



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

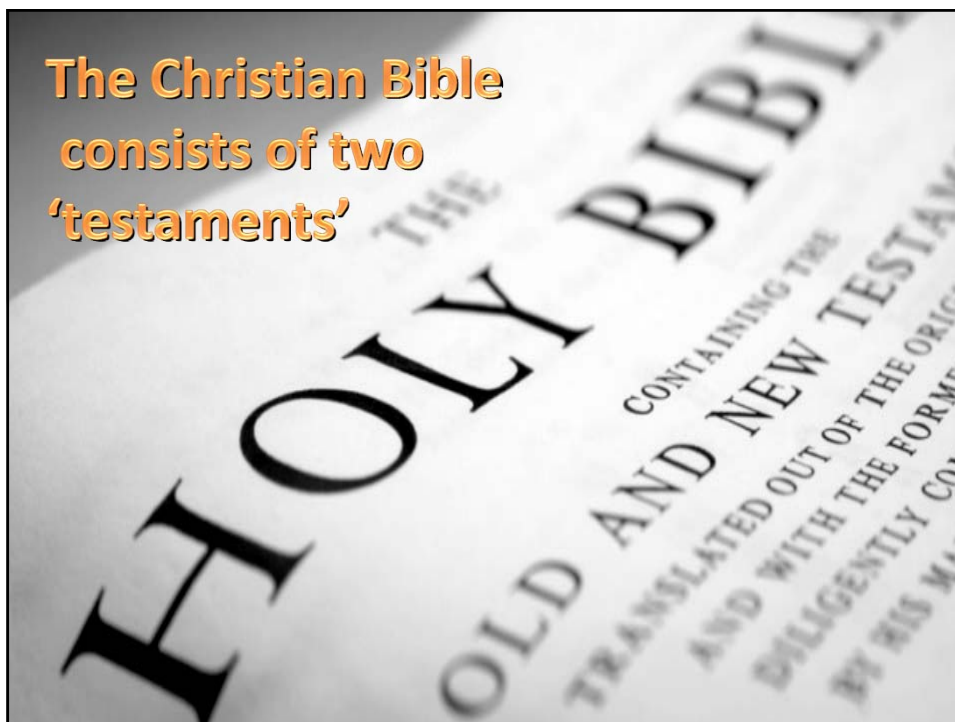
[shepherds, kings, scholars, prophets, fishermen, a priest, a soldier, and a cupbearer]

from
3 continents
3 writing in 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 Christian Bible
consists of two
'testaments'



testament

/ˈtɛstəmənt/
noun



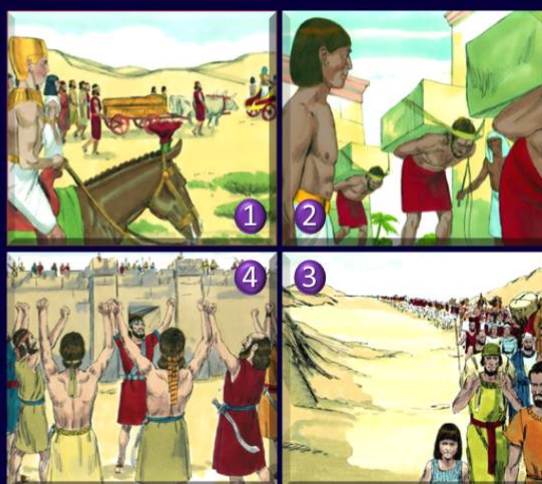
1. (law) a will setting out the disposition of personal property.
2. a. a covenant instituted between God and man,
b. a copy of the Bible or either the Old or the New Testament.

Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaia diatheke* and *kaine diatheke*. The Greek **διαθήκη** (*diathēkē* /dē-ä-thä'-kā/ Strong's G1242), means a compact, a covenant, a testament or a will.



