

# BIBLIOLOGY

## Class 08: OT CANON

Maranatha Bible College  
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# Adoption of the Old Testament Canon



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2004

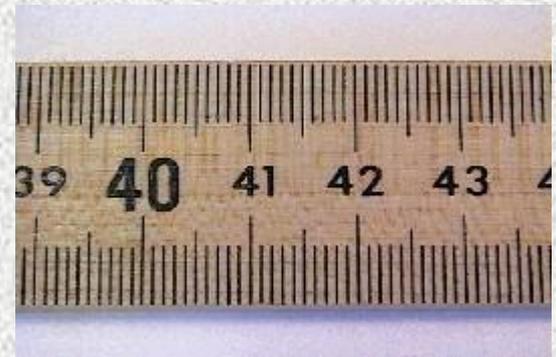
# “BANNED FROM THE BIBLE”

## The Stories That Were Deleted From Biblical History

- NEW YORK, Dec. 19 /PRNewswire/ -- When Jesus was a boy, did he kill another child? Was Mary Magdalene a prostitute -- or an apostle? Did Cain commit incest? Will there be an apocalypse or is this God's trick to scare us? The answers to these questions aren't found in the Bible as we know it, but they exist in scriptures banned when powerful leaders deemed them unacceptable for reasons both political and religious. **BANNED FROM THE BIBLE** reveals some of these alternative tales and examines why they were "too hot for Christianity." The two-hour world premiere **BANNED FROM THE BIBLE** airs on Christmas, Thursday, December 25 at 9 pm ET/PT.

# Term: "Canon"

- From the Greek word *kanon*
- Hebrew *qaneh*
- Measuring stick or line
- The recognition of "canon" concerns the understanding by the believing community as to which books were inspired by God, and which were not.
- Refers to the accepted books of the Old and New Testaments.
- *Summary: The canon does not declare the individual books to be inspired, it simply recognizes the ones that are.*



# Term: “Old Testament”

- “covenant” (not “testament”) a contract, not a will
- The prophet Jeremiah reports God’s promise: “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel” (31: 31).
  - God adds, “I will put my law ... in their hearts” (v. 33).
- God “hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter but of the spirit” (2 Corinthians 3: 6; KJV).
- “until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament: which veil is done away in Christ” (v. 14).
- Paul reports the words of Jesus at the last supper: “This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11: 25).

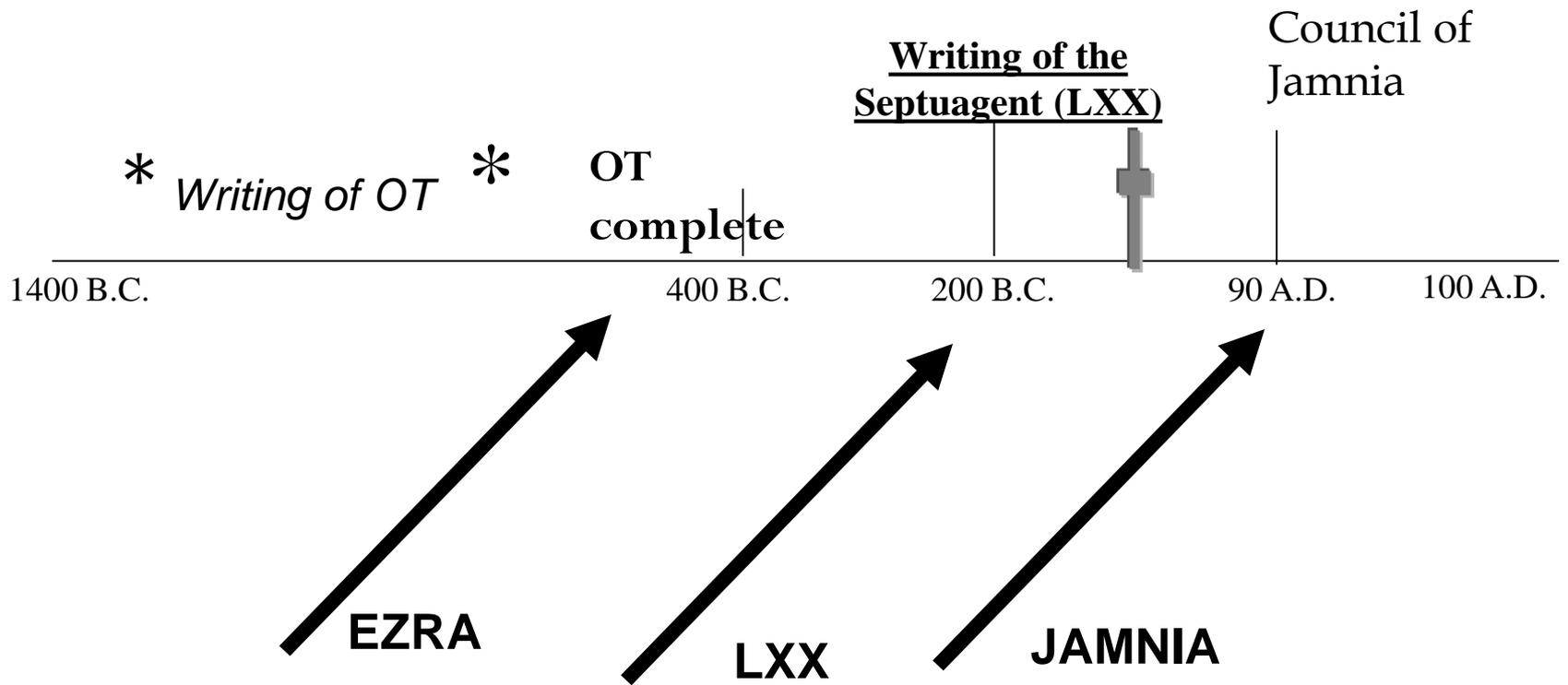
# Term: “Hebrew Scriptures”

