

# Bible : the Word of God

## Bible as Mirror and Window



# Bible I.Q

- **How many books are in the Old Testament?**
- **What is the first book of the Old Testament?**
- **Which book in the O.T is the shortest?**
- **What is the last book of the Bible?**
- **Which book in the New Testament is the longest?**
- **What about the shortest in the New Testament?**
- **Which book comes after Psalm?**
- **Which book in the Old Testament is also called Canticles of canticles?**
- **What is the other name of Ecclesiastes?**
- **Which book in the New Testament was also authored by Luke aside from the Gospel according to Luke?**



**Bible**



# What is the Bible?



# Bible

- **Scripture**

- **“writings”** (<Latin *scriptus* = “written”; cf. Greek *g r a f e*, Hebrew *mikra*),

- ***religious writings***

- ***authoritative,***

- ***foundational,***

- ***sacred by some religious group***

# Bible

- **Greek ta biblia ("t a b i b l i a " ), “the books“**
  - refers to the whole sacred volume
  - a compilation of many different books of various literary genres.
- **Latin “biblia” , “The Book”**
  - eminence of the Bible

# **THE BIBLE**

**The Bible is a collection of sacred writings which the Church solemnly recognized as the:**

**Word of God  
written by men**

**through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.**

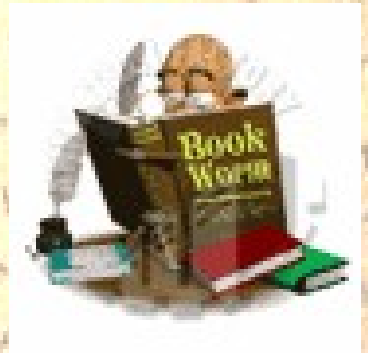
# WRITTEN BY MEN

- The Bible was
  - written by persons who lived
  - in a particular context,
  - using the means available to them
  - as they went through the natural process of data gathering, selection, and finally writing down scriptures.





***"All scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct to instruct in justice" 2 Timothy 3:16***



# THROUGH THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## INSPIRATION

Lt. *“in spirare”* – to breathe into

“By supernatural power God so moved and impelled the human authors to write .

*Providentissimus Deus, Pope Leo XIII*



**INSPIRATION IS THE SPECIAL INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE HUMAN AUTHORS.**

# INERRANCY

- Inerrancy means **freedom from error.**
- is a consequence of its **inspiration.**
- Because **God is the principal author of the Bible**, then it **cannot but contain the truth.**

- The Bible is without error regarding the truths of our salvation.

***"The books of scripture must be acknowledged as teaching firmly, faithfully and **without error** that **truth** which God wanted to put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation"*** (Constitution on Divine Revelation, #11).



These errors do not in anyway affect the essential message of Sacred Scriptures.

**THE BIBLE CONTAINS ERROR BUT  
TEACHES NO ERROR.**

# CANONICITY

Gk. **“kanon”** (k a n o n) – a stick; measuring rod  
-the word implies “norms” or “standards”

## CANONICITY

IS THE CHURCH’S OFFICIAL DECLARATION  
THAT A BOOK IS INSPIRED, AND IS  
THEREFORE A WORTHY BASIS OF FAITH  
AND MORALS.



A BOOK HAS TO **PASS CERTAIN STANDARDS.**  
IT BECOMES A STANDARD ITSELF.

N.B. Canonicity is a **formal recognition of the inspiration which the book has always possessed.**

# CRITERIA FOR CANONICITY

## FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT:

- Adherence to the TORAH (five books of Moses).
- Constant use in liturgy.
- Language
- Recognized Sacred Scriptures are **stored in the temple chests**, available for public reading.

