

The Bible: How Did We Get The Old Testament?

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The Old Testament (Covenant)

What is it, do we need it, why do we need it?

- It's the 1st part of the story of God's redemption via Jesus.
- Things in Revelation (20:10) begin in Genesis. (3:15).
- Creation, Fall, Abraham, Law, Land, Foretell of a Redeemer.
- Writing spans over 1000 years (1446 – 430BC).
- God told Moses to written down their victory of Amalek.
Ex. 17:14 = record God's work with and through Israel.
- Deut. 31:24-36 – The Law was to remain by the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder.

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The Old Testament (Covenant)

- Believe that Moses began to write the first 5 books of the OT sometime during the Exodus and before Mt. Sinai.
- Gen. 1 & 2 is more concerned with theology than geology.
- First 5 books = Torah or Law (Pentateuch), Jesus calls these the Book of Moses in Mark 12:26-29.
- After Moses there were other writers, prophets, kings, chroniclers, priests, etc. & they continued to write.
- Kings (Duet. 17:18) were to keep a copy of the law at the throne to guide them in their decisions.
- He was to write it under the oversight of the priest.

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The Old Testament (Covenant)
Jewish Bible

- 24 books as written on 24 scrolls from ancient times.
- Organized into 3 sections:
 - Torah (Law) – first 5 books; same order as our Old Testament.
 - Nevi'im – Prophets
 - Ketuvim – Writings (Sometimes called the Psalms)
 - T N K = TaNaKh (Ta-Knock)

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The Hebrew Bible (Tanakh)

The Law	The Prophets	The Writings
Torah (Pentateuch) Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel (1 & 2) Kings (1 & 2) Latter Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel The Twelve Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zachariah Malachi	Poetry Psalms Proverbs Job Five Rolls Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Esther Ecclesiastes History Daniel Ezra-Nehemiah Chronicles (1 & 2)

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The Old Testament (Covenant)

- The words of God's people changed, God's Word did not.
- The oldest intact OT writings were from around 1000AD.
- Many thought they had been corrupted; human error.
- That changed in 1947 with the Dead Sea Scrolls (900 documents) were discovered.
- Qumran sect who had isolated themselves from the rest of the Hebrew people – purity in life to the TaNaKh.
- Scrolls were hidden and unknown until 1947.
- When analyzed it was obvious the OT text remained stable over many years.

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The Old Testament (Covenant)

- A complete scroll of Isaiah was dated to 100 years before Jesus was born.
- The wording on this scroll of Isaiah agrees in almost every detail with the Masoretic Text copied 1000 years later.
- Over the course of 1000+ years of hand copying, the text of Isaiah had remained virtually unchanged.
- In other texts, minor copying errors/variations were observed but **none** of these had **any affect** on anything we believe about God or about His work in the world.

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Which Books Belong In The Old Testament

Canon of Scripture:

- A reed was cut into specific lengths and used as a measuring stick and was used to measure limits.
- The canon of scripture is the limit of inspired Scripture and is referred to as 'protocanonical' or inspired OT Scripture.
- Israel understood that there were no new speaking or writing prophets after Malachi, written c. 400 BC.
- The **next prophet** given to Israel was John the Baptist to announce the coming of the Messiah.

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Preservation Of The Old Testament

The Jewish scribes solidified the following process for creating copies of the entire OT:

- They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on and bind the manuscripts.
- Each column of writing could have no less than 48 and no more than 60 lines. **"Do Not Disturb" even by a king.**
- The ink must be black of a special recipe.
- They must verbalize each word aloud while writing.
- They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.

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Preservation Of The Old Testament

- There must be a review within 30 days, and if as many as 3 pages required corrections, entire manuscript = redone!
- The letters, words, & paragraphs had to be counted, & the document became invalid if 2 letters touched each other.
- The middle paragraph, word, & letter must correspond to the original document.
- Documents could only be stored in sacred places.
- No document containing God's Word could be destroyed, they were placed in a genizah (hiding place) like a synagogue or a cemetery and were not to be used.

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Criteria For Inclusion In the Hebrew Bible

How did Israel recognize what belonged in the category of divine or sacred writings?

- Did the writer claim divine inspiration and/or was it determined with certainty the writing was divine?
- Was the author a genuine prophet of God?
- Did the writings agree with previous doctrine or words; especially the words of Moses? (Deut. 5, 6, & 13:1-4+)
- Was the book accepted as authoritative?
- Did the writings survive through time?

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The Old Testament We Have Today

- Same content as the TaNaKh, arranged differently, more of a historical time-grouping.
- Present OT grouping – Law, History, Poetry, Major, Minor.
- C. 200AD – Septuagint = Greek translation of TaNaKh.
 - Arrangement changed, *similar* to our Old Testament layout.
 - Added deuterocanonical books; Apocrypha.
 - Some are historical and accurate in their information.
 - Not considered by Orthodox Jews a canonical.
- Jesus was aware of the Septuagint; He did not endorse it when He affirmed the contents of the TaNakh in Luke 24:44.

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