

Kings Series

Lesson #109

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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

# **Can We Really Trust the Hebrew Old Testament?**

**Isn't the Bible just another human book, subject to error and expressing different opinions about God?**

**Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and errors?**

**Hasn't the Bible been changed over the years because it has been copied and translated so many times?**

**How can we be sure the Bible we have today is the same as what was originally written?**

**Didn't the Rabbis or the Church [a few powerful men, Constantine, etc.] just arbitrarily decide which books should be included in the Bible and which books should be rejected (and didn't this just reflect their male dominated, power hungry agenda)?**

**There are so many different interpretations of the Bible, how can we know which is right?**

**Isn't the Bible the product of an evolving religion that originated with the Babylonians and Assyrians?**

**Doesn't the Bible contain historical and scientific errors?**

**Does God exist?**

**No**

**Yes**

**Can God communicate?**

**No**

**Yes**

**Can God communicate, clearly?**

**No**

**Yes**

**Can God protect His  
communication?**

**Can God protect His  
communication?**

**If God can communicate, clearly,  
and protect His communication,  
then**

**what would its characteristics be?**

**Consistent,  
accurate,  
be supported through evidence,  
internally logical and rational,  
without error**

# The *Canon* of Scripture

The word “**canon**” derives from the Hebrew term *qāneh* and the Greek term *kanōn*, meaning “**reed.**”

A reed was used as a measuring device; as such *canon* came to mean something that was a standard, or accepted authority.

## 2 Timothy 3:15–17

15, “and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings [Old Testament] which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16, “*All Scripture* [Old Testament] is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17, “so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

## **2 Peter 1:20–21**

**20, “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation,**

**21, “for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”**

**Joshua 8:30, “Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,**

**Joshua 8:31, “as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: ‘an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool.’ And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.”**

**Joshua 8:32, “And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.”**

**Joshua 8:34, “And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.**

**Joshua 8:35, “There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.”**

**Deuteronomy 31:26, “Take this Book of the Law,  
and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the  
LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness  
against you;”**

**1 Samuel 10:25, “Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.”**

**Daniel 9:2, “in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.”**

**Nehemiah 9:14, “You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, by the hand of Moses Your servant.”**

**Joshua 10:13, “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.”**

**Numbers 21:14, “Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD: ‘Waheb in Suphah, the brooks of the Arnon,’ ”**

# ENGLISH OLD TESTAMENT

<b>LAW</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>POETRY</b>	<b>MAJOR PROPHETS</b>	<b>MINOR PROPHETS</b>
<b>Genesis</b>	<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b>Isaiah</b>	<b>Hosea</b>
<b>Exodus</b>	<b>Judges</b>	<b>Psalms</b>	<b>Jeremiah</b>	<b>Joel</b>
<b>Leviticus</b>	<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Proverbs</b>	<b>Ezekiel</b>	<b>Amos</b>
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>1, 2 Sam.</b>	<b>Ecc.</b>	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Obadiah</b>
<b>Deuter.</b>	<b>1, 2 Kings</b>	<b>S of Songs</b>		<b>Jonah</b>
	<b>1, 2 Chron.</b>	<b>Lament.</b>		<b>Micah</b>
	<b>Ezra</b>			<b>Nahum</b>
	<b>Nehemiah</b>			<b>Habakuk</b>
	<b>Esther</b>			<b>Zephaniah</b>
				<b>Haggai</b>
				<b>Zechariah</b>
				<b>Malachi</b>

# HEBREW CANON

## *TORAH*

**Genesis**  
**Exodus**  
**Leviticus**  
**Numbers**  
**Deuteronomy**

## *NEVI'IM*

**Joshua**  
**Judges**  
**Samuel**  
**Kings**  
  
**Isaiah**  
**Jeremiah**  
**Ezekiel**  
**The Twelve**

## *KETHUVIM*

**Psalms**  
**Proverbs**  
**Job**  
**Song of Songs**  
**Ecclesiastes**  
**Daniel**  
**Ezra/**  
**Nehemiah**  
**Esther**  
**Chronicles**