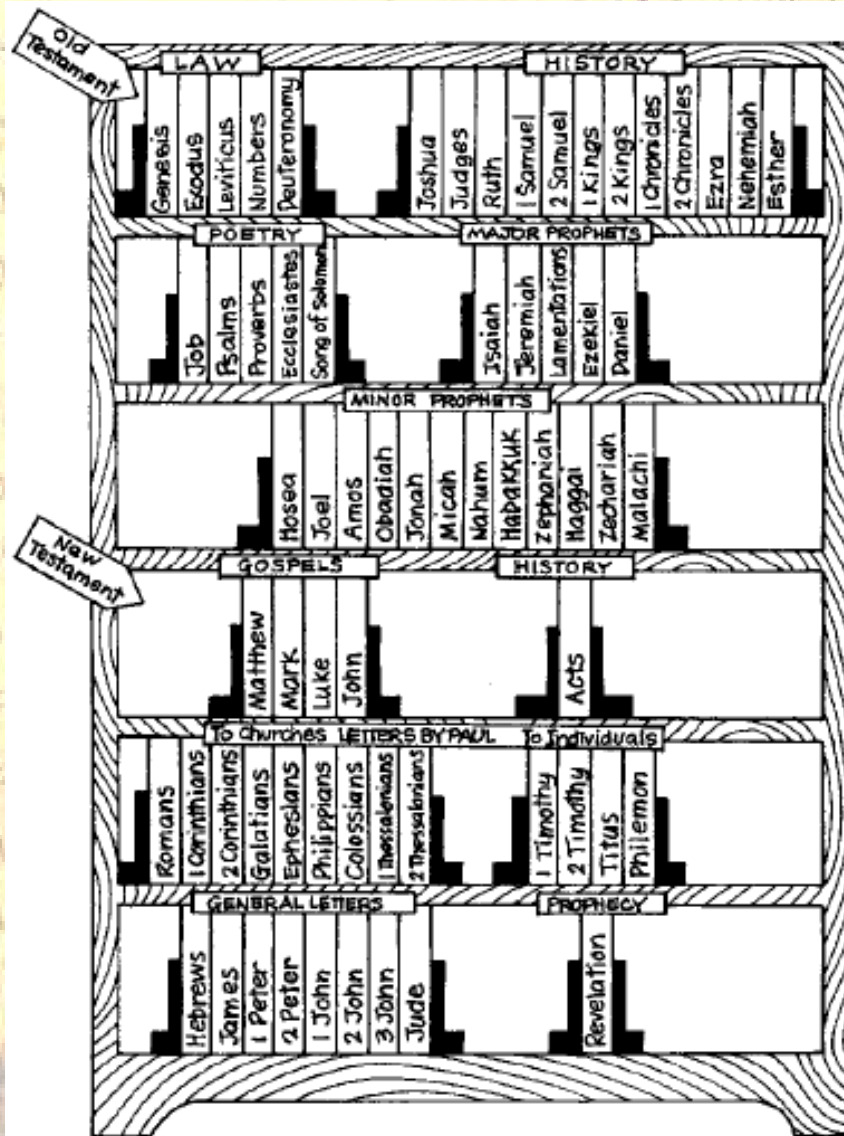


# CRITERIA FOR CANONICITY

## FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT:

- **Apostolic origin**
- **Coherence with the essential Gospel Message**
- **Constant use in the liturgy**
- ***Universal Acceptance***

# CANON OF SCRIPTURES

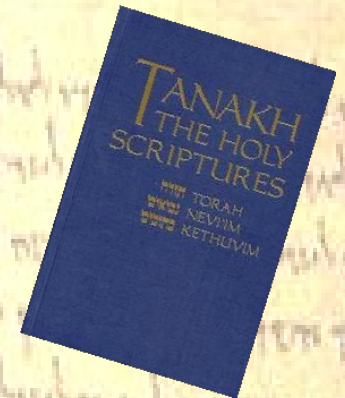


The **CANON OF SCRIPTURES** refers to the official list of inspired books.



# Hebrew Bible

- A collection of 24 "books" (or large "scrolls"), traditionally called the *Mikra* in Hebrew (or *Miqra*, lit. "writings")
- "TaNaK" or "Tanakh"
  - *Torah*
    - "Law,"
    - "Teaching" or "Instruction"
  - *Nevi'im*
    - "Prophets"
      - "Former Prophets" (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings)
      - "Latter Prophets" (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and "The Twelve" Minor Prophets)
  - *Khetuvim*
    - "Writings"



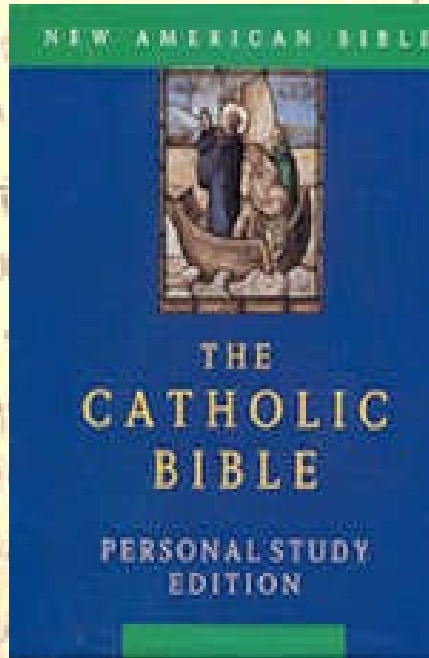
# Septuagint (LXX)

- **Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible**
- **A collection of up to 53 books of ancient Jewish Scriptures written in Greek.**
  - translations of all 24 books of the HB
  - seven or more additional books (the "**Deuterocanonical Books**") that are not found in the HB.

