

Ascent 2 – Where did the Bible Come From?

A Good Question!

What We Will Discuss

- Old Testament (briefly)
- New Testament & full Biblical canon
- Apocrypha (briefly)
- How we got our Bible today (e.g., in English)

What We Will Not Discuss

- Inerrancy
- Authorship, etc.

What We Know

- God is Sovereign Over All!

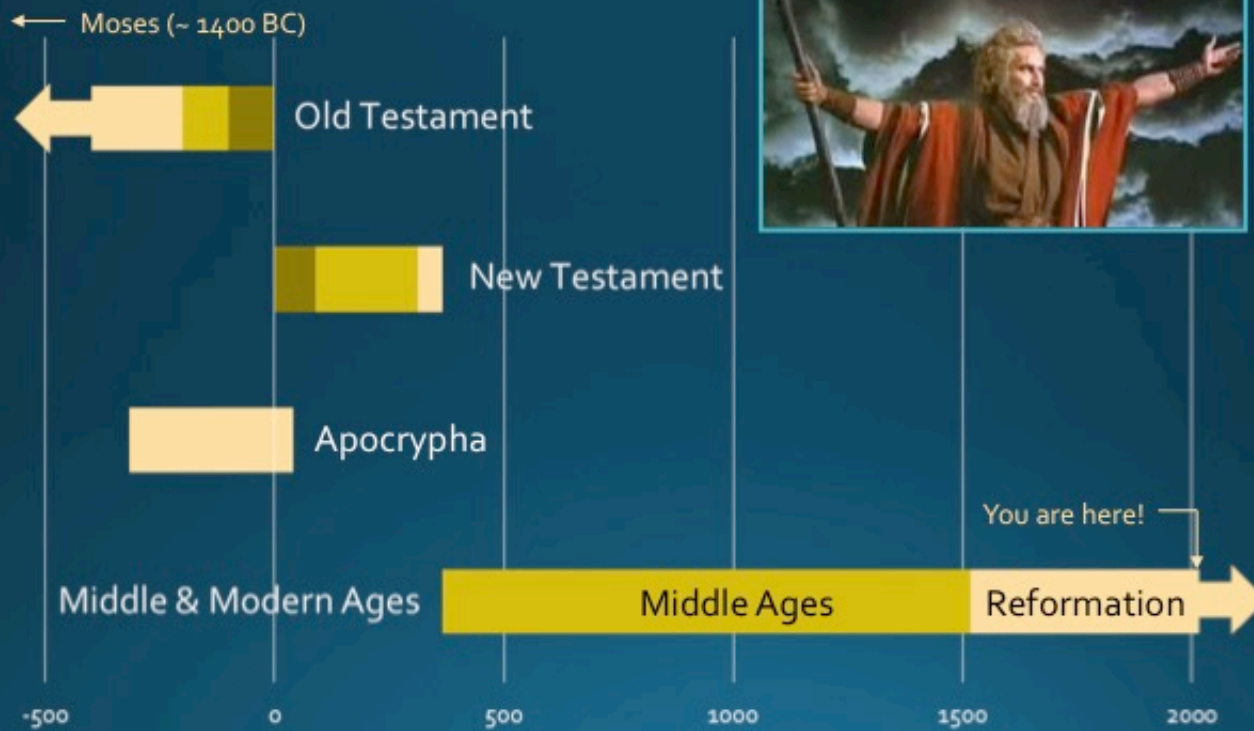
The Old Testament

- 39 Books
- Written over ~1,200 years
- Creation of the world and man; man's Fall; God's Law; and the expanding history of revelation
- Amazingly consistent in content despite various times, authors, & literary types