The **Old Testament** 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 Old Testament

- Old Testament books fall into seven categories:

LAW

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

WISDOM

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

MAJOR PROPHETS

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

HISTORY

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

Early Evidence of the Old Testament

Version	Examples	Language	Date Composed	Oldest Copy
Silver Scrolls	Found at Ketef Hinnom near Jerusalem in 1979	Paleo-Hebrew	650-587 BC	Amulets with Priestly Blessing-Num 6:22-27
Dead Sea Scrolls	Qumran Tanakh	Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek	c. 150 BC – AD 70	c. 150 BC – AD 70 (fragments)*
Septuagint	Early papyri	Greek	c. 270 BC	2nd century BC (frags) 4th century AD (comp)
Peshitta	The name Peshitta in Aramaic means "Straight"	Syriac	c. AD125	Oldest dated manuscript is AD 464.
Masoretic	Aleppo Codex, Leningrad Codex	Hebrew	c. AD90	10th century AD (comp)
Samaritan Pentateuch	Abisha Scroll, by Aaron's GGS, 13 years after Deut.	Samaritan Hebrew	200–100 BC XXX BC claimed	Oldest extant MSS, c. 11th century AD
Targum	Earliest date from Ezra's time to be read to unlearned	Aramaic	XXX BC claimed; Popular after AD70	5th century AD
Coptic	Crosby-Schøyen Codex, British Library MS.	Coptic (4 dialects)	Sahidic, 2 cent AD Bohairic, 3 cent AD	3rd or 4th century AD

Example

Qumran contained complete scroll of Isaiah as well as fragments of multiple copies of every book in the Tenakh other than Esther (due to Essenes?).



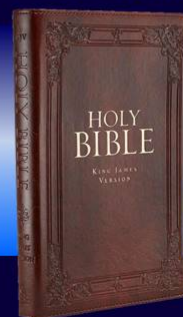
Two Testaments

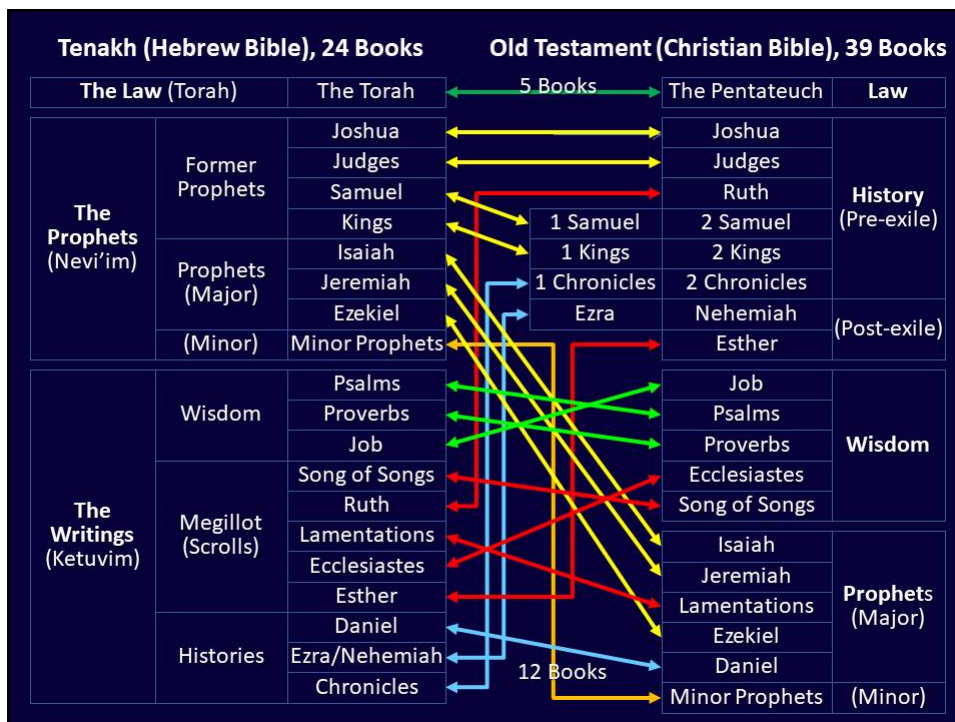
The Christian Old Testament is **equivalent** to the Hebrew Bible, the Tanakh. It has the same basic contents but is organised differently and has a different emphasis.

