

Foundations

Week 8/10

The Canon & Authority of Scripture

THE STONE THE
BUILDERS REJECTED
HAS BECOME THE
CHIEF CORNERSTONE.
PSALM 118:22

YOU MUST NOT ADD TO THE
WORD THAT I AM
COMMANDING YOU OR TAKE
AWAY FROM IT—IN ORDER
TO KEEP THE MITZVOT OF
ADONAI YOUR GOD THAT I
AM COMMANDING YOU.
DEUTERONOMY 4:2

Why is there so much confusion about the Biblical Canon?

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- Some hold the Papacy as their ultimate authority
- Some hold whatever the predominant view is among the early church fathers as their ultimate authority
- Some hold their head Pastor/Rabbi or favorite internet preacher as their authority on the biblical canon
- Some hold to Jewish tradition
- Some hold similar views to the Ethiopian Orthodox Canon by just including everything and don't try to figure it out

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- This was the predominant version of the Tanakh that the new gentile converts to Yeshua were using
- The majority of the new gentile converts to Yeshua were completely unaware of the Jewish Canon (which books from the Septuagint the Jews did not consider scripture)

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3. Itching Ears

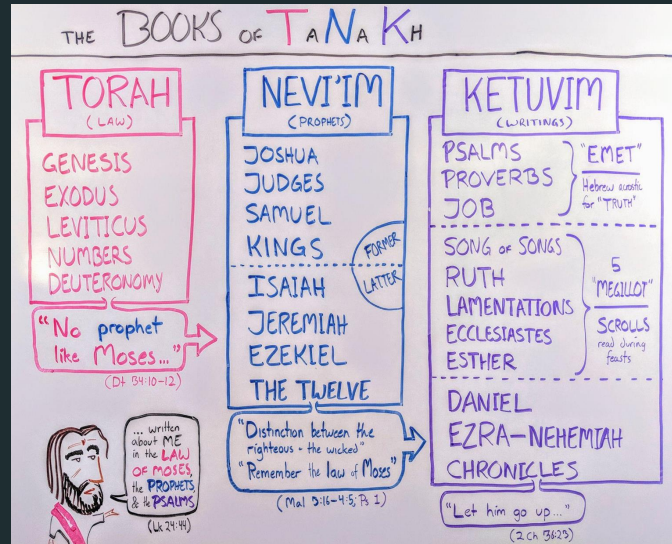
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3. Itching Ears

- Be careful trying to fill in gaps the scripture doesn't fully explain
- "Things which are hidden belong to Adonai our God. But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the words of this Torah."
Deuteronomy 29:29 CJB

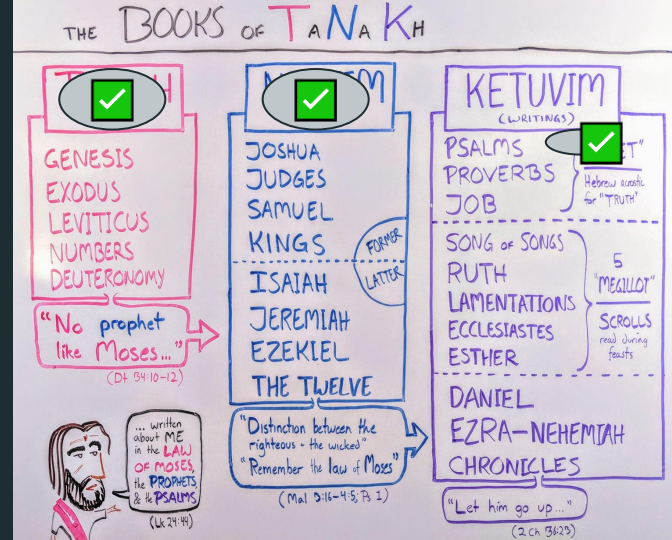
Yeshua and the Apostles did not leave us without guidance

- Luke 24:44-45 TLV Then He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you—everything written concerning Me in the Torah of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”



