

APPRECIATING THE OLD TESTAMENT

1st Century Jews counted 22 books in their “canon” of Scripture (one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet)

- 5 books of Moses; a.k.a., “The Law”
- 13 books of Sacred History; a.k.a., “The Prophets” (They combined many books we keep separate)
 - Judges & Ruth were 1 book
 - The 2 Samuels were 1 book
 - The 2 Kings were 1 book
 - The 2 Chronicles were 1 book
 - Jeremiah & Lamentations were 1 book
 - Ezra & Nehemiah were 1 book
 - The Twelve prophets at the end of our O.T. were 1 book
- 4 books of Wisdom; a.k.a., “The Psalms” (Job was included in “The Prophets”)

They also upheld the principle of inspiration like that expressed by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

“It is true, our history has been written since Artaxerxes (400s BC) very particularly, but has not been esteemed of the like authority with the former by our forefathers, because there has not been an exact succession of prophets since that time; and how firmly we have given credit to those 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 anything to them, to take anything from them, or to make any change in them; but it becomes natural to all Jews, immediately and from their very birth, to esteem those books to contain divine doctrines, and to persist in them, and, if occasion be, willingly to die for them.”

Josephus’ Against Apion, Book 1, Chapter 8

Jesus identified all three sections of the Jewish canon when he said, "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.””

Luke 24:44 (NASB95, emphasis added)

OUR OLD TESTAMENT

39 Books from before the time of Jesus

5 BOOKS FROM MOSES

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Number and Deuteronomy

12 BOOKS OF HISTORY

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

5 BOOKS OF WISDOM/POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs

5 BOOKS FROM FAMOUS PROPHETS

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel

12 BOOKS FROM NOT-SO-FAMOUS PROPHETS

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

Back To The Five Books of Moses

These Are The Foundational Books of the Old Testament

Genesis = The Creation; The Fall; Death; The Flood; The Tower of Babel; The Division into Basic Ethnic Groups & The Stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph

Exodus = The Story of Israel's Miraculous Exodus from Egypt

Leviticus = A Rule Book for the Levites & Priests of Israel

Numbers = Two Counts of Israel: One at the Beginning of the Exodus & One at the End of the Exodus

Deuteronomy = Moses' Final Address to Israel

Our Old Testament Is Foundational To Our New Testament Faith

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:4 (NASB95)

“So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NASB95)