



Welcome to ^{WHAT THE} BIBLE _{Is ABOUT}

No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.



The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.

What is the "Bible"?

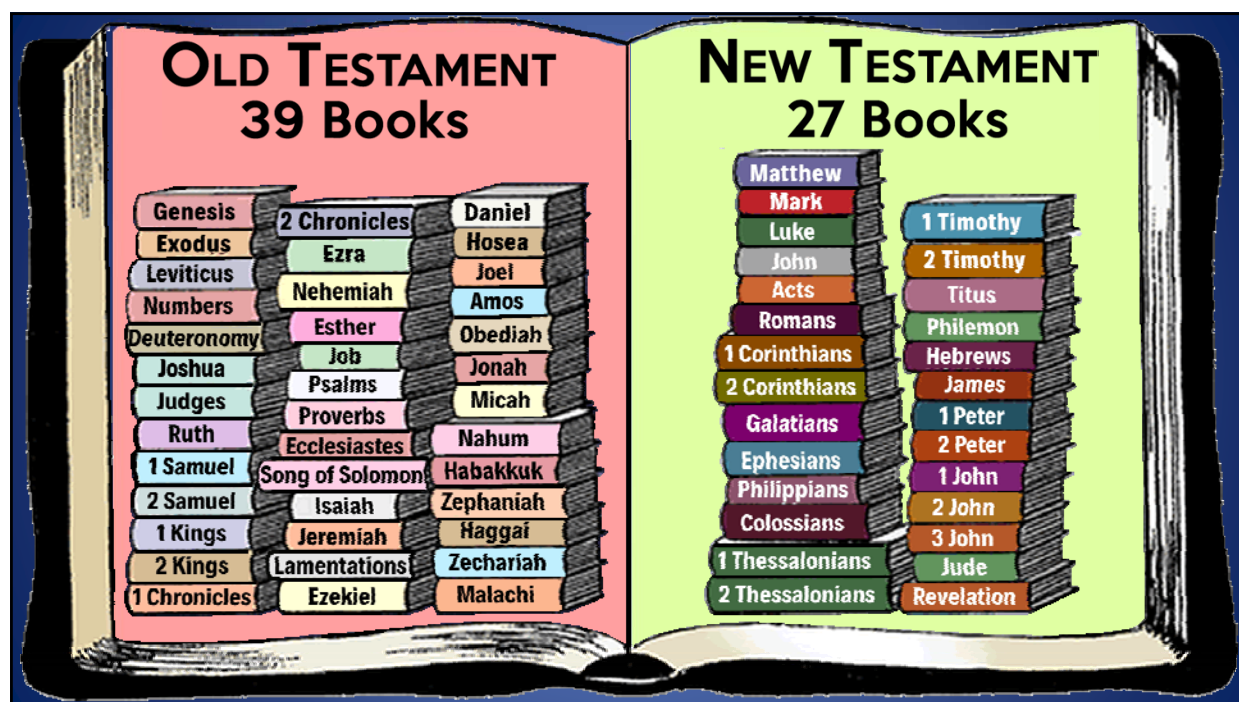
τὰ βιβλία

from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblía* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

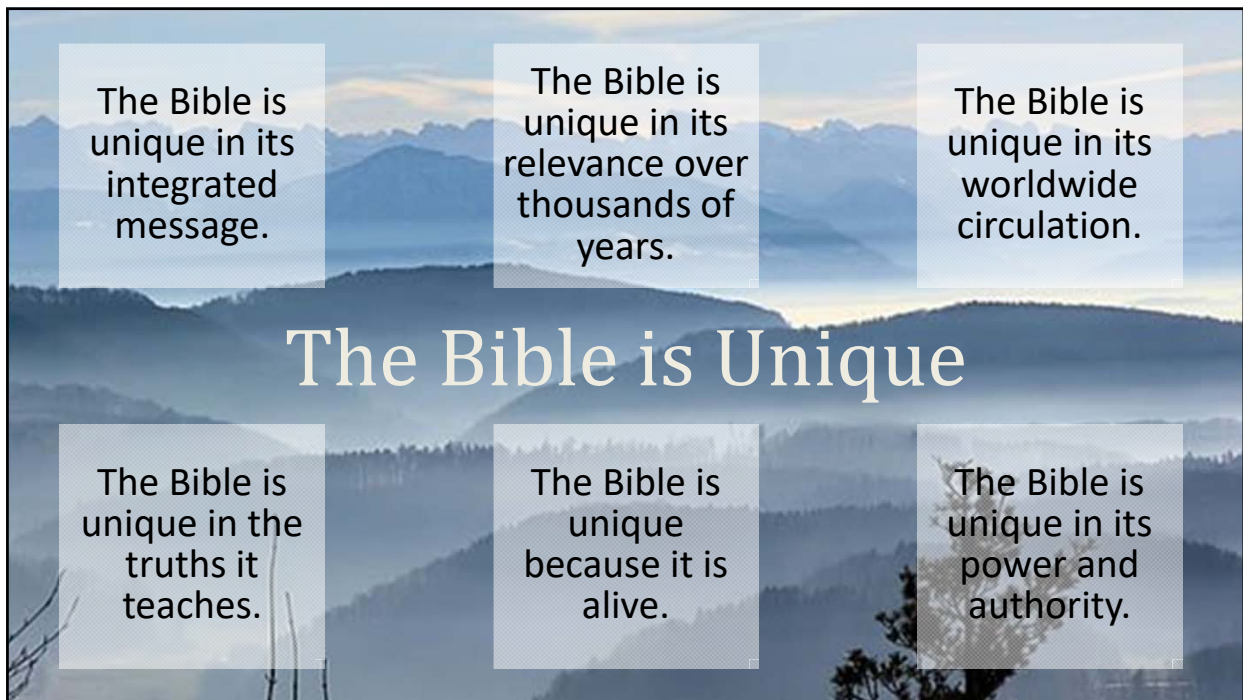
A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans.



66 books by
40 authors
(shepherds, kings, scholars,
prophets, fishermen,
a priest, a soldier,
and a cupbearer)
from
3 continents
3 writing in
3 languages
over nearly
2,000 years.

The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a
single,
unified
message of
God's nature,
His love,
and His plan
of salvation
for fallen
humanity.



The Bible is unique in its integrated message.

The Bible is unique in its relevance over thousands of years.

The Bible is unique in its worldwide circulation.


The Bible is Unique




The Bible is unique in the truths it teaches.


The Bible is unique because it is alive.


The Bible is unique in its power and authority.

What does the Bible cover?

 This unique book addresses all aspects of humanity:

-  heroic and epic,
-  tawdry and tragic,
-  poetic and comic.

 It is as fresh and relevant today as when it was being written 2,000 to 4,000 years ago.