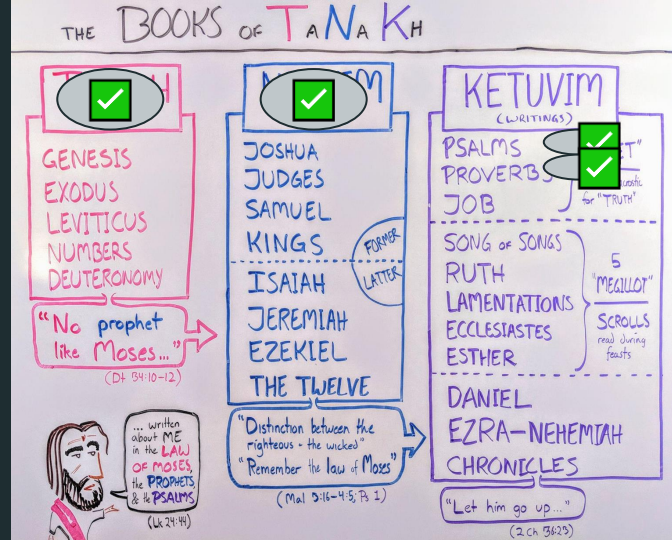
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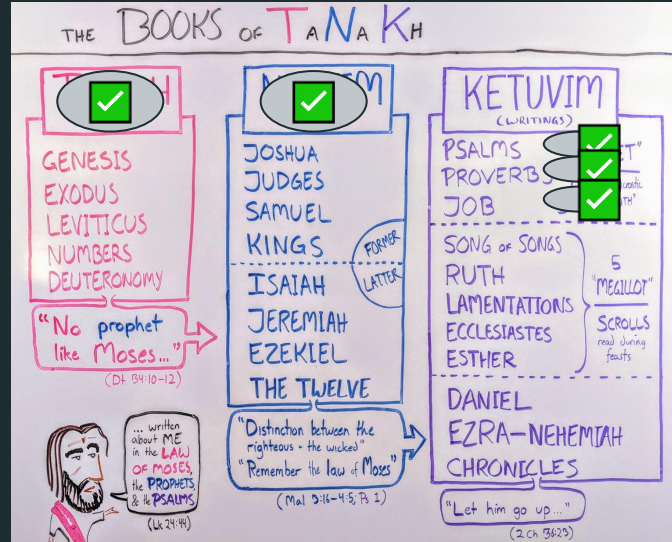
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- James 4:5-6 CJB “Or do you suppose the Scripture speaks in vain when it says that there is a spirit in us which longs to envy? But the grace he gives is greater, which is why it says, “God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.” (Referencing Proverbs 3:34)



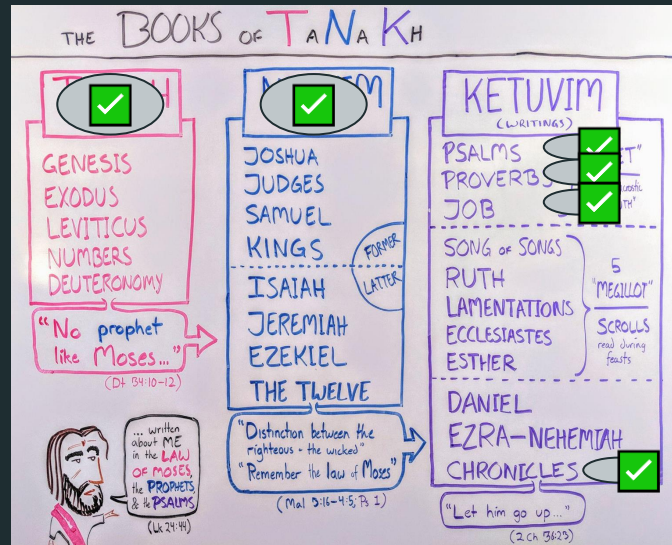
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- 1st Corinthians 3:19 TLV “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written, “He catches the clever in their craftiness.” (Referencing Job 5:13)
- Prophet Ezekiel in 14:14 assumes you are familiar with Job



