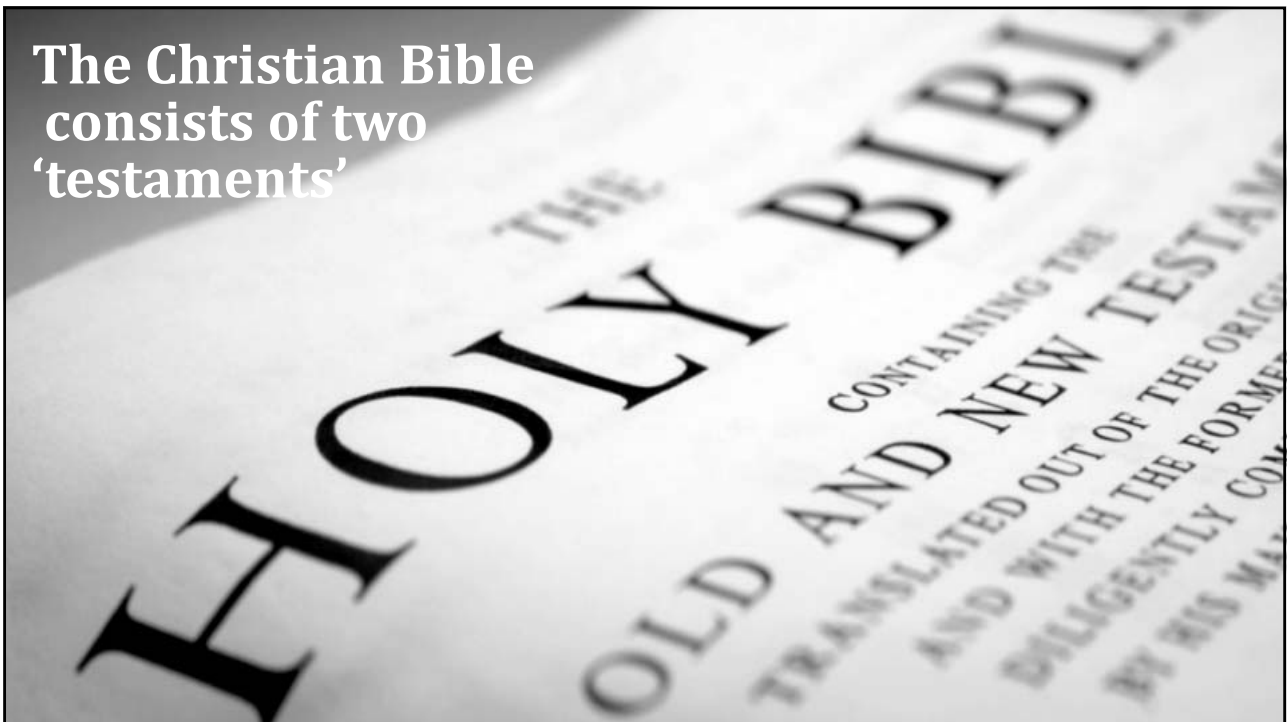




WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT



2 DAY TWO  
WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT



The Christian Bible consists of two 'testaments'

