



The Scriptures

“We Believe that...”

Articles of Faith

I. ~~The Scriptures~~

II. The True God

III. The Fall of Man

IV. The Way of Salvation

V. Justification

VI. The Freeness of Salvation

VII. Regeneration

VIII. Repentance and Faith

IX. God's Purpose of Grace

X. Sanctification

XI. Perseverance of Saints

XII. The Law and Gospel

XIII. A Gospel Church

XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

XV. The Christian Sabbath

XVI. Civil Government

XVII. Righteous and Wicked

XVIII. The World to Come

The Scriptures

Written by men divinely inspired

Treasure of heavenly instruction

Authored by God

For Salvation

Reveals the principles by which God will judge us

Shall remain to the end of the world

The true center of Christian union

The supreme standard for all human conduct





What are the features of the Bible?





A few basic features

- Sometimes the Bible is referred to as the *canon*
 - A canon is a list or collection of books considered authoritative by a particular community.
- The languages of the Bible
 - Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- Some things that were not originally part of the Bible
 - Section headings, chapter and verse numbers, and punctuation.

Bibles and Interpretations

- The Original languages of the Bible
 - Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- To read the Bible we must have...
 - Someone to read it for us (interpreters)
 - Someone to write it so we can read it for ourselves (interpretations)
 - But even that can be problematic
- So what interpretation is best...
 - It should matter for accuracy, readability, and understanding
 - Word for word
 - Thought for thought

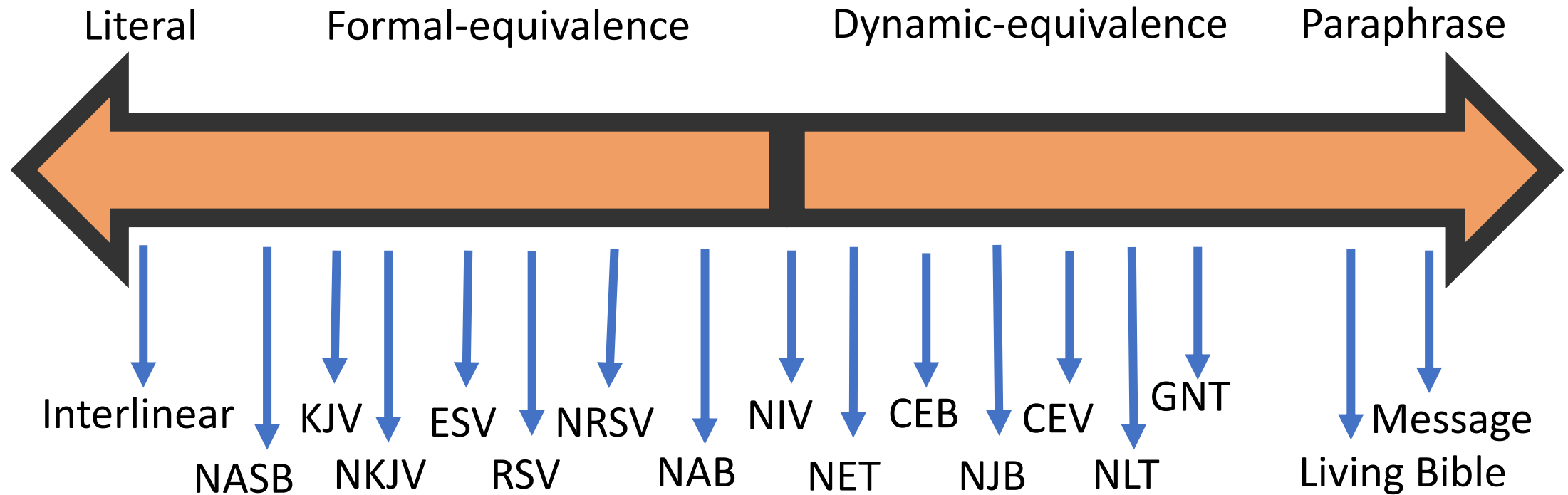
- **King James Version**

“The noise thereof showeth concerning it, the cattle also concerning the vapor.” ***Job 36:33***