# **APOCRYPHA**

**“Hidden, obscure, spurious”**

**Tobit**

**Judith**

**Additions to Esther (6)**

**Wisdom of Solomon**

**Ecclesiasticus [Ben Sira(ch)]**

**Baruch**

**Letter of Jeremiah**

**Prayer of Azariah; The Song of the Three Young Men**

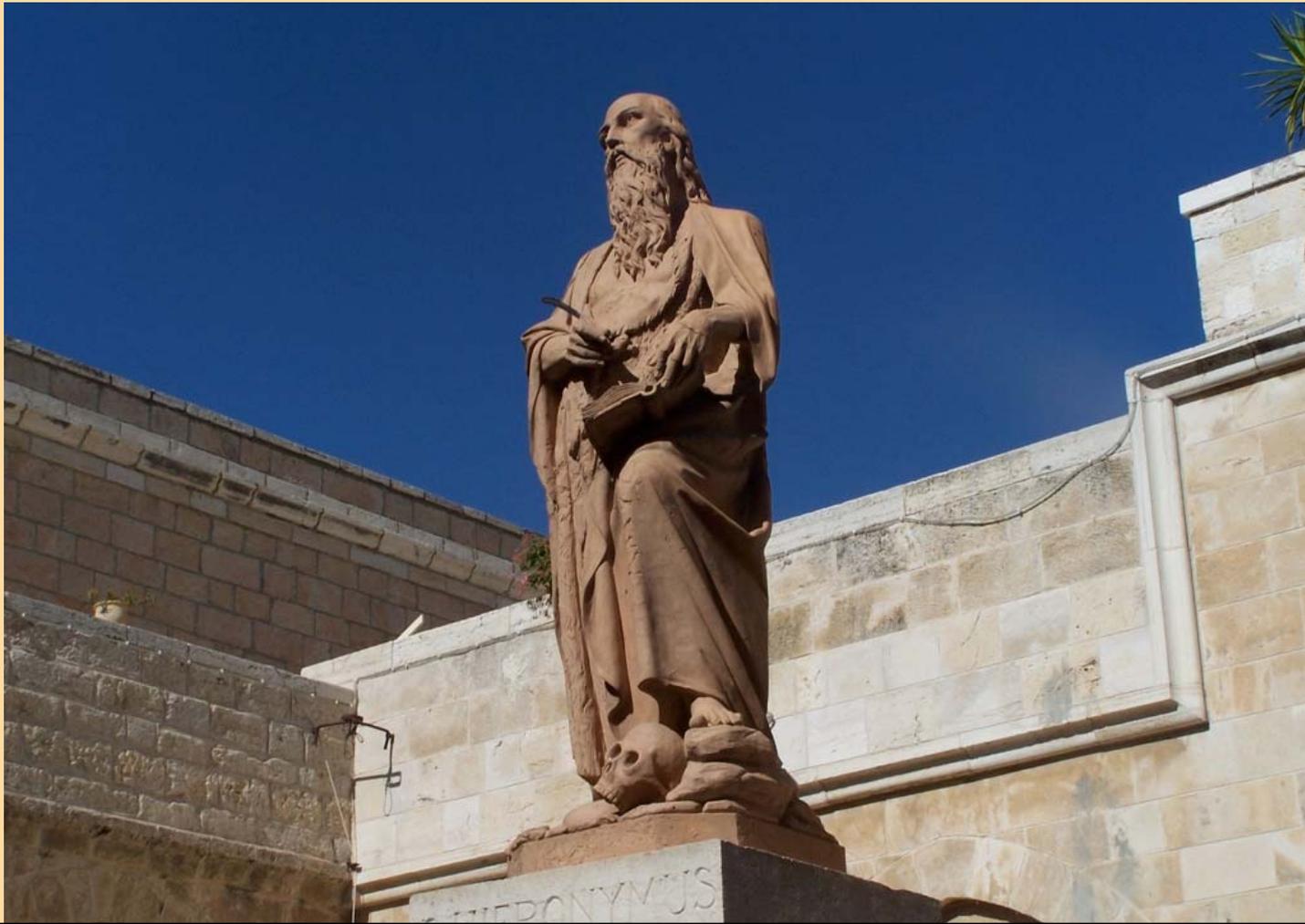
**Susanna**

**Bel and the Dragon**

**1, 2 Macabees**

**“Anything outside of these must be placed within the Appocrypha,”**

**Jerome, Preface to his translation**



# **Problems with the Apocrypha**

- 1. Written predominantly in Greek.**
- 2. Written late, after Old Testament canon closed.**
- 3. Historical, geographical, chronological errors.**
- 4. Doctrinal aberrations.**



**Alexandria:**  
**Philo (AD 40)**

**Babylonian Talmud:**  
**Baba Bathra: Same as current 22 books**

**Palestinian:**  
**Josephus: 22 Books**  
**IV Esdras**

- Macedonian Empire
- Ptolemaic Empire
- Seleucid Empire

**“For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us that contradict and disagree with each other, but only 22 books which contain the records of all the past times which are justly believed to be divine. Of them 5 belong to Moses which contain his laws and traditions of the origin of mankind until his death a little more than 3,000 years but as to the time of the death of Moses until the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, who reigned after Xerxes, the prophets who were after Moses wrote down what was done in their time in 13 books, the remaining 4 books containing hymns to God and precepts for the conduct of human life.”**

**–*Contra Apion*, 1.41; (AD 70–100)**

**“With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls we are brought back almost within a generation of the writing of the last book of the Bible. If the oldest Scroll is conservatively dated at 250 B.C. and some would date the oldest ones as early as 300 B.C., there is probably only 25 years or less between the time the last book was written and our earliest copies of the Hebrew Old Testament. This gives us a great deal more confidence about the text and the way it was passed along because we are able to compare what has been passed to us, which are later copies, but present a very early text, with what we have in the Scrolls, however fragmentary they might be.”**

**–Weston Fields**

Luke 24:44, "And he said unto them, 'These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms,** concerning me.' "

Matt. 23:35, "that upon you may fall the  
guilt of all the righteous blood shed on  
earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to  
the blood of Zechariah, the son of  
Berechiah, whom you murdered between  
the temple and the altar."

# N.T. Canon

**Formation of  
Old Testament**

**Canon, 1400–  
c. 350 B.C.**



**A.D. 33**

**Dead  
Sea  
Scrolls  
250 B.C.–  
A.D. 100**

**Masoretic  
Text  
A.D. 1008**

**1948**