# testament



*/'testəmənt/*

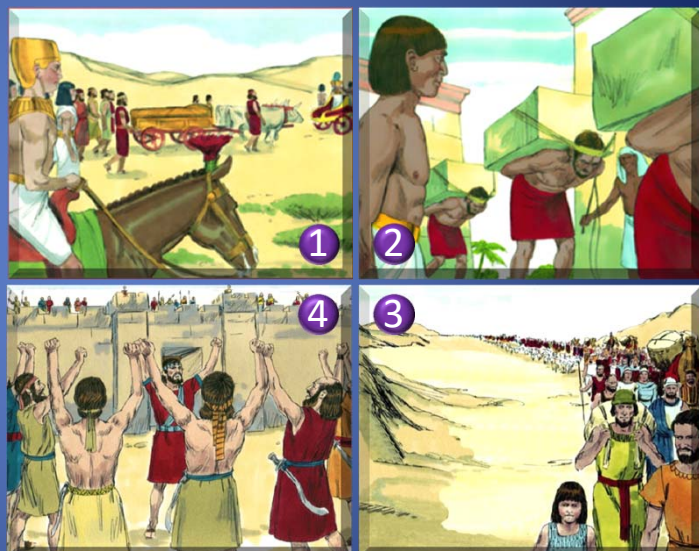
noun

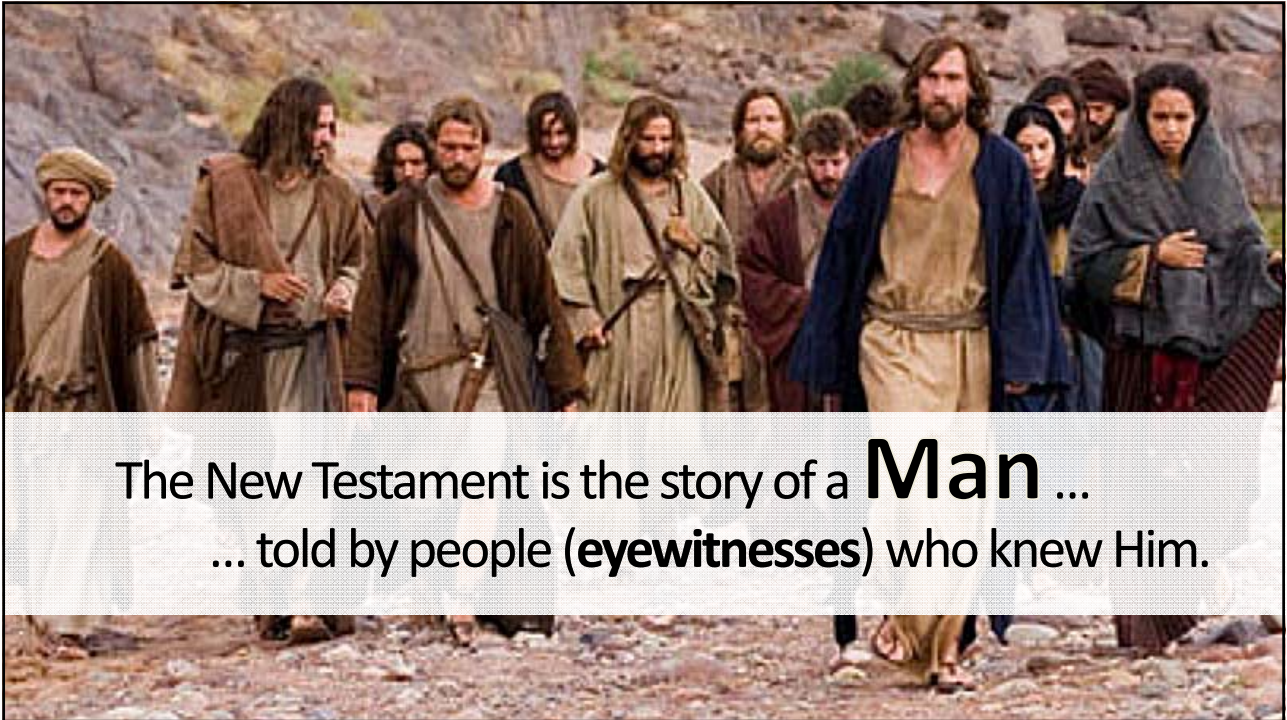
1. (law) a will setting out the disposition of personal property.
2. a. a covenant instituted between God and man,  
b. a copy of the Bible or either the Old or the New Testament.

Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaia diatheke* and *kaine diatheke*. 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 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 (מקרא or תנ"ך)



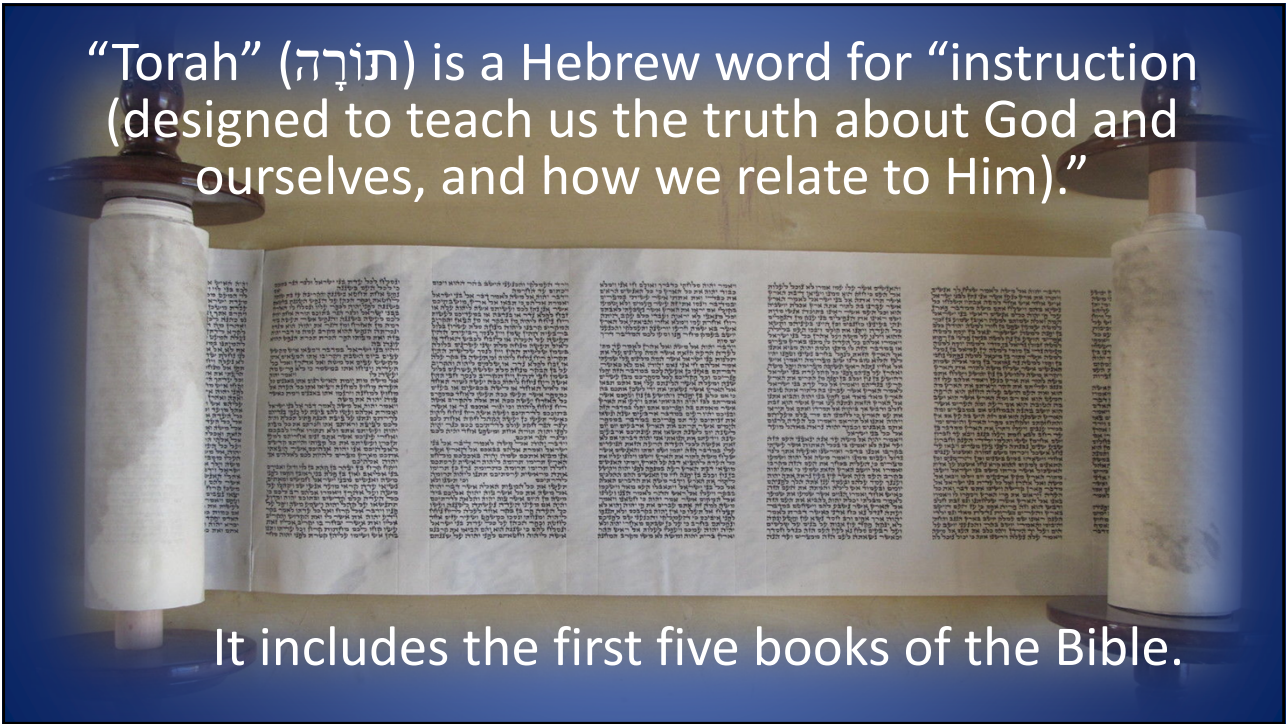
The Jewish Scriptures are called 'Tanakh' or 'Miqra':

- ★ **TaNaKh** is an acrostic of:
  - ☆ **T**orah ('Teaching' aka 'Law')
  - ☆ **N**evi'im ('Prophets')
  - ☆ **K**etuvim ('Writings')
- ★ **Miqra** (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 – תּוֹרָה  
Exodus – תּוֹרָה  
Leviticus – אֲרָקִי  
Numbers – רִבְדָּמַב  
Deuteronomy – מִירְדָּב

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

<b>Genesis</b>	בְּרֵאשִׁית Bere'shiyth	"in the beginning"
<b>Exodus</b>	שְׁמוֹת Shemot	"these are the names"
<b>Leviticus</b>	וַיִּקְרָא Vayikra	"He (the LORD) called out"
<b>Numbers</b>	בְּמִדְבָּר Bamidbar	"in the wilderness"
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	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."