- **New International Version**

“His thunder announces the coming storm; even the cattle make known its approach.” ***Job 36:33***

English Translations And The Equivalence Continuum



Major chapters in the story of the people of God

- Ancestral period
- Egypt and Exodus
- Conquest/Settlement
- United monarchy
- Divided monarchy
- Babylonian Exile
- Persian period
- Hellenistic period
- Hasmonean period
- Roman period





1. The Ancestral Period

- Time period: ca. 2200-1550 BCE
- The story of the family that became Israel: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and his wives and sons.
- Biblical book telling the story: Genesis 12-50
- The biblical story of the ancestral period begins with the call of Abraham and ends with the family moving to Egypt to avoid famine.

2. Egypt and Exodus

- Time period: ca. 1550-1200 BCE
- The descendants of Jacob become numerous in Egypt (forming 12 tribes). They become enslaved, and are eventually led out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. The law is given through Moses and the ark of the covenant is created.
- Biblical books telling the story: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- 40 years in the wilderness culminate with the people at the edge of the promised land.



3. Conquest/Settlement and early years in the land

- Time period: ca. 1200-1025 BCE
- The Israelites enter the Promised Land and settle the land as 12 tribes. According to the book of Joshua they conquer all the peoples living there, but the book of Judges paints a different picture. In these early years in the land, tribal leaders arise in times of need.
- Biblical books telling the story: Joshua, Judges, 1 Sam 1-7
- The prophet Samuel is the last leader of this period. The people ask for a king in order to be like other nations, and Samuel anoints Saul.



4. United Monarchy

- Time period: 1025-928 BCE
- Saul's kingship fails, and Samuel anoints David. David unifies and expands Israel and makes Jerusalem his capital. David's son Solomon builds the first temple.
- Biblical books telling the story: 1-2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, 1 Chronicles
- Solomon's son Rehoboam succeeds him as king, but rebellion over forced labor leads the 10 northern tribes to secede and form a separate kingdom.





5. Divided Monarchy

- Time period: 928-722 BCE (Plus Judah alone until 586)
- Generations pass with separate kings for Israel in the north and Judah in the south. In 722 BCE the northern kingdom falls to the Assyrians. The small kingdom of Judah manages to survive for another 136 years.
- Biblical books telling the story: 1-2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, various prophets
- In 586 Judah is defeated by Babylon, and the first temple is destroyed.

6. Babylonian Exile

- Time period: 586-539 BCE
- After the destruction of Jerusalem, many residents of Judah were deported to Babylon. This exile was historically and theologically of great significance for the people of Judah.
- Biblical books telling the story: Various prophets
- The exile lasted about 47 years, until the Persian Empire (led by Cyrus) defeated the Babylonians in 539.





7. Persian period

- Time period: 539-332 BCE
- The Judahites are now ruled by Persia but allowed to return to their land and restore their religious practices. They rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple. This is the beginning of Second Temple Judaism.
- Biblical books telling the story: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, various prophets
- The Persian period continues until Palestine is conquered by Alexander the Great

8. Hellenistic period – Slide 1

- Time period: 332-142 BCE
- After Persia is defeated by the forces of Alexander the Great, Greek language and culture (Hellenism) spread throughout the eastern Mediterranean region, including Palestine.
- After Alexander's death, his generals divide his empire. Palestine is on the border between the areas taken over by Ptolemy and Seleucus and changes hands several times. Eventually the Seleucid Empire gains firmer control.
- The Septuagint is translated during the Hellenistic period.





8. Hellenistic period – Slide 2

- Antiochus IV Epiphanies (ruler in the Seleucid dynasty) was infamous among the Jews for forbidding the practice of their religion, building an altar to Zeus in the Jerusalem temple, and sacrificing a pig there.
- Biblical books telling the story: 1-2 Maccabees, Daniel (as interpreted by scholars)
- The oppression of Antiochus led to a revolt, in which Judah regained its independence for the first time since 586 BCE.