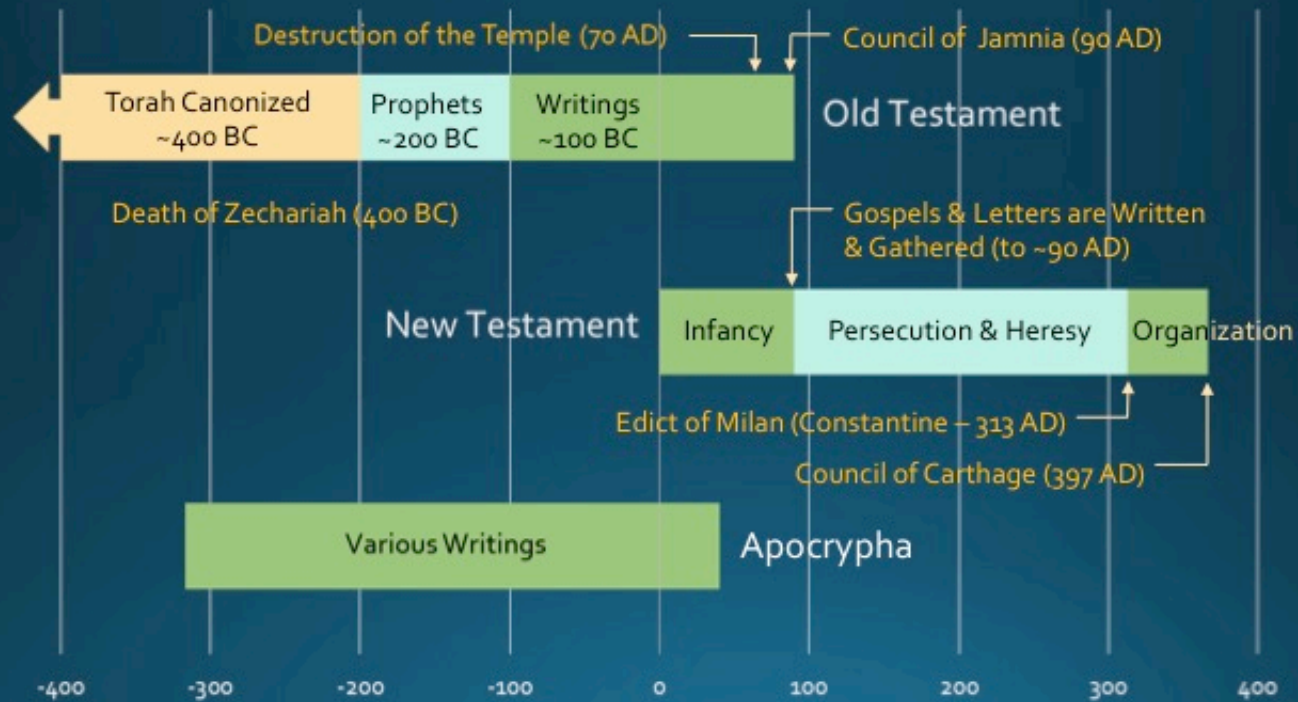
The New Testament

- 27 Books
- Written over ~60 years after the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Testimony that what was written in the OT was true and was fulfilled completely in God's Word Made Flesh
- Jesus' ministry; the founding & early years of the church; admonitions, instructions, and ultimate hope on how to live as one of Jesus's disciples in a world that was/is hostile to Him, His message, and, by extension to us

Bible Development



Bible Development



The Old Testament

Torah (Canonized ~400 BC)

- Beresheet (בְּרֵאשִׁית, literally "In the beginning") - Genesis
- Shemot (שְׁמוֹת, literally "Names") - Exodus
- Vayikra (וַיִּקְרָא, literally "And He called") - Leviticus
- Bəmidbar (בְּמִדְבָּר, literally "In the desert [of]") - Numbers
- Devarim (דְּבָרִים, literally "Things" or "Words") - Deuteronomy

Prophets (Canonized ~200 BC)

- Yěhōshúa' (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ) - Joshua
- Shophtim (שופטים) - Judges
- Shmū'ēl (שְׁמוּאֵל) - I & II Samuel
- M'lakhim (מלכים) - I & II Kings
- Yěsha'āyāhū (יְשַׁעְיָהוּ) - Isaiah
- Yirmyāhū (יִרְמְיָהוּ) - Jeremiah
- Yěkhezqiēl (יְחֶזְקִיֵּאל) - Ezekiel
- The Twelve Minor Prophets (עשר תרי, *Trei Asar*, "The Twelve") are considered one book

The Writings (Canonized ~100 BC)

- Tehillim (תְּהִלִּים) - Psalms
- Mishlei (מִשְׁלֵי) - Proverbs
- Iyyōbh (אֵיּוֹב) - Job
- Shīr Hashīrīm (שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים) - Song of Songs or Song of Solomon
- Rūth (רוּת) - Ruth
- Eikhah (אֵיכָה) - Lamentations
- Qōheleth (קֹהֵלֶת) - Ecclesiastes
- Estēr (אֶסְתֵּר) - Esther
- Dānī'ēl (דָּנִיֵּאל) - Daniel
- 'Ezrā (עֶזְרָא) - Ezra & Nehemiah
- Divrei ha-Yamim (דְּבָרֵי יָמִים) - I & II Chronicles

