

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

ORIGINS OF THE CANON PART ONE

Lesson 11

Biblical-Literacy.com

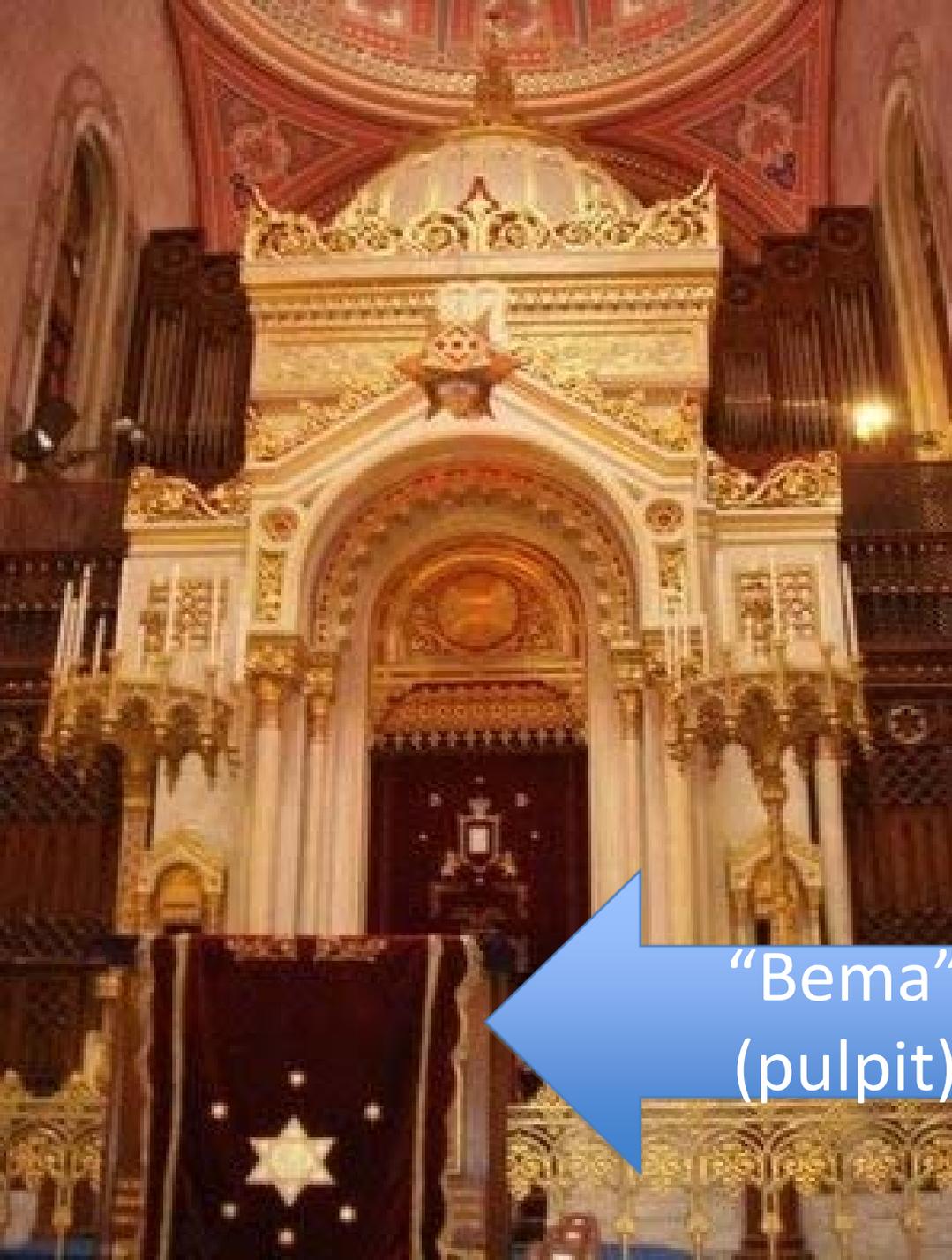
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The Synagogue



← Cabinet with
scrolls

The Synagogue



“Bema”
(pulpit)









Why such
reverence?

