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2  **The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - The Bible consists of 66 books broken into two sections:
    - The Old Testament or Covenant consisting of 39 books
    - The New Testament or Covenant consisting of 27 books
  - Helpful hint - 39 books in O.T -  $3 \times 9 = 27$  and  $27 + 39 = 66$

3

**The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Languages of the Bible
    - Old Testament - Hebrew and Aramaic (Daniel 2:42 - 7:28, Jeremiah 10:11, Ezra 4:8 - 6:18; 17:12-26)
    - New Testament - Greek

4

**The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Writers of the Bible
    - O.T. - Moses, Prophets, Scribes and Kings
    - N.T. - Apostles and Evangelists
  - Message
    - O.T. The God of creation makes a covenant with his people and promises a Savior/ Messiah
    - N.T. - The God of the Covenant fulfills the Covenant and makes salvation available to all mankind

5

**The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Old Testament Configuration
    - Hebrew
      - Law (Pentateuch): first five books, Genesis -Deuteronomy
      - Prophets
        - Former: Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1 &2 Kings
        - Latter: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Book of 12 (the minor prophets)
      - Writings: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles

6

**The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Old Testament Configuration
  - English - goes back to the Septuagint
    - 5 Books of Law (Pentateuch)
    - 12 Books of History: Joshua - Esther
    - 5 Books of Poetry: Job - Song of Solomon
    - 17 Books of Prophets:
      - Major: Isaiah - Daniel
      - Minor: Hosea - Malachi

7

**The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Written on:
    - Papyrus - from the plant of that name
      - Strips cut or peeled
      - Laid out to dry
      - Glued together to form a single piece or scroll

- Parchment - animal skins
  - The Jewish Talmud required that the Torah be copied on animal skins
  - Early Latin Bibles (300 A.D. and forward) in codex or book form

### 8 **The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Time Frame:
    - Old Testament: 1400 - 400 B.C.
    - New Testament: A.D. 40 - 95
      - Revelations: A.D. 54 - 68 /Nero
        - »A.D. 69 - 79 / Vespasian
        - »A.D. 95
      - Paul’s writing: prior to A.D.64- 67
      - Peter’s: prior to A.D. 64
      - James: prior to A.D. 62
      - Jude: probably before A.D. 67
      - Luke: prior to A.D. 84
      - Mark: prior to A.D. 68

### 9 **The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible
  - Time Frame:
    - Matthew: unknown - one reference says he preached in Ethiopia for 15 years; another says he was martyred in Ethiopia. This would put his Gospel prior to A.D. 50. Other scholars object on the grounds that Jesus couldn’t have predicted the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and therefore assign it a date after that time
    - John: prior to A.D. 95; It is at this time that Clement of Rome makes reference to the 4 Gospels

### 10 **The History of the Bible**

- Fast Facts on the Bible - a summary
 

*The Bible was written in a time frame that covers approximately 1,500 years ( 1400 B.C. - A.D. 95)*

### 11 **The Bible**

- How did we get it?
  - Scribes - individuals trained to copy written work, usually by dictation
    - Step #1 - drag stylus (a sharpened reed) to make margins and lines on which to write
    - Step#2 - begin writing, using stylus and carbon ink as the manuscript was read
  - Scribes were often assembled as a group in a Scriptorium - where one person dictated and the scribes copied.

### 12 **The Bible - Manuscripts**

- The problem with New Testament manuscripts:
  - Books were written on papyrus sheets
  - Books were in constant use and passed around
  - Papyrus books did not last more than a decade under such conditions
  - Therefore, original autographs are no longer in existence

### 13 **The Bible - Manuscripts**

- Dating New Testament manuscripts:
  - Most scribes put a date on their work upon completion
    - “With great sweat and toil”
    - “The end of the book - Thanks be to God!”
  - By writing styles

- Uncials - the earliest of writings, written in all capital letters on papyrus or parchment (animal skins)
- Miniscules - later writings on parchment that use smaller, cursive-like writing

14  **The Bible - Manuscripts**

- Uncials
  - 95 papyri books
  - 270 papyri lectionaries - manuscripts designed for reading in public worship
  - 280 parchment books and lectionaries
  - Date from the early second century to the fourth century
  - Most do not contain the entire N.T. - this would have been too bulky.

15  **The Bible - Manuscripts**

- Uncials
  - Most fit into one of four categories:
    1. The Four Gospels
    2. Acts and the General Epistles
    3. The Pauline Letters
    4. Revelations

16  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- 1,400 B.C.: the first written Word of God; the Ten Commandments delivered to Moses
- 500 B.C.: Completion of all original Hebrew manuscripts which make up the 39 books of the Old Testament
- 200 B.C.: Completion of the Septuagint Greek manuscripts which contain the 39 Old Testament Books and the 14 Apocrypha Books
  - Septuagint means; "According to the 70."
  - Actually 72 - 6 elders from each of the 12 tribes
  - Completed in Alexandria, Egypt by order of PtolemyII
  - Quoted by Jesus and the Apostles

17  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- 1st Century A.D.: Completion of all original manuscripts which make up the 27 books of the New Testament
  - Two reasons that the 27 books were not immediately written after Jesus' ascension
    1. The Apostles believed that Jesus' return was imminent.
    2. There wasn't a perceived need. Those in the Jerusalem region were witnesses of Jesus and well aware of His ministry. The Gospel was spread by word of mouth, following Jesus' teaching and example.