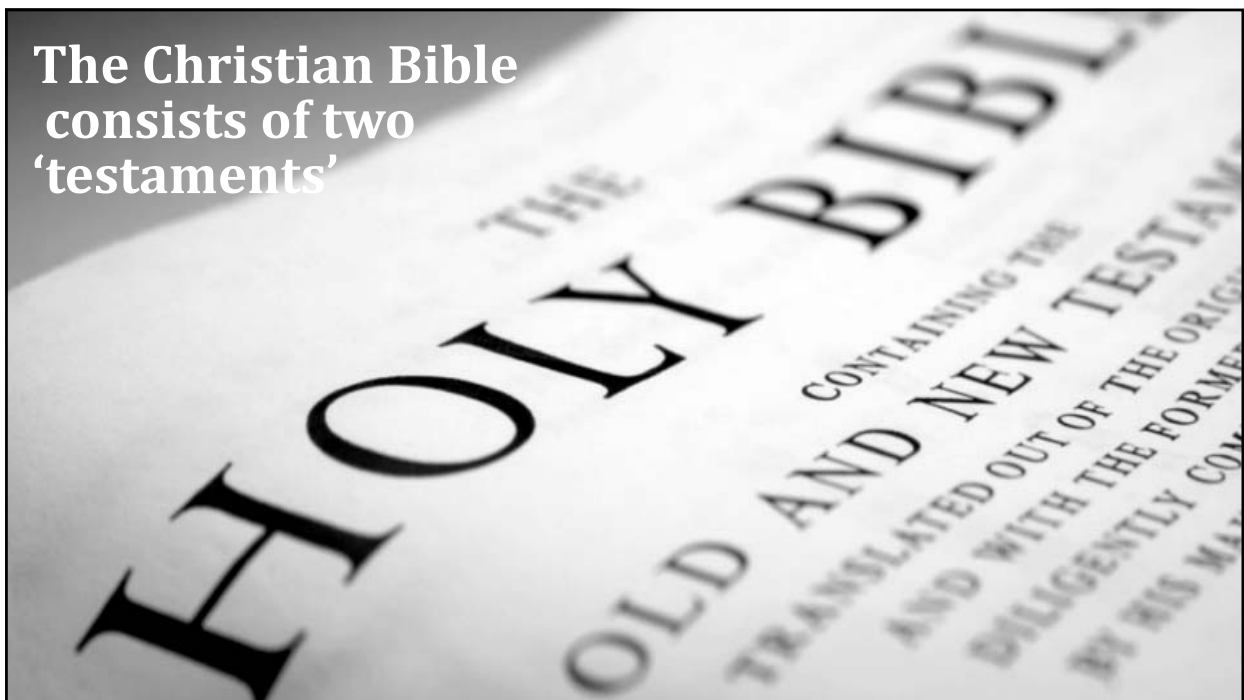


Course objectives

- ① Introduce objective study of the Bible.
- ② Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities of participants.
- ③ Avoid promotion of various religious traditions over others or of religion over non-religion.
- ④ Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- ⑤ Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.

Questions





The Christian Bible
consists of two
'testaments'

testament



/ˈtɛstəmənt/
noun

1. (law) a will setting out the disposition of personal property.
2. a. a covenant instituted between God and man,
b. a copy of the Bible or either the Old or the New Testament.

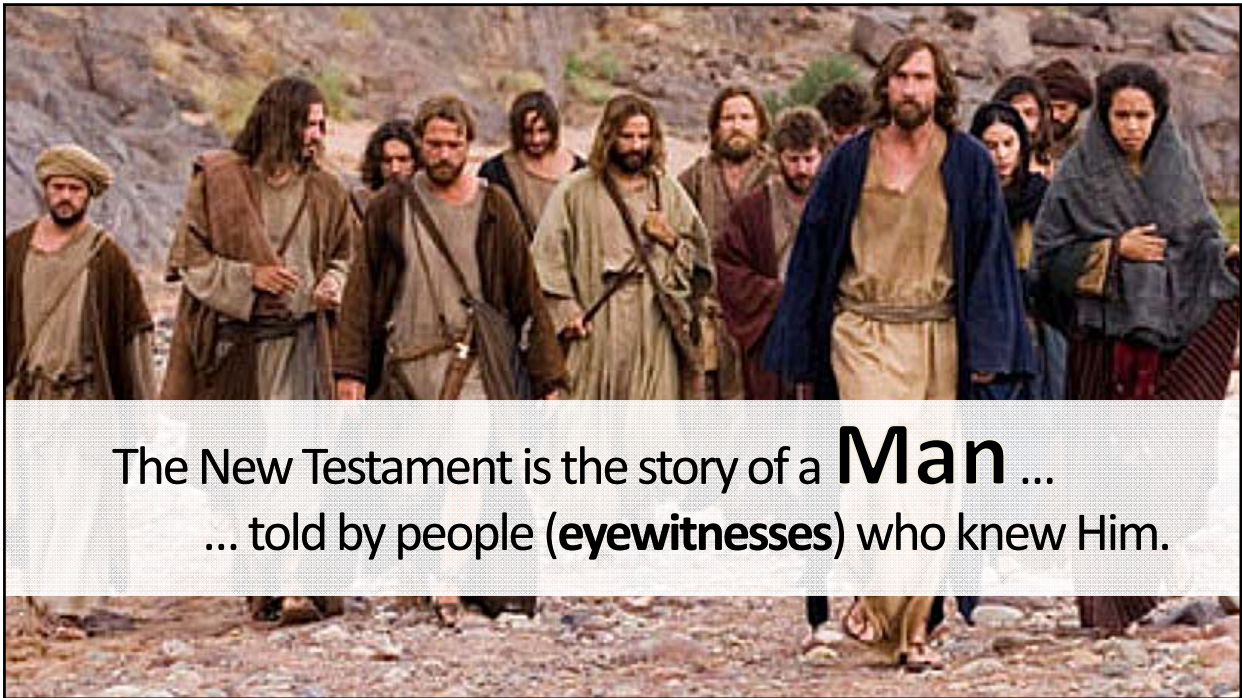
Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaiā diatheke* and *kainē diatheke*.

from Greek **διαθήκη** (*diathēkē* /dē-ä-thā'-kā/ Strong's G1242), which means a compact, a covenant, a testament or a will.

The OT is the Story of a Nation

- 1 The Hebrews went to Egypt as a Family.
- 2 They were later enslaved.
- 3 Moses led them out as a Nation...
- 4 ... that conquered Canaan.





The New Testament is the story of a **Man** ...
... told by people (**eyewitnesses**) who knew Him.

Old and New Testaments

✝ The New Testament is in the Old Testament

concealed.

