

REL214 THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTIONS

Syllabus

Available on the web:

- Go to <http://religion.syr.edu/>
- Click on Course Information
- Click on REL214

What you need to do:



- ✓ **READ!**
- ✓ **Come to Classes and Discussion Sections**
- ✓ **Take notes on classes AND readings**
- ✓ **Review notes before tests**

Attitudes towards Scripture

“Religions of the Book”:

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

Development:

- A millennium for the Hebrew Bible
- 300 years for the New Testament
- Several decades, perhaps centuries, for the Koran

What is the Bible?



- From Greek *Biblia* “Books”
- A COLLECTION or ANTHOLOGY, not a single book
- Not one collection, but several ...

The Jewish Bible

- Torah “law or instruction” -- 5 books
- Nevi'im “prophets” – 8 books
- Ketuvim “writings” – 11 books

= TaNaK - 24 books



Aleppo Codex,
10th cent. CE

The Protestant Old Testament

- = Jewish Bible in contents
- Differs in division of books and arrangement
- Result: 39 books

Martin Luther's Translation



What to call the common scriptures of Jews and Christians?

- “Testament” = contract or covenant
- But “Old Testament” suggests the Christian “New Testament”
- “Bible” sufficient for Jews, not Christians
- So “Hebrew Bible” = TaNaK = Protestant Old Testament

Complications!



- Early Christians accepted *more* books & parts of books into the Old Testament
- Protestant Reformers (16th cent.) removed them from the Old Testament into a separate section: the *Apocrypha*
- Roman Catholics & Eastern Orthodox still accept these as *Deuterocanonical*

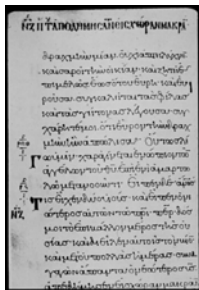
For lists of books in each Bible, see *Introduction*, pp. 23-25

Figure 1.4 The Books of the Bible.

The Hebrew Bible	The Septuagint (Greek version of the Hebrew Bible)	Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles	Protestant Bible
TORAH			
Genesis	Genesis	Genesis	Genesis
Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus
Leviticus	Leviticus	Leviticus	Leviticus
Numbers	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
	Joshua	Joshua	Joshua
	Judges	Judges	Judges
	Ruth	Ruth	Ruth
NEBIM			
Former Prophets	1-4 Kingdoms	1 Samuel	1 Samuel
Joshua	(1-2 Samuel)	2 Samuel	2 Samuel
Judges	(1-2 Kings)	1 Kings	1 Kings
Samuel	1-2 Paralipomena	2 Kings	2 Kings
Kings	(1-2 Chronicles)	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles
	1 Esdras*	2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles
	2 Esdras (Ezra-Nehemiah)	Ezra	Ezra
Later Prophets	Isaiah	Nehemiah	Nehemiah
Isaiah	Ezra	Tobit	
Nehemiah	Judith*	Judith	
Ezekiel	Tobit*	Esther (with Additions)	Esther
	1-4 Maccabees*		

23

New Testament



10th cent. CE NT manuscript

- The New Testament contains scriptures unique to Christianity
- 27 books, most Christians now agree (though less agreement in early years)

3 Bibles in modern America:

- Jewish Bible (Tanak)
- Protestant Bible (OT & NT)
- Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox Bible (OT with Deuterocanon & NT)
