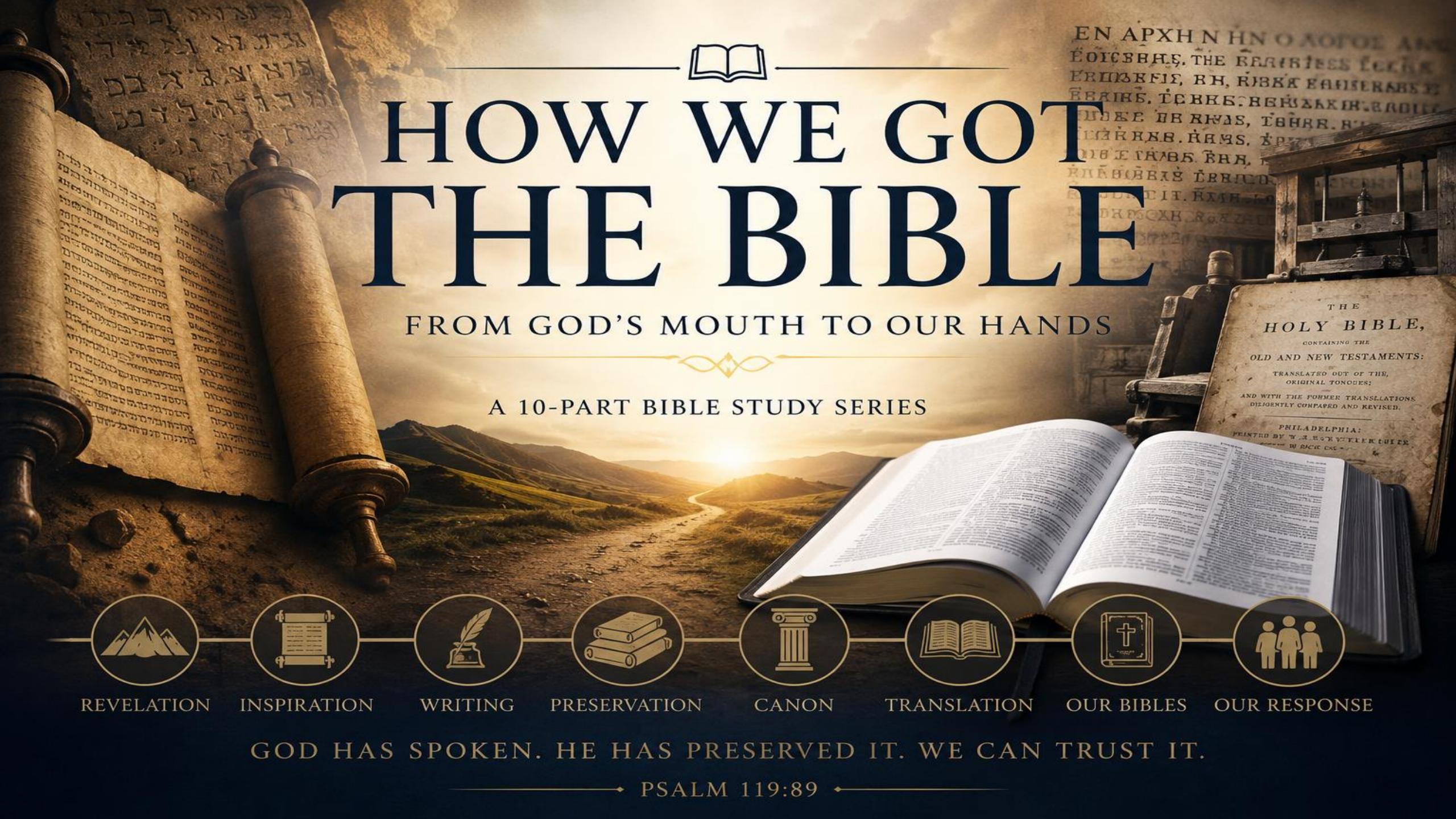

HOW WE GOT
THE BIBLE
FROM GOD'S MOUTH TO OUR HANDS
A 10-PART BIBLE STUDY SERIES
THE
HOLY BIBLE,
CONTAINING THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE
ORIGINAL TONGUES;
AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS
DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED.
PHILADELPHIA:
REVELATION
INSPIRATION
WRITING
PRESERVATION
CANON
TRANSLATION
OUR BIBLES
OUR RESPONSE
GOD HAS SPOKEN. HE HAS PRESERVED IT. WE CAN TRUST IT.
PSALM 119:89

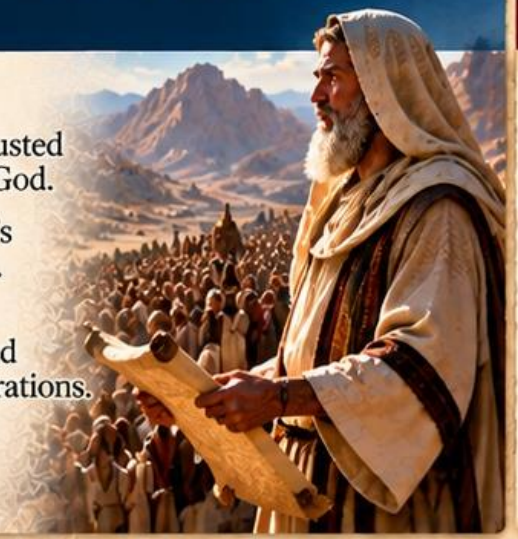
The Canon of the Old Testament

God entrusted His revelation to Israel.