<b>Genesis</b>	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 eventual reunifies.
<b>Exodus</b>	The story of Moses, whom God calls to lead the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. At Mount Sinai, God's covenant with Israel.
<b>Leviticus</b>	Religious instructions for sacrifices and rituals; initiation of Aaron and his sons as priests; and laws concerning purity and impurity.
<b>Numbers</b>	Continues the narrative of the Israelites as they wander in the wilderness. Further instructions are given in this period.
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	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*)

# THE NEVI'IM

## Prophets (נְבִיאִים)

Former Prophets  
(נביאים ראשונים,  
*Nevi'im Rishonim*)

Latter Prophets  
(נביאים אחרונים, *Nevi'im Aharonim*)

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    Jonah    Zephaniah  
Joel    Micah    Haggai  
Amos    Nahum    Zachariah  
Obadiah    Habakkuk    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 →



← “Alef” 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 .....

Remove God (א) from truth,

we are left with *mowth*.....



מת, or “death”.

# THE KETUVIM

## The Writings (כְּתוּבִים)

Wisdom

Megillot

Histories

Psalms

Proverbs

Job

Song of Songs

Ruth

Lamentations

Ecclesiastes

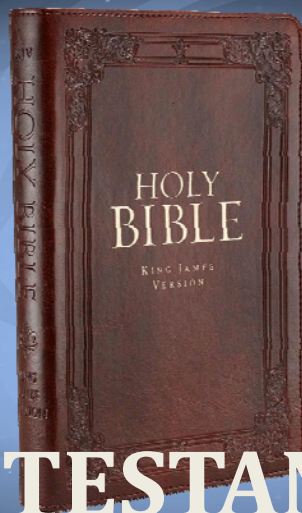
Esther

Daniel

Ezra

Nehemiah

Chronicles



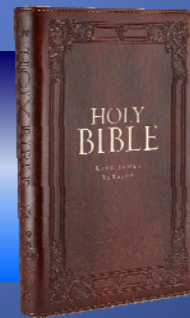
## THE PROTESTANT BIBLE

# Two Testaments

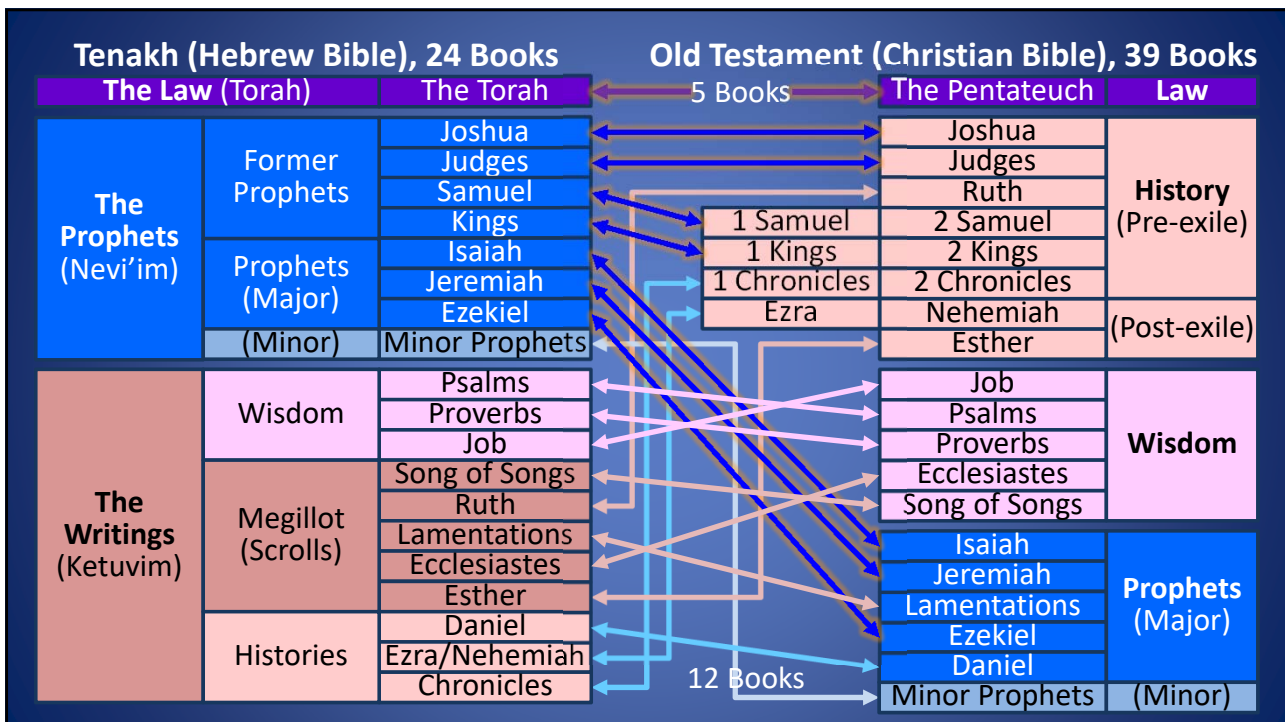
The Protestant Bible consists of two “Testaments”:

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.

