

# 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"?

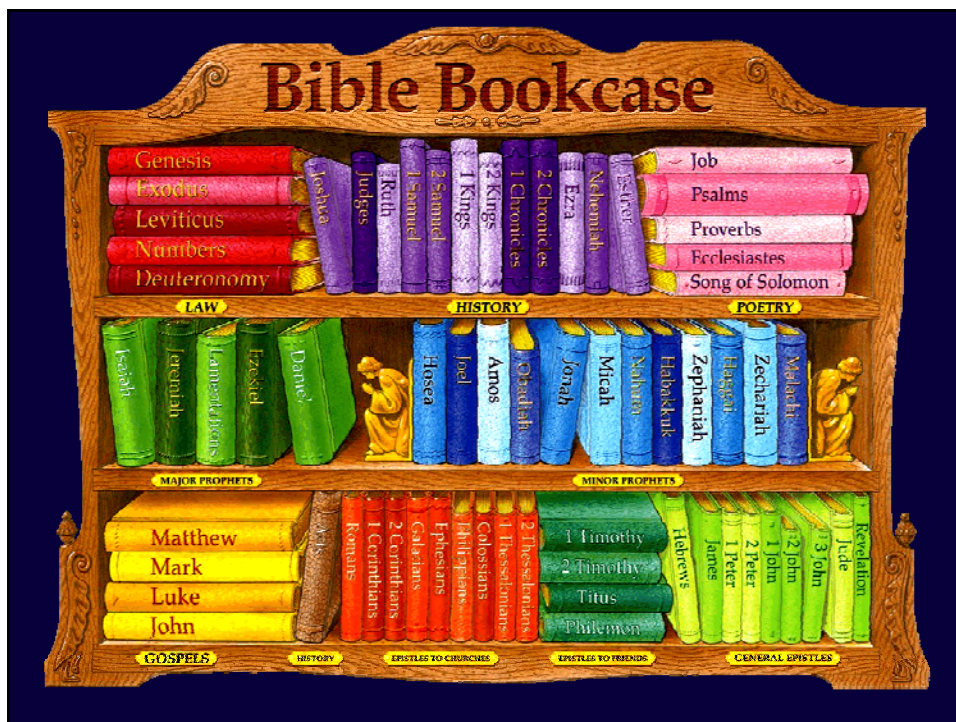
# τὰ βιβλία

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**

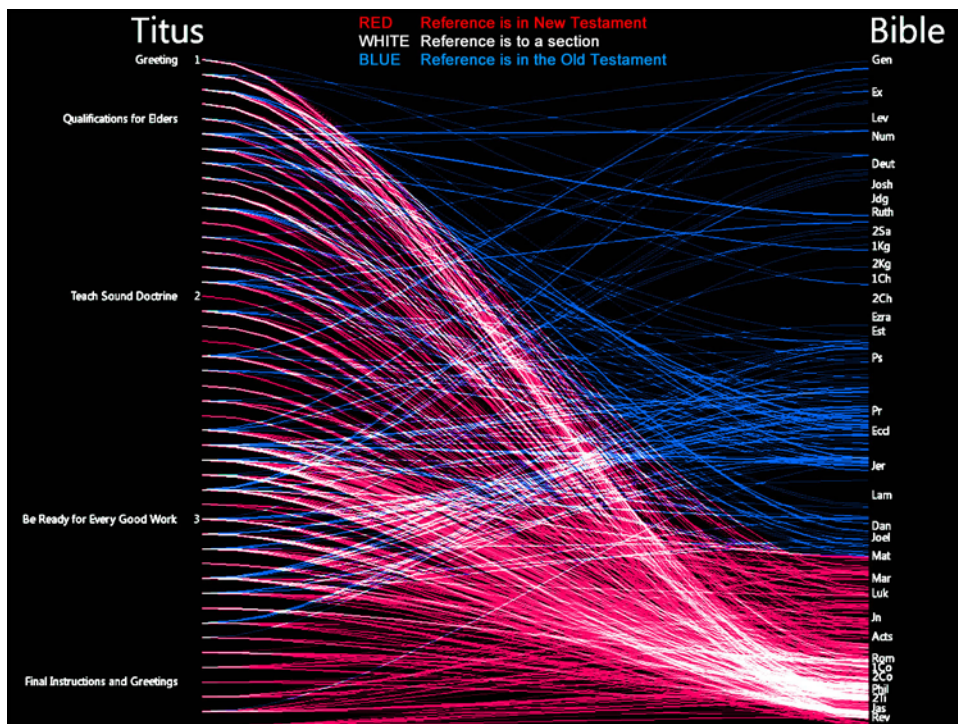
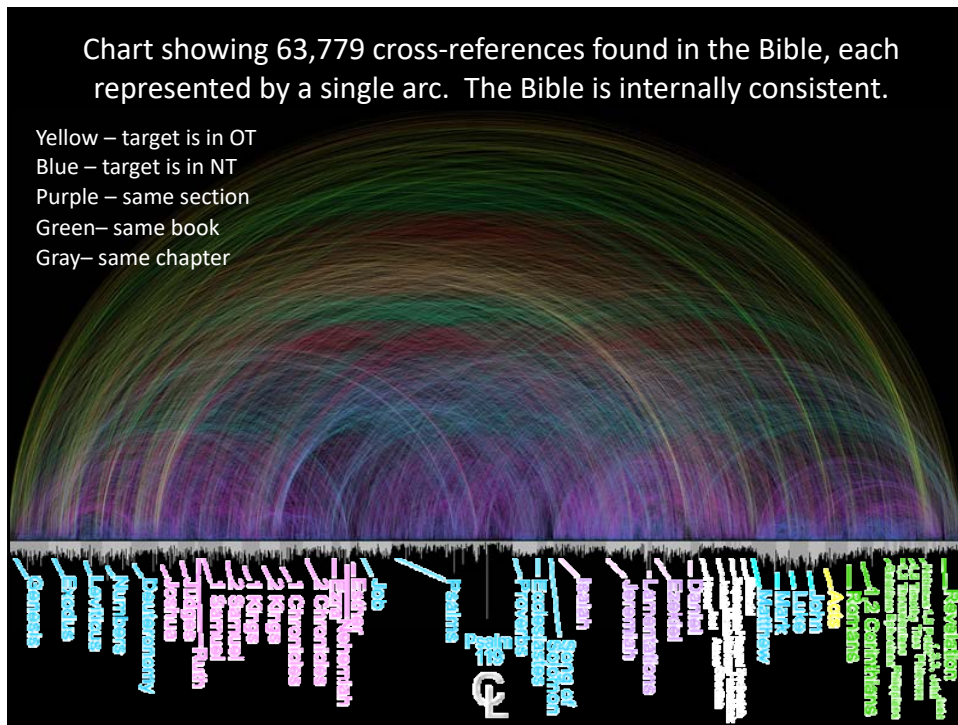
[shepherds, kings, scholars, prophets, fishermen, a priest, a soldier, and a cupbearer]

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 Bible is Unique


- 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 in the truths it teaches.
- The Bible is unique because it is alive to those who take it seriously.