The Christian cannon



The Christian's Canon



The Church's canon

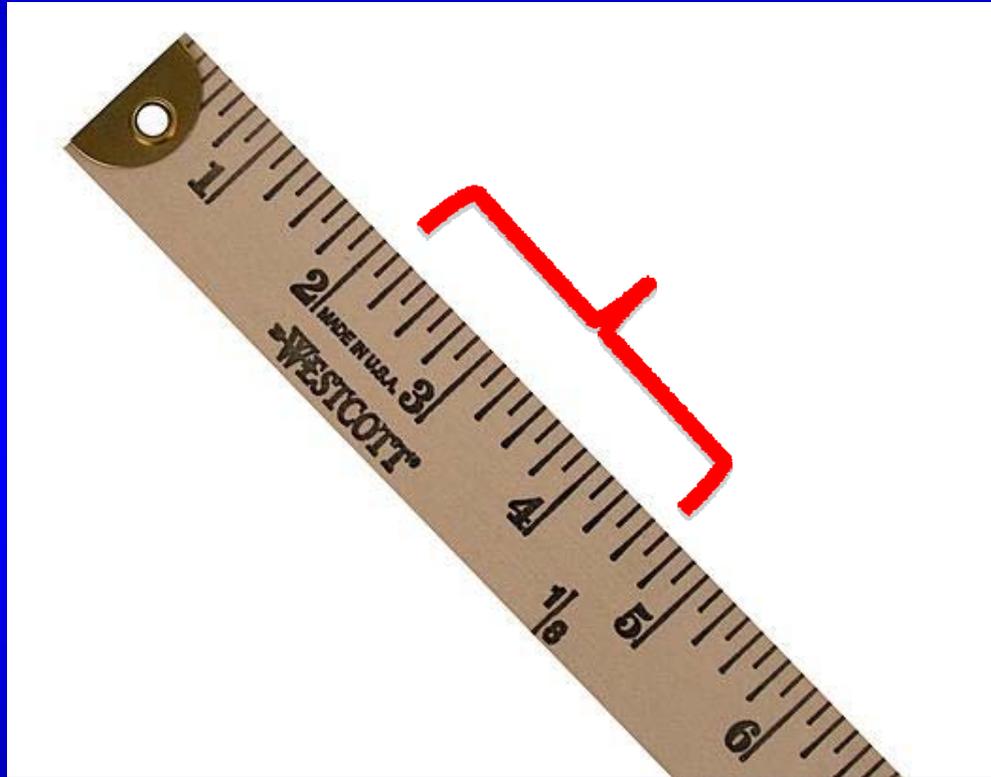


“Canon” comes from “k” “n” “h”



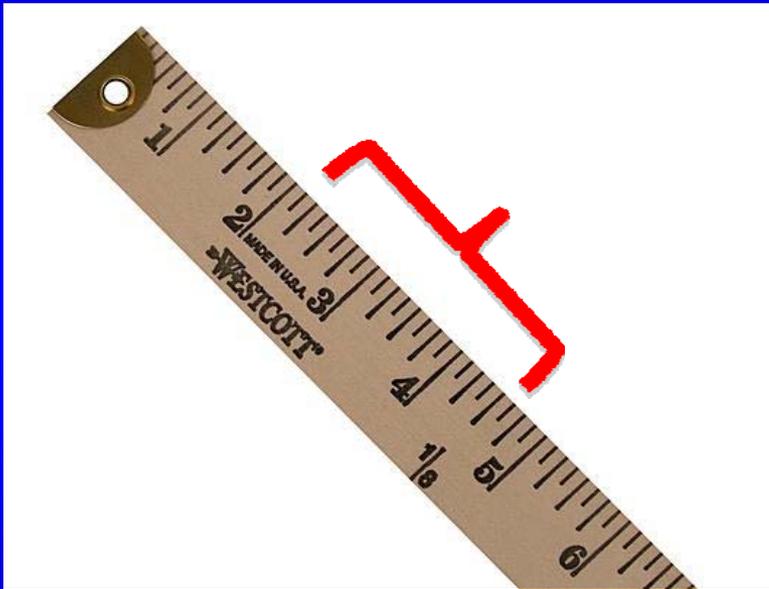
These are the core letters for “reeds”