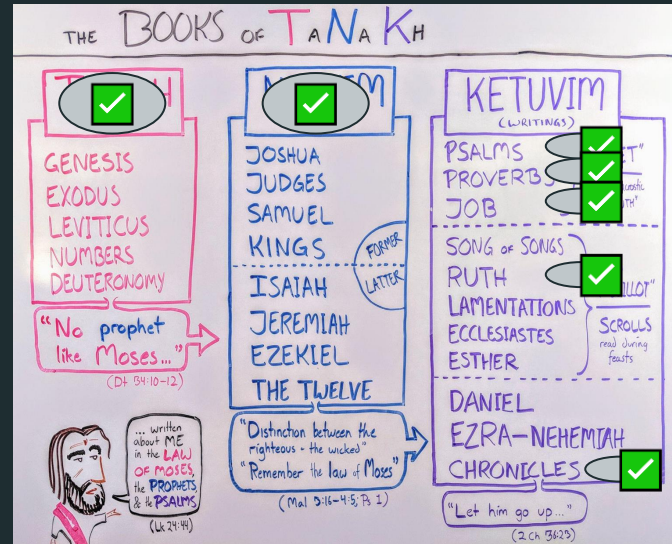
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- No mention of Song of Songs or Ecclesiastes but Solomon has already been identified as a biblical author. Matthew 12:42 TLV “The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. And behold, something greater than Solomon is here.” (Referencing 2nd Chronicles 9)



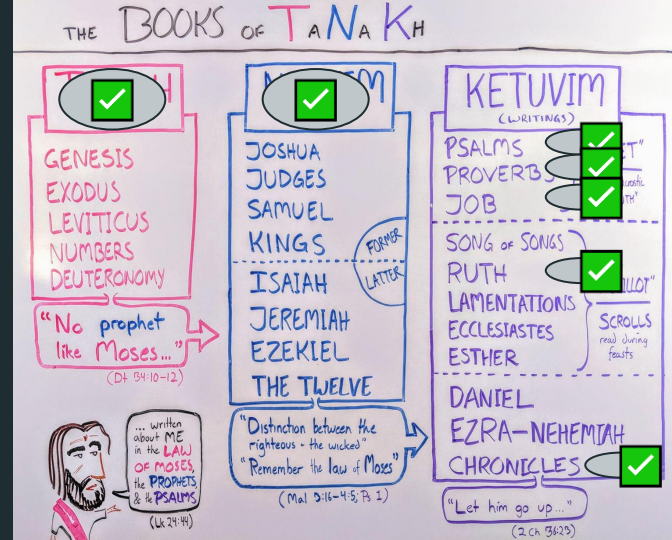
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- Matthew 1:5 TLV “Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David the king.” (Quoting the book of Ruth Chapter 4)



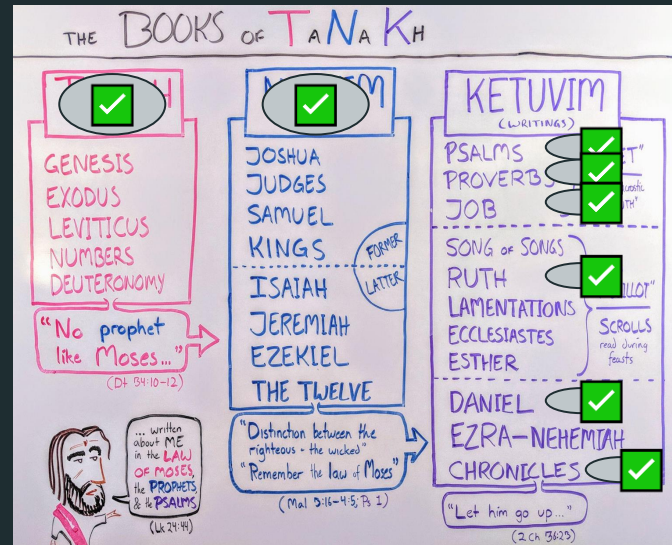
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- No mention of Lamentations but it is attributed to Jeremiah and commonly found in manuscripts next to Jeremiah

