



The Bible

2014 Winter Study

Schedule

- Monday Nights at 7:00
- Tuesday Mornings at 10:30
- 5 Sessions ending February 24/25 (The Bible)
- Two Week Break (Holy Land)
- 4 Sessions beginning March 17/18 and ending April 7/8 (Book of Ruth)
- Bible Study Field Trip to Williamsburg May 12-15



THE GRASS WITHERS AND THE FLOWER FADES

**BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS
FOREVER**

A Psalm of David

- I was small among my brothers,
and the youngest in my father's house;
I tended my father's sheep.
My hands made a harp;
my fingers fashioned a lyre.
And who will tell my Lord?
The Lord himself; it is he who hears.*
It was he who sent his messenger*
and took me from my father's sheep,
and anointed me with his anointing-oil.

Continued

- My brothers were handsome and tall,
but the Lord was not pleased with them.
I went out to meet the Philistine,
and he cursed me by his idols.
But I drew his own sword;
I beheaded him, and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.

Psalm 151

- First appeared in the Greek Septuagint (LXX)
- For many years scholars believed that this was an original Greek composition (not written by David) and it was stated “there is no evidence that Psalm 151 was ever written in Hebrew”
- Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls 1947 (1956)
- It not only existed in Hebrew but it was part of the Psalter (book of Psalms) used by the Qumran community

Terminology

- Bible
- Greek "*ta biblia*"
- Translates Hebrew "*ha-sefarim*" = "the books"
- The Bible is a collection of Books-How Many?
- 66 Books
- 39 in OT (Jewish Scripture only 24)
- Jews combine Minor Prophets into "Book of the Twelve" and Samuel, Kings & Chronicles

The Bible

- 27 Books in the New Testament
- The Apocrypha “the hidden things”
- Many early Protestant Bibles included the Apocrypha, but around 1830 most had eliminated the books
- Book of Common Prayer encourages the books to be “read for example of life and instruction of manners; but not to establish any doctrine.”

The Apocrypha “deuterocanon”

- [1 Esdras](#)
[2 Esdras](#)
[Additions to Esther](#)
[1 Macabees](#)
[2 Macabees](#)
[Tobias](#)
[Judith](#)
[Wisdom](#)
[Sirach](#)
[Baruch](#)
[Epistle of Jeremiah](#)
[Susanna](#)
[Prayer of Azariah](#)
[Prayer of Manasseh](#)
[Bel and the Dragon](#)
[Laodiceans](#)

Terminology

- Canon
- Measuring Rod
- Came to refer to standards used in architecture and art
- Eventually “canon” was used of literary collections that were recognized as standards
- 4th Century AD –books recognized as sacred writings

Pseudepigrapha “falsely ascribed”

- 1 & 2 Enoch
- Biblical Antiquities
- Jubilees
- Psalms of Solomon
- Testament of Moses
- Testament of Abraham
- 2 & 3 Baruch
- Testaments of the Twelve Patriachs
- Omissions of Jeremiah (or 4 Baruch)
- Lives of the Prophets
- Letter of Aristeas

New Testament Pseudepigrapha

- Gospel of Peter
- Gospel of Thomas
- The Didache
- Clement's letter to the Corinthian Christians
- Shepherd of Hermas
- The Secret Gospel of Mark
- Letters of Ignatius

The Old Testament

- Jews call our OT the “Tanak”
- Torah (Law) (Pentateuch—GK for 5 books)
- Nebi'im (Prophets)
- Kethubim (Writings)
- II Kings 22-23 (King Josiah and building renovations—finding the book!)
- (Deuteronomy 12-26)

Torah

- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Dates (2100 BC to 1300 BC)
- Abraham (c. 2000)
- Date Written: 1400-1200 BC
- Date recognized as Scripture (c. 400 BC) Ezra
- Babylonian Exile became the watershed event in which Scripture was established followed by the establishment of the Synagogues

Nebi'im (Prophets)

- Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
- Latter Prophets (Major and Minor)
- Major: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
- Minor: (Book of the Twelve)
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Nebi'im

- Achieved Canonical status around 200 BC
- We would distinguish Prophets (major and minor) from Historical Books
- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles
- Covers the history from the conquest of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Exile (1300 to 536 BC)

Kethubim (Writings)

- Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles
- These books were accepted by common usage by the 2nd Century BC, but it was not until 90 AD at the Council of Jamnia that they were established as Canonical.

The Hymn Book of Ancient Israel

- The Book of Psalms
- Many were written by King David (around 1000 BC)



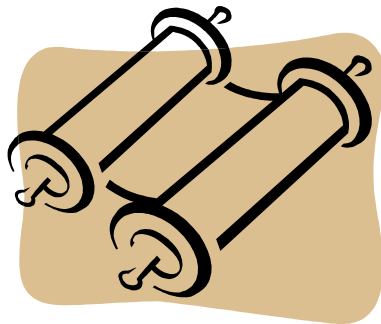
Wisdom Literature

- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Around 900 BC



Prophets & Other Writings

- Prophets from 800 to 400 BC
- Writings concerning Babylonian Exile and Persian Liberation: Daniel, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah (400-300 BC)
- Job: May be the oldest book in the Bible



Basic Truths

- The Bible is a Library of Books
- 66 Books (39 Old and 27 New Testaments)
- Songs, Parables, History, Poetry, Preaching, Stories, Letters, Apocalyptic Oracles, Prophecy, Wisdom sayings

A Library of Related Books

- Books are written independently, but . . .
- Every author assumes God's presence and activity in the world and in the lives of people
- There is a focus on bringing people into a right relationship with God and one another
- There is a call to obey the Will of God

A Library of Ancient Books

- Written to an ancient world
- Writers were not aware they were writing for all times, or that their words would become Holy Scripture.
- The Bible is best understood when studied in the historical context while gleaning the timeless truths that speak to life today
- Lexington<>Jerusalem<>Lexington

Library of Redemptive Books

- The books are not objective and unbiased historical books, nor should they be.
- The books were never intended to be textbooks on zoology, history, science, astronomy, or psychology
- The books are written to call us to faith in God, experiencing forgiveness of sin, a right relationship with God and neighbor, and a life of hope and fulfillment through service

Two Primary Redemptive Events

- God's call to Moses and the Exodus from Egypt: Redemption from bondage and the journey to the Promised Land.
- God's call to Jesus (The New Moses) and the Crucifixion and Resurrection: Redemption from sin and the journey to the Promised Land

A Library of Translated Books

- OT written in Hebrew and some Aramaic
- Translated to Greek around 280-100 BC (LXX)
- NT written in Greek
- First major translation was the Latin Vulgate
- Today the whole Bible is translated into 370 languages, while portions of the Bible have been translated into some 1865 languages

A Library of Selected Books

- We consider 66 books to be “Canonical”
- Some 160 “pseudepigraphal” or “apocryphal” books were not included
- Who made the final decisions about which books should be included and what criteria did they use?
- These questions will be answered next week.