“Canon” comes from “k” “n” “h”

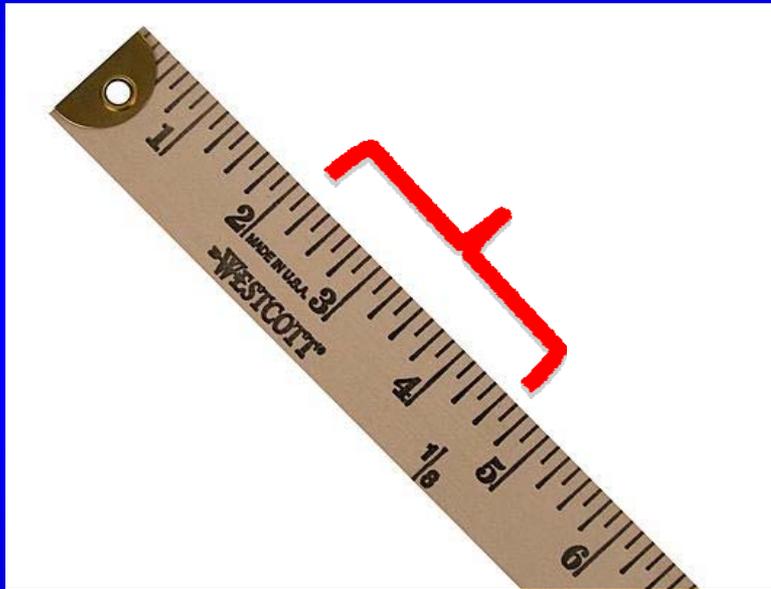


The letters came to be used for the measurement marks on a measuring rod

So in the context of
Christianity ...

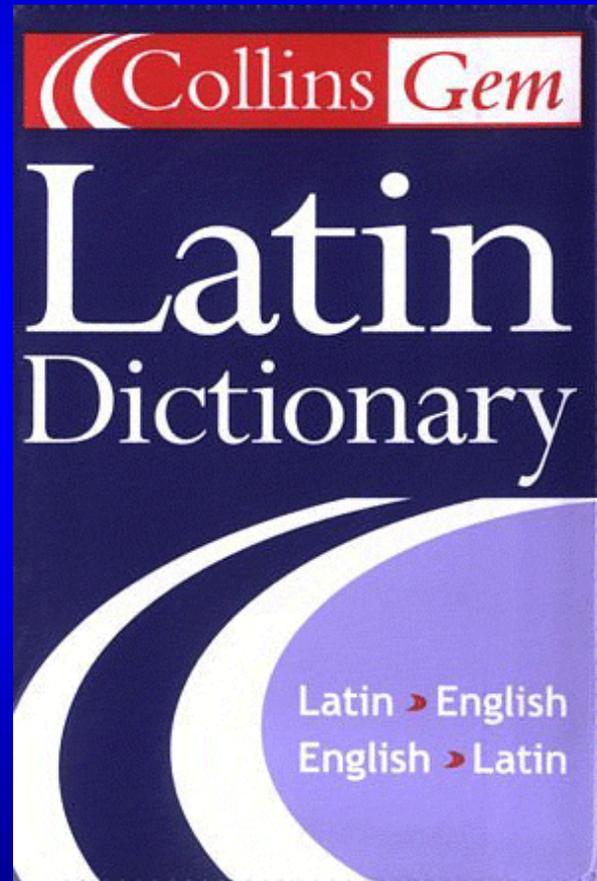


So in the context of Christianity ...