Tanakh



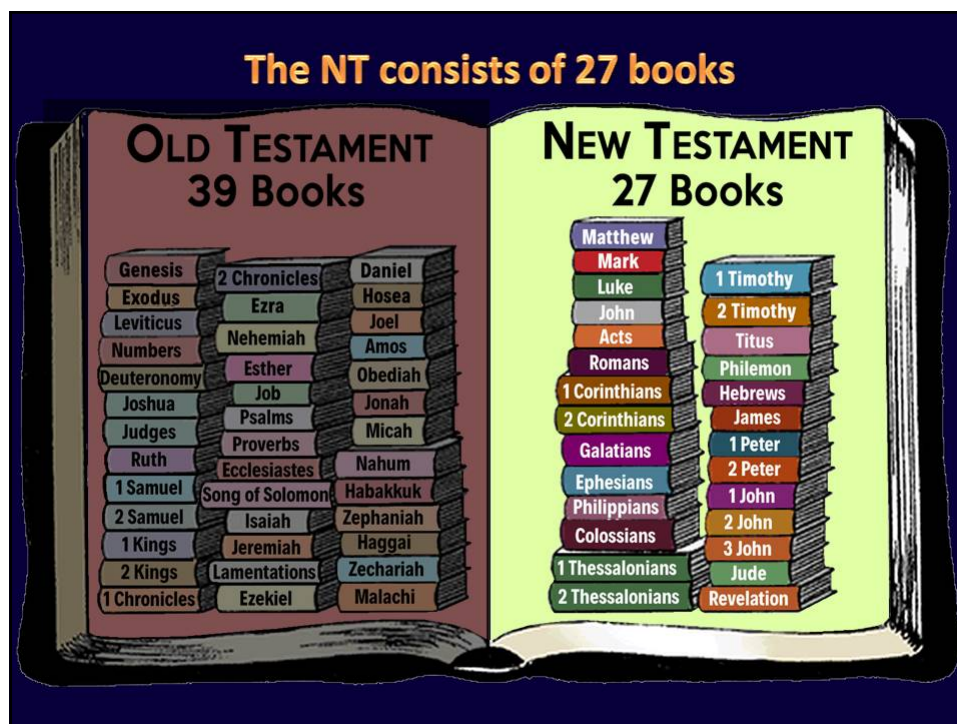
Old Testament





The Old Testament

- The 39 books of the Old Testament cover the same material as the Jewish Bible - the Tenakh - just organised a little differently.
- It covers everything from God's creation of the universe, following the Israelites as they coalesce into tribes and a nation under a covenant with God. It records their historical ups and downs as they rebel against God and then repent, repeatedly.
- The Old Testament then covers prophets called to give God's messages to various peoples, few of which were heeded. It stops short of the birth of Jesus, but the Old Covenant keeps running up to Jesus' death, when Christians believe a New Covenant was forged.



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

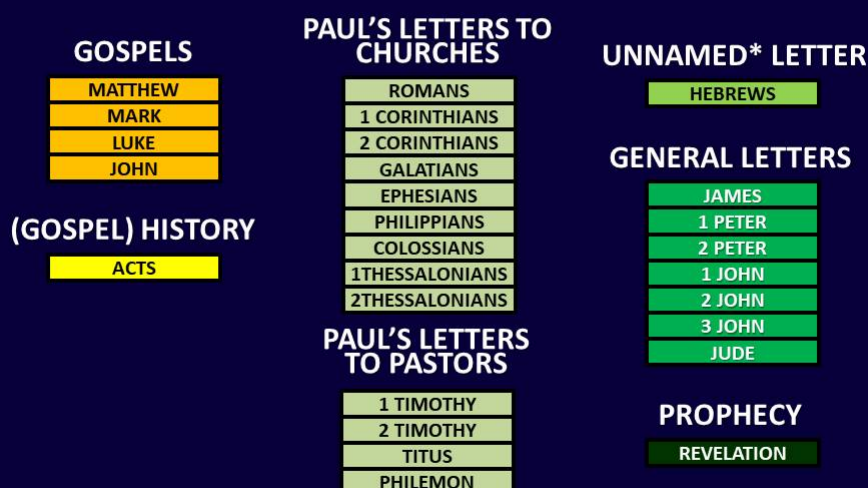


The New Testament

- The 27 books of the New Testament are a record of historical events in the life of Jesus Christ - His life, death, resurrection, ascension - and the birth and spread of Christianity in the 1st Century AD by His disciples.
- The New Testament covers a New Covenant between God and humans in which the dispensation of grace is revealed through Jesus Christ.
- Christians believe that the New Testament add to the Old Testament to complete the revelation of God.
- Therefore, Jesus came to complete the revelation of God. In so doing, His life and death fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies.