★ The Old Testament is in the New Testament

revealed.

Three Biblical Canons

The first part of the Christian Bible overlaps with the Jewish Scriptures, with three distinct canons:

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✧ The Jewish Tanakh
(Hebrew Bible)



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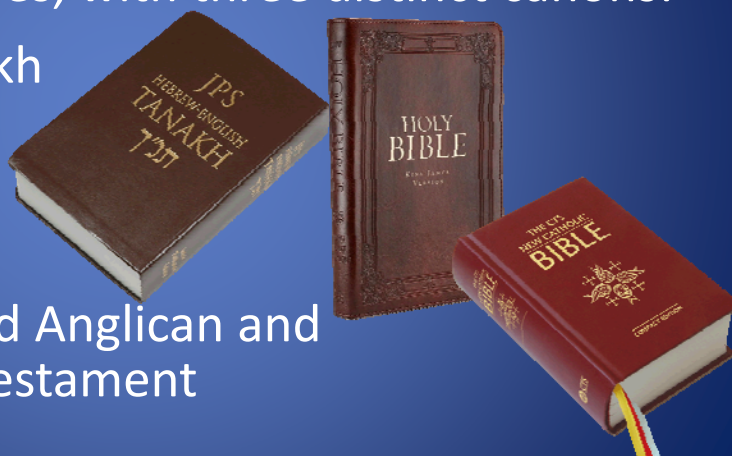
- ✧ The Jewish Tanakh
(Hebrew Bible)
- ✝ The Protestant
Old Testament



Three Biblical Canons

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- ✧ The Jewish Tanakh
(Hebrew Bible)
- ✝ The Protestant
Old Testament
- ✂ The Catholic (and Anglican and
Orthodox) Old Testament



Three Biblical Canons

- ✧ The Jewish Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) contains 24 books.
- ✝ The Protestant Old Testament covers the same basic content as the Tenakh in 39 books (the Old Testament), plus 27 more in the New Testament.
- ✂ The Catholic (and Anglican and Orthodox) Old Testaments cover the same basic content as the Protestant, plus an additional 9 books called the *Apocrypha*, or *deuterocanonical*.



The Jewish Scriptures (תנ"ך or מקרא)

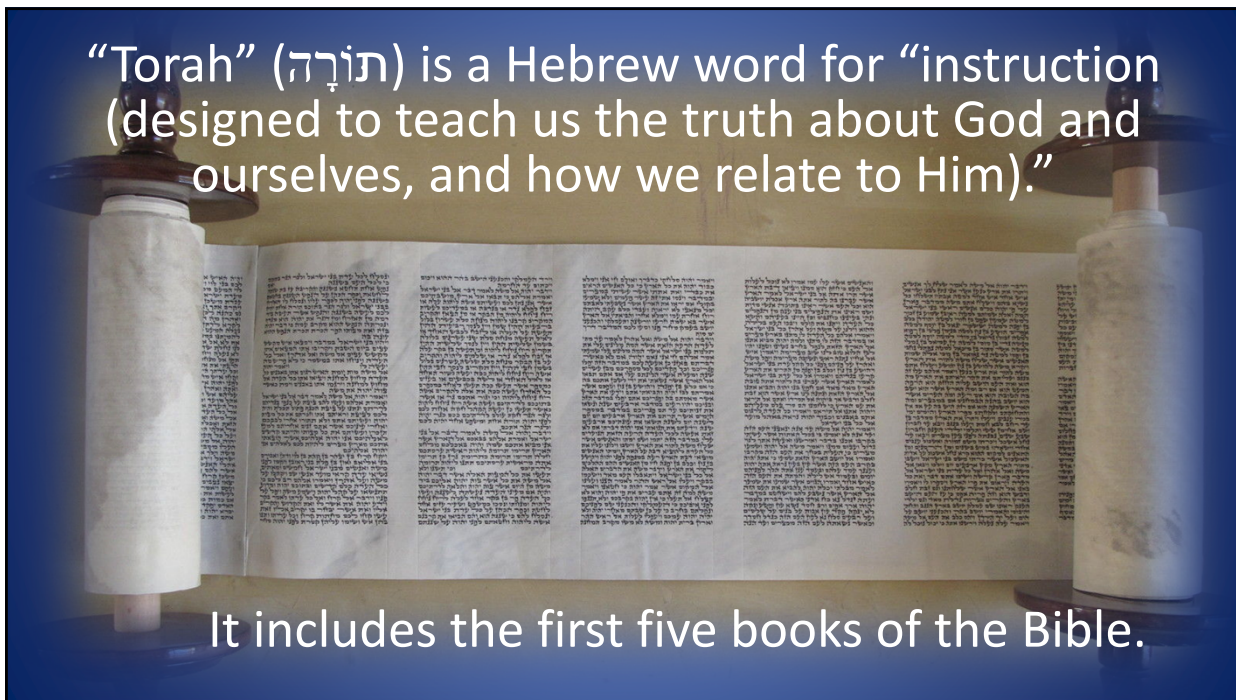


The Jewish Scriptures are called 'Tanakh' or 'Miqrā':

- ★ **TaNaKh** is an acrostic of:
 - ☆ **T**orah ('Teaching' aka 'Law')
 - ☆ **N**evi'im ('Prophets')
 - ☆ **K**etuvim ('Writings')
- ★ Miqrā (aka *Mikra*) means 'that which is read'.



“Torah” (תּוֹרָה) is a Hebrew word for “instruction (designed to teach us the truth about God and ourselves, and how we relate to Him).”



It includes the first five books of the Bible.

Torah

The Five Books of Moses

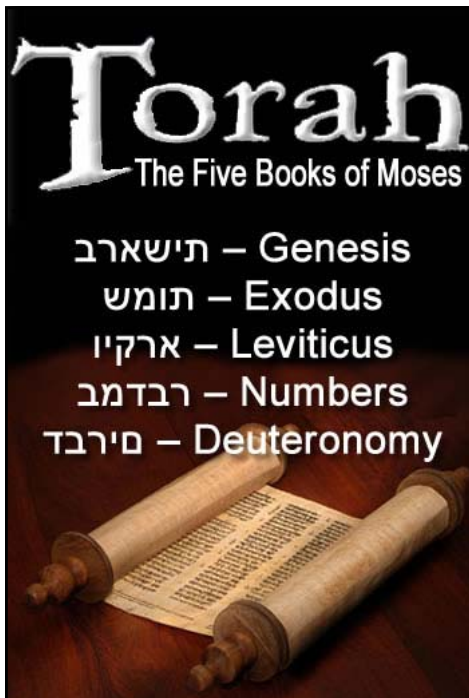
Genesis – תּוֹשָׁאָר

Exodus – תּוֹמֵשׁ

Leviticus – אֶרְקוּ

Numbers – רְבִדְמ

Deuteronomy – מִירְבִד



From inception, the Torah was relayed in families by an oral tradition called the Oral Torah.

