



MidWeek Study: Church Essentials: The Bible

Pastor Mike Ruel: Week 2 of 4

INTRODUCTION

- Back to the Bible: Review...
 - The Bible is an essential of the church
 - LW, we defined some general terms - what exactly IS the Bible?
 - The Bible is God's _____.
- The Bible tells one story in four parts:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Plan of Study:
 - ~~Week 1: Define terms – 2/28/25~~
 - Week 2: How we got the OT - 3/5/25
 - Week 3: Are the gospels reliable? - 3/12/25
 - Week 4: How we got the NT - 3/19/25
 - Easter/Travel break - No MidWeek Study - 3/26/25-4/16/25
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- Old Testament

- _____
- Hebrew - QANEH / Greek - KANON (reeds cut to use as measuring sticks)
- Therefore a canon is implies an “infallible _____.”¹
- “A Christian term for the religious writings of ancient Israel held as sacred by Judaism and Christianity.”²
- OT Canonization (What books were included?)
 - The canon was not _____, it was _____.
 - “The books did not receive their authority because they were placed into the canon. Rather they were recognized by the nation of Israel, as having divine authority, and we're there for included in the canon.”³
- Traditionally understood to include 24 books
 - Most modern Bibles have 39 OT books due to how they are organized
- Hebrew Bible = _____
 - Three fold division - Law, Prophets, Writings
 - _____ (Torah/Pentateuch)
 - First 5 books
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - _____ (Neviim)
 - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, 12 minor prophets

Jewish OT 24 Books			Christian OT 39 Books		
The Law (Torah)			The Law (Torah)		
Genesis	1	1	1	Genesis	
Exodus	2	2	2	Exodus	
Leviticus	3	3	3	Leviticus	
Numbers	4	4	4	Numbers	
Deuteronomy	5	5	5	Deuteronomy	
Prophets (Nevi'im)			OT History		
Former Prophets			Pre-Exilic		
Joshua	6	6	6	Joshua	
Judges	7	7	7	Judges	
1 Samuel	8	8	8	Ruth	
2 Samuel	9	9	9	1 Samuel	
1 Kings	10	10	10	2 Samuel	
2 Kings	11	11	11	1 Kings	
Latter Prophets			12 2 Kings		
Isaiah	10	12	13	1 Chronicles	
Jeremiah	11	13	14	2 Chronicles	
Ezekiel	12	14	Post-Exilic		
Book of the Twelve			15	Ezra	
Hosea		15	16	Nehemiah	
Joel		16	17	Esther	
Amos		17	Wisdom		
Obadiah		18	18	Job	
Jonah		19	19	Psalms	
Micah	13	20	20	Proverbs	
Nahum		21	21	Ecclesiastes	
Habakkuk		22	22	Song of Songs	
Zephaniah		23	Major Prophets		
Haggai		24	23	Isaiah	
Zechariah		25	24	Jeremiah	
Malachi		26	25	Lamentations	
Writings (Kethuvim)			26	Ezekiel	
Psalms	14	27	27	Daniel	
Proverbs	15	28	Minor Prophets		
Job	16	29	28	Hosea	
Song of Songs	17	30	29	Joel	
Ruth	18	31	30	Amos	
Lamentations	19	32	31	Obadiah	
Ecclesiastes	20	33	32	Jonah	
Esther	21	34	33	Micah	
Daniel	22	35	34	Nahum	
Ezra	23	36	35	Habakkuk	
Nehemiah		37	36	Zephaniah	
1 Chronicles	24	38	37	Haggai	
2 Chronicles		39	38	Zechariah	
			39	Malachi	

¹ Timothy Paul Jones, How We Got the Bible, 51

² Eerdmans Dictionary, “Canon”

³ Wegner, The Journey From Texts to Translation: The Origin and Development of the Bible, 101
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- _____ (Ketuvim)
 - Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

- Tripartite Division recognition

- 132 BC - Jesus, Ben Sirach's grandson "Law and Prophets...scriptures..."
- ~20BC-50BC - Philo - "most Holy Scriptures or writings."
- ~90-100 AD - Josephus agrees

• "We have but twenty-two [books] containing the history of all time, books that are justly believed in; and of these, five are the books of Moses, which comprise the law and earliest traditions from the creation of mankind down to his death. From the death of Moses to the reign of Artaxerxes, King of Persia, the successor of Xerxes, the prophets who succeeded Moses wrote the history of the events that occurred in their own time, in thirteen books. The remaining four documents comprise hymns to God and practical precepts to men."⁴

- Jesus

• Matthew 23:34-35/Luke 11:49-51 Jesus knows the Hebrew Bible as from "Abel" (Genesis 4:8) to "Zechariah" (2 Chronicles 24:20-22)

• Jesus _____ the tripartite division: Luke 24:44

• Jesus _____ numerous times from each section of the OT, often citing it as Scripture.

