrangement) to the Hebrew Old Testament. The Hebrew OT has either 22 or 24 books depending on how they are grouped.

Churches which recognize the Apocrypha (Roman Catholic and the Orthodox) recognize the LXX as more important than the Hebrew Bible because the LXX contains the Apocryphal books.

<u>Roman Catholic</u>	<u>Orthodox</u>
Tobit	Tobit
Judith	Judith
Wisdom of Solomon	The Wisdom of Solomon
Ecclesiasticus	Ecclesiasticus
1 & 2 Macabees	1 & 2 & 3 Macabees
Additions to Esther & Daniel	Additions to Esther and Daniel
Baruch (includes Epistle of Jeremiah)	Baruch
	The Epistle of Jeremiah
	1 Esdras
	Psalm 151

-John Meade and Peter Gurry. Scribes and Scripture (pp. 140).

What language did Jesus and the apostles speak (what Old Testament did they read?)?

Greek: Most NT quotations of the OT are from the LXX.

Hebrew: We possess Hebrew manuscripts from this era.

Aramaic: Jesus called out in Aramaic from the cross.

Likely all three were present. Ex. Rosetta Stone.

“Early Christians utilized two major criteria for determining whether a book belonged in the Old Testament: (1) **Was the book in the Hebrew canon?** and (2) **Was the book read and accepted in the churches?**”-John Meade and Peter Gurry. Scribes and Scripture (pp. 140).

Thus, we hold that the 39 books of the Old Testament contained in the Hebrew Scriptures are the true word of God.