The New Testament

- New Testament books fall into seven categories:



NOTE: * Probably written by Paul.

Early Evidence of the New Testament

Papyri	Contents	Date of Original	MSS Date	Approx. Time Span	Location
p⁵² (John Rylands Fragment)	John 18:31-33, 37-38	circa AD 96	circa AD125	29 yrs	Manchester, England
p⁴⁶ (Chester Beatty Papyrus)	Rom. 5:17-6:3, 5-14; 8:15-25, 27-35; 10:1-11, 22, 24-33, 35; 16:1-23, 25-27; Heb.; 1 & 2 Cor., Eph., Gal., Phil., Col.; 1 Thess. 1:1, 9-10; 2:1-3; 5:5-9, 23-28	50's-70's	circa AD200	Approx. 150 yrs	Ann Arbor, Michigan
p⁶⁶ (Bodmer Papyrus)	John 1:1-6:11, 35-14:26; fragment of 14:29-21:9	70's	circa AD200	Approx. 130 yrs	Cologne, Geneva
p⁶⁷	Matt. 3:9,15; 5:20-22, 25-28	70's	circa AD200	Approx. 130 yrs	Barcelona

How much early evidence?



early Greek New Testament manuscripts in existence.

Plus...



early manuscripts in Aramaic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Byzantine , etc.

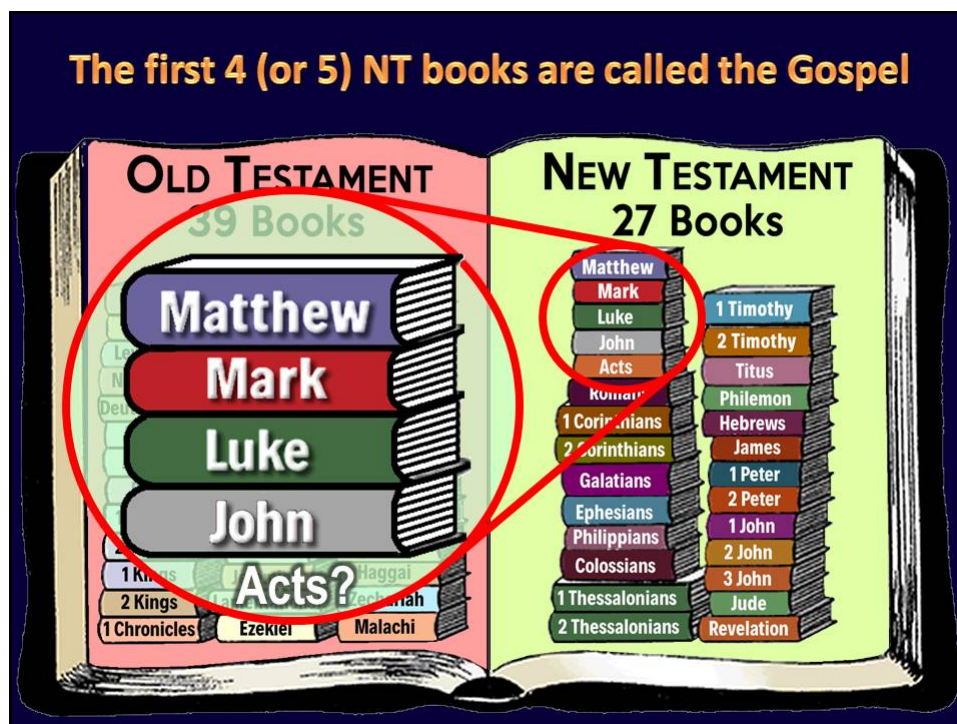
The discovery of Papyrus 45, 46, and 66 provides proof that the Byzantine text preserves a reading that dates from early witness.



