

Old Testament Survey

Week 1: Overview

Overview of the Old Testament

2 Timothy 3:16

1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Romans 15:4

Overview of the Old Testament

- Consists of 39 books
- Divided up into three parts: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

Christ called it the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Luke 24:44).

- The Old Testament is sometimes referred to as the Law and the Prophets (Luke 16:16)

Sometimes the phrase “Law” refers to the entire Old Testament (John 10:34, 12:34, 15:25)

Overview of the Old Testament

Important things to remember when reading and studying the Old Testament:

1. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.
2. The Old Testament is primarily written to Jews, not Gentiles nor Christians (see 1 Corinthians 10:32)
3. The Old Testament is a history of the kingdom of heaven while the New Testament is the history of the kingdom of God.

Two Kingdoms

The Kingdom of Heaven

The kingdom of heaven is a literal, visible, physical, earthly, Jewish, Davidic Kingdom headed up at Jerusalem by a king. Just as heaven is physical and visible, so is this kingdom. It existed before Jesus Christ according to the Lord himself (Acts 1:3-8). The throne of the LORD is David's throne (1 Chronicles 29:22-23).

* The kingdom of heaven is not *heaven*

The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is an invisible, spiritual kingdom. You must be born again to enter or see this kingdom (John 3:3-5). Just as God is a Spirit, so this kingdom is *spiritual*. The kingdom of God is you in Christ and Christ in you (Luke 17:20-21, Colossians 1:26-27, Romans 14:17); you in the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost in you.

Two Kingdoms

There was a two-fold work Jesus was to fulfill: The first was to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21), the second was to reinstate the kingdom of heaven back to Israel (Luke 1:30-33, Isaiah 9:6-7).

Have you ever noticed how the Old Testament and New Testament are pretty different? Have you ever noticed how the Old Testament emphasizes the physical and the “here and now” while the New Testament emphasizes the spiritual and the “here after?” This is for several reasons.

[View Charts](#)

The Canon of Scripture

The word “canon” means “a reed or measuring rod; that which measures.”

The Bible is the means by which we measure and judge all things. In the day of judgment the Bible will be used as the measuring rod

- John 12:48, Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 20:11-15

The Canon of Scripture

“Believe every word of that book”

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

– Psalm 11:3

See Isaiah 34:16 (John 5:39, Acts 17:11-12).

The Canon of Scripture

The 3 Spiritual Foundations in the Bible:

1. Jesus Christ (Isaiah 28:16, 1 Corinthians 3:11)
2. The Holy Scriptures (Ephesians 2:20)
3. Doctrine (Hebrews 6:1-3)

4. See Daniel 10:21, John 17:17.

The Canon of Scripture

What saith the Scripture?

It is truth (1st Appearance) Daniel 10:21 (John 17:17, Psalm 119:43)

It is magnified above all of God's name (Psalm 138:2)

It is right (Psalm 33:4)

The Scripture cannot be broken, God binds himself to it (John 10:35)

The Scripture must be fulfilled (Mark 14:49, Luke 24:46)

The Scripture will judge you at the last day (John 12:48)

We are to study and rightly divide the Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15)

Don't add or take away from it (Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19)

You are to live by the Scripture (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

The Scripture effectually works in those that believe it (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

It is given by God (2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

God promised to preserve his word (Psalm 12:6-7, Matthew 5:17-18)

The Canon of Scripture

What saith the Scripture continued...

Copies of the Scripture are still the word of God and authoritative (Luke 4:16-21)

The Lord speaks to us through the Scriptures (Matthew 22:29-32 and Mark 12:24-27)

John 5:37-38 Hearing God's voice and his [written] word abiding in you.

The written Scriptures are the word of God (John 10:34-36)

Paul was a Bible Believer (Acts 24:14-16)

Determining The Canon

1 Corinthians 2:5

Your faith shall not stand in the wisdom of men

Science (1 Timothy 6:20) and Philosophy (Colossians 2:8)
but in the power of God.

We understand through faith (Hebrews 11:3)

*Everyone, even the wicked, exercise faith; just not necessarily in the same things.

Determining The Canon

IMPORTANT:

You cannot determine with **ABSOLUTE** certainty the canon of scripture using man's wisdom (Psalm 77:19, John 3:8).

The Bible does say that to the Jews were given the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-2) and their Hebrew Bible matches our Old Testament. They reject the apocryphal writings like all Christians should.

Determining The Canon

God promised to preserve his word (Psalm 12:6-7). How he did it? NOBODY knows. There is evidence for and against everything under the sun. It is a matter of faith.

Examples of God preserving his word:

- Jeremiah 36, the ten commandments

Determining The Canon

- Jesus authorized the OT canon in Luke 11:51
- NT writers quote extensively from the Old Testament
- The book of Isaiah is a type of the canon of scripture.
- The Holy Ghost testifies of the King James Bible

Determining The Canon

The Difference between the Bible Believer and everyone else

The Bible Believer

1. History, scholarship, and tradition are no authority
2. Scriptural quotations are sufficient to resolve the issue
3. Uses Scriptural Terminology and clear positional proof texts
4. God preserved his inspired word

Everyone Else

1. History, scholarship, and tradition are authoritative
2. Scriptural quotations are *not* sufficient to resolve the issue
3. Uses extra-scriptural terminology and no clear positional proof texts
4. Men preserved God's un-inspired word, almost (Bible as is today not wholly inspired, Bible book of men)

*It will always come down to what you do with that Book.

Determining The Canon

There is no such thing as the “originals” or “original autographs.” No one within the last 2000 years has seen an original text.

-Also, you would not know if you had an “original” because it is not going to say original. You would never know beyond any doubt if you actually had the original Isaiah etc.

-2 Sets of the Commandments, Two copies of Jeremiah (the later more was added to it, Jeremiah 36)

There is no unified, uniform, and single Greek text. There are two lines of Bibles: Syriac and Alexandrian lines. So when someone says, The Greek says, they are being misleading.

The term Scripture in the Bible *never* refers to the original autographs.

A Translation from one language to the other can be rightfully called Scripture.