- “Hebrew Bible”
- “Tanakh”
  - Hebrew acronym for Law (*Torah*), Prophets (*Nevi'im*), and Writings (*Ketuvim*)



# **The History of the Old Testament Canon**

# OT Canon Time Line



# Ezra's Canon

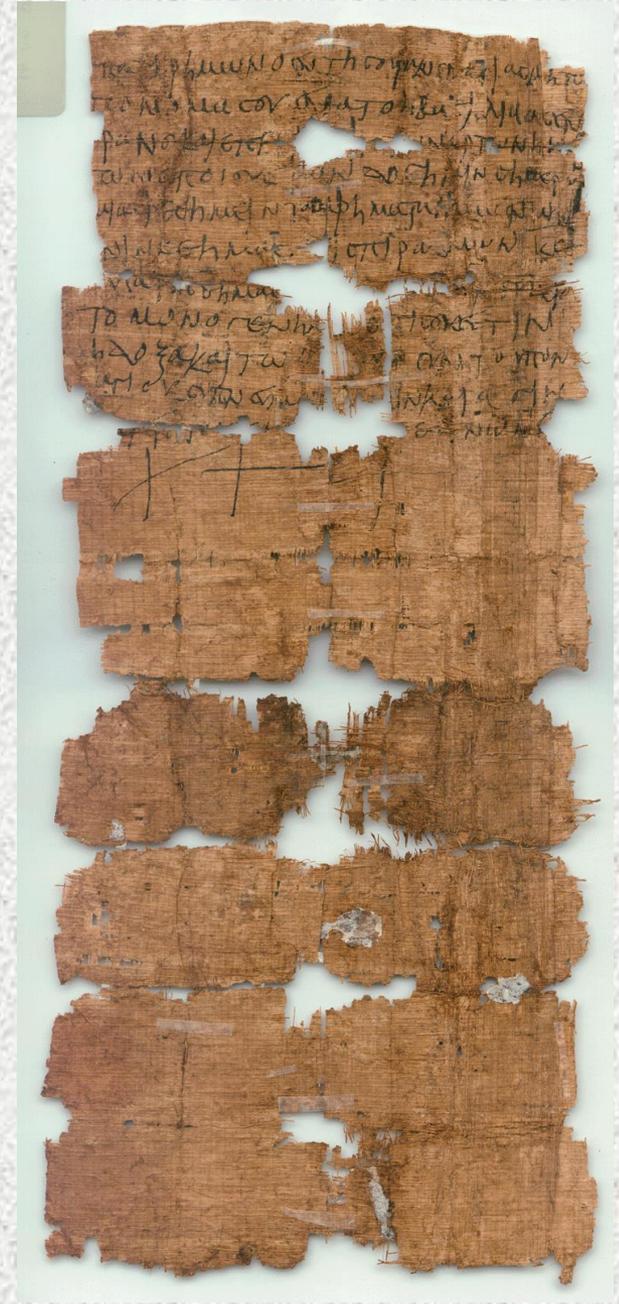
- **Nehemiah 8:1**

And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the **book of the law of Moses** which the LORD had given to Israel.