Frederick Fyvie Bruce
M.A., B.A. (CANTAB.)

“It may seem that the text of the New Testament is still largely clouded with uncertainty. Such would be an utterly false impression. Any trouble with the New Testament text rises not from scarcity of evidence but from the overwhelming wealth of evidence. No point of Christian faith or practice is affected by, these textual questions. Every fresh discovery helps to confirm the general reliability of our New Testament text.”

F.F. Bruce, “The Chester Beatty Papyrii,”
The Harvester 11 (1934): 163-164.



gos'pel

noun | gos•pel | \gä-spəl\

1. *capitalised*: good news; the message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation
2. *capitalised*: one of the four New Testament books telling of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. a lection from one of the four gospels used in a religious way
4. any system of religious doctrine; sometimes, any system of political doctrine or social philosophy; as, this political gospel.
5. anything promoted or accepted as infallible truth or as a guiding principle of doctrine

Middle English, from Old English *gōd-spel* meaning "good news" or "glad tidings", which is a calque (word-for-word translation) of the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον, euangelion (eu- "good", -angelion "message") or in Aramaic (ܐܘܢܘܢ ewang'eliyawn).

Okay, but what IS the Gospel?

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The "Good News" of the Bible

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

01

Jesus died,
according to the Scriptures...

02

He was buried...

03

He rose again on the third day,
according to the Scriptures.

3 **Died**
according to the scriptures

Buried
Rose **on the**
3rd day
according to the scriptures





Purpose

The purpose of this course is not to advise anyone on what I or anyone else think they should believe; it is to help people gain a clear understanding of what the Bible itself says so that they can determine for themselves what to believe.

Of the people of Berea, Paul stated:

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11

Objectives

- ① Introduce **objective study** of the Bible.
- ② Allow scripture to interpret scripture.
- ③ Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- ④ Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.
- ⑤ Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities of participants.
- ⑥ Avoid promotion of various religious traditions over others or of religion over non-religion.

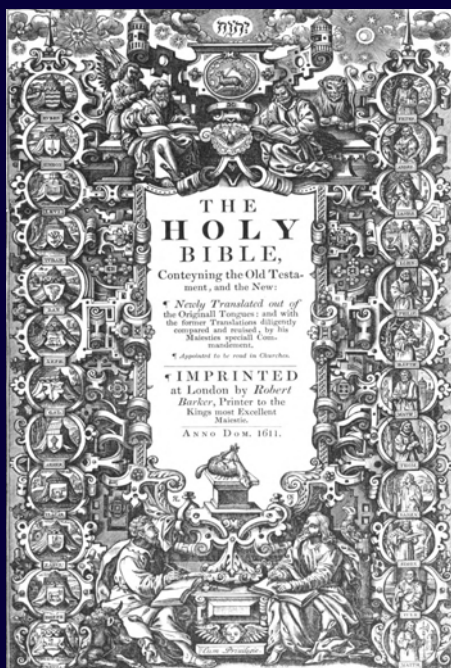
The Spirit of this course

ETSI DOCTRINA
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)