New Testament

Background

- Words & teaching of Jesus are collected & preserved (4 gospels)
- NT writings are completed, ending with Revelation by John ~90 AD

- Although looking for the Lord's return, yet had to contend with realities brought by the destruction of the Temple & the early home of the faith
- New generation of church leaders succeeds the apostles (Apostolic Fathers)
- External Pressures (Apologists)
 - Persecution
 - Pagan Intellectuals
- Internal Pressures (Polemicists)
 - Heresy
- The Gospel is begins to spread across the Empire

Early Christianity in the Eastern Mediterranean

AD112

Christianity at the time of Pliny's Letter to Trajan

KEY

- Light spread of Christianity
- Medium spread of Christianity
- Heavy spread of Christianity
- River
- Main City
- Other Cities

ROLL OVER OTHER CITIES & RIVERS FOR NAMES



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The Early Church Responds

Apologists & Polemicists

- Much of the early church's time & efforts
- Up to about 200 AD

Better Organization

- Vital, but increased power to the bishops

Establishment of Creeds & Confessions

- Test of orthodoxy
- Apostle's Creed, among others, are from this time

Development of a Canon

- Agreed upon Books that the Church could rally around & defend
- Considered authoritative & final resting spot, the Word of God & not a man

Early Heresies

Possibly Greater Threat Than Persecution

Sample of Heresies

- Gnosticism
 - A kind of New Age movement that claimed special knowledge
- Marcionism
 - An attempt to reduce the Scriptures--both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures -- to a few select books while adding their own
- Ebionism
 - In an attempt to retain a "true" monotheism, it rejected the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, and the efficacy of His suffering. Jesus could not be God & there was no Trinity
- Docetism
 - Jesus only *seemed* to possess a physical body, so He only *seemed* to be crucified
- Montanism
 - A charismatic movement that got carried away with new revelations, prophecies, and judgmental attitudes toward other Christians.
- Arianism
 - Similar to Ebionism but lasted longer. Jesus was a created creature.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

Early Christianity in the Roman World

AD250

Christianity at the time of the Decian Persecution

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Acceptance of NT Books

By 200 AD Most Churches Accepted:

- Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul
- 1 Peter
- 1 John
- Revelation (of John)
- Revelation (Apocalypse) of Peter*
- Shepherd of Hermas*

Under Consideration But Not Yet Fully Accepted:

- Hebrews
- James
- II Peter
- II John
- III John
- Jude

* Later rejected

How was the Word Developed?

Revelation

- The content of God's truth as it was revealed to the OT & NT authors of Scripture
- Revelation is a one-way street; without which we would know nothing of Him at all!

Inspiration

- The accurate transmission of that content to men, includes verbally and written form (2Tim 3:16-17; 2Pet 1:20, 21)

Canonization

- The recognition and collection of those inspired books into an agreed upon collection, the "canon," the Bible

Illumination

- The understanding of the Bible's message. This is primarily an action that occurs only in the lives of believers (1Cor 2:12-13)

So What About That List of Books?

The "Canon"

The Tests for Canonicity

- Is the work authoritative?
- Is the work apostolic?
- Is the work consistent with other, accepted & non-controversial works?
- Is the edifying to God's people?
- How long has the work been around, and has it been accepted the various churches for a long period of time?

How the Canon was Formed (Reasons)

Six Factors Led to the Development of the Canon

1. By 100 AD the apostles were gone; verbal traditions & teaching were becoming corrupt
2. Scripture was read in the services – which were considered authoritative to do so?
3. Heresies (Marcion, Arain) were modifying & adding to the original writings
4. Some claimed ongoing revelation, often contradicting the original writings
5. NT apocryphal writing were appearing
6. Persecution

How the Canon was Formed (Steps)

Highlights that Led to the Full Canon

1. OT already accepted (see previous slides, plus NT refers to OT as "scripture", i.e., Mat 21:42)
2. Apostles claimed authority for their writings (1Th 5:27)
3. Apostles writings were equated with OT scripture (2Pe 3:2; 15-16)
4. Heretical teachings forced the church to consider what books were authoritative
5. Easter Letter of Athanasius (AD 367)