# Septuagint (LXX)

- **“Septuagint”** means the Greek Translation of the Old Testament and comes from Greek word for seventy because done, reputedly by 70 scholars, hence, the “LXX” or “70”
  - probably used by Jesus and disciples
  - Includes the extra books that became the Apocrypha

Psalm 90, Greek Papyrus  
From 2<sup>nd</sup> Century



# Septuagint (Greek)

## LXX

- Alexandria Egypt c.a. 285 -200 B.C.
- Letter of Aristeas--LXX thought to be translated by 70 Jewish scholars in Alexandria
- Oldest extant copies 3-4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- included all 39 books
- Includes the extra books that became the Apocrypha



Torah Case, Kaifeng, China, Possible 17th Century. Wood, lacquered and gilt; bronze and iron. Photography by John Reed Forsman. Hebrew Union College Skirball Museum, Los Angeles, CA. HUCSM 57.2

# Inter-Testamental Evidence of Canon Adoption

- Uncanonical *Ecclesiasticus* (ca. 130 B.C.) speaks about the Torah, the Prophets, and “the rest of the books”



Torah Tiq, 19th Century. National Museum of American History, Behring Center © 2003 Smithsonian Institution.

# New Testament Evidence of Canon Adoption

- **Matthew 5:17**

- “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

- **Matthew 7:12**

- “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”



# New Testament Evidence of Canon Adoption

- **Luke 11:51**
- “from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah”
- 2 Chron 24:20-2

## ***Luke 24:44***

*“Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”*

# The First Christian Bible

- on every page of [the NT] is spread the evidence that from the very beginning the Old Testament was as cordially recognized as law by the Christian as by the Jew. The Christian church thus was never without a "Bible" or a "canon."  
– BB Warfield



# First Century Jewish Evidence

## of OT Canon

- 50 AD, Philo attests to a closed threefold division of the O.T. Scriptures
- 80, Josephus spoke about 22 canonical books (by joining some of the books together, e.g. Ruth and Judges?)
- 2 Esdras 14:45-46 (1-2 cent. AD) mentions 24 books...



# Josephus —

“How firmly we have given credit to these books of our own nation is evident by what we do; for during so many ages as have already passed, no one has been so bold as either to add any thing to them, to take any thing from them, or to make any change in them; but it is become natural to all Jews immediately, and from their very birth, to esteem these books to contain Divine doctrines, and to persist in them, and, if occasion be willingly to die for them. For it is no new thing for our captives, many of them in number, and frequently in time, to be seen to endure racks and deaths of all kinds upon the theatres, that they may not be obliged to say one word against our laws and the records that contain them.”

# The Council of Jamnia, 90 AD

- Jamni, Palestine, site of first major post 70 AD rabbinical school
- strengthened the synagogue system: “I require mercy not sacrifice.” (Hos. 6.6)
- abandoned the Septuagint...too Christian.
- Formulated the benediction against heretics: source of conflict with Christians.
- Jewish Christians expelled from synagogues.

# Cessationist Jamnia!

- Finalized OT Canon---deemed it closed
- recognized that the Law, Prophets and Writings carried sole scriptural authority.
- One objective criterion for judging the authority of books was the conviction that all sacred texts must have been written no later than the time of Ezra.
- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Esther accepted with reservations, established primarily by use

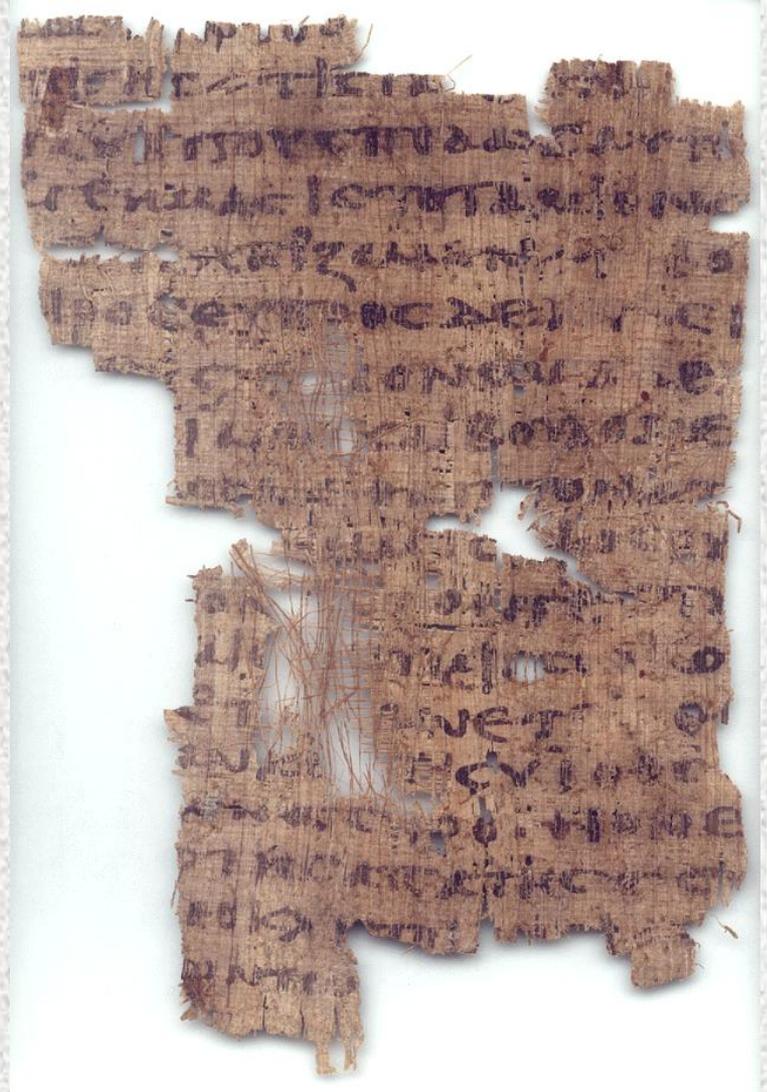
# Jamnia's Criteria for Canonization

- Conformity
  - Inspiration == > Authorship
- Babylonian Talmud—**  
**“After the latter Prophets Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi, the Holy Spirit departed from Israel.”**
- Hebrew Language
  - Widespread use



# Early Christian Old Testament Lists

- 1st Christian list by Melito of Sardis (170 AD), includes all but Esther
- Tertullian (200 AD) listed 24 equal to our 39
- Origen's (250 AD) 21 books equal our 39, except forgot minor prophets
- Athanasius (4<sup>th</sup> Cen) lists 22 equal to our 39 except no Esther & Baruch included
- Esther later accepted and Canon remains same to present



Christian Prayer Quoting Psalms in Greek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Century Papyrus from Egypt

# **Organization of the Old Testament**

# Christian Organization of OT

- The “Pentateuch”- The First Five Books
  - Also known as “The Law”, “The Books of Moses”
  - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Historical Books
  - 12 books, Joshua through Esther
- The Wisdom Literature
  - 5 “Wisdom” books; Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.
- The 5 Major Prophets
  - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezekiel
- The Minor Prophets – 12 Books

# Hebrew Bible - 24 Books

*TaNakh*

תנ"ך

- **24 Books---Three parts**
- *Torah Mosheh* - the Law, 5 books
- **N**ebiim (Neviim) - the Prophets, 8 books
- **K**etubim (Ketuvim) - the Writings, 11 books
- Represent stages in canonization through the ages?



# תנ"ך

## The Hebrew Bible

### 1. TORAH תּוֹרָה

Genesis \_\_\_\_\_ בְּרֵאשִׁית  
Exodus \_\_\_\_\_ שְׁמוֹת  
Leviticus \_\_\_\_\_ וַיִּקְרָא  
Numbers \_\_\_\_\_ בְּמִדְבָּר  
Deuteronomy \_\_\_\_\_ דְּבָרִים

### 2. PROPHETS נְבִיאִים

#### Early Prophets

Joshua  
Judges  
I, II Samuel  
I, II Kings

#### Later Prophets

3 MAJOR PROPHEETS:  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel

12 MINOR PROPHEETS:  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nachum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

### 3. WRITINGS כְּתוּבִים

#### Wisdom Literature

Psalms  
Proverbs  
Job

#### Megillot (Scrolls)

Song of Songs  
Ruth  
Lamentations  
Ecclesiastes  
Esther

#### Histories

Daniel  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
I, II Chronicles

# *Law/Torah*

## (Books of Moses or Pentateuch)

- First Five Books of Moses: Also referred to as the Pentateuch (Greek for Five Places or Five Books)
- Torah Mosheh, Chomesh (Law)
  - - Bereshith (“in the beginning”, Genesis)
  - - Shemoth (“names”, Exodus)
  - - Vayikra (“and he cried”, Leviticus)
  - - Bemidbar (“in the wilderness”, Numbers)
  - - Devarim (“words”, Deuteronomy)

# Prophets

(Nebi'im or Nevi'im)

- Former Prophets
  - Joshua
  - Judges
  - Samuel
  - Kings



- Latter Prophets
  - Major Prophets
    - Isaiah
    - Jeremiah
    - Ezekiel
  - Minor Prophets  
(Book of the 12)
    - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

# Writings

(Kethub'im or Kethuv'im)

- **POETRY**

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Job
- Song of Songs
- Ruth
- Lamentations

- **HISTORY**

- Ecclesiastes
- Esther
- Daniel
- Ezra-Nehemiah
- Chronicles



# Two different endings

- **Hebrew Scriptures** end with the promise of a rebuilt temple (539 BC)
  - God has charged Cyrus of Persia “to build him a house at Jerusalem” (2 Chronicles 36. 23; repeated in Ezra 1. 2).
- **Christian Scriptures** end with the promise of a messenger (c. 445 BC)
  - God says, “I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes” (Malachi 4. 5). A promise of reconciliation



**Comparing  
Jewish, Orthodox,  
Catholic and Protestant  
Old Testaments**

# Other “OT Scriptures”

- All books that were written too late to be included into the Hebrew Canon— after Ezra
- Mostly in Greek, some Aramaic
- Inconsistent theologies
- In LXX so accepted by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Ethiopian, and Slavic Christians
- Protestants: group them together as *apocrypha*

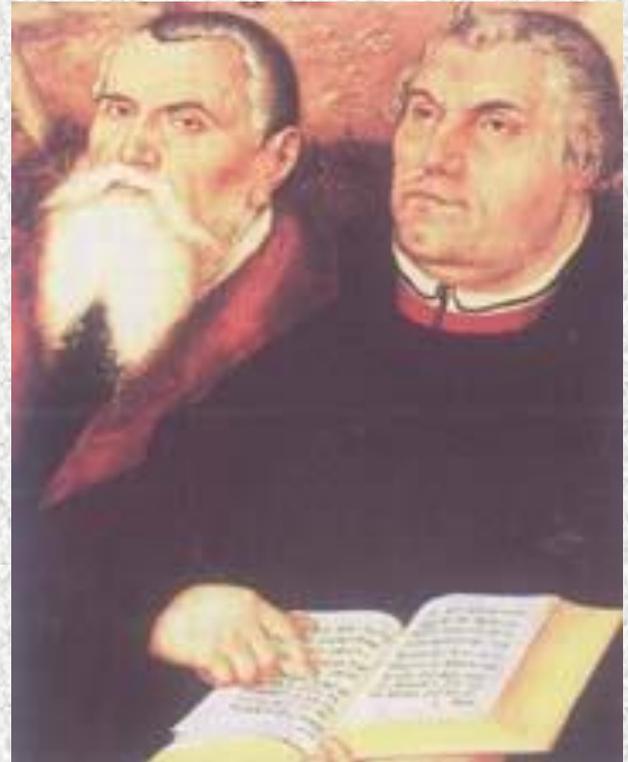
# Other Jewish “Scriptures”

- After Jamnia, Jewish Rabbis also developed
  - a written summary of the tradition of “oral law” (*MISHNA*)
  - scriptural commentary (*GEMARA*)
- These two were codified in the 6th cen AD as the (*TALMUD*), which is considered nearly on a par with the Tanak.

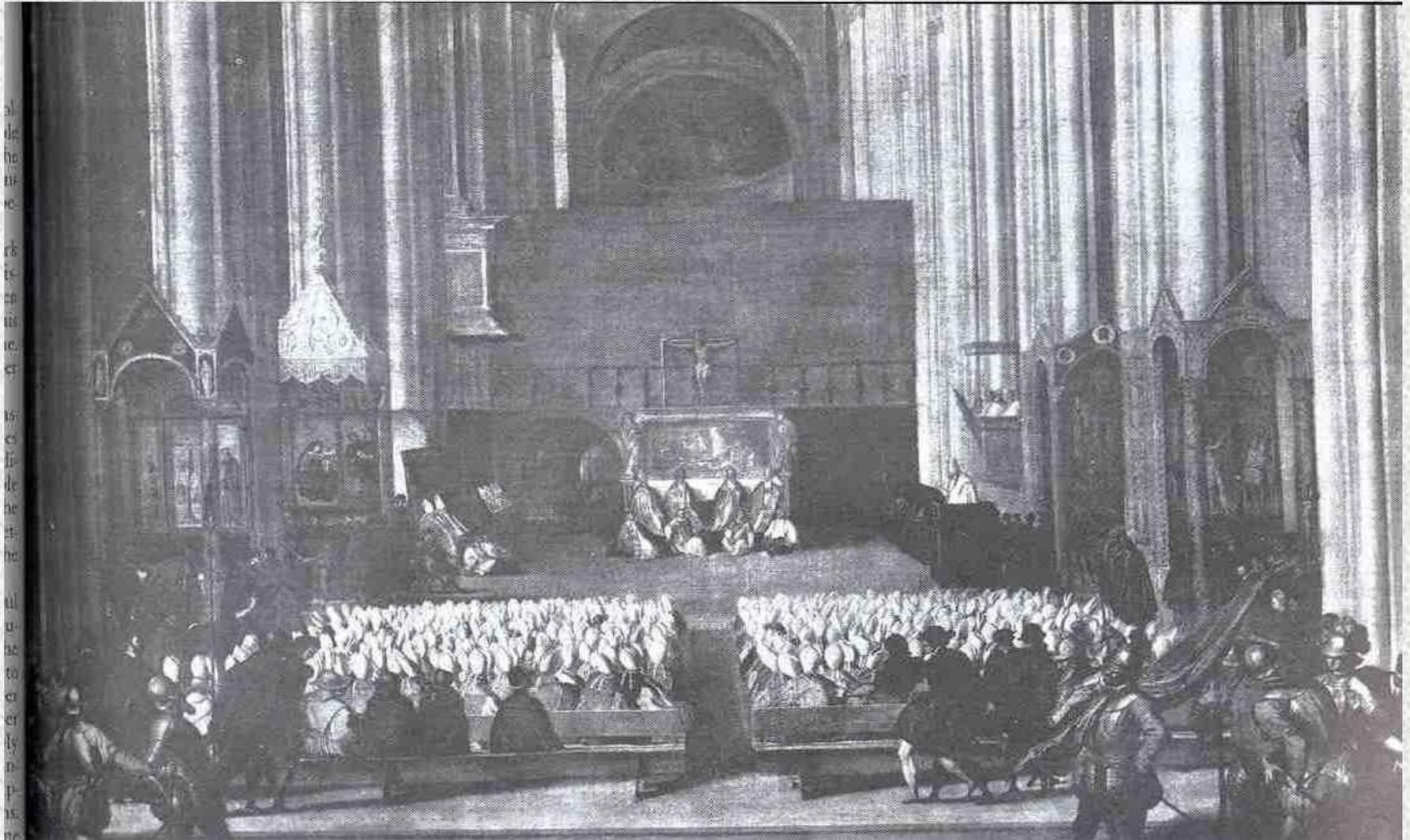


# Protestant Canon

- Reject Incorporation of Apocrypha
- Some include 11 additional books from the Septuagint and the Vulgate, as *deuterocanonical*



Catholic “Counter Reformation” Council of Trent  
Declares “Apocrypha” to be Scripture  
and Tradition to be Equal to Scripture (1563 AD)



*Roman Catholic Canon  
of the Old Testament*

*Protestant Canon  
of the Old Testament*

1. Genesis	1. Genesis
2. Exodus	2. Exodus
3. Leviticus	3. Leviticus
4. Numbers	4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy	5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua	6. Joshua
7. Judges	7. Judges
8. Ruth	8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel	9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel	10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings	11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings	12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles	13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles	14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra	15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah	16. Nehemiah
17. Tobit	In the Apocrypha
18. Judith	In the Apocrypha
19. Esther (including Additions to Esther)	17. Esther In the Apocrypha
20. Job	18. Job
21. Psalms	19. Psalms
22. Proverbs	20. Proverbs
23. Ecclesiastes	21. Ecclesiastes
24. Song of Solomon = Song of Songs in Jewish canon	22. Song of Solomon
25. Wisdom of Solomon	In the Apocrypha
26. Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Ben Sirach)	In the Apocrypha