18  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- The books of the New Testament are written by eyewitnesses to Christ and the Early Church.
- These books were used by the first century Christians and the early Church as a part of their worship
- They are spoken of early and often:
  - Clement of Rome - A.D. 95
  - PolyCarp (a disciple of John's)- A.D. 110
  - Ignatius - A.D. 115
  - Justin Martyr - A.D. 100 -165 (The Gospels)

19  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- As early as A.D. 64, Matthew, Mark Luke and John are referred to as scripture:
  - 1 Timothy 5:18 - Paul quotes Luke 10:7 as scripture.

- 2 Peter 3:16 - Peter classifies Paul's Epistles as scripture
- A.D. 100 - 120 - Barnabas quotes Matthew 20:16 by saying, "It is Written."
- Tertullian
- Clement of Alexandria
- Irenaeus

20  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- A.D. 193 - "New Testament" appears in early writing against a heresy. The New Testament books are used as a basis for argument in refuting the heresy.
- A.D. 200 - The Four Gospels are firmly accepted as are the Pauline Epistles, Hebrews, Acts, Revelations, Jude, 1 Peter and 1 John. There is still some debate on James, 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John. - *Origen*
- A.D. 300 - Widespread agreement on the 27 books. The Emperor had given Eusebius the task to prepare "50 copies of the Divine Scriptures."

21  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- Criteria that had been used in the early church for determining scripture:
  1. Apostolic Authority
  2. Orthodox Message
  3. Universal Acceptance
  4. Liturgical Use
  - Eusebius notes that these books were accepted by , "Authority and Apostolicity."

22  **The Bible - A Time Line**







- A.D. 315: Athanasius, the Bishop of Alexandria, identifies the 27 books of the New Testament.
- A.D. 325: The Council of Nicea - "The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were silently admitted on all sides to have final authority."
- A.D. 382: Jerome's Latin Vulgate is produced which contain the 66 books of the Old and New Testament which he calls scripture, and the 14 books of the Apocrypha which he notes are not scripture.
- A.D. 397: The Council of Carthage call the books of the Old and New Testament "The Canon."

23  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- A.D. 600 - Latin was the only language allowed for Scripture
- A.D. 1384 - Wycliffe is the first person to produce a manuscript copy of the complete Bible in English
- A.D. 1455 - Gutenberg prints the Latin Bible
- A.D. 1516 - Erasmus produces a Greek/Latin parallel New Testament
- A.D. 1526 - William Tyndale produces the first printed version of the English New Testament
- A.D. 1535 - The Myles Coverdale's Bible is printed - the first complete English Bible

24  **The Bible - A Time Line**

- A.D. 1537 - Tyndale Matthews Bible is printed, it is the second complete Bible in English
- A.D. 1539 - The "Great Bible" is printed. It is the first English Bible authorized for public use.
- A.D. 1560 - The Geneva Bible is printed. It is the first English Bible to add numbered verses to each chapter.
- A.D. 1568 - The Bishops Bible is printed.
- A.D. 1611 - The King James Bible is printed. It is a revision of the Bishops Bible. It contains all 80 books. The Apocrypha was officially removed in 1885.

- 25  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- Why were the Apocryphal (hidden) books removed?
    - These books were never included in the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament
    - These books were never accepted by Jesus and His apostles.
    - These books were never accepted by the 1st century Jewish writers Josephus or Philo; by the Jewish council of Jamnia (A.D. 90); By the early Christian writers; By Jerome who translated the Latin Vulgate and maintained that these books were apocryphal and were not to be included in the canon of scripture.
- 26  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- Why were the Apocryphal (hidden) books removed?
    - These books do not seem to be inspired since they contain numerous historical, chronological or geographical errors.
    - These books were ruled to be canonical on April 8, 1546 by the fourth session of the Council of Trent of the Roman Catholic Church as a response to the Reformers. They were called the "deuterocanonical books," meaning secondary canon. Why?
- 27  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- Why were the Apocryphal (hidden) books removed?
    - Why? - "sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the [sins](#) of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the [resurrection](#) (For if he had not [hoped](#) that they that were slain should rise again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain to [pray for the dead](#)). And because he considered that they who had fallen asleep with godliness, had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a [holy](#) and wholesome thought to [pray for the dead](#), that they may be loosed from [sins](#). ([2 Maccabees 12:43-46](#))
- 28  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- What About the New Testament Apocryphal Books?
    - There never were any N.T. Apocryphal books!
    - Books referred to as this in modern times were called heretical by the early church fathers.
    - These books were never used in the early Christian Church - remember point 3 & 4 of criteria?
      1. Universal Acceptance
      2. Liturgical Use
      - These books were written in the mid second century to the early fourth century They have no apostolic authority and contain unorthodoxy.
- 29  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- A.D. 1782 - Robert Aitken's Bible is printed in the United States. It is the first English Bible (KJV) printed in America.
  - A.D. 1833 - Noah Webster prints a revision of the King James Version
  - A.D. 1885 - The English Revised Version of the Bible is the first major revision of the KJV.
  - A.D. 1901 - The American Standard Version is the major American Revision of the KJV.
  - A.D. 1971 - The New American Standard Bible (NASB) is published as a "modern and accurate word for word English translation."
- 30  **The Bible - A Time Line**
- A.D. 1973 - The New International Version (NIV) is published as a "modern and accurate phrase for phrase English translation."
  - A.D. 1982 - The New King James Version (NKJV) is published as a "modern and

accurate version maintaining the original style of the King James.”