Questions





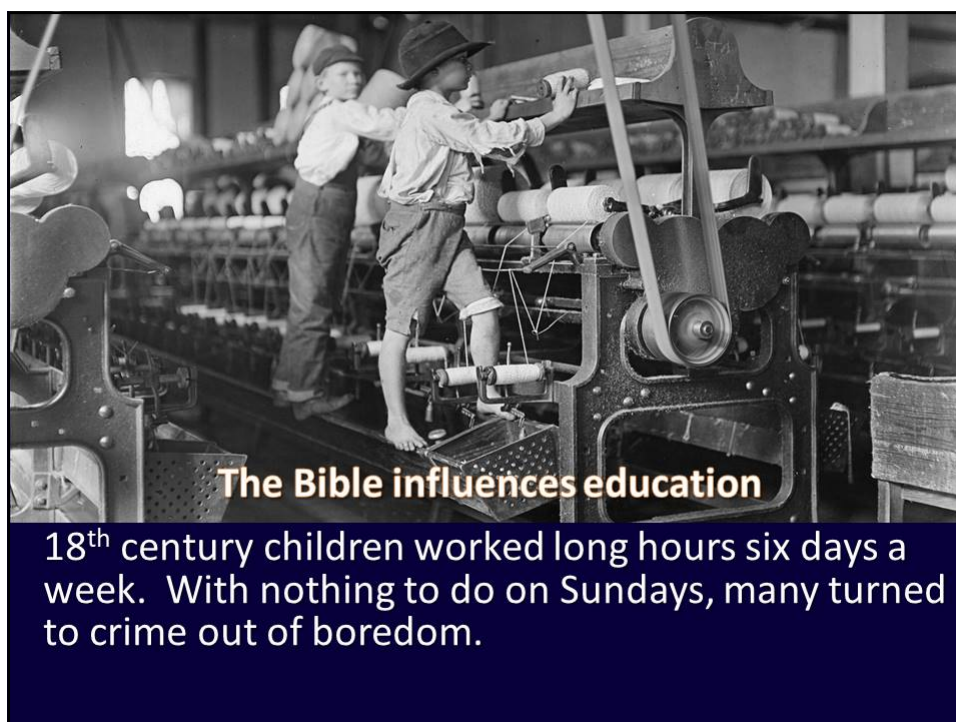
In brief

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

The Bible influences our language

"As old as the hills" "Beside yourself" "Put in my two cents"
 "O you of little faith" "Put your hand over your mouth"
 "On the one hand" "A little bird told me" "Raising Cain"
 "One way or another" "Red sky at night, sailors delight"
 "Out of the mouth of babes" "Dire straits" "Rise and shine!"
 "Physician, heal thyself" "Lying lips" "Risky business"
 "Played the fool" "Eat, drink and be merry" "Root of the matter"
 "Crystal clear" "Salt of the earth"
 "Bite the dust" "Sank like a stone"
 "At his wits' end" "Sour grapes"
 "Put his house in order" "Kiss of death" "Truth will set you free"



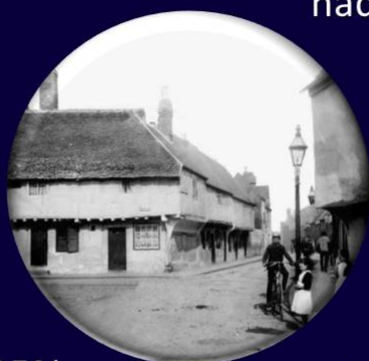




The first public school was started in 1781 to teach child factory workers in Gloucester to read the Bible.

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.

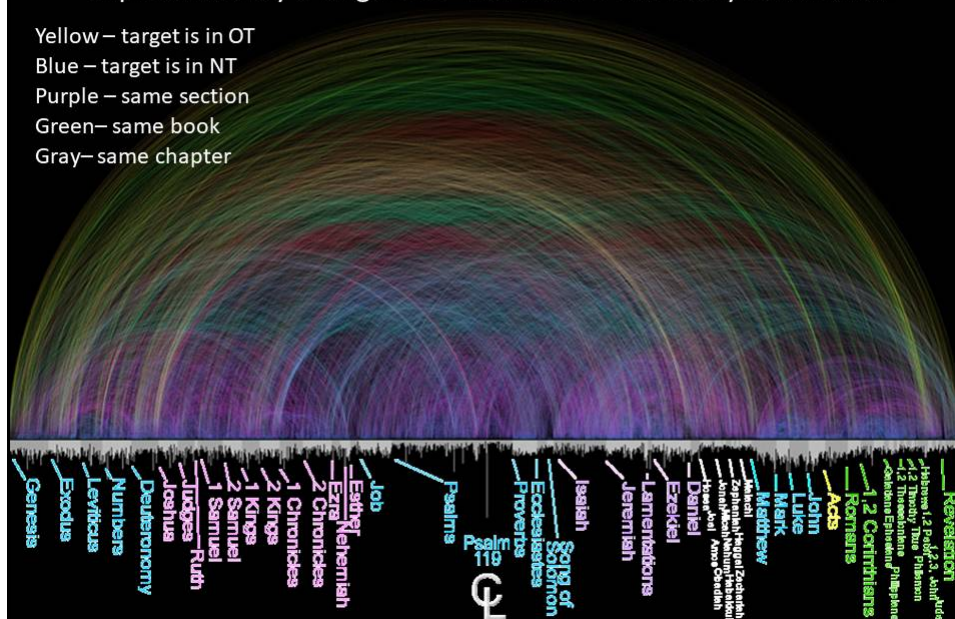
The scheme
spread to Ireland
by 1787 and to the
United States in the 1790s.