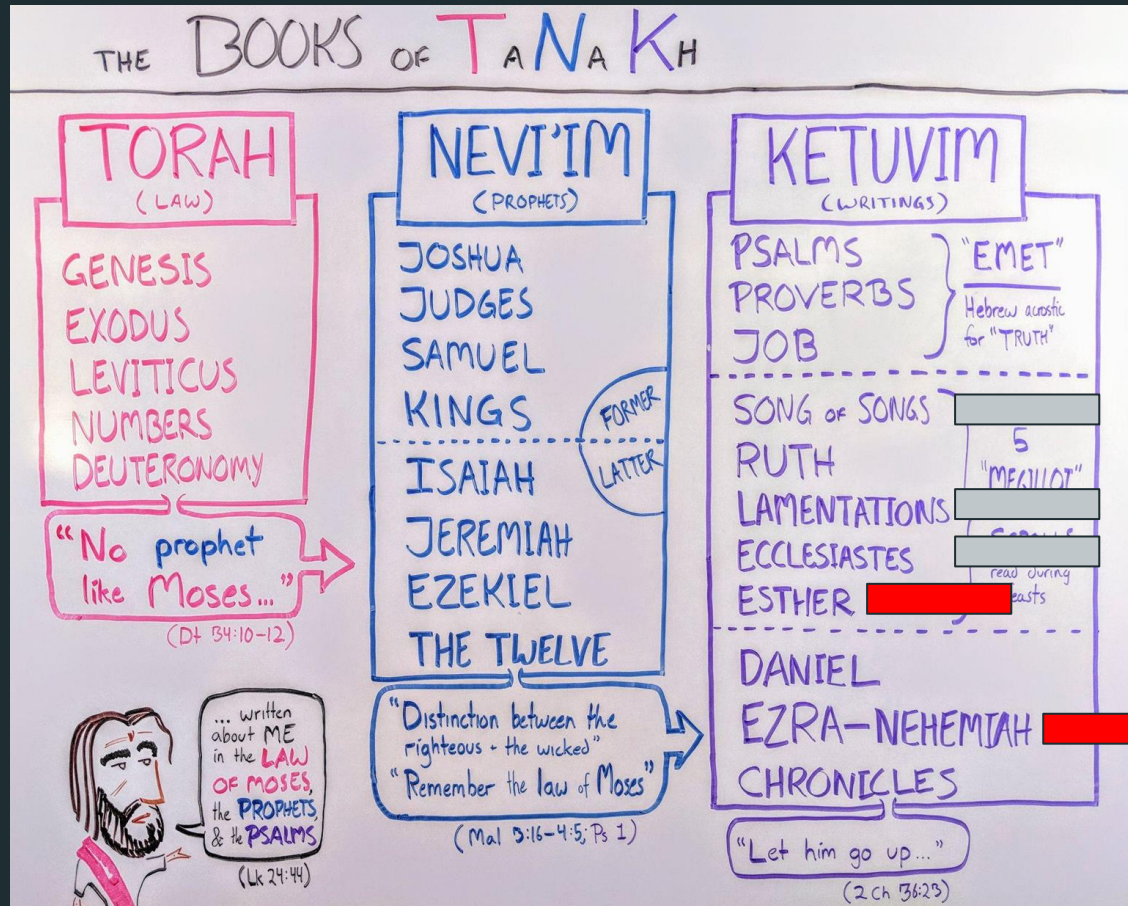


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- Matthew 24:15 TLV “So when you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’ which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand)” (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4). Yeshua also constantly refers back to Daniel 7 as future prophecy about himself



Yeshua and the Apostles did not leave us without guidance



- So we have 100% certainty over 22 books Yeshua and the Apostles either labeled as “scripture”, used the phrase “it is written” before quoting or identified the author as inspired
- Enoch is quoted as prophesying in Jude v14-15 but is not specifically referred to as scripture. Also don't forget that the testimony of Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). Lastly, the event that Enoch is referencing was already prophesied in both Daniel 7 & Zechariah 14...
- This is a great starting point... But this alone does not instruct us how we are to view any other books such as Esther, Ezra/Nehemiah, Apocryphal Books, book of Enoch etc?