9. Hasmonean Period – Slide 1

- Time period: 142-63 BCE
- The revolt against the Seleucids began in 167 and was led by the Hasmonean family, also known as the Maccabees. The temple was liberated in 164 (festival of Hanukkah established), and political independence was fully achieved in 142.
- In subsequent generations of the Hasmonean dynasty, the kingdom expanded to Davidic borders, including the addition of Galilee in 103.



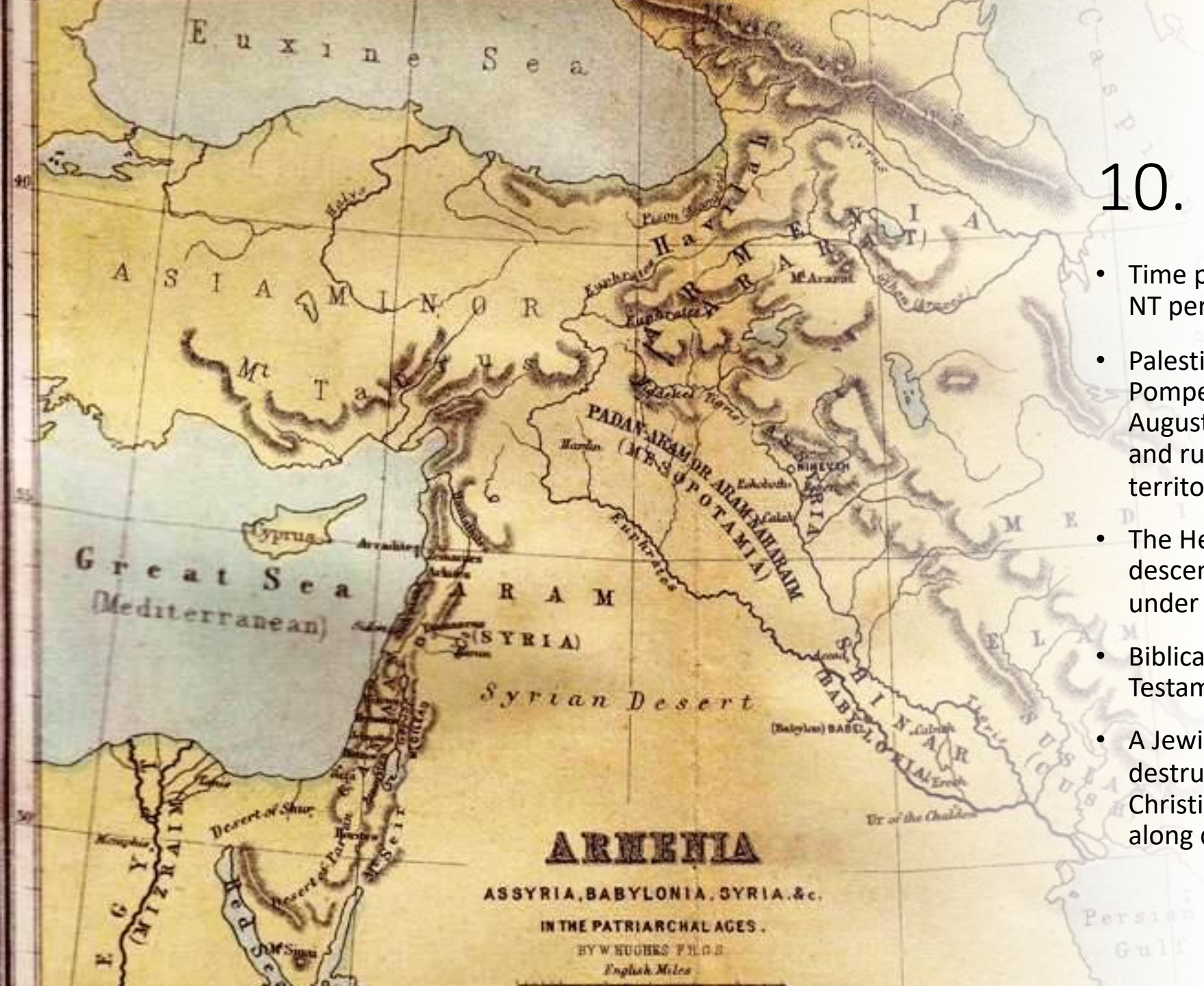


9. Hasmonean Period – Slide 2

- The Qumran community was founded during the revolt, and the Pharisees and Sadducees arose after political independence.
- Biblical books telling the story: 1-4 Maccabees
- The history of Palestine is mostly a history of a succession of foreign empires and their rule. This makes the political independence of the Hasmonean period remarkable.
- But it was not to last...