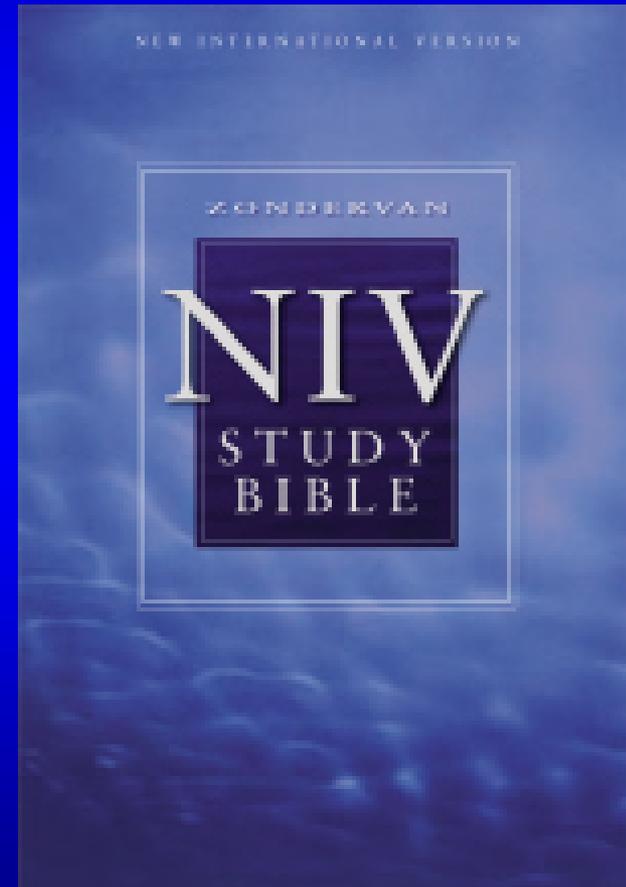
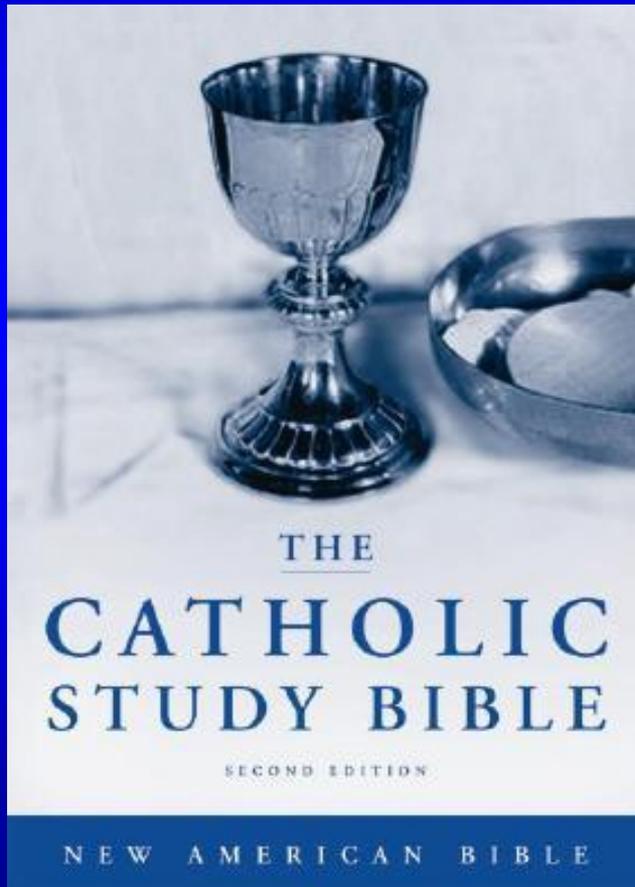


“Canon” are the writings that measure and define our faith (the Bible)

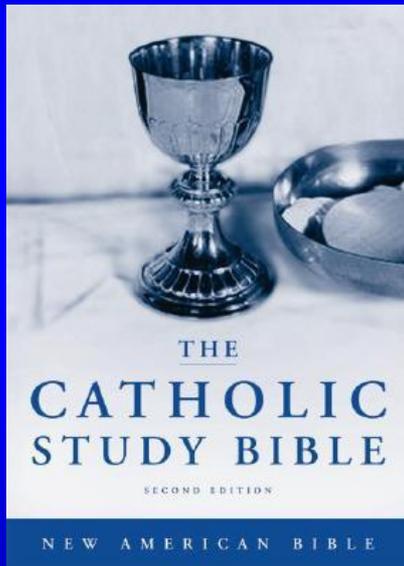
Our word “Bible” comes from the Latin *biblia* meaning “books”



