

COMPLEX BODIES LECTURE

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OUTLINE OF TODAY

- Introductions
- (Very) Brief Introduction to Ancient Judaism
- Main Lecture
- Task

Trigger Warning During our time together over the next two days, we will be dealing with difficult topics and ideas, if you feel like you need a break from the screen and/or you would like to arrange a one to one with me please do let me know.

THE HEBREW BIBLE / THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES THE OLD TESTAMENT

TANAKH / MIKRA



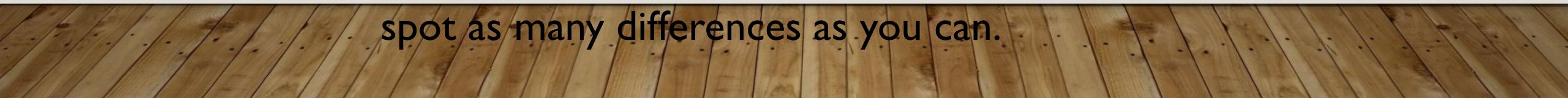
HOW MANY BOOKS ARE IN THE BIBLE?

Canon - *definition: A collection or list of sacred books accepted as genuine.*

New Testament = 27 books (usually)

What about the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament?

Pair / Group Work – Examine the handout. Take 5 minutes to spot as many differences as you can.



MULTIPLE CANONS?

- Jewish Tanakh and the Protestant Bible = same differently, **AND** (ii) ordered differently.
- Catholic Bible = same order as Protestant Bible, but (i) additional books, **AND** (ii) some longer versions.
- Orthodox Bible = same order as Protestant Bible and Catholic Bible, but further additional books.



WHICH LANGUAGE IS THE BIBLE WRITTEN IN?

Ancient (original) languages

- Hebrew (most of the HB/OT)
- Greek (NT)
- Aramaic (parts of HB/OT and transliterated terms in the New Testament)

1. Ezra 4:8 – 6:18 and 7:12-26

2. Daniel 2:4-7:28

3. Jeremiah 10:11

4. Genesis 31:47

[illegible]

DATE(S) AND AUTHOR(S)

- Hebrew Bible / Old Testament writings: ca. 1000 BCE – 164 BCE
- New Testament writings: ca. 50 CE – 200 CE

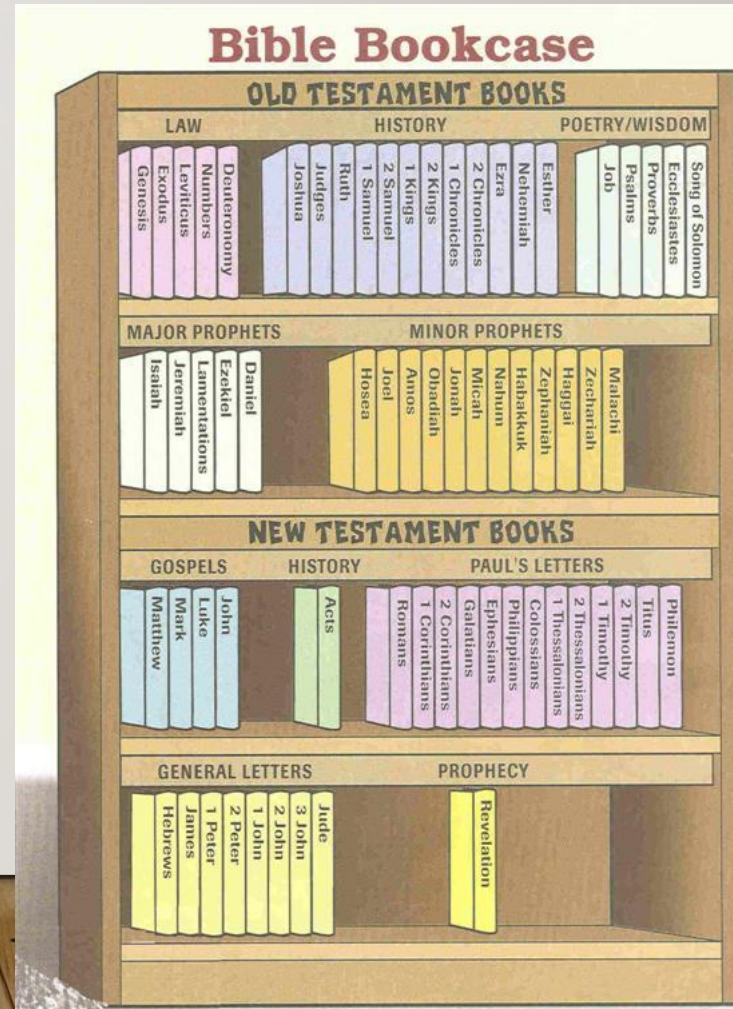
Therefore, the Bible contains writings spanning over 1,000 years and can be related to multiple dates, multiple authors and multiple contexts.



WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Genres

- Law
- Prophecy
- Prayer
- Poetry
- Wisdom
- Narrative



THE HEBREW BIBLE

- The main foundation of Judaism: its body of sacred scriptures.
- An anthology of different writings.
- Until today recited from a handwritten scroll in Hebrew (without vowels).
- Intended to be read aloud (*mikra*)

THE HEBREW BIBLE AND JUDAISM

Markers of Judaism:

- Worship of a personal and transcendent God
- Code of laws and commandments
- Institutional and communal structures (Temple, shrine, synagogue)
- Revealed Scripture

TANAKH

TaNaKh

Ta=Torah

Na=Nebium

Kh=Kethubim



ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
ס	נ	נ	מ	מ	ל	ך	כ	י
Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzade (Tz)	Tzade (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pe (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)

TANAKH

- Torah / Law: Five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
- Nevi'im / Prophets: (8 books)
- Ketuvim / Writings: (11 books)

Books of the Law Pentateuch / Torah	Historical Books	Poetry and Wisdom Books / Ketuvim	Prophetic Books / Nevi'im
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations
Numbers	I Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
Deuteronomy	II Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel
	I Kings		Hosea
	II Kings		Joel, Amos
	I Chronicles		Obadiah, Jonah
	II Chronicles		Micah, Nahum
	Ezra		Habakkuk
	Nehemiah		Zephaniah
	Esther		Haggai
			Zechariah
			Malachi

INTERPRETING THE HEBREW BIBLE

- **From a historical perspective:** a collection of 39 writings composed by different authors from several historical periods (interest in historical, social, political and cultural issues)
- Texts composed in Hebrew and Aramaic.
- Various religious and social movements, cultural practices, political developments.
- Responses to specific circumstances.

INTERPRETING THE HEBREW BIBLE

From a literary perspective: what are the literary features of the biblical texts?

Narrative: about humankind and the nation of Israel.

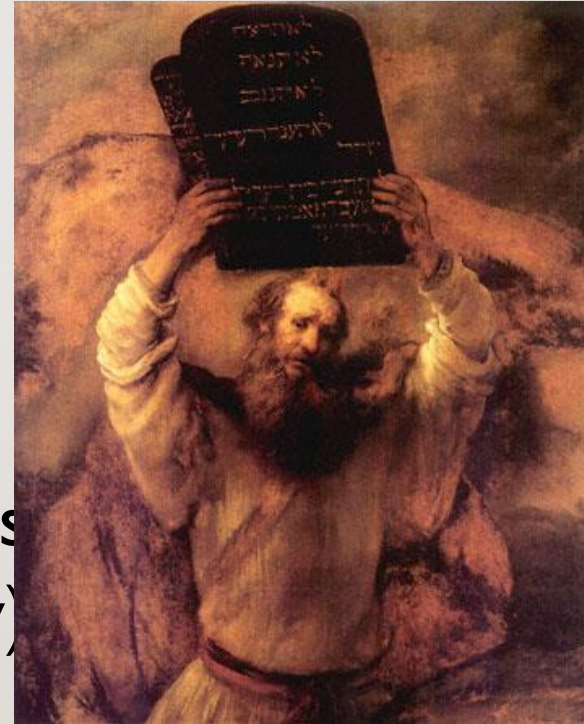
Prophecy: a revelation from God mediated through a prophet ('and the word of the Lord came to Isaiah/Jeremiah/Amos...').

Psalms: expression of praise/lament of a group/individual.

Apocalypse ('revelation'): disclosure of the heavenly mysteries about God and the world to come.

INTERPRETING THE HEBREW BIBLE

- From a theological perspective: encourage readers/hearers to believe and understand the significance of Israel (origins, fall, restoration, and destiny)



THE TETRAGRAMMATON

- The tetragrammaton (“four letters”) יהוה is the personal name of God.
- Because it is considered too holy to pronounce, when יהוה is read, the word אֲדֹנָי (= “Lord”) is spoken instead.



THE NAMES FOR GOD IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Exercise:

How many names are used for God in the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament as described in this clip?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkc35rew5ZU&app=desktop>