10. Roman period

- Time period: 63 BCE – Beyond the end of the NT period
- Palestine was conquered by Roman General Pompey during the late Roman Republic. Augustus reigned as the first Roman Emperor and ruled from 27 BCE to 14 CE, expanding his territory and creating stability (Pax Romana).
- The Herodians (Herod the Great and his descendants) ruled all or part of Palestine under Rome's authority from 37 BCE to 66 CE.
- Biblical books telling the story: The New Testament
- A Jewish revolt beginning in 66 led to the destruction of the temple in 70. After this, Christianity and rabbinic Judaism developed along different trajectories.





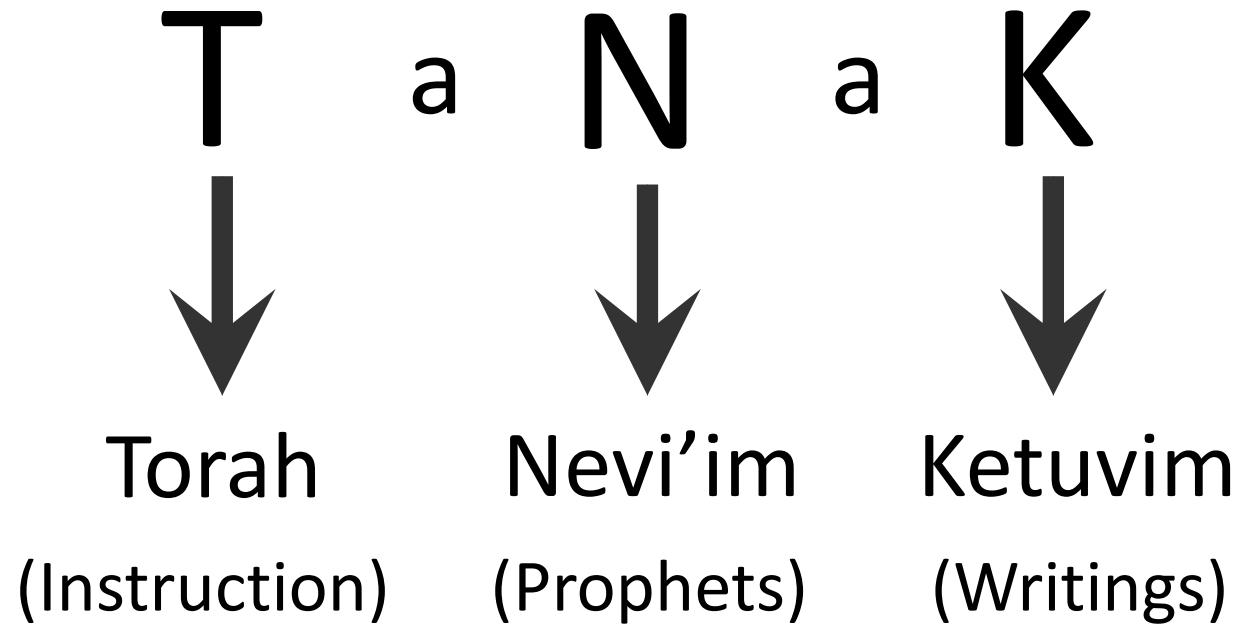
The Old Testament and the Tanak

The Jewish Scriptures

- The Bible of Jesus and the earliest church
- A diverse collection of writings composed over centuries
- Tells the grand story of God's creation of the whole world and God's particular relationship with Israel
- Asks big questions: where did we come from? How do God and humanity relate to each other? How should society be structured? What is the best way to live a human life? Is there meaning in suffering?
- Long, complex development process



Tanak





The Deuterocanonical Books/Apocrypha

- A diverse group of books that were included in the Septuagint but are not in the Hebrew canon
- Meaning of “deuterocanonical” and “apocrypha”
- These books teach us about Judaism in the Hellenistic period.
- They are important for Catholics as part of their canon
- They are important all to read because they fill in part of the large gap between the OT and the NT.