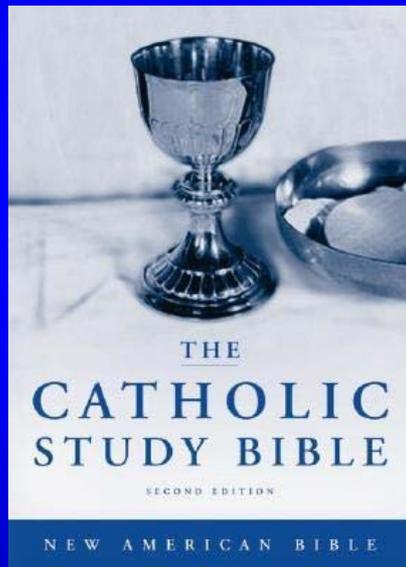
There are two main Christian canons



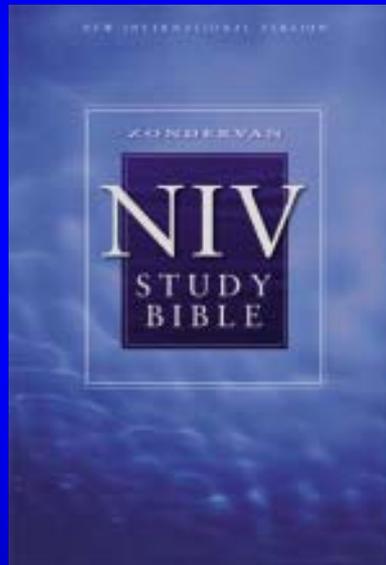
The Catholic Bible is the NIV plus the “Apocrypha”



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=



+



Both Catholic and Protestant
traditionally view their scriptures as
“canons”

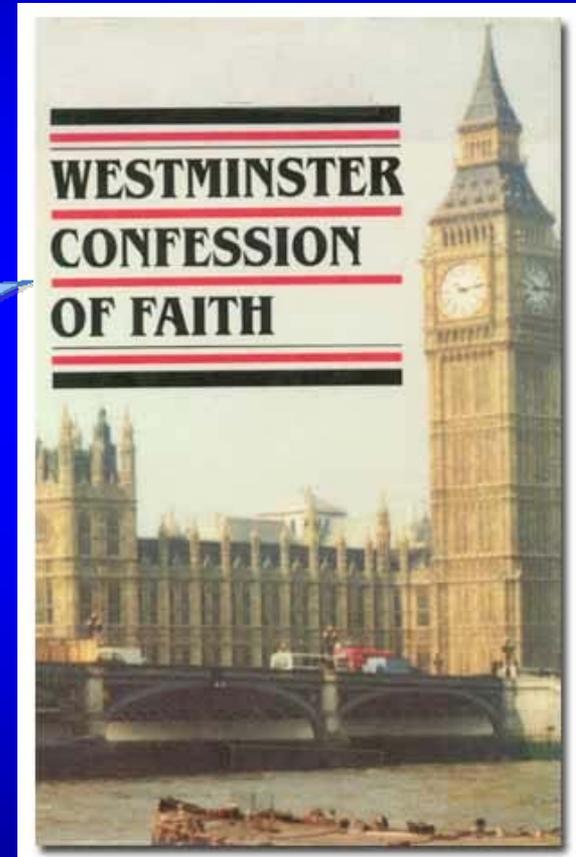
“Canonical scripture
alone is the *rule*
(*canon*) of faith”



St. Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274)

Both Catholic and Protestant
traditionally view their scriptures as
“canons”