# THE DEUTEROCANONICALS

- Tobit
- Judith
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Ecclesiasticus (Ben Sirach)
- Baruch
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees
- seven (or more) books that are in the LXX but not in the HB
- are considered part of the biblical canon by Orthodox and Catholic Christians (although recognized as later additions, and thus called "**Deuterocanonical**," meaning a "**second canon**")
- are *not* considered canonical by Jews and most Protestant Christians today (who call them "*Apocryphal*")

# ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE



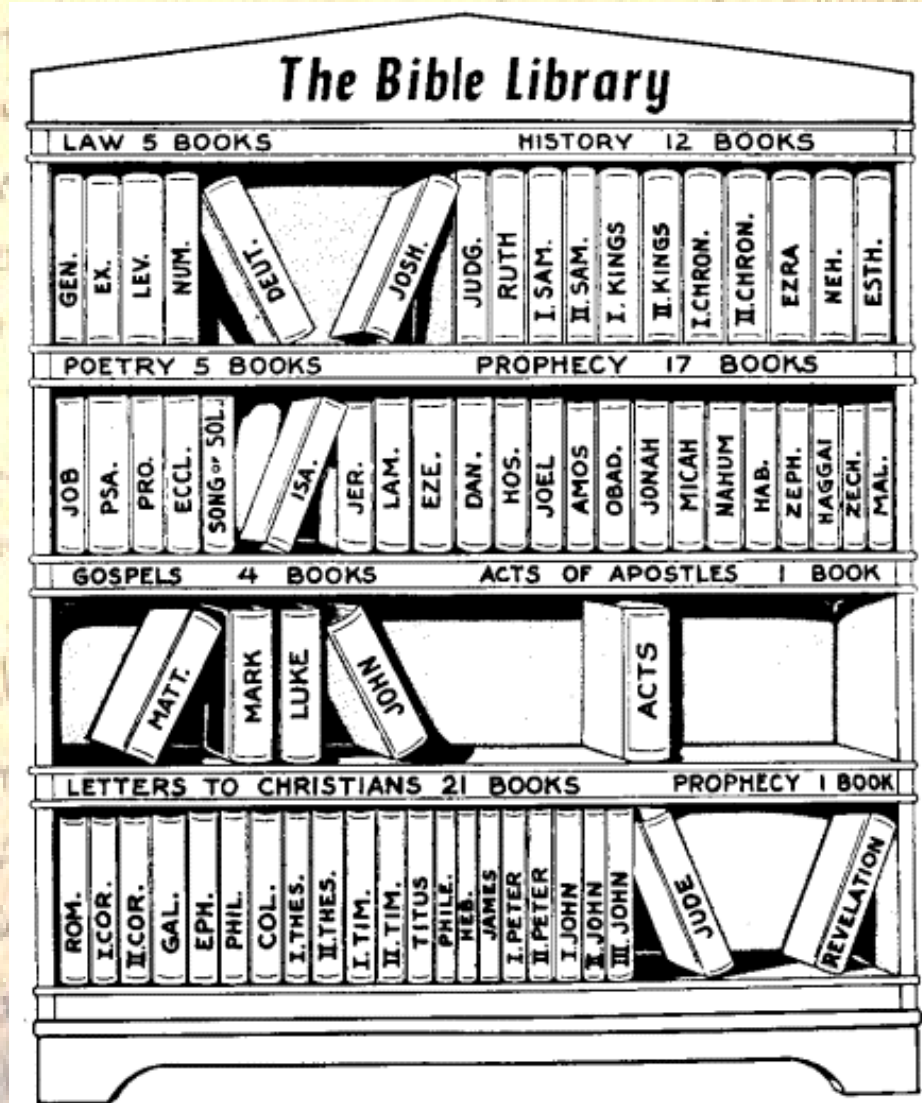
- **73 (72) BOOKS**
- **46 Books in the Old Testament**
- **(45 if Jeremiah and Lamentations are counted as one)**
- **27 Books in the New Testament**

# PROTESTANT BIBLE

**66 BOOKS**

**39 Books in the  
Old Testament**

**27 Books in the  
New Testament**



# TWO MAIN DIVISIONS:

## OLD TESTAMENT

COVENANT BETWEEN  
GOD AND ISRAEL  
MEDIATED BY MOSES

Central Event:



God's covenant with israel

Language:

Predominantly Hebrew

## NEW TESTAMENT

COVENANT BETWEEN  
GOD AND HUMANITY  
MEDIATED BY JESUS

Central Event:



THE RESURRECTION

Language:

Predominantly Greek

*The Old Testament **finds light** in the New Testament. The New Testament **finds foundation** in the Old Testament. The Church teaches that both **divisions are equally inspired.***

# Old Testament division

- **Pentateuch/Torah/Law**
- **Historical Books**
- **Writings/Wisdom books**
- **Prophets**



# Pentateuch/Torah/Law

- **Genesis**

- **Exodus**

- **Leviticus**

- **Numbers**

- **Deuteronomy**

- Bereshith

- Shemoth

- Wayiqra

- Bemidbar

- Debarim







# Historical Books

- **Joshua**
- **Judges**
- **Ruth**
- **1 Samuel**
- **2 Samuel**
- **1 Kings**
- **2 Kings**
- **1 Chronicles**
- **2 Chronicles**
- **Ezra**
- **Nehemiah**
- **Tobit**
- **Judith**
- **Esther**
- **1 Maccabees**
- **2 Maccabees**

# Writings/Wisdom books

- **Job**
- **Psalms**
- **Proverbs**
- **Ecclesiastes**
- **Song of Solomon**
- **Wisdom**
- **Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)**



# Prophets

- **Major Prophets**
- **Minor Prophets**

- **Isaiah**

- **Jeremiah**

- **Lamentations**

- **Baruch**

- **Ezekiel**

- **Daniel**

- **Hosea**

- **Joel**

- **Amos**

- **Obadiah**

- **Jonah**

- **Micah**

- **Nahum**

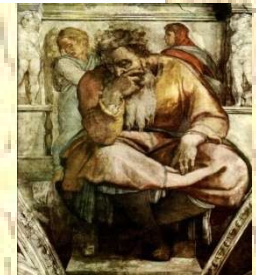
- **Habakkuk**

- **Zephaniah**

- **Haggai**

- **Zechariah**

- **Malachi**



# New testament

- **The Gospels**
- **Historical Writing**
- **Letters of Paul**
- **Pastoral Letters**
- **Apocalypse**



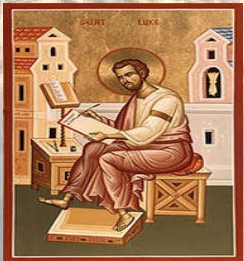
# The Gospels



- **Matthew**
- **Mark**
- **Luke**
- **John**

Synoptic  
Gospels

Because they can be “viewed together” or compared in parallel fashion



**Matthew 8:16-17**

**That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick.**

**This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."**

**Mark 1:32-34**

**That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.**

**Luke 4:40-41**

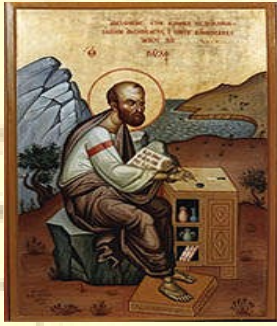
**Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.**



**Historical**

# Acts of the Apostles

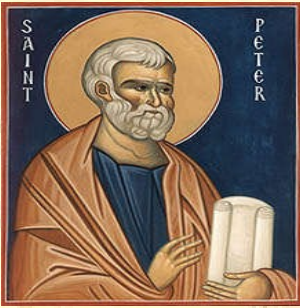




# Letters of St. Paul

- **Romans**
- **1 Corinthians**
- **2 Corinthians**
- **Galatians**
- **Ephesians**
- **Philippians**
- **Colossians**
- **1 Thessalonians**
- **2 Thessalonians**
- **1 Timothy**
- **2 Timothy**
- **Titus**
- **Philemon**





# Pastoral Letters

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

# Apocalypse

## Revelation

“Happy the man  
who reads this  
prophecy, and  
happy those who  
listen to him...”



# Why Read the Bible?

**We read the Bible because it tells us about....**



## a. GOD

- **We get to know who God is,**
- **What He is,**
- **His plan in creating, redeeming and sanctifying us.**



## **b. People**



**The Bible is consist of  
narrative about women and  
men to whom the Word of  
God came.**

## c. Salvation History



- The purpose of the Bible is to give **spiritual and religious significance of the events** and to glorify God.
- The Bible leads us in **reflecting on the role that God is playing in our lives.**
- The Bible is the story of God's plan of salvation

## d. US

- **The Bible provides us with a unique and irreplaceable means to understand the true meaning of what is happening in our lives**
  - our relationships,
  - our dreams, and
  - our difficulties.



# **As WORD OF GOD**

- **The Scripture fulfills a...**
  - **FOUNDATIONAL,**
  - **SUSTAINING,** and
  - **CRITICAL ROLE****for the Church , for theology, for preaching and for catechesis.**
- **The Scripture is a source of the life of faith, hope and love of the People of God and a light for all humanity.**