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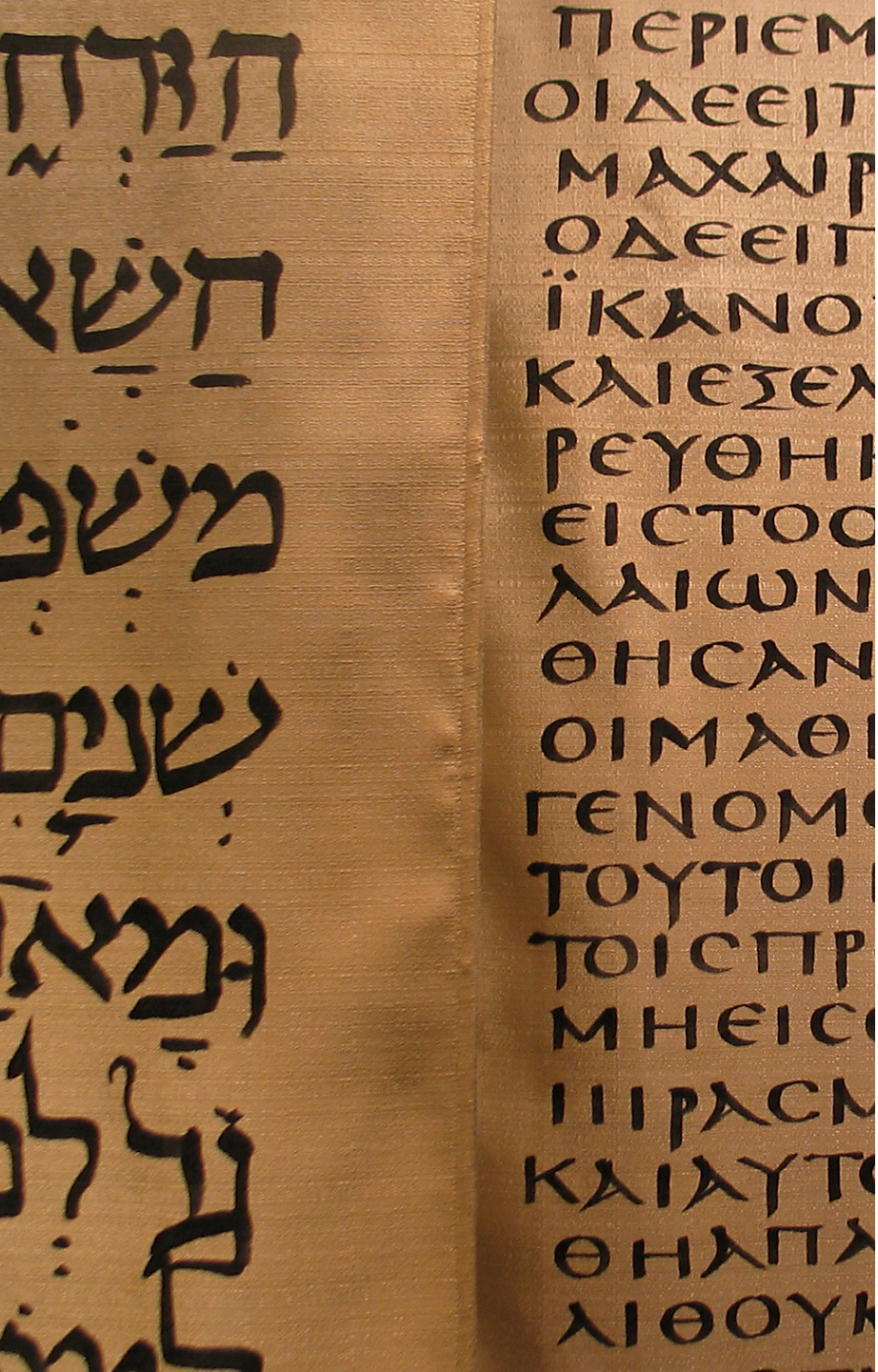
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