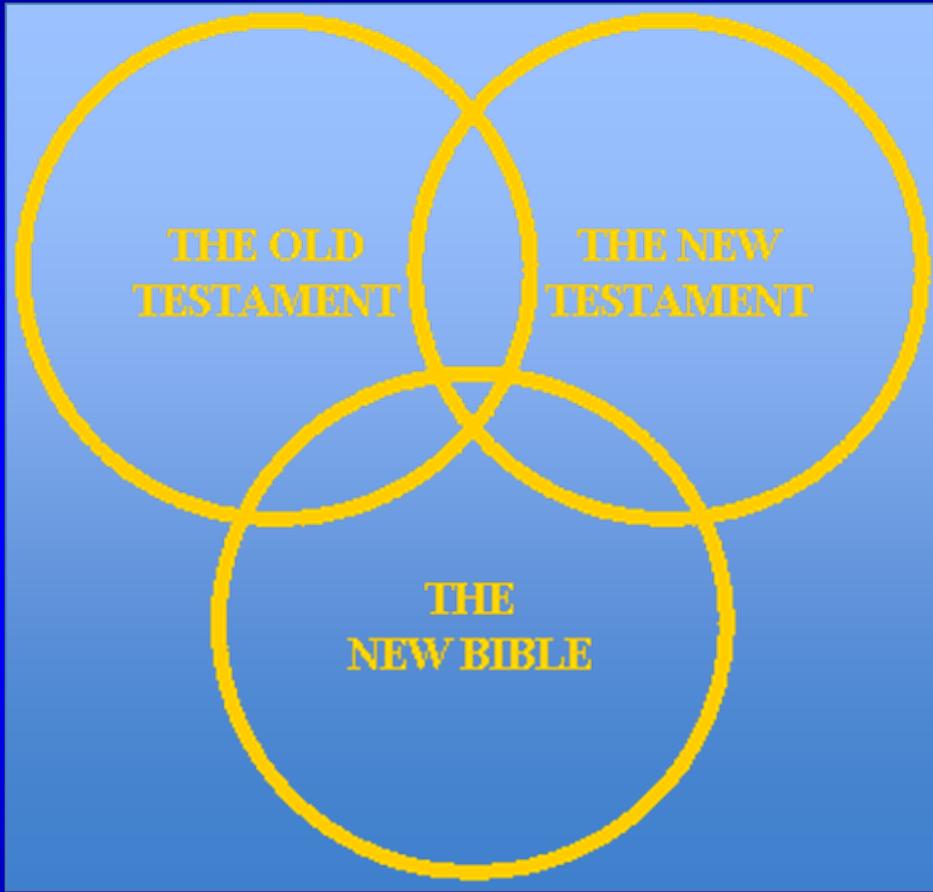
“66 Books of the
canon are all “given
by inspiration of God
to be the *rule and
faith of life*””



(1647)

This week: Old Testament

Next week: New Testament



Where do we get
the words:
“Old Testament”
“New Testament”

Scripture speaks of the “first” and “new” covenants



“Christ is the mediator of a *new covenant*
... He has died to set them free from the
sins under the *first covenant*” (Heb. 9:15)

The Greek for covenant is *diatheke*

A *diatheke* (“covenant”) was also what we would call a “will”



In Latin it is an “*instrumentum*” or “*testamentum*”

Tertullian, the lawyer turned theologian termed the covenants the “Old” and “New” Testaments

I know the legal
name for this!



(Ca. 155 – 230)

The Old Testament before Christ were scrolls, not “books”



The Old Testament before Christ were scrolls, not “books”



Five scrolls were “the Law” (*Torah*)



“Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers,
Deuteronomy”

Five scrolls were “the Law” (“*Torah*”)



The greatest commandment in the *Torah*:
Love the Lord your God with all your heart...