““If a case comes before you at your city gate which is too difficult for you to judge, concerning bloodshed, civil suit, personal injury or any other controversial issue; you are to get up, go to the place which Adonai your God will choose, and appear before the cohanim, who are L’vi’im, and the judge in office at the time. Seek their opinion, and they will render a verdict for you. You will then act according to what they have told you there in that place which Adonai will choose; you are to take care to act according to all their instructions. In accordance with the Torah they teach you, you are to carry out the judgment they render, not turning aside to the right or the left from the verdict they declare to you. Anyone presumptuous enough not to pay attention to the cohen appointed there to serve Adonai your God or to the judge — that person must die. Thus you will exterminate such wickedness from Isra’el — all the people will hear about it and be afraid to continue acting presumptuously.”

Deuteronomy 17:8-13 CJB

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Deuteronomy 17:8-13 CJB

“Now some men coming down from Judea were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” When Paul and Barnabas had a big argument and debate with them, the brothers appointed Paul and Barnabas with some others from among them to go up to Jerusalem to the emissaries and elders about this issue.” Acts 15:1-2 TLV



“For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another, [as the Greeks have,] but only twenty-two books, which contain the records of all the past times; which are justly believed to be divine; and of them five belong to Moses, which contain his laws and the traditions of the origin of mankind till his death. This interval of time was little short of three thousand years; but as to the time from the death of Moses till the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, who reigned after Xerxes, the prophets, who were after Moses, wrote down what was done in their times in thirteen books. The remaining four books contain hymns to God, and precepts for the conduct of human life. It is true, our history hath been written since Artaxerxes very particularly, but hath not been esteemed of the like authority with the former by our forefathers, because there hath not been an exact succession of prophets since that time; and 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” [Against Apion 1.41].

Josephus 93 AD



James 1:1 “ From: Ya‘akov, a slave of God and of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah To: The Twelve Tribes in the Diaspora: Shalom!”

James 4:5-6 CJB “Or do you suppose the Scripture speaks in vain when it says that there is a spirit in us which longs to envy? But the grace he gives is greater, which is why it says, “God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.” (Referencing Proverbs 3:34)

- James assumes that the Messianic Jews he is writing to are already familiar with what “the scriptures” are