A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the Old Testament **concealed**,
the **Old Testament** is in the New Testament **revealed**.

Chart showing 63,779 cross-references found in the Bible, each represented by a single arc. The Bible is internally consistent.

- Yellow – target is in OT
- Blue – target is in NT
- Purple – same section
- Green – same book
- Gray – same chapter



Some things to keep in mind

- The Bible purports to be a **message from God to us**. Don't expect it to be like **"just any old book"**.
- **Science** can only study **observable** and **measurable natural things**. **God** of the Bible **isn't** similarly **limited**.

The **Bible** is full of **supernatural matters** like angels, fallen angels, spirits, and miracles. The lame walk, the deaf hear, and the blind see.

- "In the beginning, God..." **God** of the Bible **claims to be the Creator** of all things.
- **God is outside time**. He **alone** can declare **"...the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times **things that are not yet done."** (Isaiah 46:10)

We call this attribute **"prophecy"**.

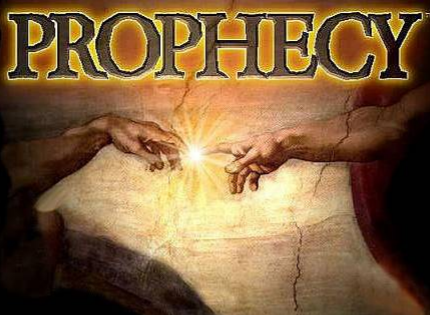
**WHAT
IS
PROPHECY?**

Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing**,
 unless **He reveals His secret** to
 His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 NKJV

*It is the glory of God to **conceal**
 a thing: but the honour of kings is
to search out a matter.*

Proverb 25:2 KJV



<p>ΤΩ ΤΗ ΓΡΕΚ</p>		<p>סד תה השקלש</p>
<p>Prediction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • προφητεία, <i>prophēteia</i>, G4394, "the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth" • <i>prophētēs</i>, G4396 "an interpreter or forth-teller (predictor) of the divine will" 		<p>Pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • נבוּאָה, <i>nevuah</i>, H5016, "a pattern or prediction (spoken or written)" • נְבִיא, <i>navi</i>, H5030, literally means "spokesperson"; he speaks to the people as a mouthpiece of God, and to God on behalf of the people.

Two different views of prophecy

The Greek (Western) View The Hebrew (Eastern) View

● Prediction ⇒ Fulfilment

● Pattern(s) ⇒ Repeated

PROPHECY (x2):

1. Zechariah 9:9. Messiah ("the King") will ride into Jerusalem on an ass.
2. Daniel 9:25: Gabriel tells Daniel that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem 173,880 days after the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem. (N.B. Calculation omitted)

FULFILMENT:

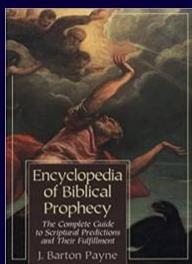
- A. Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem on 6 April 32 AD exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus so ordered on 14 March 445 B.C.

How Joseph's life prefigures Jesus

1. Despised for his prophetic gift.
2. Betrayed by Jews into Gentile hands.
3. God turns the betrayal into salvation.
4. Betrayed by brother Judah(s) for silver.
5. Cloak taken as proof he was not in the pit.
6. Falsely accused at an unfair trial.
7. Condemned with two criminals, one who lives and one who dies.
8. Condemnation to exaltation in three days.
9. Upon exaltation, every knee bowed.
10. Upon exaltation married a Gentile bride.
11. Not recognised at first coming, at second coming Joseph's brothers wept.
12. Joseph beloved of his father.