The remaining scrolls were “the Prophets” and the “Other Writings”



“Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers,
Deuteronomy”

In 331 B.C. the world's largest library was in Alexandria Egypt

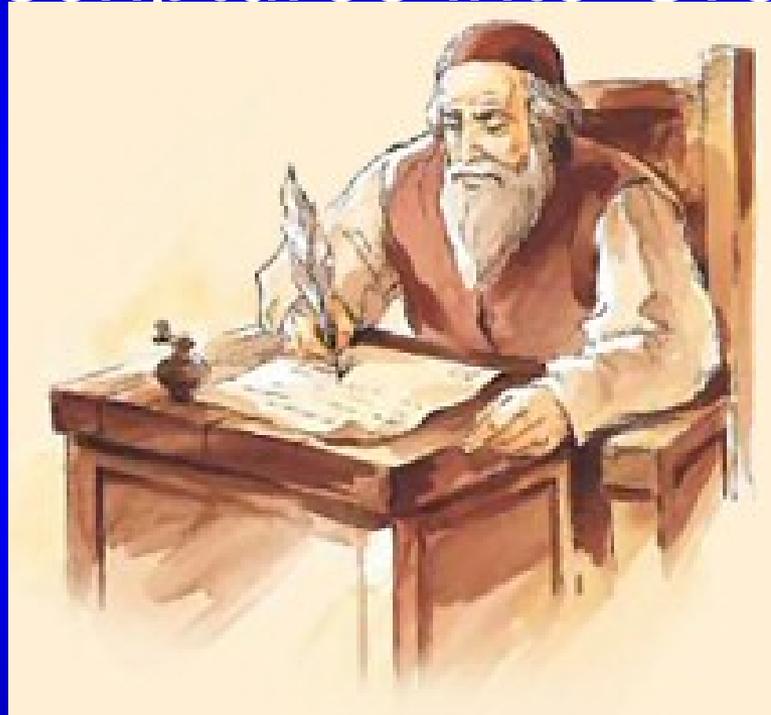


In 331 B.C. the world's largest library was in Alexandria Egypt



Alexandria also had a huge Jewish population

Tradition says 72 Jewish scholars in Alexandria translated the Jewish scriptures into Greek



“LXX” is Latin for 70 (pronounced “Septuaginta”) This is the name and abbreviation for the Greek translation

The Earliest churches used the Septuagint for their scriptures



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- Isaiah 7:14 speaks of an *almah* giving birth

The Earliest churches used the Septuagint for their scriptures



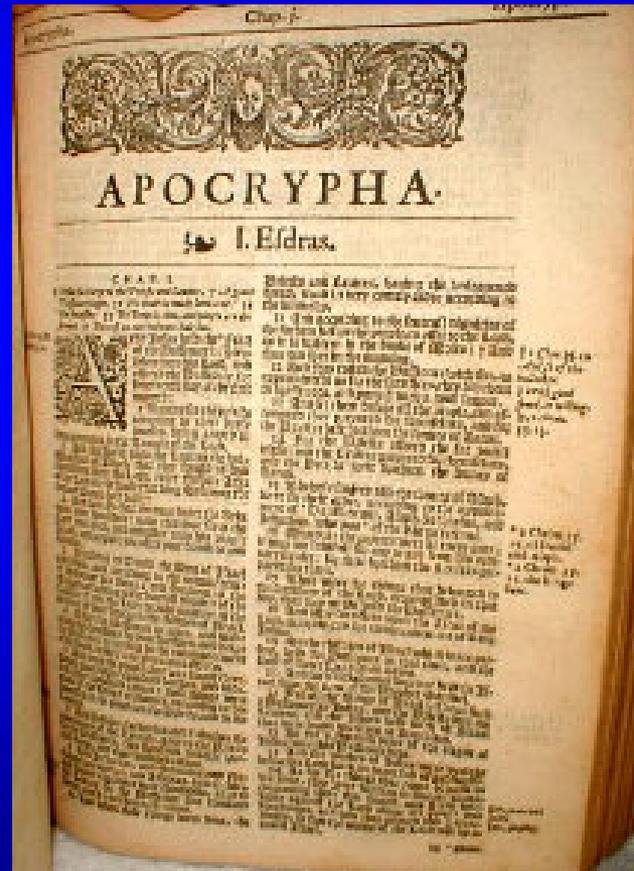
- Isaiah 7:14 speaks of an *almah* giving birth
- The Jews translated that into a *parthenos* in the Greek