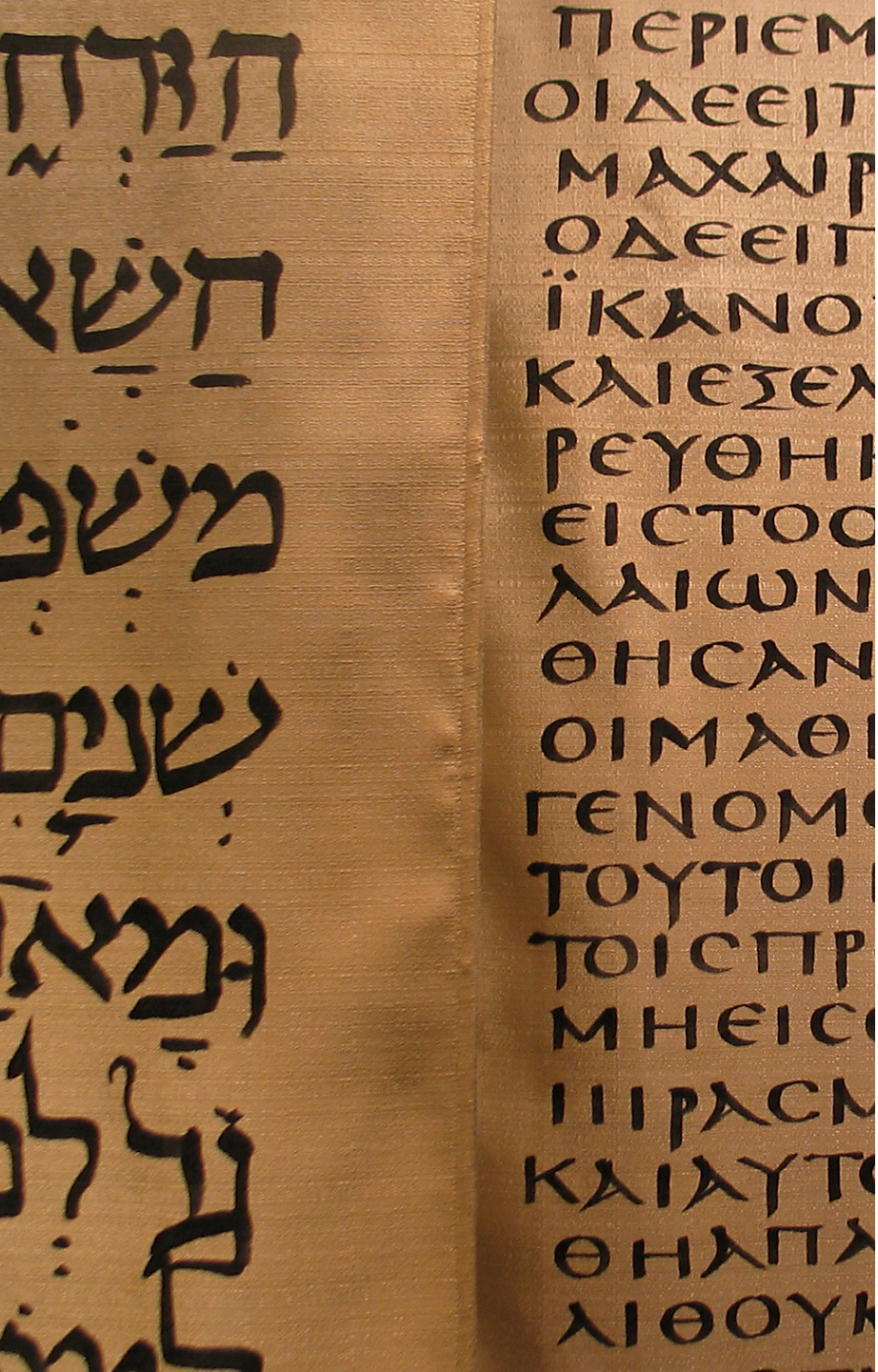
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The Septuagint



