



# HEBREW SCRIPTURE

## WEBINAR NOTES

07503/553

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

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SEMINARY

# CANON OF HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Authoritative Scripture

## Conclusions #8

## Early Lists #7

- Jesus ben Sirah - 2d c. BC
- Philo 1st c. BC
- Jesus 1st c. AD
- Josephus 1st c. AD
- Melito 2d c. AD
- Origen 3d c. AD
- Jerome 4th c. AD

## Texts & Versions #6

### early versions

- Peshitta
- Syr. Hexapla
- Hexapla
- Vaticanus (B)
- Sinaiticus (aleph)
- Alexandrinus (A)
- Greek (East)
- Itala
- Vulgata
- Latin (West)
- Sahidic
- Bohairic
- Coptic (South)

### early texts

- Masoretic text
- proto MT
- proto LXX
- proto Samaritan
- Cumran
- other

## Response #5

- pre-conquest period
- pre-monarchy period
- monarchy period
- exile & post-exilic period
- 1st c. A.D.

## #1 Questions

- How does one decide which books are "Bible"?
- Is the Canon set in stone?
- In what ways does worldview affect discussion?

## #2 Definitions

- canon
  - standard
  - Scripture
- antilegomena
  - Mishna 2d c. AD
    - Canticles
    - Ecclesiastes
    - Esther
  - Gemara 2d c. AD
    - Proverbs
    - Ezekiel
- apocrypha/deuterocanonical
  - Tobit
  - Judith
  - Additions to Esther
  - Additions to Daniel
  - 1 Maccabees
  - 2 Maccabees
  - Wisdom of Solomon
  - Sirach
  - Baruch
- pseudepigrapha
  - Letter of Aristeas
  - Jubilees
  - Martyrdom of Isaiah
  - Psalms of Solomon
  - 3 Maccabees
  - 4 Maccabees
  - Sibylene Oracles
  - 1 Enoch
  - 2 Enoch
  - Assumption of Moses
  - 2 Baruch
  - 3 Baruch
  - Testament of 12 Patriarchs
  - Life of Adam & Eve

## #3 Issues

- Authority
- Audience
- Accordance
- Avenue

## #4 Claims

- writer's own
- re other texts



















# Bibliography

## Primary Sources referred to in presentation:

Ex 31:18; 32:16; Dt 4:13; 31:24-26 re claim as Word of God

Jer 26:18; Dan 9:2 re recognizing other biblical texts as “Scripture”

Ex 24:4-7; Dt 31:9-12 re first audience’s recognition of inscripturated revelation as authoritative

Ex 12:14, 24 re first audience’s recognition of inscripturated revelation as pan-generational

Dt 18:15-20 re anticipation of further authentic and authoritative prophetic revelation as well as false prophecy

Josh 1:7-9; 8:30-32 re first audience’s recognition of previous inscripturated revelation

Josh 24:25; 1 Sam 10:25 re claim of subsequent inscripturated revelation

1 Chr 28:11-19 re claim of Divine inspiration

2 Kgs 14:3-6 re authority of Torah in 9<sup>th</sup> cent.

2 Kgs 22:8-11 re authority of Torah in 7<sup>th</sup> cent.

Jer 30:1-2; 36:1-32 re inscripturating the Word of God to be read in public

Dan 9:2-12 re authority of Torah and Prophets in 6<sup>th</sup> cent.

Ezra 9-10, Neh 8-9 re authority of Torah in 5<sup>th</sup> cent.

Zech 1:4-6 re authority of Prophets in 5<sup>th</sup> cent.

2 Macc 2:13 re Nehemiah’s collection of Scripture

Dt 34:5ff and Mal 4:4-6 [3:22-24] re linkage between Torah & Prophets and between Prophets and Writings

11QPs<sup>a</sup> 27 re David’s inspiration from the Most High

4QMMT B, II, 9-12 re threefold canon: Moses, Prophets, David & Chronicles

Luke 24:27; 24:44 re twofold or threefold canon

ben Sirah, “Prologue to Ecclesiasticus” re threefold canon

Flavius Josephus, *Contra Apionem* 1:8 re threefold canon of twenty-two books complementary books

that “are justly believed to be Divine.”

Eusebius Hieronymus (St. Jerome), Preface to Book of Kings re twenty-two book canon in three sections (Law, Prophets, Hagiographa) and separation of “apocryphal writings.”

Eusebius Hieronymus (St. Jerome), Preface to Wisdom of Solomon re non-canonical nature of apocrypha but their value for learning but “not to give authority to doctrines of the Church.”

Jn 10:34-36 re using Torah / νομος *nomos* to designate more than just the books of Moses

2 Cor 3:14 re use of both “old covenant” and “Moses” to refer to the Hebrew Bible

Mt 26:54; Jn 5:39; Jn 2:22; Acts 8:32 re common use of γραφας *graphas* “Scriptures” with reference to the Hebrew Bible

Philo of Alexandria, *Contemplative Life* 3.25-28 re threefold sacred canon

Babylonian Talmud, *Baba Bathra* 14b re books of Prophets and Writings

Melito, Bishop of Sardis re canon (lacking Esther)

Origen of Alexandria re listing twenty-two book canon of Hebrew Scripture by name

Babylonian Talmud, Yomah 9b; Sota 48b; Sanhedrin 11a; Midrash Rabbah on Canticles 8.9.3 re cessation of revelation through prophets

2 Baruch 85:3; Prayer of Azariah 15; 1 Macc 9:27; 1 Macc 14:41-43 re cessation of prophecy

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