



# THE BOOK

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PART TWO: THE OLD TESTAMENT

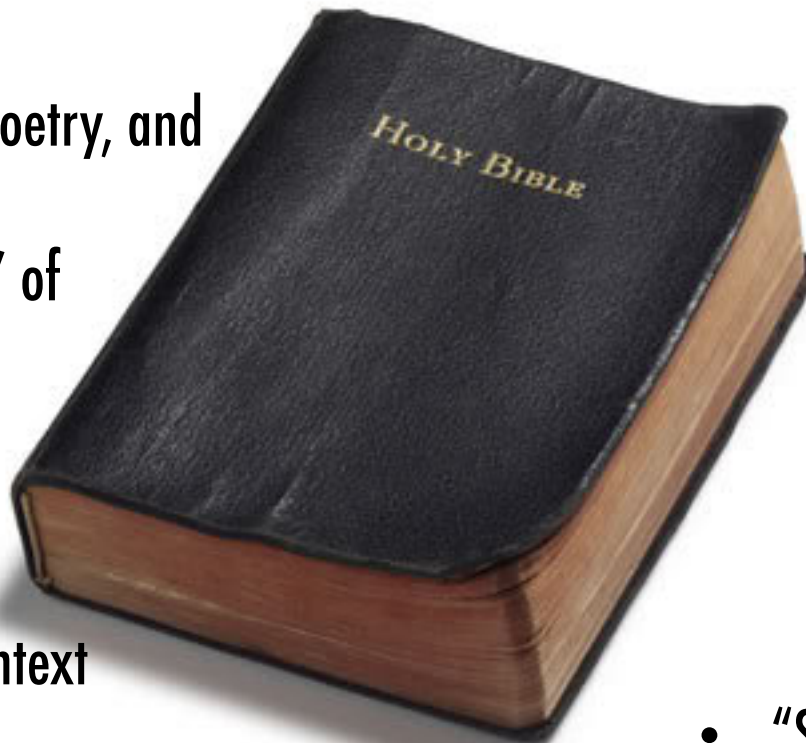
**“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second”**

**HEBREWS 8:6-7**



## OLD TESTAMENT (39 BOOKS)

- Provides the background for the New Testament.
- Books of history, law, poetry, and prophecy.
- This was the “scripture” of Jesus’ time
- Read in the Synagogues and used by Christians for teaching. Provides context for the New Law.



## NEW TESTAMENT (27 BOOKS)

- Fulfils the requirements of the Old Law (sacrifice for sins, Blood of the covenant, provision for grace).  
See Rom. 8:1-4.
- Completes God’s divine revelation to man (Heb. 1:1-2, 1 Pet. 1:18ff).
  - Is the predicted “new covenant” of Jer. 31:31-34.
- “Suitable to the times” (Eph. 1:10).

An open book with ancient text, likely the Old Testament, showing evidence and reliability. The pages are yellowed and the text is in a cursive script, possibly Hebrew or Greek. The book is open, showing the gutter in the center. The text is written in a cursive script, likely Hebrew or Greek, and is somewhat faded and difficult to read. The background is dark, making the book stand out.

# THE OLD TESTAMENT: Textual Evidence and Reliability



# THE SEPTUAGINT



- The Septuagint is an ancient translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek, which became the common language of the known world.
- Probably translated around 250 BC.
- New Testament writers (as well as Jesus and the apostles) quoted from the Septuagint.



# THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS



- Unearthed from 1947 to 1956 at Khirbet Qumran, it is the most stunning collection of ancient Biblical texts ever discovered. Various dating methods show that they are from the third century BCE to the first century CE.
- Only Esther is not represented in the collection, and that is likely due to the sectarian views of those who collected the scrolls. The Essenes did not celebrate the feast of Purim, and Esther provides the basis and backstory for it.







# WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- Until the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, the oldest Old Testament manuscripts in Hebrew were from the Masoretic Text (980 CE). The typical criticism was that errors, additions, and even subtractions likely occurred as the Masoretes copied and recopied the Hebrew Bible. The text, it was argued, must have been corrupted.
- In Isaiah alone, however, there was shown to be 95% agreement (with most differences simply being spelling or slight changes in language). That's staggering considering the one thousand year span between them!



# THE MASORETIC TEXT



MS 1630  
Bible: Amos. Iraq, ca. 1000



# WHERE DOES THE OT TAKE US?

- **The Covenant With Patriarchs** – God communicated with man in a way that was suitable for the time period, establishing a covenant with Abraham (Gen. 18:19).
- **The Covenant With A Nation** – Abraham's descendants were to represent God as a physical nation, set apart from their heathen neighbours (Ex. 19:5-6). Their sacrifices were a temporary "stopgap" to deal with sin (Heb. 10:1-4).
- **The Covenant With (potentially) All** – The Law led mankind to Christ (Gal. 3:24-29), who died for all (1 John 2:2), so that anybody, Jew or Gentile, man or woman, could enter into a covenant with God (Col. 3:11, Rom. 1:16).