The Earliest churches used the Septuagint for their scriptures



- Isaiah 7:14 speaks of an *almah* giving birth
- The Jews translated that into a *parthenos* in the Greek
- The English of the Hebrew is “virgin” or “young maiden”, but the Greek must mean a “virgin”

The Apocrypha are 12-15 “hidden” books



Luther removed them
from the canon
because



Luther removed them
from the canon
because



- Not in Hebrew canon

Luther removed them
from the canon
because



- Not in Hebrew canon
- Not referred to by Jesus

Luther removed them from the canon because



- Not in Hebrew canon
- Not referred to by Jesus
- Not quoted by New Testament writers

Luther removed them from the canon because



- Not in Hebrew canon
- Not referred to by Jesus
- Not quoted by New Testament writers
- Not included by early Roman Catholic scholars

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



First came the “Law” and it was put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Second came the four “former prophets” also put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Second came the four “former prophets” also put into chronological order

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How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Second came the four “former prophets” also put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Third came the four “latter prophets” also put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Isaiah

Third came the four “latter prophets” also put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



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Third came the four “latter prophets” also put into chronological order

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?



Last came the 11 “other writings”

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?

- Psalms



Last came the 11 “other writings”

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?

- Psalms
- Proverbs



Last came the 11 “other writings”

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?

- Psalms
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- Job



Last came the 11 “other writings”

How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?

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- Song of Solomon



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How were the scrolls of the Old Testament ordered when put into book form?

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- Lam.



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- Eccl.

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- Eccl.
- Esther

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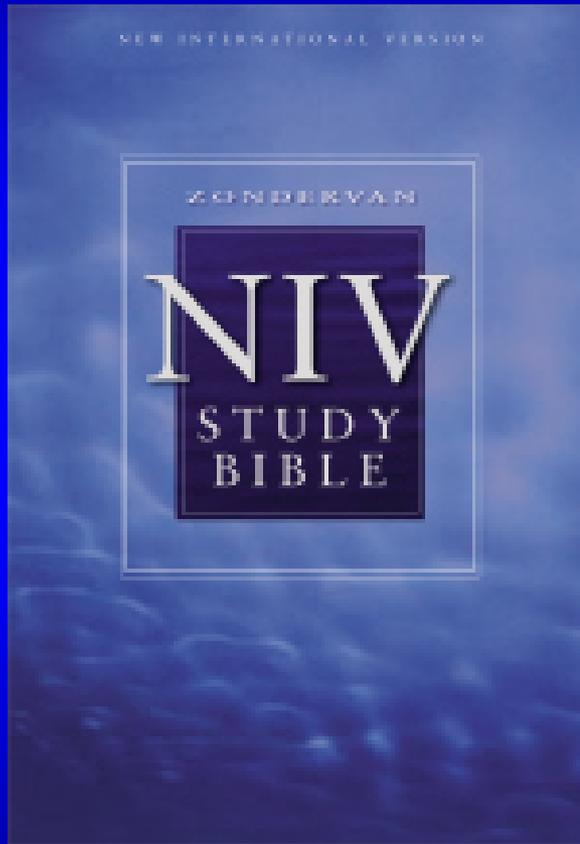
- Eccl.
- Esther
- Daniel
- Ezra/Neh
- Chron.

Last came the 11 “other writings”

In the Hebrew Bible, it is Genesis to Chronicles!



Jesus: “This generation shall be responsible for the
blood of all the prophets from Abel to Zechariah”



The Christian order is from the Septuagint with Narrative books in chronological order followed by the “other books” then the prophets

The Old Testament is a witness to Christ!



“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Mt 5:17)

Points for Home

1. We have a rich heritage in scripture.
“The grass withers, and flowers fade,
but the word of our God stands
forever.” Isaiah 40:8

Points for Home

2. God has worked through many in history to secure us his inspired word. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Points for Home

3. We are remiss if we fail to take time to study this treasure we have. “Do your best (study) to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15