

**“Therefore, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.”**

**(2 Thessalonians 2:15)**



## Hebrews 4:12      Word of God

*Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.*

# What is the Bible?

- 1) A collection of ancient writings about God
- 2) A sharing of faith
- 3) The Word of God in human words
- 4) A book of *religious* truth
- 5) A record of God's action in human history

**The Bible is divided into two large sections called *testaments* ( or *agreements*).**

**The Old Testament is between God and the Hebrew people. It is based on the law of Moses.**

**The New Testament is between God and all people. It is based on the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.**

# Canon

- The canon of scripture is the *accepted* list of books in the Bible.
- There are two different Old Testament canons:
  - Alexandria, Egypt (c.200-100 BC); a Greek translation of 46 books; accepted by Roman Catholics; called the *Septuagint*, or *LXX*.
  - Jamnia, Israel (c.90 AD); 39 books accepted by Protestants and Jews (who count them as 22).
- The additional 7 books are called *deuterocanonical* by Catholics and *apocrypha* by Protestants.
  - Deutero = 2<sup>nd</sup>, canon = list, apocrypha = hidden
- The Old Testament was written almost entirely in Hebrew (with some Aramaic and Greek)

# Canon Comparison

<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Catholic</b>
<b><u>Torah (Law)</u></b>	<b><u>Pentateuch</u></b>	<b><u>Pentateuch</u></b>
<b>Genesis</b>	<b>Genesis</b>	<b>Genesis</b>
<b>Exodus</b>	<b>Exodus</b>	<b>Exodus</b>
<b>Leviticus</b>	<b>Leviticus</b>	<b>Leviticus</b>
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	<b>Deuteronomy</b>	<b>Deuteronomy</b>

<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Catholic</b>
<u><b>Prophets</b></u> <i>Former:</i>	<u><b>Historical</b></u> <b>Joshua</b>	<u><b>Historical</b></u> <b>Joshua</b>
<b>Joshua</b> <b>Judges</b>	<b>Judges</b> <b>Ruth</b>	<b>Judges</b> <b>Ruth</b>
<b>Samuel</b> <b>Kings</b> <i>Latter:</i> <b>Isaiah</b> <b>Jeremiah</b> <b>Ezekiel</b> <b>The Twelve</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Samuel</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Kings</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Chronicles</b> <b>Ezra</b> <b>Nehemiah</b> <b>Esther</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Samuel</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Kings</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Chronicles</b> <b>Ezra</b> <b>Nehemiah</b> <i>Tobit</i> <i>Judith</i> <b>Esther</b> <i>1 &amp; 2 Maccabees</i>

<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Catholic</b>
<u><b>Writings (Ketubim)</b></u>	<u><b>Wisdom</b></u>	<u><b>Wisdom</b></u>
<b>Psalms</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b>Job</b>
<b>Proverbs</b>	<b>Psalms</b>	<b>Psalms</b>
<b>Job</b>	<b>Proverbs</b>	<b>Proverbs</b>
<i><b>The Five Megilloth:</b></i>	<b>Ecclesiastes</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes</b>
<b>Song of Songs</b>	<b>Song of Songs</b>	<b>Song of Songs</b>
<b>Ruth</b>		<i><b>Wisdom</b></i>
<b>Lamentations</b>		<i><b>Sirach</b></i>
<b>Ecclesiastes</b>		
<b>Esther</b>		
<b>Daniel</b>		
<b>Ezra / Nehemiah</b>		
<b>Chronicles</b>		

Hebrew	Protestant	Catholic
	Prophets <u>Major:</u> Isaiah	Prophets <u>Major:</u> Isaiah
	Jeremiah / Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Jeremiah / Lamentations / <i>Baruch</i> Ezekiel Daniel
	<u>Minor:</u> Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	<u>Minor:</u> Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

# **Bible Languages**

**The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew.**

**The Deuterocanonical books were written in Greek or found only in their Greek translation (LXX). Two were originally in Hebrew: Sirach and 1 Maccabees.**

**Part of the Book of Daniel (2:4-7:28) was written in Aramaic**  
**The New Testament was written entirely in koine (common) Greek.**

# The Production of the Old Testament Canon

- ***Event:*** Something happened that people saw as God acting in their personal or corporate lives.
- ***Oral tradition:*** The Hebrews were a story-telling people. They told the story of an event for generations (sometimes centuries) until it was refined into a nugget of religious truth.
- ***Written:*** With the threat or reality of separation and loss of identity, the Hebrews began to write down their oral traditions in earnest (many around the period of the exile).
- ***Edited:*** Written stories were eventually collected (some were rewritten) and woven into books.
- ***Canon:*** Many books were written. Only a few were accepted by the Jews and Christians as truly expressing their faith. The canon is the official list of books in the Bible.

*The Holy Spirit inspired all five stages.*

# Inspiration

“Inspiration” literally means *to breathe in*.

From the Greek *theopneustos*, or “God-breathed”.

The scriptures are God’s Word in human words.

God and humans co-authored the Bible. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the human authors were enabled to write the (religious) truth that God wanted us to have that we might be saved.

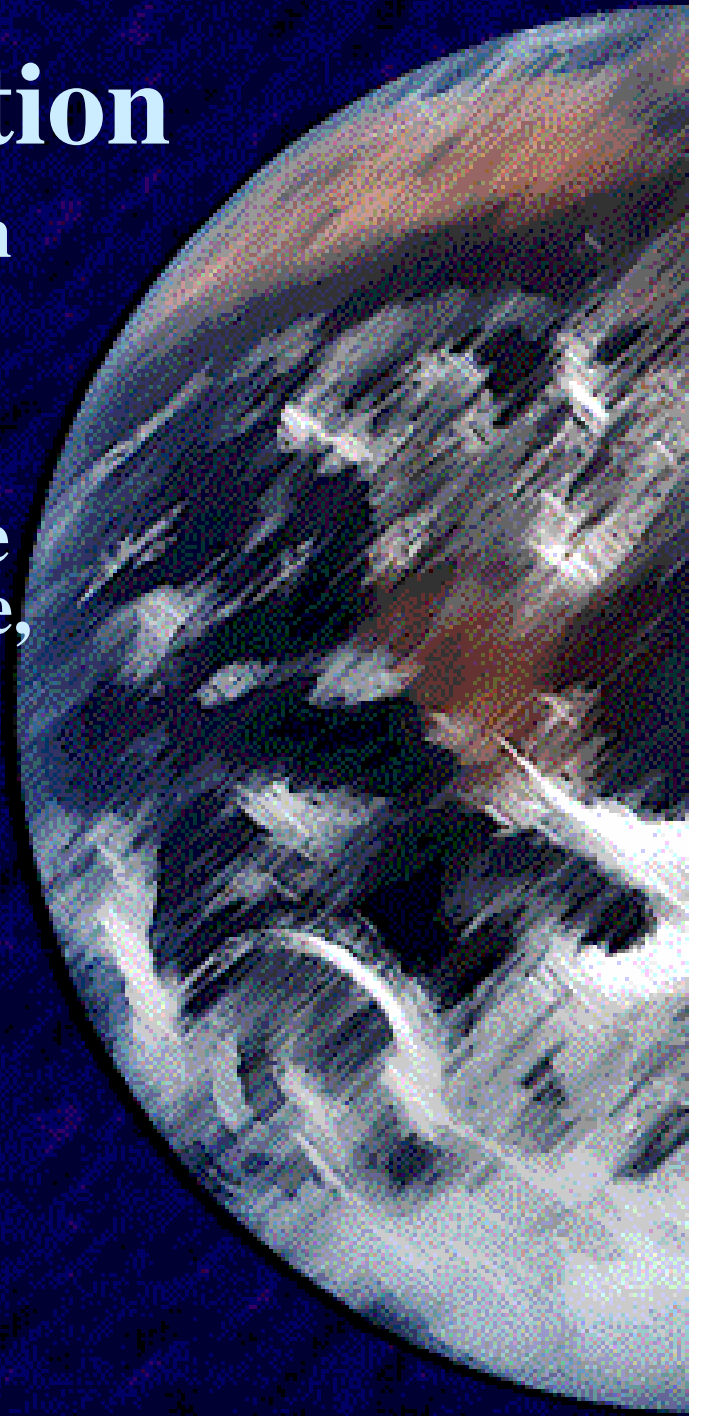
*Inspiration is a mystery!*

## ***2 Timothy 3:15-17***

***“From infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”***

# Types of Interpretation

- **Literalist – Word for word; when the Bible and science seem to disagree, the Bible is right; Fundamentalism**
- **Scientific – rationalism; when the Bible and science seem to disagree, science is right; sees religious myth as useless**
- **Concordist – Tries to make the Bible and science agree**
- **Allegorical – Reads the biblical story on two levels of meaning**
- **Critical/contextual – looks at the total context of a passage; asks questions before interpreting**



# Types of Criticism

**Textual:** What did the original say? Studies ancient languages and oldest manuscripts.

**Historical:** What actually happened? What was going on around the story? Archeology, literature, sociology, etc...

**Form:** What kind of writing is this? How did it take shape?

**Source:** Where did this passage come from? Where did they get it?

**Redaction:** How and why was this passage altered from its original to final form? Studies the editing of the Bible.

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# Tradition

- Transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the Apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits to the successors of the Apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of Truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound and spread it abroad by their preaching.  
(CCC #81)

# Magisterium

- The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. (CCC #85)
- Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it. (CCC #86)

# 1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Now I am reminding you, brothers, of *the gospel I preached to you*, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you *hold fast to the word I preached to you*, unless you believed in vain. For I *handed on to you* as of first importance *what I also received*: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures...

## St. Irenaeus of Lyons (175 AD)

“It is within the power of all, therefore, in every Church, who may wish to see the truth, to contemplate clearly *the tradition of the apostles* manifested throughout the whole world; and we are in a position to reckon up *those who were by the apostles instituted bishops in the Churches, and [to demonstrate] the succession of these men to our own times...*”

“...that *tradition derived from the apostles*, of the very great, the very ancient, and universally known Church founded and *organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul*; as also [by pointing out] the faith preached to men, *which comes down to our time by means of the successions of the bishops*. For it is a matter of necessity that *every Church should agree with this Church, on account of its preeminent authority -- that is, the faithful everywhere -- inasmuch as the Apostolic Tradition has been preserved continuously by those who are everywhere ...*”

“But Polycarp (69-155AD) also was not only *instructed by apostles*, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, *by apostles in Asia, appointed bishop of the Church in Smyrna*, whom I also saw in my early youth, for he tarried [on earth] a very long time, and, when a very old man, gloriously and most nobly suffering martyrdom, departed this life, having always *taught the things which he had learned from the apostles, and which the Church has handed down, and which alone are true.*”

# Examples of Tradition

- Real Presence (based on scripture)
- Sinfulness of abortion
- Mary's Assumption
- Mary's Immaculate Conception
- Chair of Peter, Bishop of Rome
- Apostolic Succession
- The Canon of Scripture