- The Bible is unique in its power and authority.

### What does the Bible cover?

 This 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.

## **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

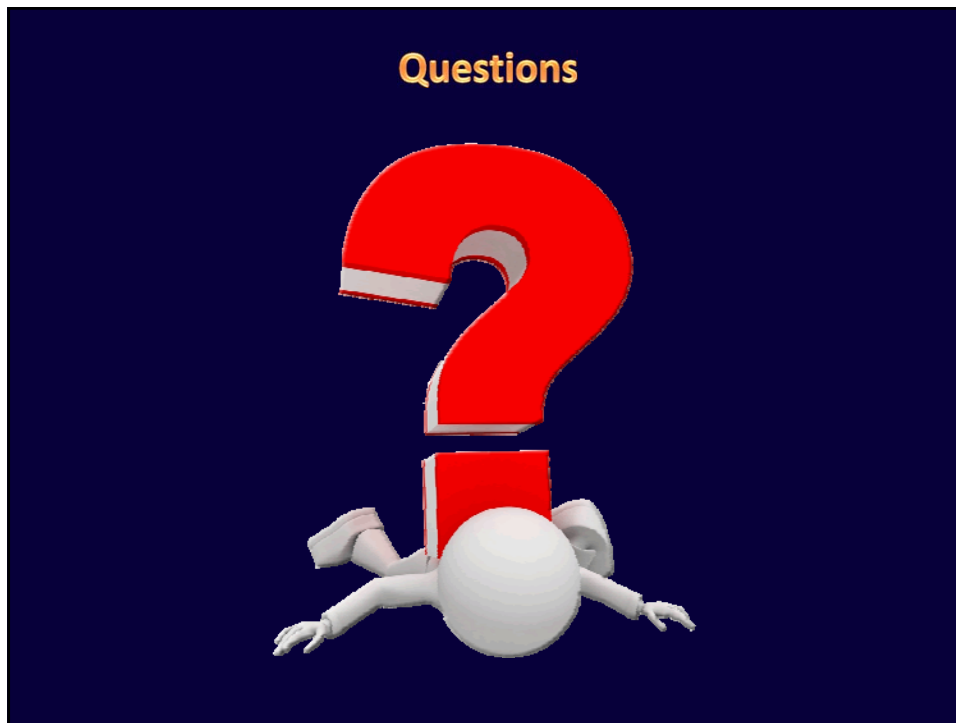
- 1 Introduce the **objective study** of the Bible.
- 2 Allow scripture to interpret scripture.
- 3 Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- 4 Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.
- 5 Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities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