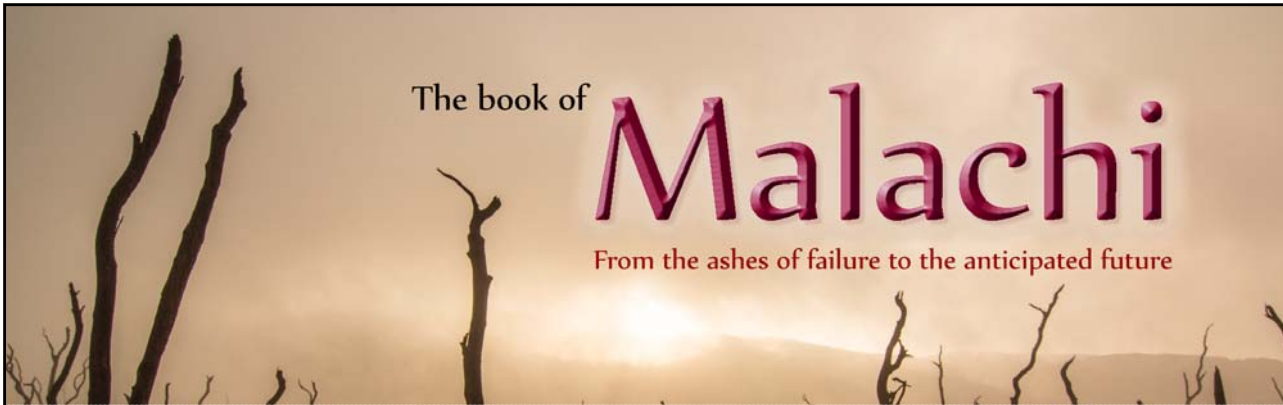
Tanakh



Old Testament







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. He prophesied around 432-425BC.  
Some believe the Bible was then silent for ~400 years...

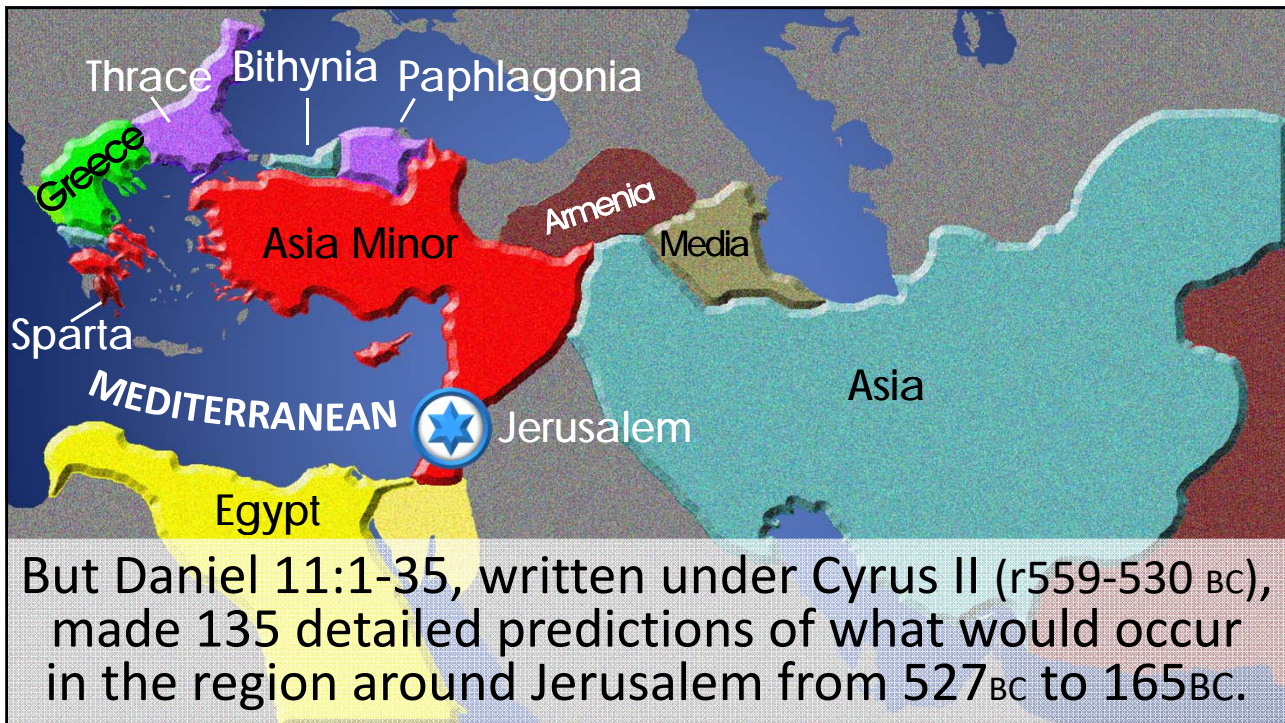
## Fulfilled prophecy

- Fulfilled prophecy is one of the proofs of the inspiration of the Bible.

“He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.”

(Daniel 2:22 NKJV)

- All of the prophecies in Daniel 1-35 have been fulfilled and are now ancient history. This causes no end of grief for Bible critics who claim that nobody could write so many accurate details in advance: hence, Daniel never existed.
- But per the Bible, Daniel was a greybeard in 539 BC, when Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian forces of Cyrus the Great.



## Daniel 11:1-2

- vv1-2 should be at the end of the previous chapter (Persia).

*“<sup>1</sup>Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. <sup>2</sup>And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.”*

- The four kings that would rule in the future were:
  - Cambyses (529–522 BC),
  - Pseudo-Smerdis (522–521 BC),
  - Darius I Hystapes (521–486 BC), and
  - Xerxes (496–465 BC), the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther

## The letter to Cyrus

- Per Josephus (*Antiquities*, XI, I, 2), when Cyrus visited Babylon after his army had conquered it in 539 BC, Daniel presented him with a letter written a century before Cyrus was born.

Read Isaiah 44:27-45:5.

Isaiah: b. < 769; prophesied: 739 - c.686 BC

Cyrus: b. 600 BC; d. 530 BC

## The Cyrus Cylinder 539-538 BC



## Daniel 11:3-4

- vv3-4 switch to prophecies about Greece.

“<sup>3</sup>And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. <sup>4</sup>And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.”