27. Isaiah		23. Isaiah
28. Jeremiah		24. Jeremiah
29. Lamentations		25. Lamentations
30. Baruch (including the Letter of Jeremiah)	—————	In the Apocrypha
31. Ezekiel		26. Ezekiel
32. Daniel (including Additions to Daniel: The Story of Susanna, The Song of the Young Men, The Story of Bel and the Dragon)	—————	In the Apocrypha
33. Hosea		28. Hosea
34. Joel		29. Joel
35. Amos		30. Amos
36. Obadiah		31. Obadiah
37. Jonah		32. Jonah
38. Micah		33. Micah
39. Nahum		34. Nahum
40. Habakkuk		35. Habakkuk
41. Zephaniah		36. Zephaniah
42. Haggai		37. Haggai
43. Zechariah		38. Zechariah
44. Malachi		39. Malachi
45. 1 Maccabees	—————	In the Apocrypha
46. 2 Maccabees	—————	In the Apocrypha

# Jewish, Catholic and Protestant OT

## OLD TESTAMENT

JEWISH BIBLE	ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE	PROTESTANT BIBLE
<p><b>The Law</b>            Genesis            Exodus            Leviticus            Numbers            Deuteronomy</p> <p><b>The Prophets</b>  <b>Earlier Prophets</b>            Joshua            Judges            I Samuel            II Samuel            I Kings            II Kings  <b>Latter Prophets</b>            Isaiah            Jeremiah            Ezekiel            Hosea            Joel            Amos            Obadiah            Jonah            Micah            Nahum            Habakkuk            Zephaniah            Haggai            Zechariah            Malachi</p> <p><b>The Writings</b>            Psalms            Proverbs            Job            Song of Songs            Ruth            Lamentations            Ecclesiastes            Esther            Daniel            Ezra            Nehemiah            I Chronicles            II Chronicles</p>	<p><b>The Pentateuch</b>            Genesis            Exodus            Leviticus            Numbers            Deuteronomy</p> <p><b>The Historical Books</b>            Josue            Judges            Ruth            I Kings            II Kings            III Kings            IV Kings            I Paralipomenon            II Paralipomenon            I Esdras            II Esdras, alias Nehemias            Tobias            Judith            Esther</p> <p><b>The Didactic Books</b>            Job            Psalms            Proverbs            Ecclesiastes            Canticle of Canticles            Wisdom            Ecclesiasticus</p> <p><b>The Prophetical Books</b>            Isaias            Jeremias            Lamentations            Baruch            Ezechiel            Daniel            Osee            Joel            Amos            Abdias            Jonas            Micheas            Nahum            Habacuc            Sophonias            Aggeus            Zacharias            Malachias</p> <p><b>The Historical Books</b>            I Machabees            II Machabees</p>	<p><b>The Pentateuch</b>            Genesis            Exodus            Leviticus            Numbers            Deuteronomy</p> <p><b>The Historical Books</b>            Joshua            Judges            Ruth            I Samuel            II Samuel            I Kings            II Kings            I Chronicles            II Chronicles            Ezra            Nehemiah            Esther</p> <p><b>The Poetical Books</b>            Job            Psalms            Proverbs            Ecclesiastes            Song of Solomon</p> <p><b>The Prophetical Books</b>            Isaiah            Jeremiah            Lamentations            Ezekiel            Daniel            Hosea            Joel            Amos            Obadiah            Jonah            Micah            Nahum            Habakkuk            Zephaniah            Haggai            Zechariah            Malachi</p>

## PROTESTANT APOCRYPHA

Included as a separate section in some Protestant Bibles, omitted in others. Starred books are included by Roman Catholics as part of their Old Testament. Catholic names or location in the Catholic Bible are given in parentheses.

- I Esdras
- II Esdras  
(not the Catholic I & II Esdras, which are the Protestant Ezra and Nehemiah)
- \*Tobit (Tobias)
- \*Judith (Judith)
- \*The Rest of Esther (in Esther)
- \*Wisdom of Solomon (Wisdom)

- \*Ecclesiasticus (Ecclesiasticus)
- \*Baruch, with the Epistle of Jeremiah (Baruch)
- \*Song of the 3 Holy Children (in Daniel)
- \*History of Susanna (in Daniel)
- \*Bel and the Dragon (in Daniel)
- Prayer of Manasses
- \*I Maccabees (I Machabees)
- \*II Maccabees (II Machabees)