Romans 3:1–2

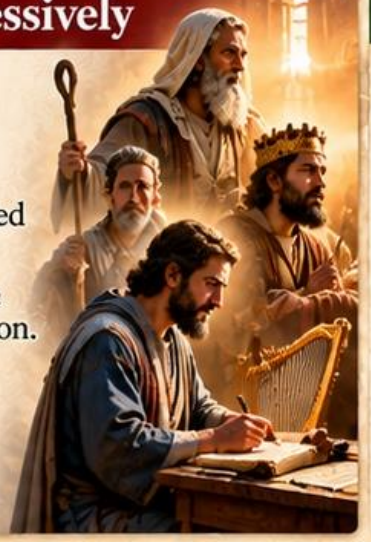
1 God Entrusted His Revelation to Israel

- **Romans 3:1–2**
- The Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.
- Israel received God's covenant revelation.
- God's Word was preserved and passed down through generations.



2 The Old Testament Was Revealed Progressively

- God did not give the entire Old Testament at one time.
- Moses recorded the Law.
- Historical writings documented God's dealings with Israel.
- Psalms and wisdom literature contributed inspired instruction.
- The prophets communicated God's Word to successive generations.



3 The Hebrew Bible Was Traditionally Organized into Three Divisions

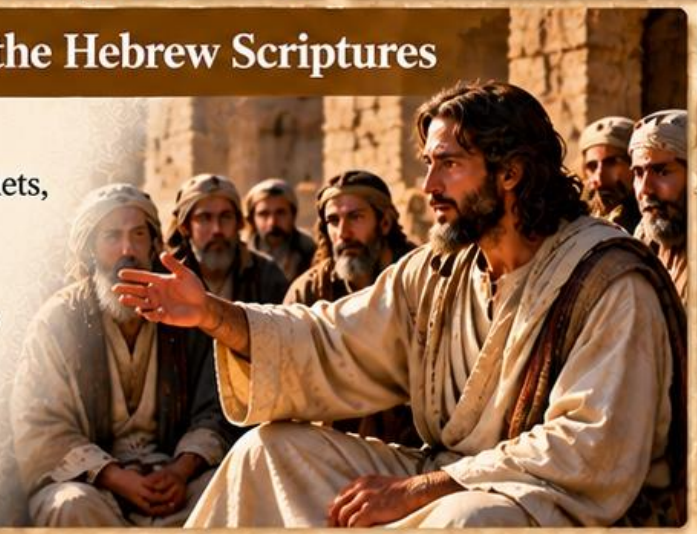
The Hebrew Bible is called the **Tanakh**.

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets (Nevi'im)	The Writings (Ketuvim)
		
Genesis through Deuteronomy	Former and Latter Prophets	Psalms, Proverbs, Job, and other writings.

The name **TaNaKh** is derived from the initial letters of these three Hebrew divisions.

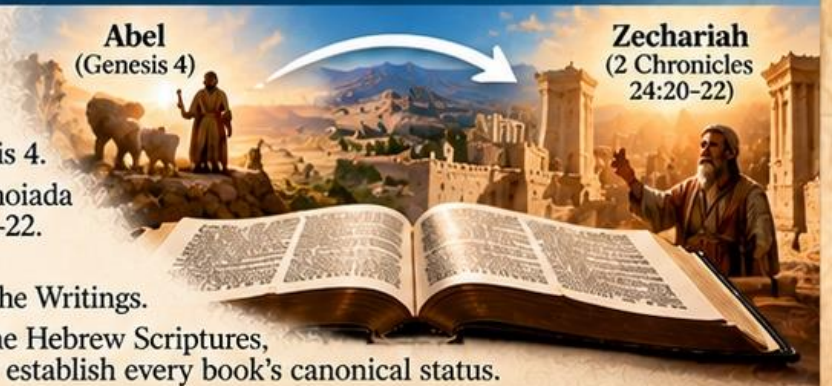
4 Jesus Recognized the Hebrew Scriptures

- **Luke 24:44**
- "The Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."
- Jesus consistently appealed to the authority of Scripture.
- **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10**
  "It is written…"



5 Jesus Referred to the Sweep of Old Testament History

- **Luke 11:49–51**
- Jesus refers to righteous blood from Abel to Zechariah.
- Abel's death is recorded in Genesis 4.
- The death of Zechariah son of Jehoiada is recorded in 2 Chronicles 24:20–22.
- In the traditional Hebrew order, Chronicles appears at the end of the Writings.
- This may reflect the breadth of the Hebrew Scriptures, though it does not independently establish every book's canonical status.