## Spirit

ETSI DOCTRINA  
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)





# 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.

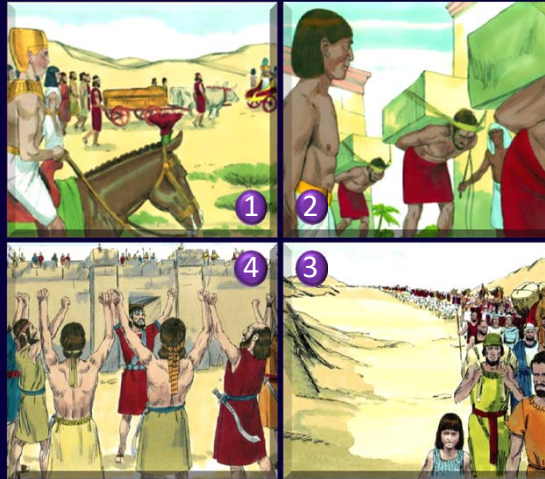
Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaia diatheke* and *kaine diatheke*. The Greek **διαθήκη** (*diathēkē* /dē-ä-thā'-kā/ Strong's G1242), means a compact, a covenant, a testament or a will.

**Our "library" is a collection of 66 books**



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





## A central Bible tenet

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

## The Old Testament consists of 39 books

- Old Testament books fall into five categories:

### LAW

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

### HISTORY

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

### WISDOM

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

### MAJOR PROPHETS

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

### 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-AD70	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?).



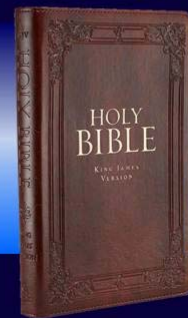
## Old Testament = Tenakh

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



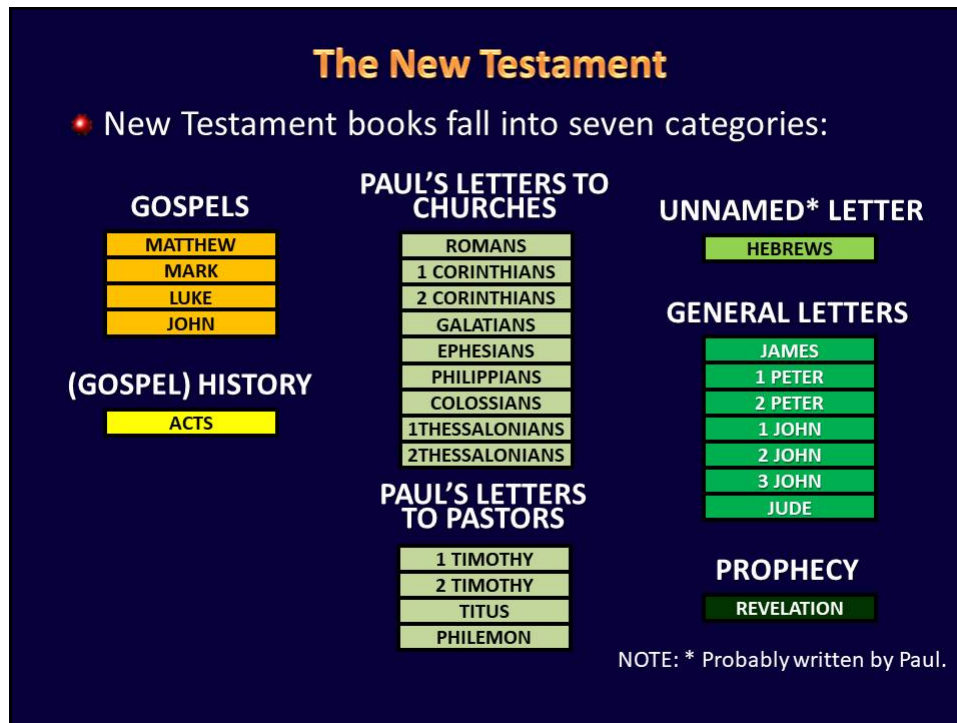
Old Testament



## 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 consists of 27 books

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Early Evidence of the New Testament

Papyri	Contents	Date of Original	MSS Date	Approx. Time Span	Location
<b>p<sup>52</sup></b> (John Rylands Fragment)	John 18:31-33, 37-38	circa AD 96	circa AD125	29 yrs	Manchester, England
<b>p<sup>46</sup></b> (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
<b>p<sup>66</sup></b> (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
<b>p<sup>67</sup></b>	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 (ܐܘܢܘܢܐ 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

01

Jesus died,  
according to the Scriptures...

02

He was buried...

03

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

1 Corinthians 15:3-4



**3** **Died**  
according to the scriptures

**Buried**  
**Rose** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day  
according to the scriptures





**BOTTING**  
EXTRAVAGANZA

Brought to you by PAUL the APOSTLE of JESUS

**Cretan** vs **Yahweh**  
**ZEUS** vs **3 in 1 GOD**

Pride of the Minoans vs of the Christians and Jews

**UNDERCARD**

The Amazing **MINOTAUR** vs **TITUS** the **GREEK**  
Cretan **CULTURE** of **LIES** and **DECEIT** vs the **HOLY WORD** of **GOD**

**Main Characters**



**Paul**

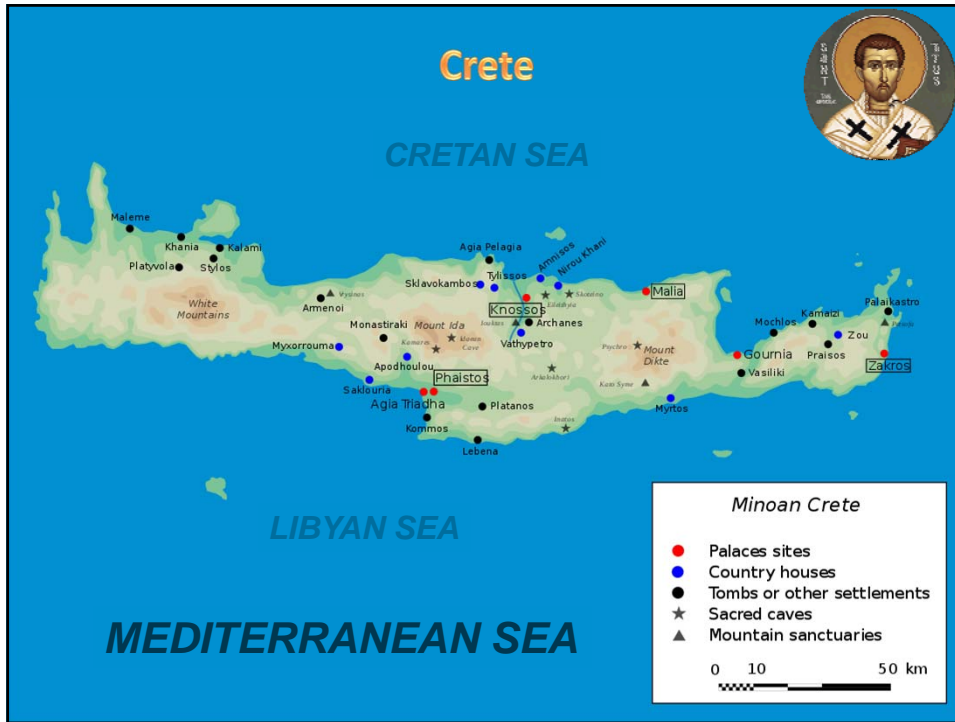
- Born Saul of Tarsus.
- Tribe of Benjamin.
- Born a Roman citizen.
- Highest Greek and Jewish education (Gamaliel).
- A Pharisee.
- Violent persecutor of Christians.
- Damascus Road conversion.
- Primary apostle to Gentiles and New testament author.
- Martyred in Rome.