Council of Carthage (AD 397)

Athanasius

A Highly Influential Early Church Father

- Lived ~296 to 373 AD
- 12th Bishop of Alexandria
 - Served for 45 years

- 17 years in 5 exiles, ordered by 4 Roman emperors!
- Stood against Arianism & emperors

Highly Respected in His Time & After

- Honored by Coptic, Eastern, & Western Churches
- Protestant & Roman Catholic churches, as well
- “Father of the Canon” & “Father of Orthodoxy”
- His milestone “Festal Letter” to the greater church in 367 AD contained the 27 Books of the NT
- This list later confirmed by the Council of Carthage in 397 AD
- Did not *create* the NT, but recognized what was already recognized

AD 100	AD 200	AD 250	AD 300	AD 367/397
NT written, partially collected. Some early Fathers already quote from the Gospels & some of Paul's letters.	NT Used by the Church in Rome	NT Used by Origen	NT Used by Eusebius	Athenasius & Council/Carthage
	<i>4 Gospels (Matt., Mark, Luke, Jn)</i>	<i>All from previous list, plus: 1 Peter</i>	<i>All from previous list</i>	<i>All 27 Books of the NT</i>
	Acts	DISPUTED	DISPUTED (but honored)	EXCLUDED
	Romans	Hebrews	James	Shepherd of Hermas
	I/II Corinthians	James	II Peter	Letter of Barnabas
	Galatians	2 Peter	II/III John	Teaching of 12 Apostles
	Ephesians	II/III John	Jude	Gospel of the Hebrews
	Philippians	Jude	DISPUTED (questionable)	Revelation (Peter)
	Colossians	Shepherd of Hermas	Shepherd of Hermas	Wisdom of Solomon
	I/II Thessalonians	Letter of Barnabas	Letter of Barnabas	Acts of Peter
	I/II Timothy	Teaching of 12 Apostles	Teaching of 12 Apostles	Others
	Titus	Gospel of the Hebrews	Gospel of the Hebrews	
	Philemon	Revelation (Peter)	Revelation (Peter)	
	James	Wisdom of Solomon	Wisdom of Solomon	

	I/II John		Acts of Peter	
	Jude		Others	
	Revelation (John)			
	Revelation (Peter)			
	Wisdom of Solomon			
	DISPUTED			
	Shepherd of Hermas			