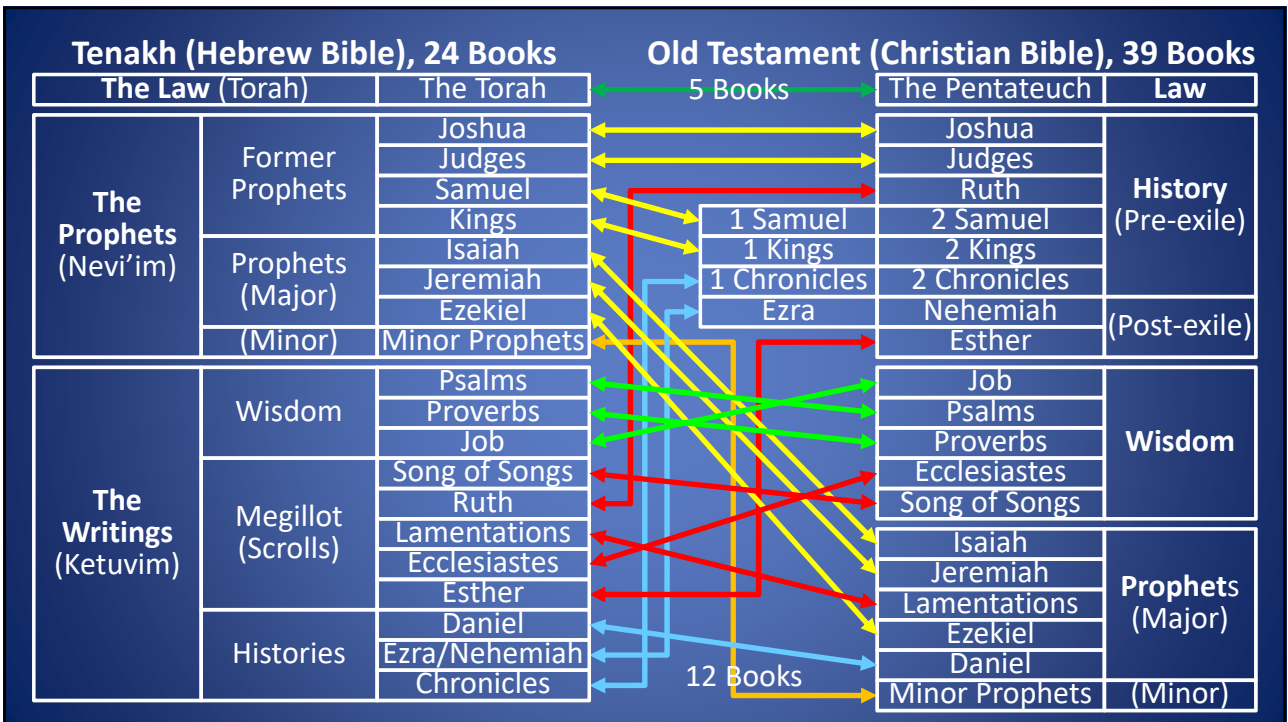
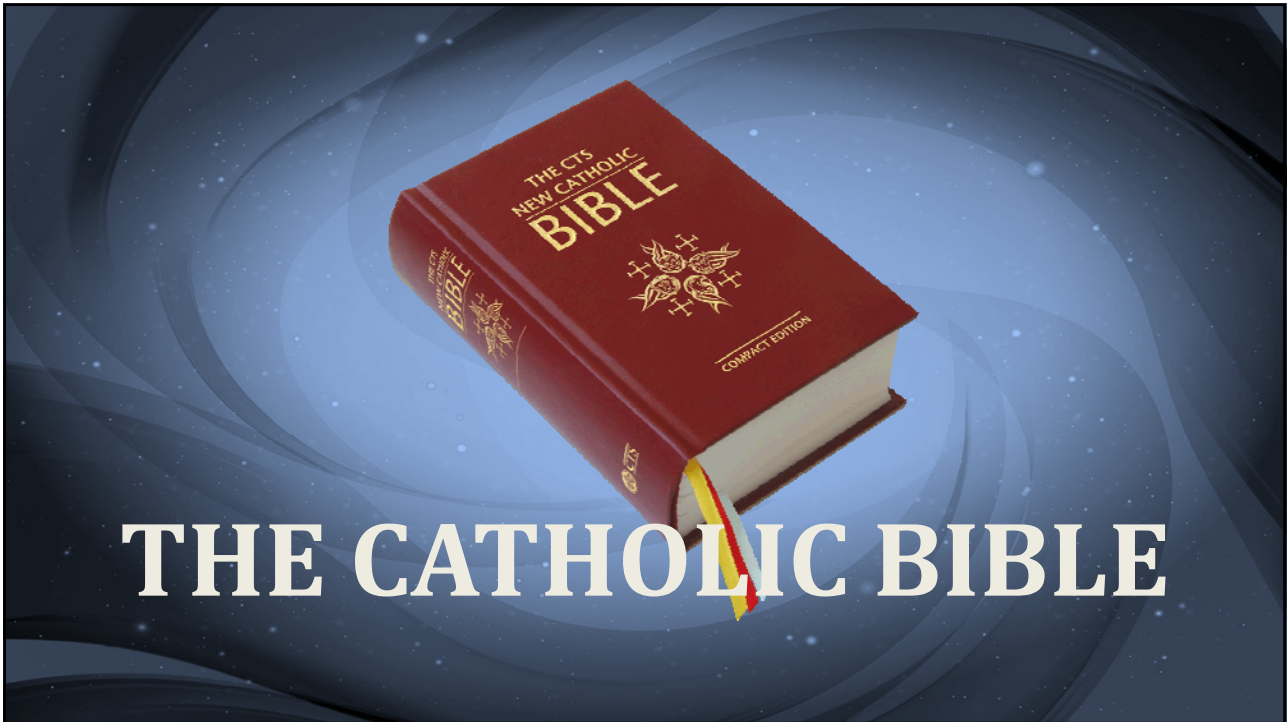
- Who is the “Mighty King” of Daniel 11:3?