**Titus**

- A Greek believer (Titios Justus).
- One of Paul's troubleshooters.
- With Paul and Barnabas at Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15). Travelled from Antioch.
- Took Paul's severely worded letter to church in Corinth.
- Left by Paul in authority with church in Crete (as was Timothy in Ephesus church).
- Later met Paul in Nicopolis and was sent to Dalmatia (Croatia).
- Died in Crete.



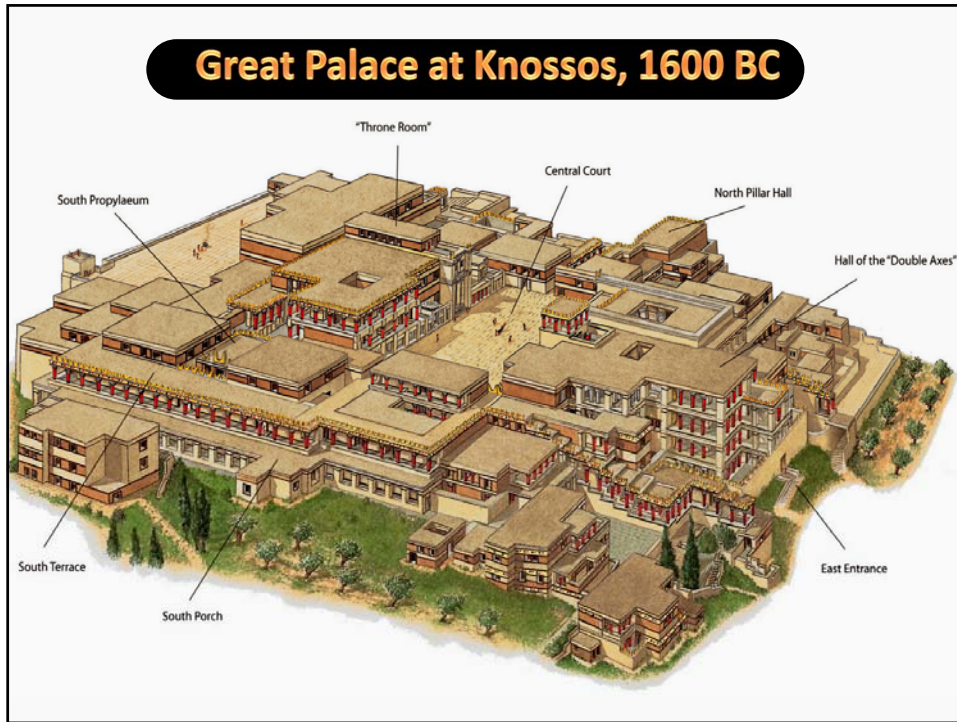




## Crete - Birthplace of Zeus

- Titan king Kronos so feared that his children would be stronger than he ate them. His pregnant sister and queen Rhea fled to Crete and secretly gave birth to Zeus, who became king of the gods of Mount Olympus in Greek mythology.
- Zeus fathered Ares with his wife Hera, and Aphrodite, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hermes, Persephone, Dionysus, Perseus, Heracles, Helen of Troy, Minos, the Muses, and many more with others in his many infamous escapades.
- Cretans worshipped Zeus, and were proud that he was born on Crete. (We become like the gods we worship.)
- Minos, son of Zeus and Europa, was the first king of Crete. Homer called him king of Knossos in his Iliad and Odyssey (8<sup>th</sup> century BC). Athenian historian Thucydides (c. 460-400 BC) states that Minos governed Crete and built a great navy three generations before the Trojan War (1260-1180 BC).





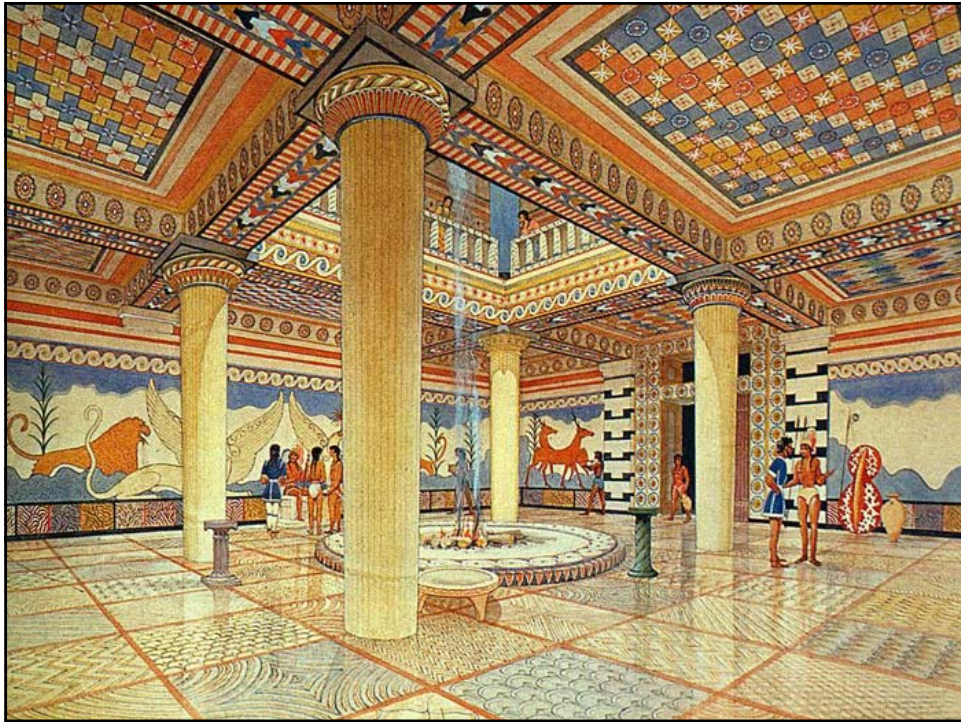




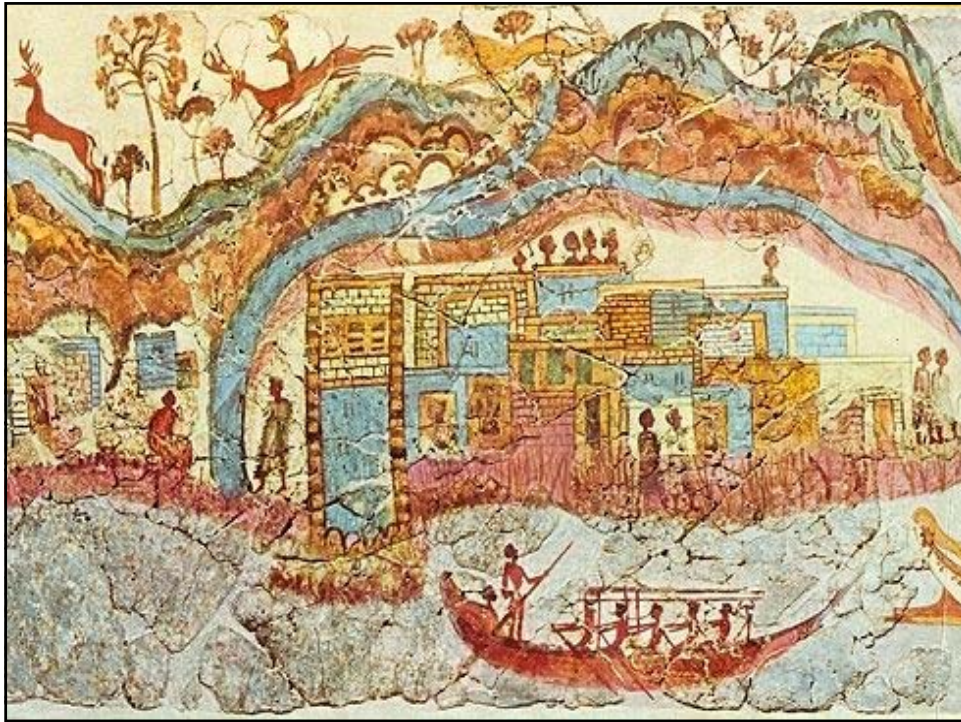
**Model of Palace of Malia**















## Cretan legends





The battle of the GODS:  
 the Cretan **Zeus**  
 VS  
 the Christian **God**