Law	Prophets	Writings
Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4/ Deut. 8:3	Matt. 10:35-36/ Mic. 7:6	Matt. 4:6; Luke 4:10-11/Ps. 91:11-12
Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12/ Deut. 6:16	Matt. 11:10/ Mal. 3:1	Matt. 21:16/ Ps. 8:2
Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8/ Deut. 6:13	Matt. 12:7/ Hos. 6:6	Matt. 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42-43/ Ps. 110:1
Matt. 5:27/ Exod. 20:14; Deut. 5:18	Matt. 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10/ Isa. 6:9-10	Matt. 23:39/ Ps. 118:26
Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10/ Exod. 20:12; 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Deut. 5:16	Matt. 15:8-9; Mark 7:6-7/ Isa. 29:13	Matt. 24:15/ Dan. 9:27
Matt. 18:16/ Deut. 19:15	Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17/ Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11	Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34/ Ps. 22:1
Matt. 19:4/ Gen. 1:27	Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24-26/ Joel 2:10, 31	
Matt. 19:5/ Gen. 2:24	Mark 9:48/ Isa. 66:24	
Matt. 22:32; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37/ Exod. 3:6	Mark 14:27/ Zech. 13:7	
Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:29-32; Luke 10:27/ Deut. 6:4-5	Luke 4:18-19/ Isa. 61:1-2	
Luke 18:20/ Exod. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20	Luke 22:37/ Isa. 53:12	
	Luke 23:30/ Hos. 10:8	

- "It is written..." Matt 4:4 (quoting Deut 8:3)
- "God commanded..." Matt 15:4 (quoting Ex 20:12...)
- "God said..." Matt 19:4 (quoting Gen 1:27)

⁴(William Whiston, trans., Flavius Josephus against Apion, Vol. I, in Josephus, Complete Works, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1960, p. 8). Accessed here: <https://blogs.blueletterbible.org/blb/2012/05/29/josephus-historical-evidence-of-the-old-testament-canon/>

- Takeaway - The tripartite division of the Old Testament demonstrates that the Jews _____ which books were authoritative, very early on.
 - “No later than the second century BC, the Jewish people had already identified which texts belong in their canon, and these texts were arranged in a deliberate order.”⁵
 - It is _____ that the Council of Nicea (325AD) could then have established the OT canon.
- Key Texts and Manuscripts
 - Masoretic Texts
 - Group of scribes from 500-1000AD
 - Samaritan Pentateuch (~1100AD)
 - First five books
 - Dead Sea Scrolls (250-100BC? Discovered in 1947)
 - Contains parts of every book of OT, except for Esther
 - Verified word for word the integrity of the Masoretic Texts
 - Septuagint / LXX (250-150BC)
 - OT translated into Greek (multiple versions)
 - This was the “Bible” of the early church, most often quoted by NT writers⁶
 - Jerome’s Latin Vulgate (382-405 AD)
 - Translated from Hebrew into Latin
- _____ (“Hidden” or “Secret”)
 - Generally ~ 15 books in the apocrypha
 - Should they be included in the Canon?
 - Historical evidence is that they were always _____.
 - Roman Catholic Church at the Council of Trent (1546) decided that some were to be included in the Canon⁷ - this was a _____ to the Protestant Reformation!

⁵ Jones, How We Got the Bible, 54

⁶ For a great resource see “Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament,” Beale and Carson

⁷ At Trent, Luther argued against canonizing Maccabees, and the RC church responded by canonizing the apocrypha. (Wegner, 126)

- Did the Protestant church _____ books from the Bible? , the Catholic Church _____ some of the apocrypha.
 - Seven of these books are called “Deutero-Canonical” (literally “Second Canon”) and are recognized as inspired and on the same level as Scripture by the Catholic Church.
 - Tobit, Baruch, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, 1-2 Maccabees
 - Other apocryphal books they do not consider as inspired and part of the canon
- This ultimately is a question of _____ - does the church establish the canon or does it recognize it.
 - Protestants say that Scripture is the authority, and not the church (Sola Scriptura)
- Protestant Church consensus is that they are not canonical
 - Westminster Confession of Faith “The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the Canon of Scripture; and therefore are of no authority in the church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings.”
 - No NT passage quotes any apocryphal books as _____⁸, yet some apocryphal books do say that about the OT canon.
 - No apocryphal book can be dated earlier than the 4th century AD, so church father influence can’t be ruled out
 - Many contain historical errors⁹
 - Many contain unorthodox doctrines
 - 2 Maccabees 12:44-45 supports purgatory and praying for the dead¹⁰
 - 11 out of 15 have Scriptural inaccuracies
- Bottom Line: The OT canon is extremely historically _____.

⁸ Jude 14-15 appears to allude to Enoch, but it is not authoritatively quoted as Scripture

⁹ Wegner writes “For example, the events of Tobit 1:3-5 are chronologically incompatible - Tobit is said to live in Ninevah in 772BC and he also saw the division of the united kingdom in 931 BC.” 126

¹⁰ Which is why the RCC keeps them in their canon - “For if he had not hoped that they that were slain should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead. And also in that he perceived that there was great favour laid up for those that died godly, it was an holy and good thought. Whereupon he made a reconciliation for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.”

(2 Maccabees 12:43-45 KJVA)