Early Christianity in Asia, Africa and Europe

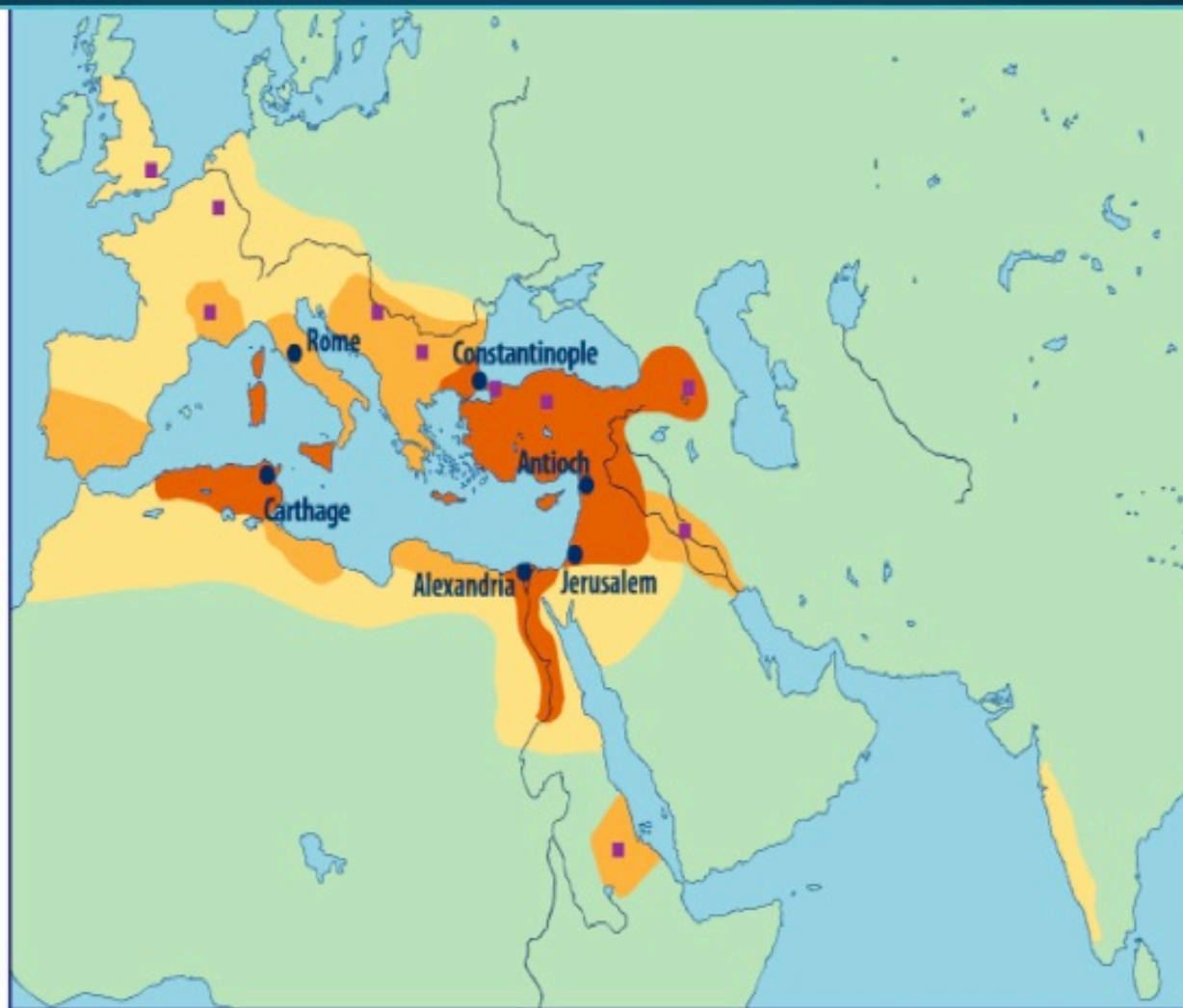
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Christianity at the time of Gothic and Germanic invasions

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The Apocrypha

Extra-Biblical Books

- Accepted by RC Church as “Second Canon” (1546) but not by Protestants
- Often contradict the OT
- Fail one or more of the tests for canonicity
- Claim other knowledge about the Messiah outside of the Gospels
- Never quoted as authoritative in NT
- Many were Gnostic in nature

List of Books

- Letter of Jeremiah (317 BC)
- Tobit (250-175 BC)
- Baruch (200 BC-70 AD)
- Ecclesiasticus (190 BC)
- Additions to Esther (180-145 BC)
- Judith (175-110 BC)
- Song of the Three Children (167-163 BC)
- 1 Esdras (150 BC)
- Bel and the Dragon (150-100 BC)
- Prayer of Manasseh (150-50 BC)
- Wisdom of Solomon (150 BC-40 AD)
- 1 Maccabees (103-63 BC)
- 2 Maccabees (100 BC)
- Susanna (100 BC)
- 2 Esdras (70-135 AD)

Our Bible Today (English Version)

Gospel Arrives in England ~300 AD

England was More Difficult for Rome to Control

- For 1100 years the Bible was the sole purview of the Church

Early Partial Translations

- Aldhelm of Sherbourne (709)

- Venerable Bede (735)
- Alfred the Great (871-901)
- Aldred, Bishop of Durham (950)
- Aelfric (955-1020)

Our Bible Today (English Version)

Norman Conquest (1066)

Lollards Make First Full English Translation (1382)

- Followers of Wycliffe
- Bible is banned & burned
- Illegal stating in 1408

The Tide Turns

- Gutenberg Invents the Printing Press (1455)
- Martin Luther & the *95 Theses* (1517)
- Luther Translates to German (1522)
- William Tyndale to English 1535
- Other translations follow

Our Bible Today (English Version)

Illegal Again Under Mary I (1555)

- Geneva Bible (1560) – first study Bible

Queen Elizabeth I

- Bishop's Bible (1568) – 1st by Church of England

King James I

- Authorized Version (1611)

New Translations & Updated Version

- Huge number of manuscripts uncovered since 1800

Earliest is John at ~110 AD, an unheard of date

Summary Thoughts

The Cost Paid to Have the Bible in Our Hands

- Recommended Reading: *Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World* (1563)
- Final words from the Apostle Paul (2Ti 2:12-4:22)

Questions?