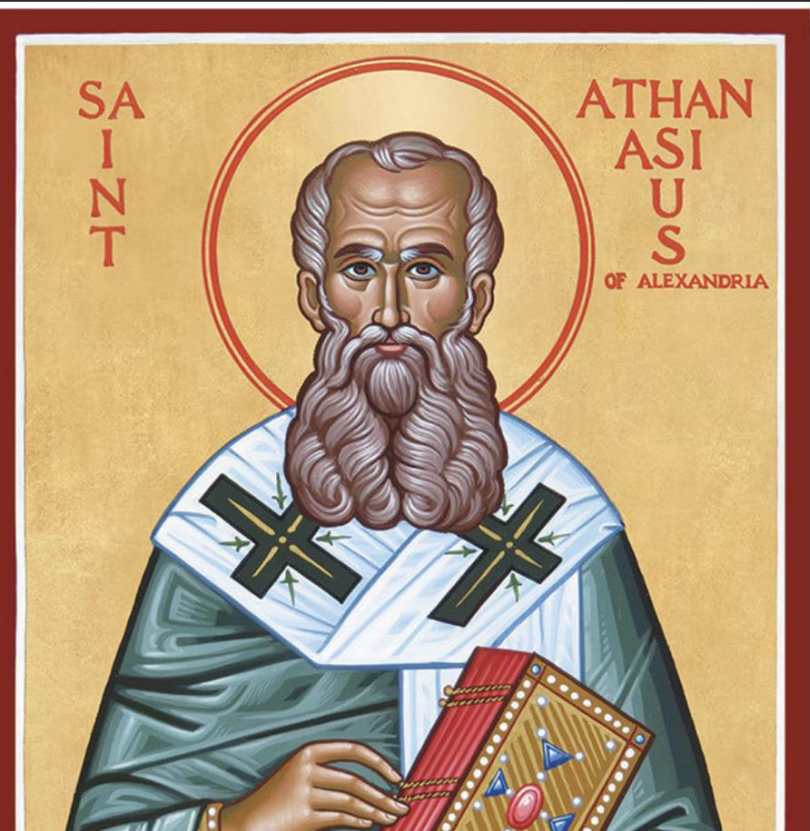


“Melito to his brother Onesimus, greeting:- As you have often, prompted by your regard for the word of God, expressed a wish to have some extracts made from the Law and the Prophets concerning the Saviour, and concerning our faith in general, and have desired, moreover, to obtain an accurate account of the Ancient Books, as regards their number and their arrangement, I have striven to the best of my ability to perform this task: well knowing your zeal for the faith, and your eagerness to become acquainted with the Word, and especially because I am assured that, through your yearning after God, you esteem these things beyond all things else, engaged as you are in a struggle for eternal salvation. I accordingly proceeded to the East, and went to the very spot where the things in question were preached and took place; and, having made myself accurately acquainted with the books of the Old Testament, I have set them down below, and herewith send you the list. Their names are as follows:-

The five books of Moses-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy; Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the four books of Kings, the two of Chronicles, the book of the Psalms of David, the Proverbs of Solomon, also called the Book of Wisdom, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, Job, the books of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, of the twelve contained in a single book, Daniel, Ezekiel, Esdras. From these I have made my extracts, dividing them into six books.”

- From the Book of Extracts quoted by Eusebius

Melito of Sardis
170 AD

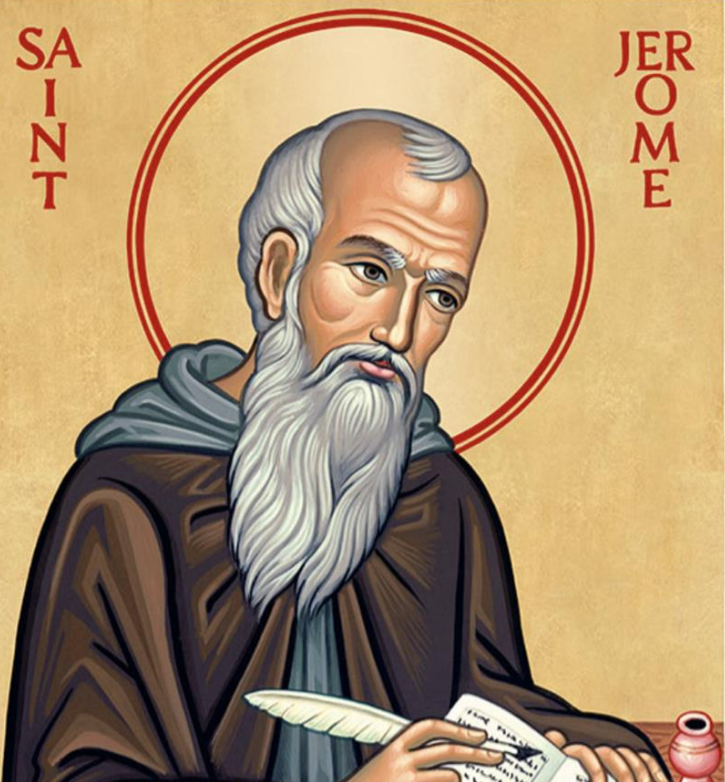


“There are, then, of the Old Testament, twenty-two books in number; for, as I have heard, it is handed down that this is the number of the letters among the Hebrews; their respective order and names being as follows. The first is Genesis, then Exodus, next Leviticus, after that Numbers, and then Deuteronomy. Following these there is Joshua, the son of Nun, then Judges, then Ruth. And again, after these four books of Kings, the first and second being reckoned as one book, and so likewise the third and fourth as one book. And again, the first and second of the Chronicles are reckoned as one book. Again Ezra, the first and second are similarly one book. After these there is the book of Psalms, then the Proverbs, next Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs. Job follows, then the Prophets, the twelve being reckoned as one book. Then Isaiah, one book, then Jeremiah with Baruch, Lamentations, and the epistle, one book; afterwards, Ezekiel and Daniel, each one book. Thus far constitutes the Old Testament.”