The Septuagint (LXX)

- Translation of the Jewish Scriptures into Greek
 - Alexandria, third century BCE (Torah portion)
 - Abbreviation LXX (“Seventy”) and the legend
- Shows significance of Hellenism in this period
 - The Hebrew language and diaspora Judaism



The importance of LXX study

- An early translation of the Hebrew Bible (early textual evidence)
- Understanding of Hellenistic Judaism
- Preservation of books not found in Hebrew Bible
- It's the Bible that most early Christians were reading and interpreting

The Torah

Torah

- Also called Pentateuch or the Five Books of Moses
- Moses and authorship
- Primarily the story of Israel's origins, but set within the context of all creation
- Torah as “instruction”



Key stops on the Torah tour

- Genesis 1-11: Primeval history
- Genesis 12: The call of Abraham
- Exodus 3: YHWH's theophany to Moses at the burning bush
- Exodus 19-20: Theophany at Sinai; covenant; 10 commandments
- Exodus 40: Construction of the tabernacle; God's presence
- Leviticus 8-9: Priesthood established
- Leviticus 11-27: Purity and holiness
- Numbers: Wilderness wandering

Deuteronomy

- A long speech by Moses that reviews the Israelites' story and presents the law again
- Emphasis on faithfulness to God and centralized worship
- Reflects 7th century BCE perspective, well after the events it describes occurred
- In its canonical location, serves as a final admonition to the Israelites before entering the land



The Prophets

The Former Prophets

- The Former Prophets, the Historical Books, the Deuteronomistic History
 - Joshua: Conquest and settlement
 - Judges: Tribal leadership, crisis, and chaos
 - Samuel: The prophet Samuel and the move to kingship (stories of Saul and David)
 - Kings: The kings and prophets of Israel and Judah

The Latter Prophets

- Prophecy in Israel: Speaking a message from God
 - Prophetic formula: “Thus says the Lord...”
 - Prophetic “sign acts”: visual demonstrations of their message
 - Speaking against injustice and idolatry; warning of punishments
 - Court prophets and independent prophets
- Three Major prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
 - Daniel and Lamentations are in the Writings
- Minor prophets / Book of the Twelve

Minor Prophets (aka Book of the Twelve)

Hosea	8th century BCE (before the fall of the Northern Kingdom)
Joel	(Timeframe Disputed)
Amos	8th century BCE (before the fall of the Northern Kingdom)
Obadiah	(Timeframe Disputed)
Jonah	(Timeframe Disputed)
Micah	8th century BCE (before the fall of the Northern Kingdom)
Nahum	7th century BCE (before the fall of the Southern Kingdom)
Habakkuk	7th century BCE (before the fall of the Southern Kingdom)
Zephaniah	7th century BCE (before the fall of the Southern Kingdom)
Haggai	6th century BCE (after return from exile)
Zechariah	6th century BCE (after return from exile)
Malachi	5th century BCE (after return from exile)