Jewish and Christian tradition hold that Moses authored these books (except the end of Deuteronomy).



Jesus referred to the Law as the “books of Moses” (Luke 24:44; John 5:46), as did Peter, James and Paul.

Some scholars hypothesise that four sources (*Yahwist, Elohist, Deuteronomist and Priestly*) were combined to form the Torah around 450BC. Academic debate continues.



The five scrolls of the Torah

Genesis	בְּרֵאשִׁית Bere'shiyth	"in the beginning"
Exodus	שְׁמוֹת Shemot	"these are the names"
Leviticus	וַיִּקְרָא Vayikra	"He (the LORD) called out"
Numbers	בְּמִדְבָּר Bamidbar	"in the wilderness"
Deuteronomy	דְּבָרִים Devarim	"and these are His words."

"In the beginning, these are the names the LORD called out in the wilderness and these are His words."

Genesis	Chapters 1-11: God's creation of the world; Eden; the fall; the flood; human rebellion and invention of religion and cities. Chapters 12-50: Patriarchal and matriarchal ancestors. Joseph is enslaved in Egypt, but rises to power and eventually reunifies.
Exodus	The story of Moses, whom God calls to lead the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. At Mount Sinai, God's covenant with Israel.
Leviticus	Religious instructions for sacrifices and rituals; initiation of Aaron and his sons as priests; and laws concerning purity and impurity.
Numbers	Continues the narrative of the Israelites as they wander in the wilderness. Further instructions are given in this period.
Deuteronomy	Three speeches by Moses on the eastern side of the Jordan river, before the Israelites enter the promised land. Moses' death.

THE NEVI'IM

Prophets (נְבִיאִים)

Former Prophets
(נְבִיאִים ראשונים,
Nevi'im Rishonim)

Latter Prophets
(נְבִיאִים אחרונים,
Nevi'im Aharonim)

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Major
Prophets

Minor Prophets
(תרי עשר, *Trei Asar*,
"The Twelve")

THE NEVI'IM

Prophets (נְבִיאִים)

Former
Prophets

Joshua

Judges

Samuel

Kings

Latter Prophets

Major

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zachariah

Malachi

THE KETUVIM

The Writings (כְּתוּבִים)

Sifrei Emet*
(ספרי של אמת)
(Book of Truth*,
Wisdom,
Poetry)

Hamesh
Megillot
(חמש מגילות)
(Five Scrolls)

Histories
(Other)

אמת (EMT) is the acronym of the first letters of the three Poetic books (*alef, mem* and *tav*):

Psalms (תהלים *Tehillim*)

Proverbs (משלי *Mishlei*)

Job (איוב *Iyyov*).

↓
אמת, “truth” in Hebrew

Rabbis call the poetic books the “book of Truth”.

The Hebrew Alphabet (Aleph + Bet)

“Tav” is the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet → **אמת** ← “Aleph” is the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet
 “Mem” is the middle letter in the Hebrew alphabet

Per Rabbis, “truth” is the beginning, middle and end.

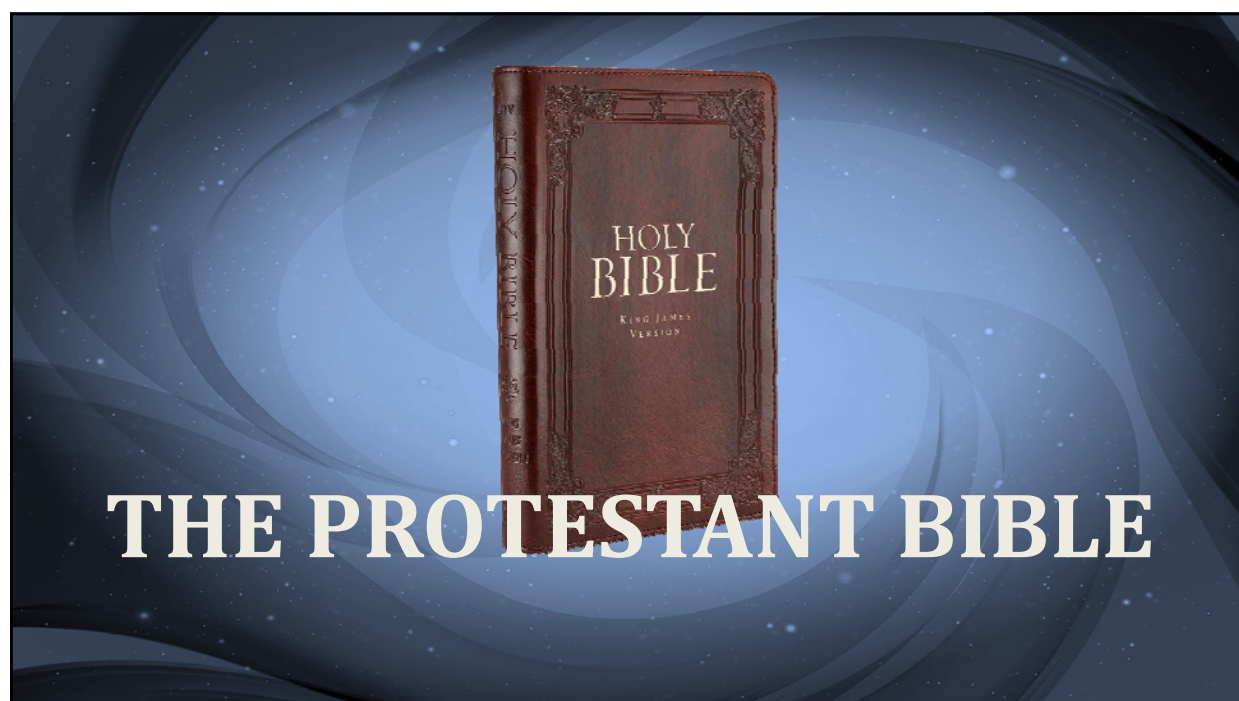
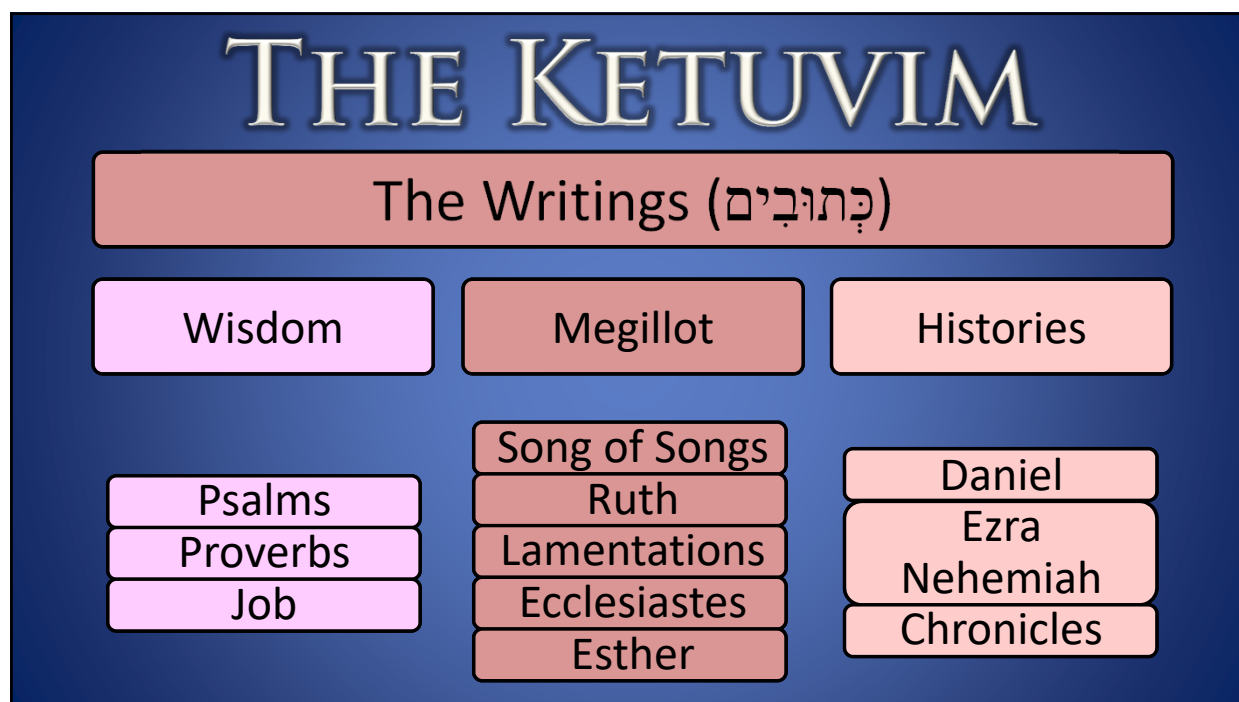
Every letter in Hebrew has a meaning, based on the pictograph from the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet.

- Modern Hebrew א came from Paleo-Hebrew א. It stands for ox, bull, strength, leader, first... and **God**.
- The modern מ is from מ (water, massive, chaos).
- ת comes from ת (cross, covenant, sign of a covenant).

Truth is אמת

Remove God (א) from truth, ~~אמת~~ → תמ

we are left with *mowth*..... תמ, or “death”.



Two Testaments

The Protestant Bible consists of two “Testaments”:

1. The Old Testament is **equivalent** to the Hebrew Bible, the Tanakh. It has the same basic contents but is organised differently and has a different emphasis.

Tanakh



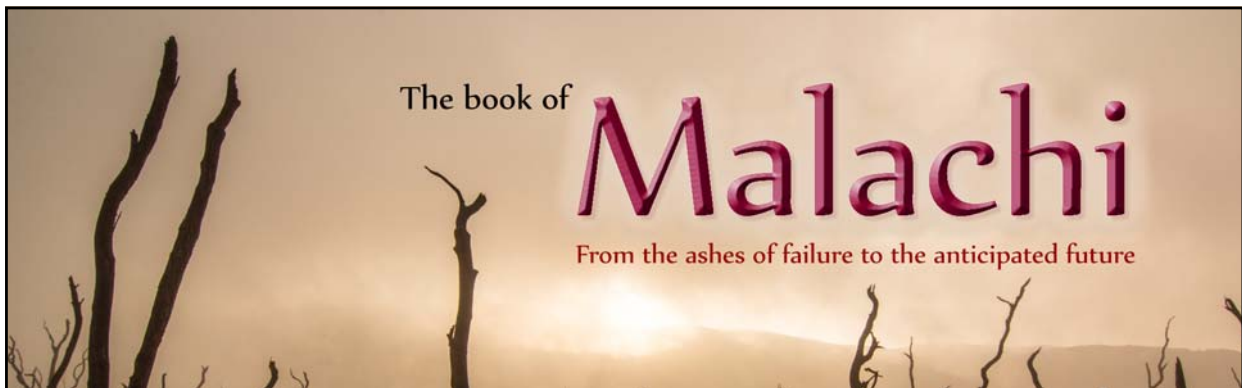
Old Testament

Tenakh (Hebrew Bible), 24 Books			Old Testament (Christian Bible), 39 Books		
The Law (Torah)		The Torah	The Pentateuch		Law
The Prophets (Nevi'im)	Former Prophets	Joshua	← 5 Books →		Joshua
		Judges		Judges	
		Samuel		Ruth	
		Kings		2 Samuel	
	Prophets (Major)	Isaiah	1 Samuel	2 Kings	
		Jeremiah	1 Kings	2 Chronicles	
		Ezekiel	1 Chronicles	Nehemiah	
(Minor)	Minor Prophets	Ezra	Esther	(Post-exile)	
The Writings (Ketuvim)	Wisdom	Psalms		Job	Wisdom
		Proverbs		Psalms	
		Job		Proverbs	
	Megillot (Scrolls)	Song of Songs		Ecclesiastes	
		Ruth		Song of Songs	
		Lamentations		Isaiah	Prophets (Major)
		Ecclesiastes		Jeremiah	
	Esther		Lamentations		
	Daniel		Ezekiel		
	Histories	Ezra/Nehemiah		Daniel	(Minor)
Chronicles			Minor Prophets		
		← 12 Books →			

2. Both the Tenakh and the Old Testament cover from the Creation of the world until the final Israelite Prophet Malachi.

Malachi prophesied around 432-425BC.

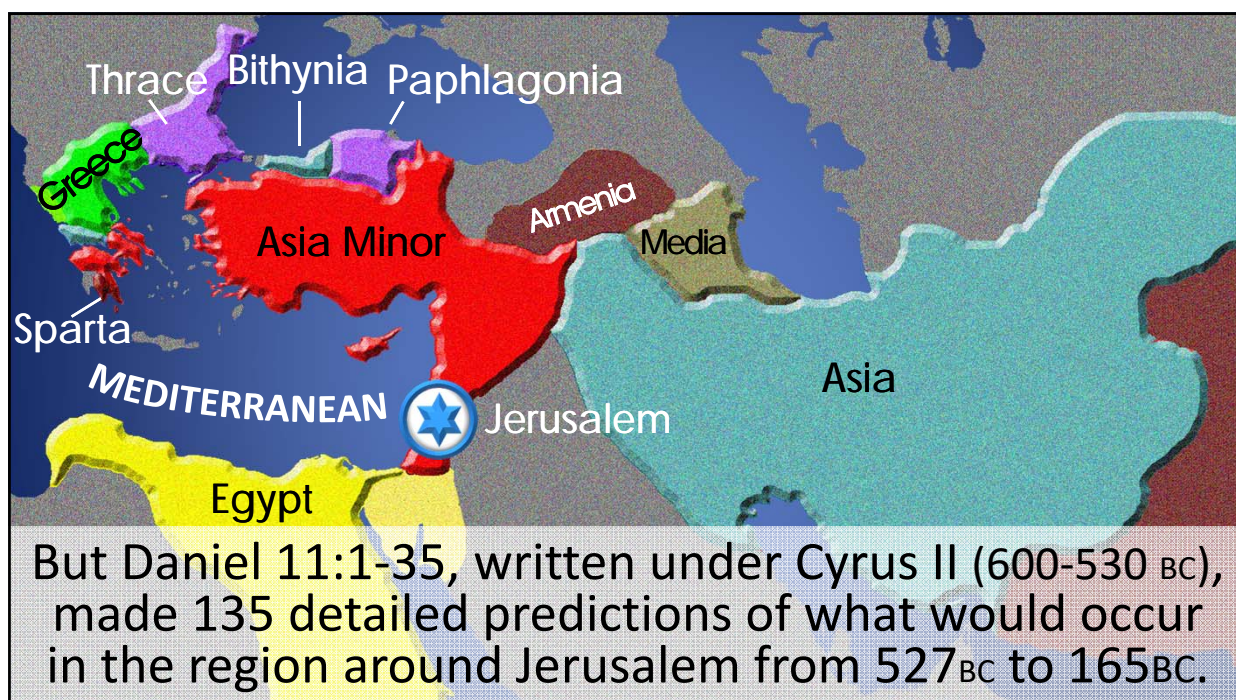
Pharaoh Ptolemy Philadephus commissioned a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible in about 284 BC. It was called the Septuagint which means "70".



The book of **Malachi**
From the ashes of failure to the anticipated future

Malachi (possibly a name or phrase meaning "messenger of YHWH") is the final prophet of the Nevi'im and Old Testament.

Some believe the Bible was then silent for ~400 years...

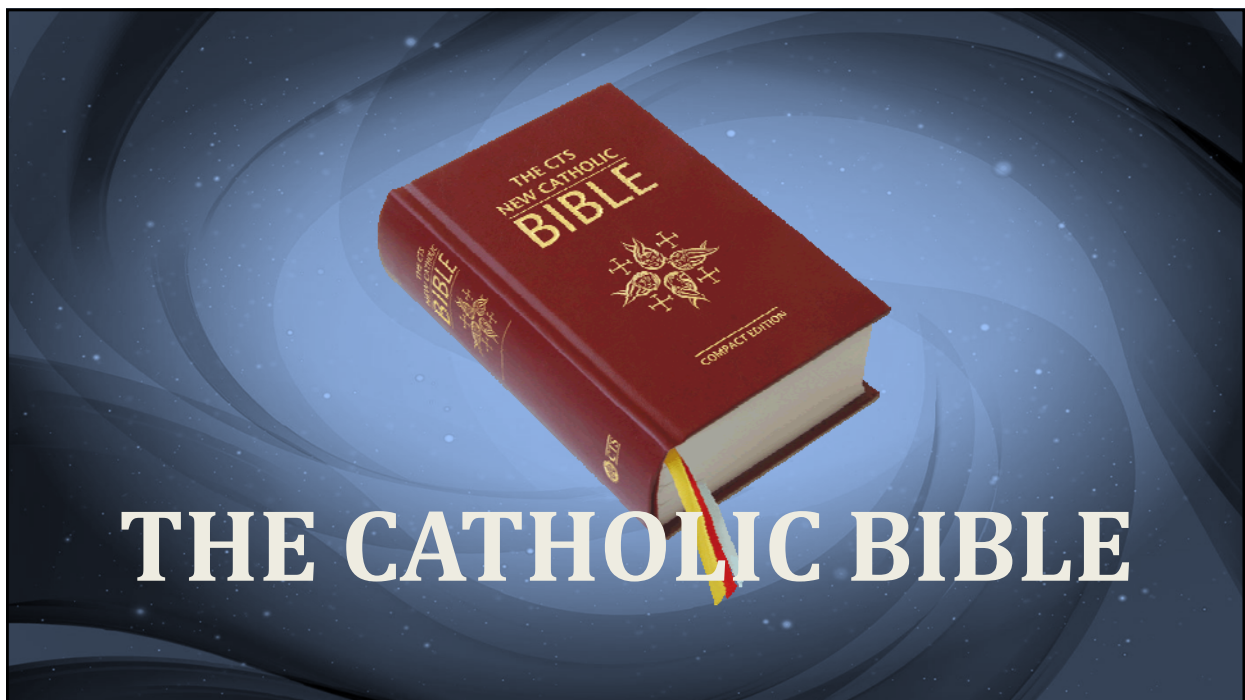


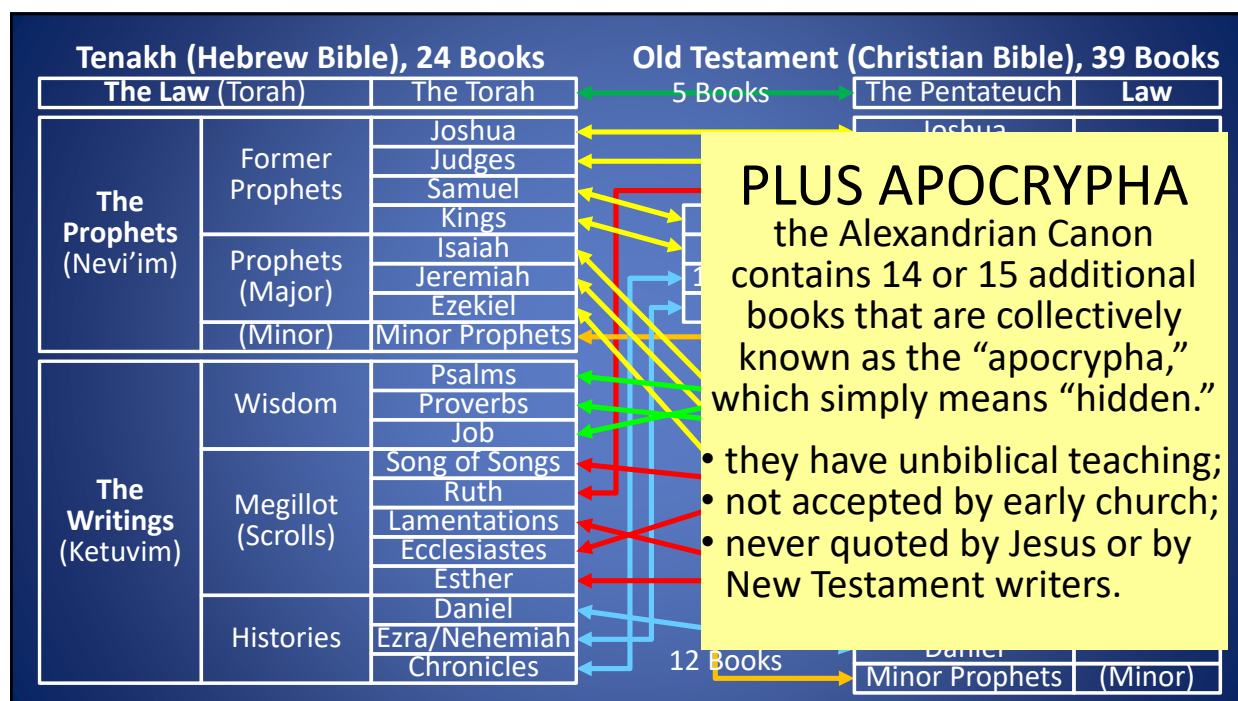
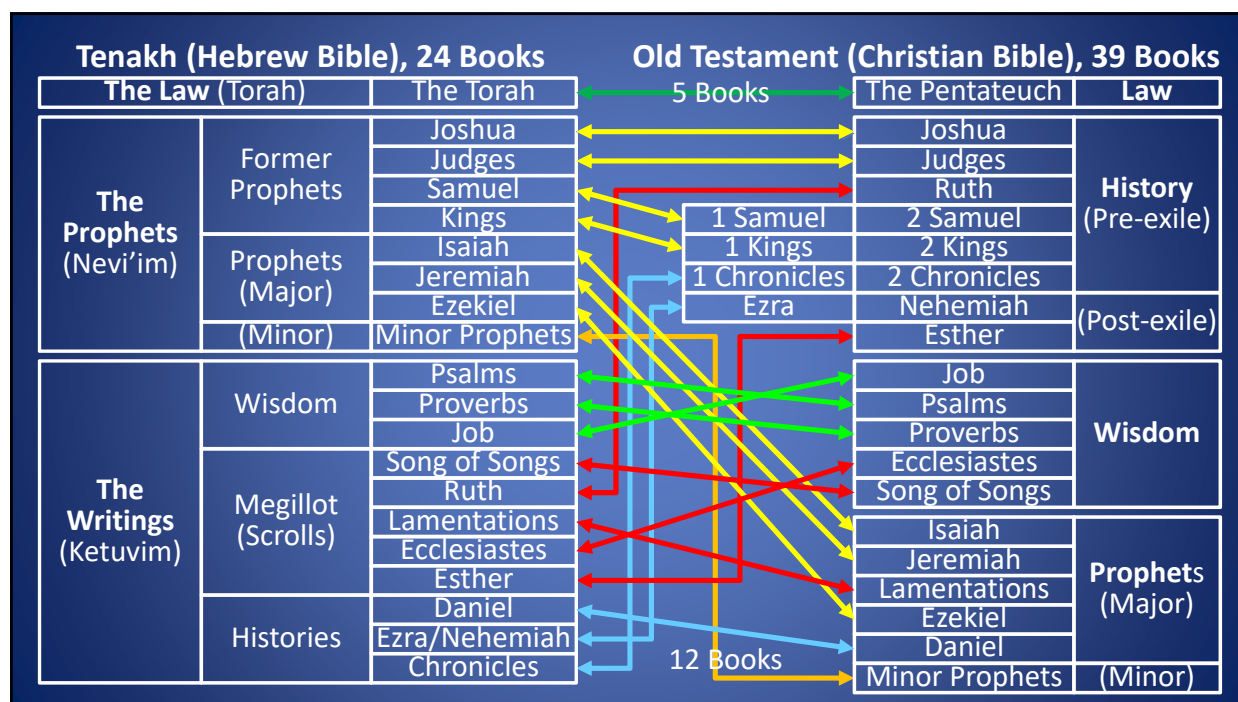
A few of the facts included prophetically in Daniel 11

Verse	Northern Kingdom	Western Kingdoms	Southern Kingdom	
4	Seleucus Nicator Syria and the Middle East	Lysimachus Asia Minor	Cassander Macedonia	Ptolemy Egypt
5	Seleucus Nicator	A General (southern kingdom) will rule his own kingdom (north) and become stronger		Ptolemy
6	Antiochus II Theos	An alliance by marriage Berenice (southern kingdom) to Antiochus (north)		Ptolemy II Philadelphus
7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus	Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice will conquer the northern kingdom		Ptolemy III Euregetes
10-14	Seleucus III Ceraunus and Antiochus the Great	Continual warfare between the kings of the north and south, with Israel in the middle, and suffering		Ptolemy IV Philppator
15-16	Antiochus the Great	Defeats Egypt, and will overtake the land of Israel		Ptolemy Epiphanes
17	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus gives Cleopatra in marriage for an alliance with Egypt		Ptolemy Epiphanes
18-19	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus will war on the western kingdom, but will be turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire		
20	Seleucus IV Philopator	He will impose taxes on Israel, but in a few days he will be destroyed		
21 - 35	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Rise of the "little horn," who will war on the southern kingdom, but will be turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire and will turn on Israel		

Warring actions of the kingdom of Alexander divided toward the four winds, but not to the prosperity of Alexander's

3. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible started about 284 BC. It was called the Septuagint (“70”) after the 70 (or 72) Hebrew scholars who participated.
4. The New Testament (foreseen in Jeremiah 31:31-34) describes a new arrangement of God with people who will accept salvation on the basis of faith in Christ.

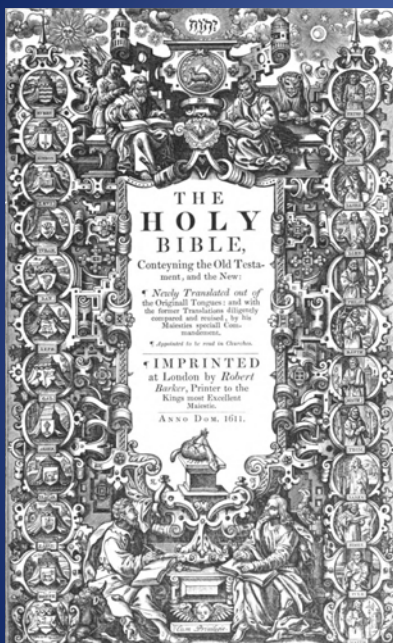




The Alexandrian Apocrypha

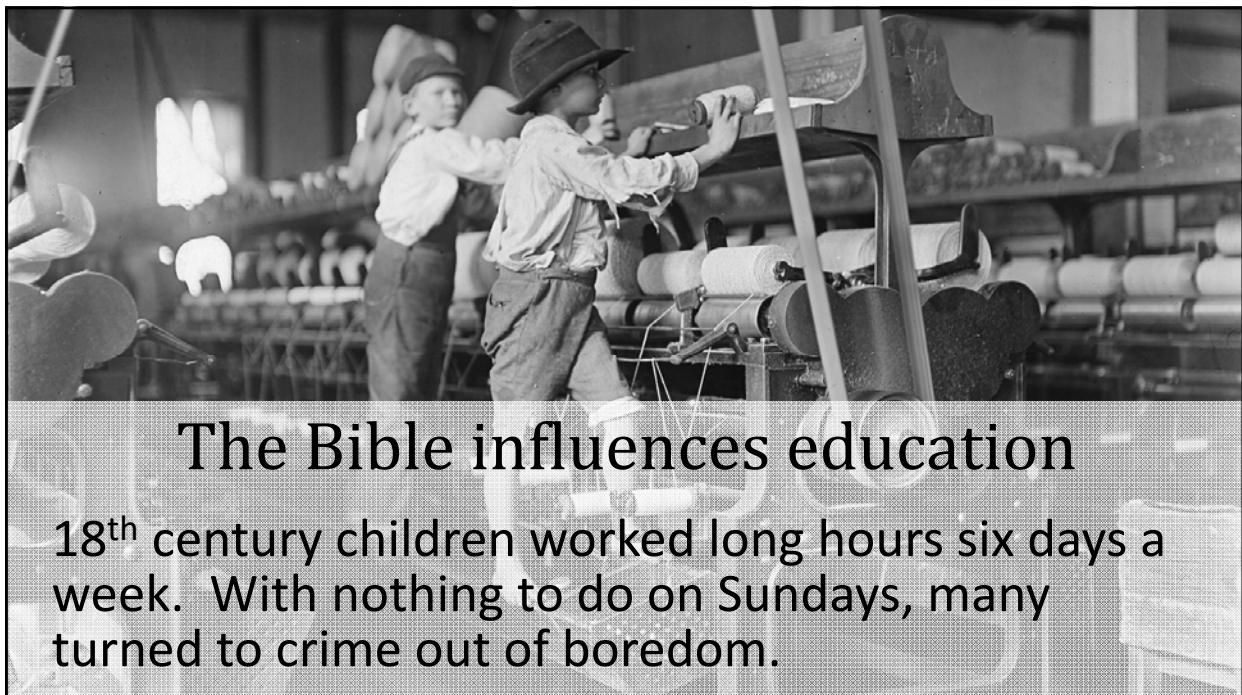
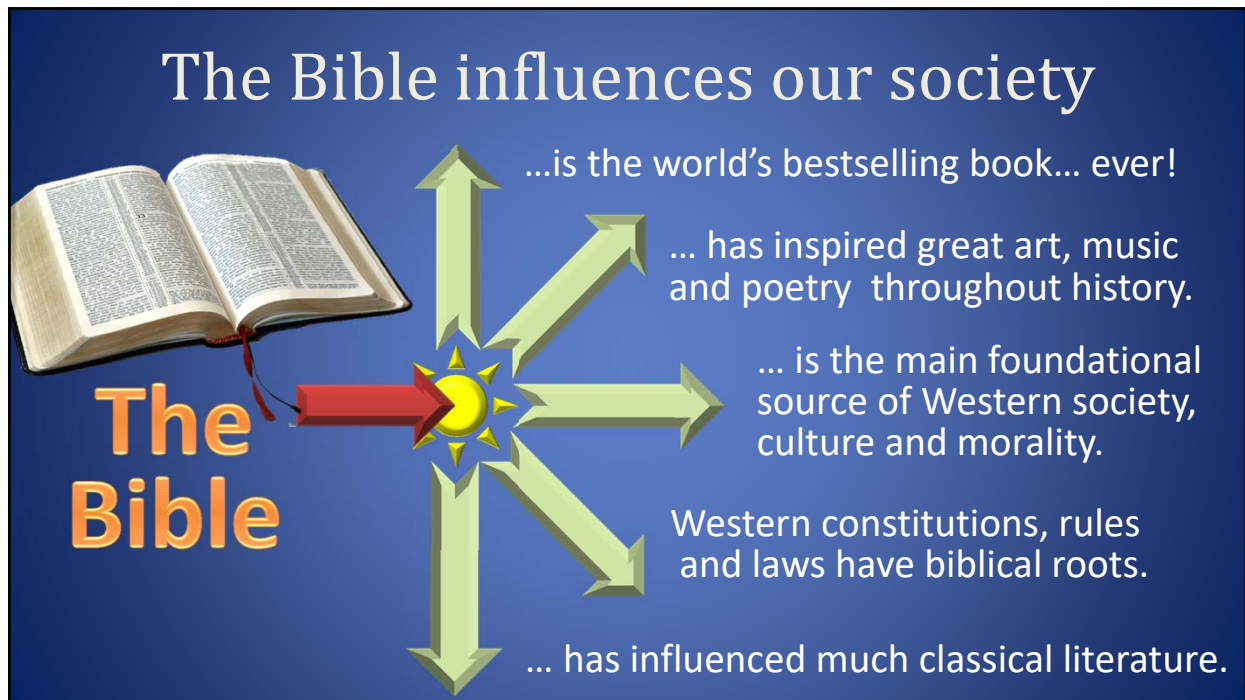
- 1 and 2 Esdras
- Tobit
- Judith
- Additions to Esther
- the Wisdom of Solomon
- Baruch
- The Letter of Jeremiah
- Sirach, (Ecclesiasticus)
- Song of the Three Young Men
- Susanna
- Bel and the Dragon
- Additions to Daniel
- The Prayer of Manasseh
- I and II Maccabees

Included in the Catholic Canon in 1546 at the Council of Trent.



In brief

- The Bible is intended to be Mankind's:
 - Operating
 - Service
 - Repair, and
 - Owner's manual.





The first public school was started in 1781 to teach child factory workers in Gloucester to read the Bible.

By 1785, 150,000 6-12 year olds were enrolled.

Within ten years, child crime in Gloucester had dropped from hundreds per year to none.



By 1831, 1.2 million (25% of English children) were enrolled.

The scheme spread to Ireland by 1787 and to the United States in the 1790s.