**Athanasius of
Alexandria 367AD**

- From 39th Festal Letter





Jerome
404 AD

“And so there are also twenty-two books of the Old Testament; that is, five of Moses, eight of the prophets, nine of the Hagiographa, though some include Ruth and Kinoth (Lamentations) amongst the Hagiographa, and think that these books ought to be reckoned separately; we should thus have twenty-four books of the old law. And these the Apocalypse of John represents by the twenty-four elders, who adore the Lamb, and with downcast looks offer their crowns, while in their presence stand the four living creatures with eyes before and behind, that is, looking to the past and the future, and with unwearied voice crying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast, and art, and art to come.

This preface to the Scriptures may serve as a “helmeted” introduction to all the books which we turn from Hebrew into Latin, so that we may be assured that what is not found in our list must be placed amongst the Apocryphal writings.”

- Preface to the Books of Samuel and Kings

“Then what advantage has the Jew? What is the value of being circumcised? Much in every way! In the first place, the Jews were entrusted with the very words of God (*Psalms 119:11*). If some of them were unfaithful, so what? Does their faithlessness cancel God’s faithfulness? Heaven forbid! God would be true even if everyone were a liar!” Romans 3:1-4 CJB

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“But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it; and recalling too how **from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah...” 2nd Timothy 3:14-15 CJB

- We are 100% certain of 22 books Yeshua and the Apostles would have considered scripture
- Every Jewish Canon list that we know of in the centuries closest to the time of the apostles was either 22 or 24 books
- We have no command from Yeshua or the Apostles to consider any books outside of the Jewish Canon when various Apostolic letters had been the perfect opportunity to do so
- We have no “it is written” or “as the scripture says” citations for any books outside of the Jewish Canon. Instead, that the Jews were entrusted with the words of God (Romans 3:1-4)

- “Adonai, God, does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7 (Which is us according to Revelation 1:1 & Revelation 19:10)
- So if we are going to be faithful to Deuteronomy 17:8-13’s command and follow in the footsteps of Acts 15 by looking to the very 1st Messianic Congregation placed in Jerusalem by Yeshua to be our example on this controversial issue...

Then there’s just no evidence to suggest they viewed any other books outside of the Jewish Canon as Divinely Inspired

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“And think of our Lord’s patience as deliverance, just as our dear brother Sha’ul also wrote you, following the wisdom God gave him. Indeed, he speaks about these things in all his letters. They contain some things that are hard to understand, things which the uninstructed and unstable distort, to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” - 2nd Peter 3:15-16 CJB

“Know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he comes soon enough, I will bring him with me when I come to see you.”
Hebrews 13:23 CJB

The Authority Of Scripture

The Authority Of Scripture

“But answering, Yeshua said to them, “You’ve gone astray, because you don’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, **haven’t you read what was spoken to you by God**, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living!” - Matthew 22:29-32 TLV

The Authority Of Scripture

“Now I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so you might learn from us not to go beyond what is written. Then none of you will be puffed up in favor of one against the other.” - 1st Corinthians 4:6 TLV

“You must not add to the word that I am commanding you or take away from it—in order to keep the mitzvot of Adonai your God that I am commanding you.” Deuteronomy 4:2 TLV

“I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this book that if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book.” Revelation 22:18 CJB

The Authority Of Scripture

“And indeed, all who want to live a godly life united with the Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it; and recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah. All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living; thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work.” 2nd Timothy 3:12-17 CJB

Tree of Life Tabernacle Confession of Faith

We believe the 66 books of the bible are the sole final authority over the life of every believer and by which God will judge (Matthew 22:31). All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete/equipped for every good work (2nd Timothy 3:16).

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