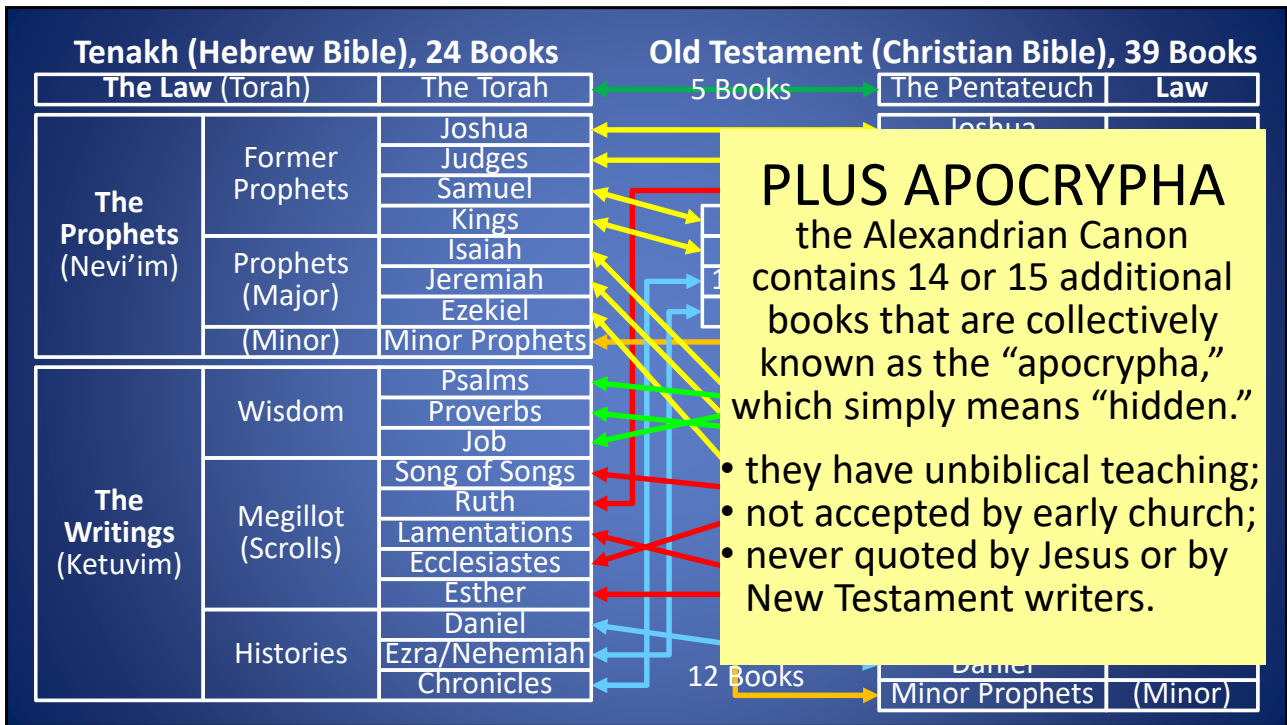
(Hint: he reigned from 336 – 323 BC.)

### Some historical facts included prophetically in Daniel Chapter 11

Daniel 11:	Northern Kingdom	Western Kingdoms	Southern Kingdom	
4	Seleucus Nicator (Syria; 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 of Berenice (southern kingdom) to Antiochus (northern kingdom)		Ptolemy II Philadelphus *
7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus	← Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice, will conquer the northern kingdom.		Ptolemy III Euergetes
10-14	Seleucus III Ceraunus & Antiochus the Great	← Continual warfare between the kings of the north and south, with Israel in the middle and suffering.		Ptolemy IV Philippator
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 Philopater	He will impose taxes on Israel, but in a few days he will be destroyed.		*Sponsored translation of Tenakh into Greek; Septuagint compl. 270BC
21-35	Ptolemy 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 kingdoms of Alexander divided toward the four winds, but not to the prosperity of Macedonia.  
↓

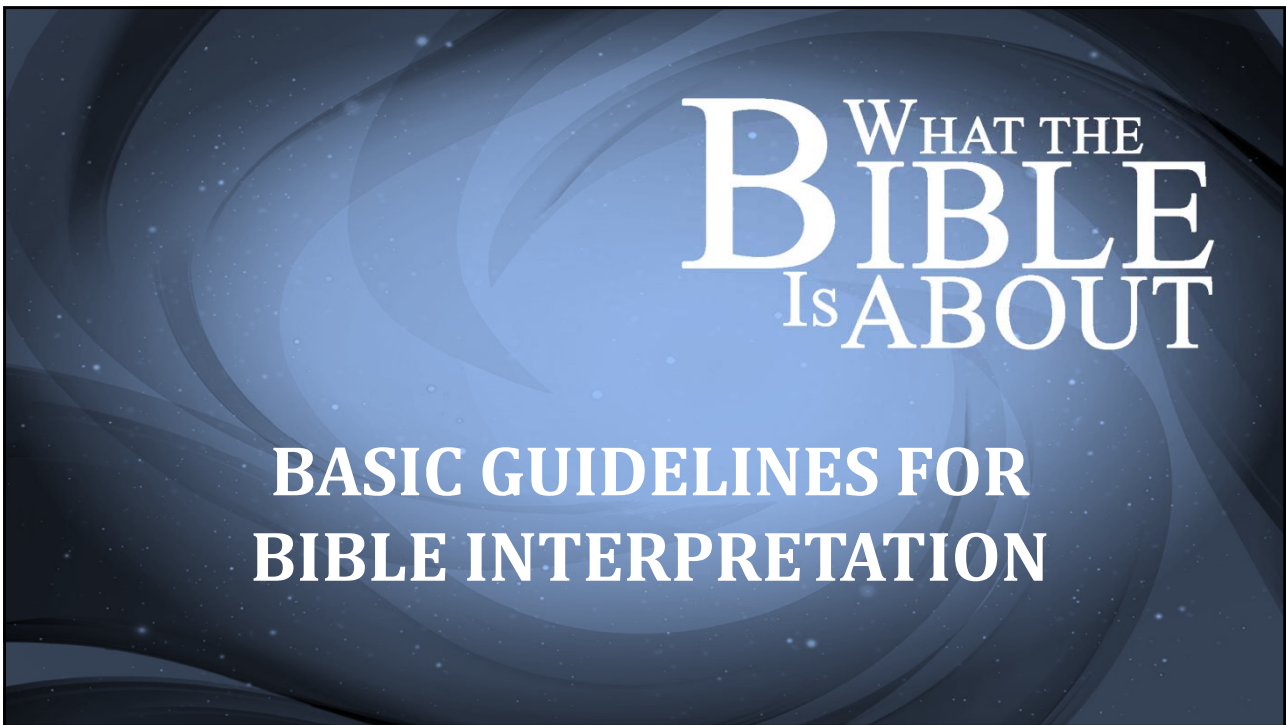




## The Alexandrian Apocrypha

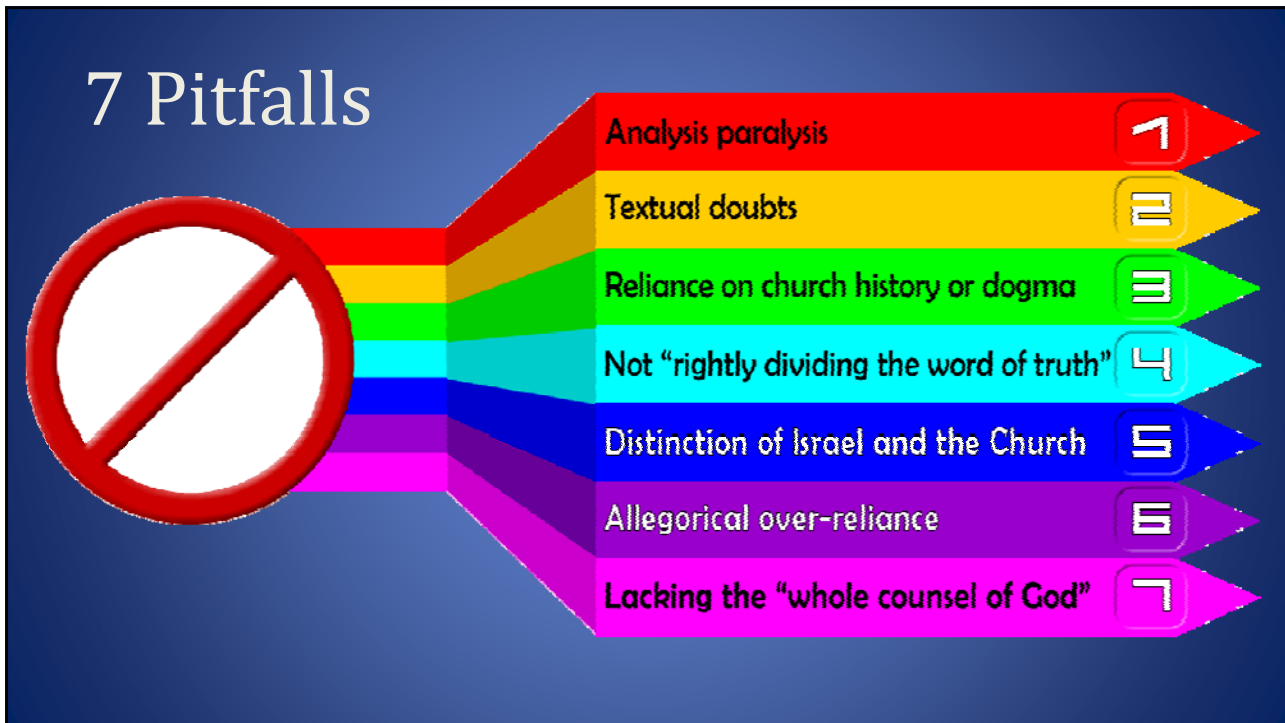
- 1 and 2 Esdras
- Tobit
- Judith
- Additions to Esther
- the Wisdom of Solomon
- Baruch
- The Letter of Jeremiah
- Sirach, (Ecclesiasticus)
- Song of the Three Young Men
- Susanna
- Bel and the Dragon
- Additions to Daniel
- The Prayer of Manasseh
- I and II Maccabees

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



## 8 Guidelines

<b>Rule 1</b>	Approach the Bible with an open mind.
<b>Rule 2</b>	Study the Bible systematically.
<b>Rule 3</b>	All means 'all' is all that all means.
<b>Rule 4</b>	A text taken out of context is a pretext.
<b>Rule 5</b>	Interpret the Bible with the Bible.
<b>Rule 6</b>	If the plain text makes sense, seek no other sense.
<b>Rule 7</b>	The plain things are the main things and the main things are the plain things.
<b>Rule 8</b>	If you don't understand a passage, rejoice. An insight awaits.



## Analysis Paralysis

- Stick to the guidelines for Bible interpretation.
- Check the centre margin for parallel passages.
- Don't over-analyse a passage. If it doesn't seem to make sense, note it and move on.
- Discuss the passage with someone you trust.

ANALYSIS  
PARALYSIS





## Church History/Dogma

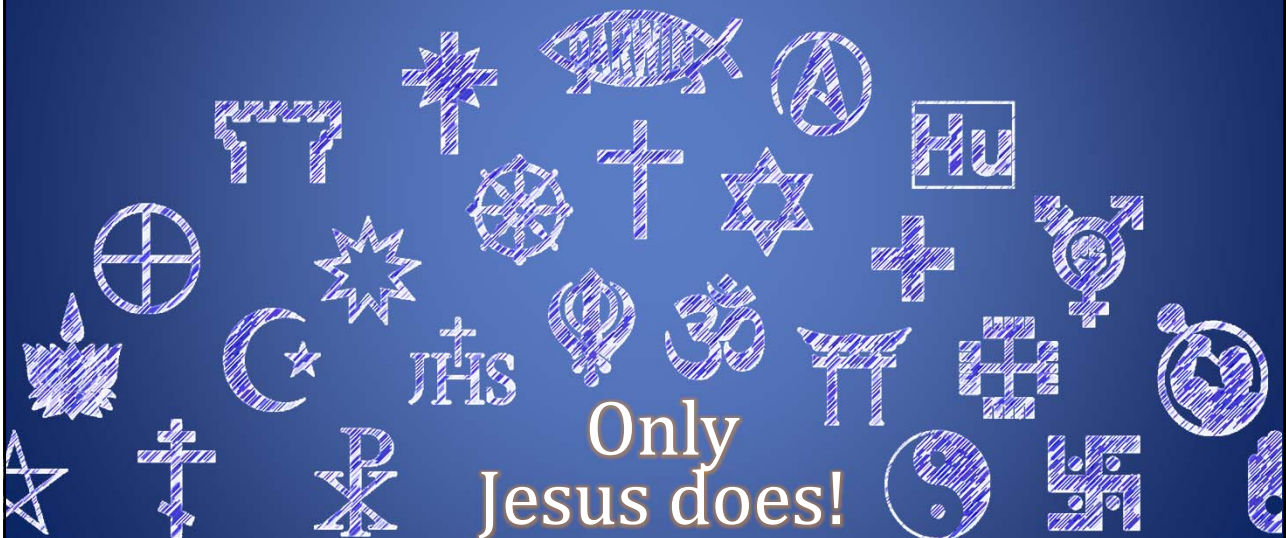


- Why do they differ on Bible interpretation?
- Religions are Man's way to get closer to God.



Jesus was possibly the most anti-religious man who ever lived!

**Per the Bible, none of Man's religions, denominations or churches lead to God.**



## Not Dividing the Word of Truth

4

**RIGHTLY  
DIVIDE  
THE WORD  
OF TRUTH**

- Note similarities and differences. Recognise and understand both.
- Recognise common terms and themes that run through the Bible, and...
- ... spot others that don't.
- Try to discern the truth!

## Israel versus the "Church"

5

The Bible treats Israel and the "Mystical Church of Jesus Christ" mutually exclusively!  
The origin, mystery and destiny of each is unique. The "Church" does not replace Israel.

The New Testament mentions Israel 73 times.

The "Church" was born at Pentecost (Acts 1:5).

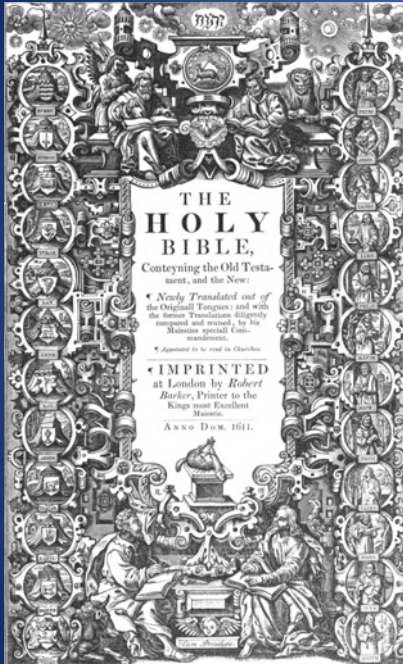
No religion of Man is Christ's true "Church".

## The Hazard of Presuppositions

- A presupposition is a belief that affects how someone thinks and interprets evidence.
  - Christians and atheists differ in presuppositions.
  - Their debate is over presuppositions, not evidence.
- An axiom is a proposition assumed to be true and thus not susceptible to proof or disproof.
  - The Bible's axiom is that God and His Word exist.
  - ∴ Prophets and apostles reasoned from Scripture.

## "Lacking the Whole Counsel of God"

- 1** The final test of the Bible can only come from an understanding of the entire text.
- 2** e.g., most people don't understand the Book of Revelation because they don't know the OT, which Revelation's 404 verses allude to 800X.
- 3** Don't pick a single passage to build a pet theory. Other parts of the Bible will add missing context.



## In brief

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

## ∴ The Bible is for Everyone



## The Bible influences our language

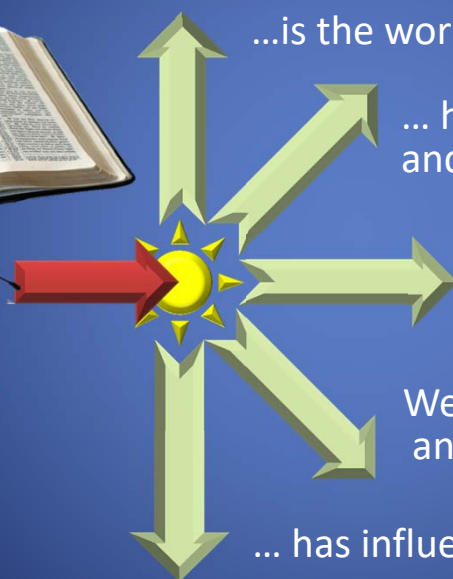
"As old as the hills" "Beside yourself" "Put in my two cents"  
 "O you of little faith" "Put your hand over your mouth"  
 "On the one hand" "A little bird told me" "Raising Cain"  
 "One way or another" "Red sky at night, sailors delight"  
 "Out of the mouth of babes" "Dire straits" "Rise and shine!"  
 "Physician, heal thyself" "Lying lips" "Risky business"  
 "Played the fool" "Between a rock and a hard place" "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 Bible influences our society



**The Bible**



...is the world's bestselling book... ever!

... has inspired great art, music and poetry throughout history.

... is the main foundational source of Western society, culture and morality.

Western constitutions, rules and laws have biblical roots.

... has influenced much classical literature.



## The Bible influences education

18<sup>th</sup> century children worked long hours six days a week. With nothing to do on Sundays, many turned to crime out of boredom.



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.

## The Bible influences the Arts







# The Bible influenced science

**Medieval Astronomic  
Clock of Prague**