



RELEVANT

How To Study the Bible



**Lesson Three:
How is the Bible Constructed?**

Question: How is the Old Testament Constructed?

The Bible Contains or is Constructed with Two Testaments

- ▶ The English word "**testament**" derives from a Greek term meaning "**covenant.**"
 - ▶ A testament is a binding promise
 - ▶ In Hebrew it means "agreement"
 - ▶ Obligation
 - ▶ In the language of the Bible it denotes the agreement or pact between God and man
 - ▶ Covenants are simply God's way of relating with his people

A Covenant Can Either Be Bilateral or Unilateral

- ▶ Bilateral comes from "bi" meaning two (like a bicycle). This is a "Conditional Covenant" because each person's promise is dependent on the other.
- ▶ Unilateral comes from "uni" meaning one (like a unicycle). This is an "Unconditional Covenant" because it is one-sided.
- ▶ **The Mosaic Covenant - Exodus 19-24** - A bilateral covenant God made with Israel. Each party had an obligation to keep the covenant.
- ▶ **The New (Messianic) Covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-33**
 - ▶ A unilateral covenant prepares us for the coming Messiah
 - ▶ **Isaiah 49: 6-9 (NLT)** - *He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."*
- ▶ The New Covenant, confirmed in His (Jesus) Blood
 - ▶ **1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV)** - *"This cup is the new covenant in my BLOOD, do this, whenever you drink it in remembrance of me."*

The OT was Originally and Historically Written on 22 Scrolls

- ▶ **Luke 24:44 (NIV)** - *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*
- ▶ 22 represents completeness from *alef* to *tav*: Hebrew alphabet
- ▶ These are the scrolls Jesus would have quoted in the 1st Century
 - ▶ **Luke 4:16-19 (NIV)** - *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

The 39 Books are Derived from the 22 Scrolls

- ▶ English Bibles list 39 books for the Old Testament because of the practice of bisecting Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles and of counting Ezra, Nehemiah, and the 12 Minor Prophets as separate books. (**See Figure 1.1 on Page 4**)

Moment of Reflection: How did this lesson impact you today?

Figure 1.1 - Old Testament: Order of the Books

HEBREW TANAKH / MT			PROTESTANT BIBLE	
LAW	1	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	LAW	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
PROPHETS	2	Joshua & Judges 1-2 Samuel & 1-2 Kings	HISTORICAL	Joshua Judges Ruth 1-2 Samuel 1-2 Kings 1-2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther
	3	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel		
	4	12 Minor Prophets		
WRITINGS	5	Psalms (5) Proverbs Job		WISDOM
	6	Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes Esther		
	7	Daniel Ezra + Nehemiah 1-2 Chronicles	PROPHETS	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
= 22 Scrolls 39 / 43 Books				