- A.D. 2002 - The English Standard Version (ESV) is published as a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV.

31  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- With so many versions, is the Bible reliable? Has it changed? How many Bibles are there?
  - The Bible is completely reliable and, contrary to modern claims in the movies, media or selected books that it has been changed, it has remained remarkably unchanged!
    - 1896 - 97 - Oxyrhynchus, Egypt - 27 manuscript portions of the N.T., on papyrus, were found preserved in the sand. These date to 2nd century. They are accurate and consistent with what we have today.

32  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- 1934 - The John Rylands fragments - dating to prior to A.D. 150, contains portions of John 18 - the same as today's.
- 1956 - 1961 - Bodmer Papyri - approx. A.D. 170 - 220; 14 chapters of John, 1&2 Peter, Jude and considerable parts of Luke - the same as today's.
- 1948 - The Dead Sea Scrolls - approx. 300 - 100 B.C.; Complete book of Isaiah and portions of Psalms, Deuteronomy, Exodus, Genesis, 1 & 2 Samuel.

33  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- The Dead Sea Scrolls - The Book of Isaiah has only three variants:
  1. 6:3 - "They were calling" instead of "one called to another."
  2. 6:3 - "Holy, Holy" instead of "Holy, Holy, Holy."
  3. 6:7 - "sins" instead of "sin."

34  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- But, why are there all of these different Bibles?
  - There is only one Bible, there are many translations of it. The Bible is the inspired Word of an Infinite God to finite man. Man is always trying to make that Word more understandable. But, honestly, we will never totally succeed. Our God is too big and complex to fit into a book!

35  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- But, let's be honest and compare the Bible to standard works of history. How does it compare?
- The "Gallic Wars" by Caesar
  - written 100 - 44 B.C.
  - earliest copies A.D. 900
  - time gap - 1,000 years
  - # of copies - 10

36  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- But, let's be honest and compare the Bible to standard works of history. How does it compare?
- The "Iliad" by Homer

- written 800 B.C.
- earliest copies 400 B.C.
- time gap - 400 years
- # of copies - 643

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37  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- But, let's be honest and compare the Bible to standard works of history. How does it compare?
- The "Natural History" by Pliny Secundus
  - written A.D. 61 - 113
  - earliest copies A.D. 850
  - time gap - 750 years
  - # of copies - 7

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38  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- But, let's be honest and compare the Bible to standard works of history. How does it compare?
- The "Bible" by Moses, Paul, et.al.
  - written 1,400 B.C. - A.D. 90
  - earliest copies A.D. 114 (portions); A.D. 200 (books); A.D. 325 (complete Bible)
  - time gap - 25+ years; 110+ years; 235+ years
  - # of copies - 5,000+ dating to these early centuries

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39  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- Archaeology?
  - Mari tablets - over 20,000 cuneiform tablets which date back to Abraham's time period. They explain many of the patriarchal traditions of Genesis.
  - Ebla tablets - over 20,000 tablets which mention the previously thought fictitious five cities of the plain mentioned in Genesis 14: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar.
  - Temple Walls of Karnak Egypt - a tenth century B.C. reference to Abraham.
  - Lachish Letters - describe Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Judah.


40  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- Archaeology?
  - Moabite Stone - Gives information about Omri, the sixth king of Israel.
  - Black obelisk of Shalmaneser III - Illustrates how Jehu, king of Israel, had to submit to the Assyrian king.
  - Taylor prism - contains an Assyrian text which details Sennacherib's attack on Jerusalem during the time of Hezekiah, king of Israel.

41  **The Bible - The Big Questions**

- Past Charges & Answers
  - The Hittites did not exist! - Hundreds of references have been found. One can even get a doctorate in Hittite studies at the University of Chicago
  - The story of Jericho is a myth, the city never existed - The city was found and the walls fell down; in an outward direction on all sides.
  - Abraham's home town of Ur did not exist - Ur has been discovered, one of the


columns had the inscription, "Abram."

42  **The Bible - It is The Book**

☞ 2 Peter 1:21 - "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

☞

☞ 2 Timothy 3:15 - 16 - "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

43  **The Bible - It is The Book**

☞ John 5:39 - "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,"

☞ 1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

☞ WHY?

44  **The Bible - It is The Book**

☞ 2 Timothy 4:2-4 - "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

45  **Zion Seminar Series**

☞ Thank you for joining us tonight

☞ We meet on the Third Wednesday of each month

☞ Next Month we begin Midweek Lent services on each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.