*The LORD, the Psalmist's Shepherd.
A Psalm of David.*

1 The LORD is my ^ashepherd,
I ¹shall ^bnot want.

2 He makes me lie down in ^agreen pastures;
He ^bleads me beside ^{1c}quiet waters.

3 He ^arestores my soul;
He ^bguides me in the ^{1c}paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

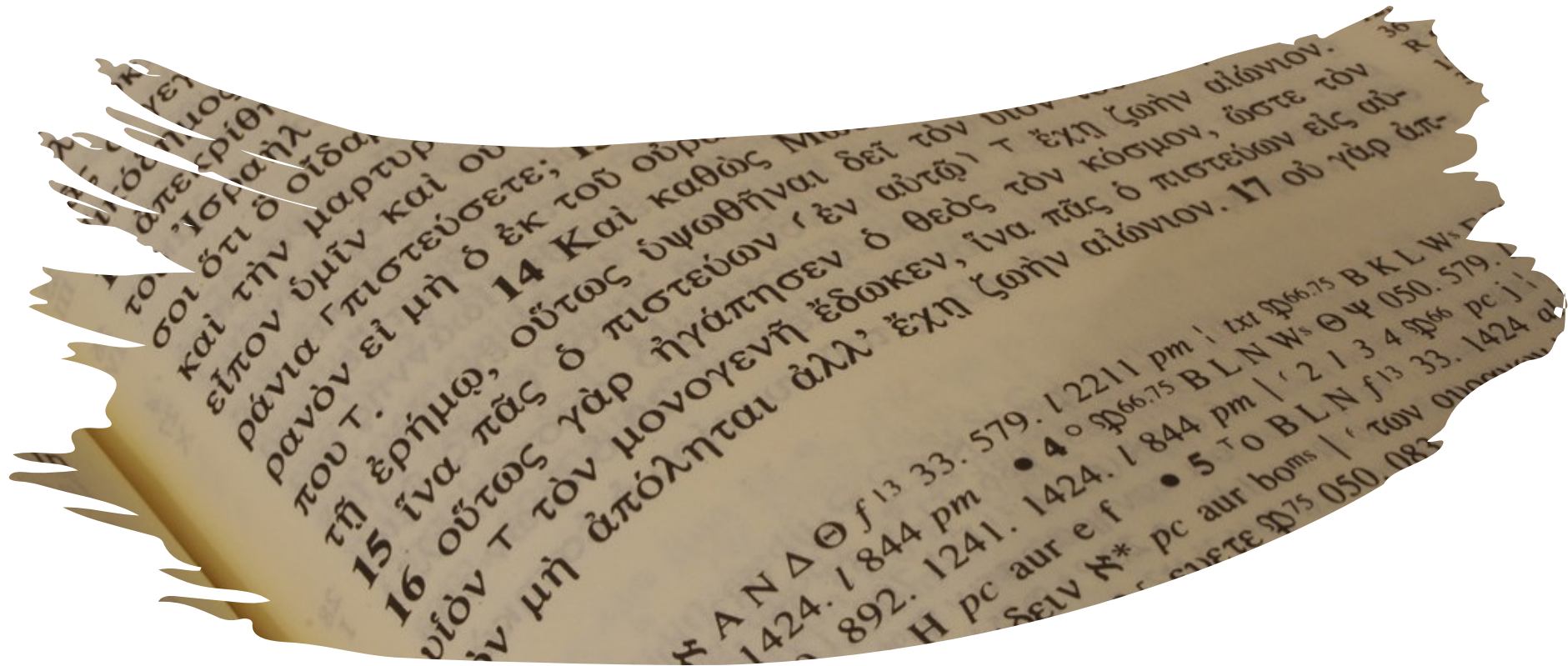
I walk through the ¹valley

The Writings

The Writings



- Narratives
 - Ruth, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles
- Poetry
 - Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Songs
- Wisdom literature
 - Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes
- Apocalyptic literature
 - Daniel



The New Testament



The New Testament

- NT summary: The story of Jesus and the early church
- The language of the NT: Koine Greek
- Narrower in scope and shorter in time frame than the OT
- NT as extension of and commentary on the OT

The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

The Acts of the Apostles

The Pauline Epistles

- Letters sent to churches
 - Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians
- Letters sent to individuals
 - 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

The Catholic/General Epistles

- Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude

Revelation

The 27 books
of the NT

1

Oral tradition

2

**Composition
of individual
books on
scrolls**

3

**Books copied
and circulated
independently**

4

Canon lists

5

**The whole NT
in one codex**

The New Testament: Stages of development

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Codex Sinaiticus

- 4th century CE codex containing part of the Septuagint, the entire New Testament, plus the Epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas.