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How to Read and Study the Bible Lesson Three – Part 3: How We Got the Old Testament

Lesson Two Topics

- Reflection Questions
- Key Terms and Definitions
- Take Aways Concerning Translations
- Formation of the Old Testament
- The Stages of Collection
- Checking for Understanding Questions

Reflection Questions

A. Many of us have sat around holiday dinner tables and listened to an elder relative tell stories about the family history, sometimes over and over again. Do you find value in these stories? If yes, how have you passed them on?

B. What biblical tests can faithful Christians use to protect themselves from the influence of questionable bible scholars or false teachers and prophets?

Key Terms

Authoritative	Exile	Prophets/Former
Authorship	Formation	Prophets/Latter
Babylon	Hebrew Bible	Redactor
Canon - OT	J, E, P, D	Restoration
Collection	Law	Sermon on the Mount
Council of Jamnia	Moses	Translations
Editor	Oral Form	Versions
English Bible	Oral Tradition	Writings
Evidence/Internal	Functional Equivalent	Formal Equivalent

Take Aways Concerning Translations

A Bible translation or version is a scholarly attempt to render the stories and thoughts of people from the ancient cultures who spoke ancient languages into a modern language that is spoken by people who live in very different contemporary cultures.

Understandable – The priority of using a particular translation is so that you will ultimately pursue the fullness of the understanding of the word of God. When the translation is selected there must be a specific goal in mind and that is to create a space for you to become more life Jesus with every turn of the page.

User Friendly- The aim of selecting your Bible is how does it assist you in creating a strong devotional time with God; how does it give you what is necessary to create different teachings from the word of God that are filled with power and exude with precision. How does it help to proclaim and evangelize the word to persuade others that they too can become more intimately involved with the Lord Jesus Christ

Uniformity- We can use our translations in order to edify the body of Christ. There is a unique transaction when studying the word of God and everyone is on the same page. There is several ah huh moments that happen, reflection over life choices and commitments, then there is a consistency that is developed and confidence through the accuracy in the quoting of scripture.

Wide range of meaning vs a Limited range of meaning

Literary and rhetorical as well as historical, social and cultural.

Formal – equivalent translations emphasize the similarity in the linguistics forms such as vocabulary and grammatical structures. Between the source and the target.

Functional -equivalence translations, on the other hand, stress the similarity in linguistic function (meaning) between the two languages.

Formation of the Old Testament

OT Scholars are not sure when the 39 books of the Hebrew Old Testament canon were finished.

The Babylonian Captivity, also called the _____, and the subsequent restoration of the Jews to their homeland impacted the final form and collection of the Old Testament and the development of the Jewish Faith.

There is general agreement that the Old Testament was probably collected and put together in the form that it exists in the Hebrew Bible during the period of the _____.

The Restoration was a period during which the Jews returned to their _____ from the Babylonian Captivity/Exile.

Many of the original stories of the Hebrew people were generally told in oral form known as _____. They were told from generation to generation and then they were assembled into the final collection of books that we have today.

Checking Your Progress

1. Scholars are not sure about the exact dates that the books of the Hebrew Old Testament were completely finished. T or F
2. The Babylonia Exile was very crucial to the collection and codifying of the Old Testament Books, and the development of the Jewish faith. T & F
3. What method was used from generation to generation to convey the contents of the Hebrew Old Testament?

The Stages of Collection

Three stages

- The Torah or Law of Moses
- The Prophetic Writings
- The Writings

First Stage – The Torah or Law of Moses

The Law of Moses includes the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

- Authorship challenges
- Moses vs. JEPD (Jahwist/Yahwist, Elohist, Priestly, and Deuteronomist)
- Redactor/Editor for JEPD

The most powerful argument against the JEPD theory is the _____ itself.

- Jesus (Mark 12:26/Exodus 3:1-3)
- Luke (Acts 3:22/Deut. 18:15)
- Paul (Romans 10:5/Leviticus 18:5)

Checking Your Progress—

4. What were the three stages of collection for the Hebrew Old Testament?

5. What was the challenge to the authorship of the books of the Law?

6. What is the best argument against the challenges to authorship of the books of the Law?

7. Explain the role of a redactor/editor.

The books of the Law were held in deepest _____ by the Jews prior to and after the Exile.

We can assume with some certainty that the Law had been collected in its final form sometime before _____.

Second Stage – The Prophetic Writings

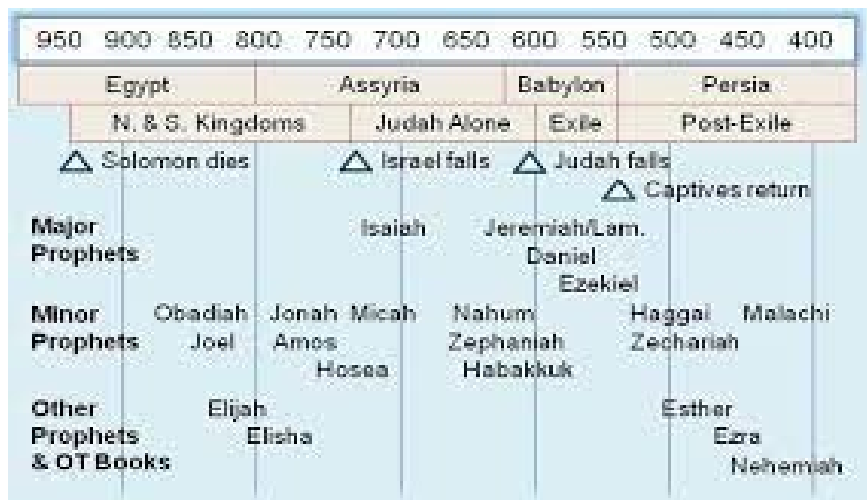
Christians are more drawn to the prophetic writings than to the books of the Law, believing the books of the Law have no applicability to them. On the contrary, the Law has much to teach us about how to live for God and how to reverence and _____ Him.

The Hebrew Old Testament prophetic writings are divided into _____ and _____ prophets.

There are writing and non-writing prophets. _____ was a notable non-writing prophet. In this lesson, we are primarily concerned with the writing prophets.

Scholars often debate and disagree on the exact dates that the various books of the Bible were written. The best way to determine when a book was written is to study the _____ in the books themselves.

We are not absolutely certain when several of the prophetic books were written. However, it is generally believed by most Bible scholars that all the prophetic books were written at some point between the _____ and _____ century BC.



Checking Your Progress

8. How are the Prophetic Writings in the Hebrew Old Testament divided?

9. Are all Old Testament prophets writing prophets? Explain.

10. What is the best way to determine the date that a book was written?

11. During what period is it believed that all the Prophetic Writings were written?

12. Are the books of the Law of Moses of use to Christians today? Briefly Explain.