The richness and understanding that accompanies the rediscovery of the Midrashic hermeneutic is one of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament.

A tidbit on Prophetic Fulfilment



Per Payne, 8,352 verses (27%) out of 31,124 in the Bible are predictive.

The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

The Old Testament is 28.5% predictive while the New Testament is 21.5% predictive.

>80%

of the predictions have come true; all except those of Christ's Second Coming and the End Times.

How can God prophesy?

- “I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning.” (Isaiah 46:10)
- “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Proverb 15:3)

Per the Bible, God is eternal. He is not constrained by time. He created time.

A tidbit on Bible codes

- Codes are found throughout the Bible:



- Commonly used variations include:
 - **Macrocodes**, hidden in plain sight.
 - **Microcodes** hidden behind original texts.

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." (Proverb 25:2)

**"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. "
(Deuteronomy 29:29)**

"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light."
(Luke 8:17)

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." (John 15:5)

Bible Macrocodes

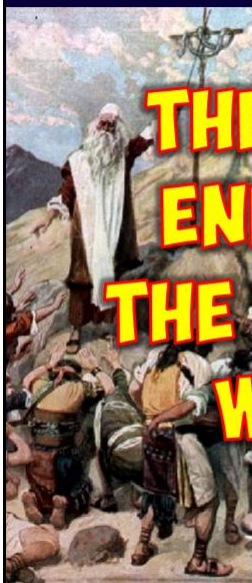
- Macrocodes are hidden meanings that transcend the plain meaning of a letter, word, clause or passage.
- Macrocodes can be anticipatory. They can present the structure of future events in advance, a property that makes the Bible truly unique.
- The Bible uses many types of macrocode:
 - Some reflect recurring historical patterns ("types").
 - Some provide an underlying structure to the text, e.g., Hebrew poetry relies on structure, not rhyme.
 - Sometimes it's just a consistent analogy of a word or number, such as "brass" (or bronze) symbolising "judgement" or "7" representing Divine perfection.

Example Coding: Numbers 21:5-10



5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there any] water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.
6. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.
7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, [brazen or bronze serpent] and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.
9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
10. And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

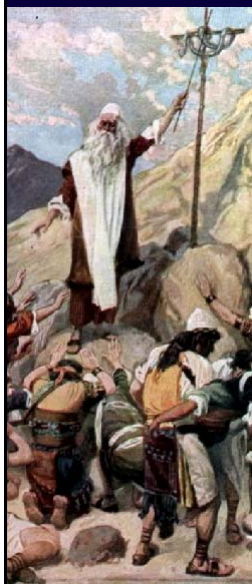
Example Coding: Numbers 21:5-10



**THE OLD TESTAMENT
ENDED WITH NO ONE
THE WISER ABOUT THIS
WEIRD PASSAGE!**

5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there any] water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.
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10. And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-16



14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16. . . .



Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-16



14. And as Moses lifted up

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

John 3:16



A macrocode prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>
אדם	Adam
שת	Seth
אנוש	Enosh
קינן	Kenon
מהללאל	Mahalael
ירד	Jared
חנוך	Enoch
מתושלח	Methuselah
למך	Lamech
נח	Noah

A macrocode prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>	<u>English meaning</u>
אדם	Adam	Man (is)
שת	Seth	Appointed
אנוש	Enosh	Mortal
קינן	Kenon	Sorrow (but)
מהללאל	Mahalael	The Blessed God
ירד	Jared	Shall come down
חנוך	Enoch	Teaching <small>(refer to Hebrew root)</small>
מתושלח	Methuselah	His death shall bring
למך	Lamech	(the) Despairing
נח	Noah	Comfort, Rest

Bible Microcodes

- The Bible has many codes and prophecies.
- The Bible uses many types of codes:
 - Some reflect recurring historical patterns (“types”).
 - Some provide an underlying structure to the text. Numerology is one such form.

CAUTION

No point of Christian faith or practice relies upon or depends in any way upon codes found in the Bible. They merely testify to the evidence of design.