The Hebrew Scriptures Were Traditionally Organized into Three Divisions:

1. The Law



(Torah)

The foundational teachings and law of God.

2. The Prophets



(Nevi'im)

The writings of the prophets, including the former and latter prophets.

3. The Writings



(Ketuvim)

A collection of inspired writings, including psalms, wisdom literature, and historical books.

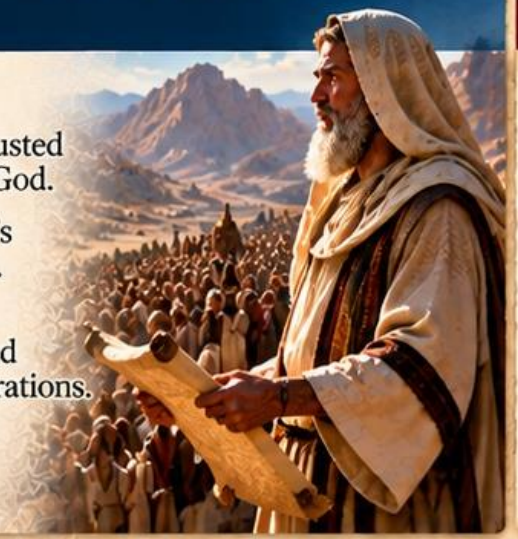
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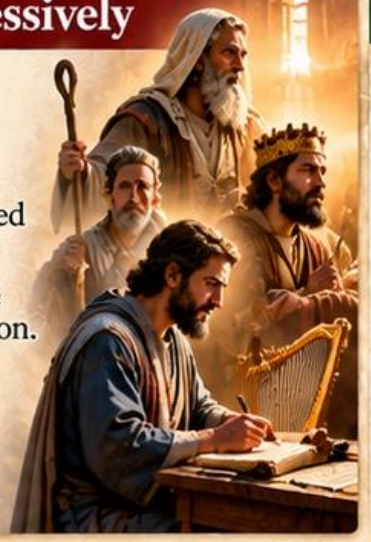
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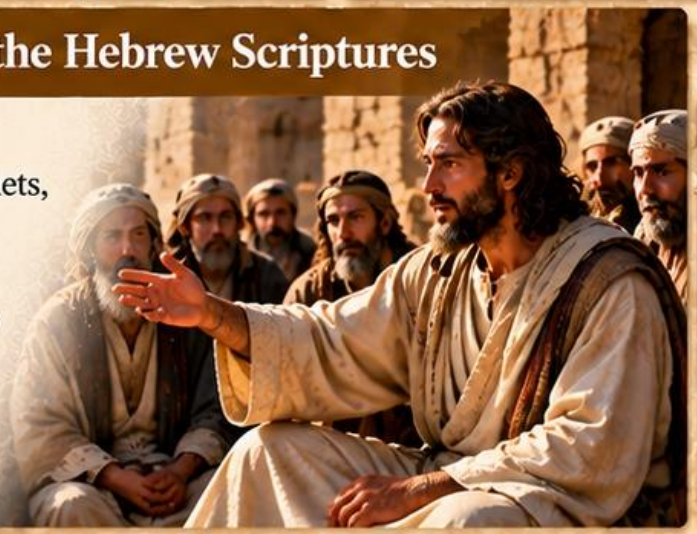
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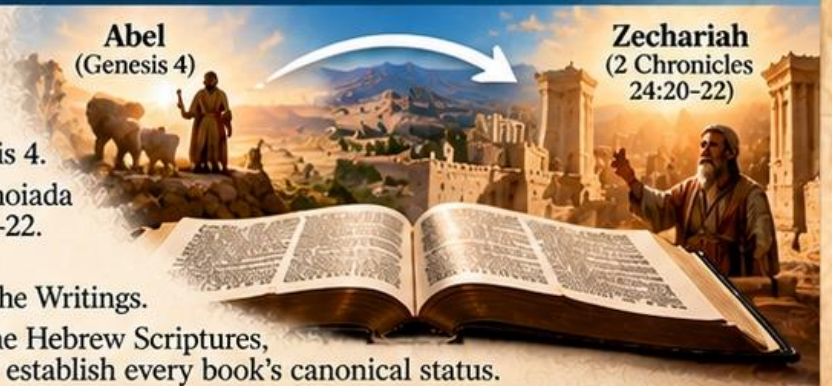
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Jesus Referred to the Sweep of *Old Testament History*



1. 

   A particularly interesting passage is **Luke 11:49–51**, where Jesus refers to righteous blood from **Abel to Zechariah**.

2. 

   Abel appears in ***Genesis***.

3. 

   Zechariah's death appears in 2 ***Chronicles***.

4. 

   In the traditional Hebrew ordering, *Genesis* stood near the beginning and *Chronicles* at the end.

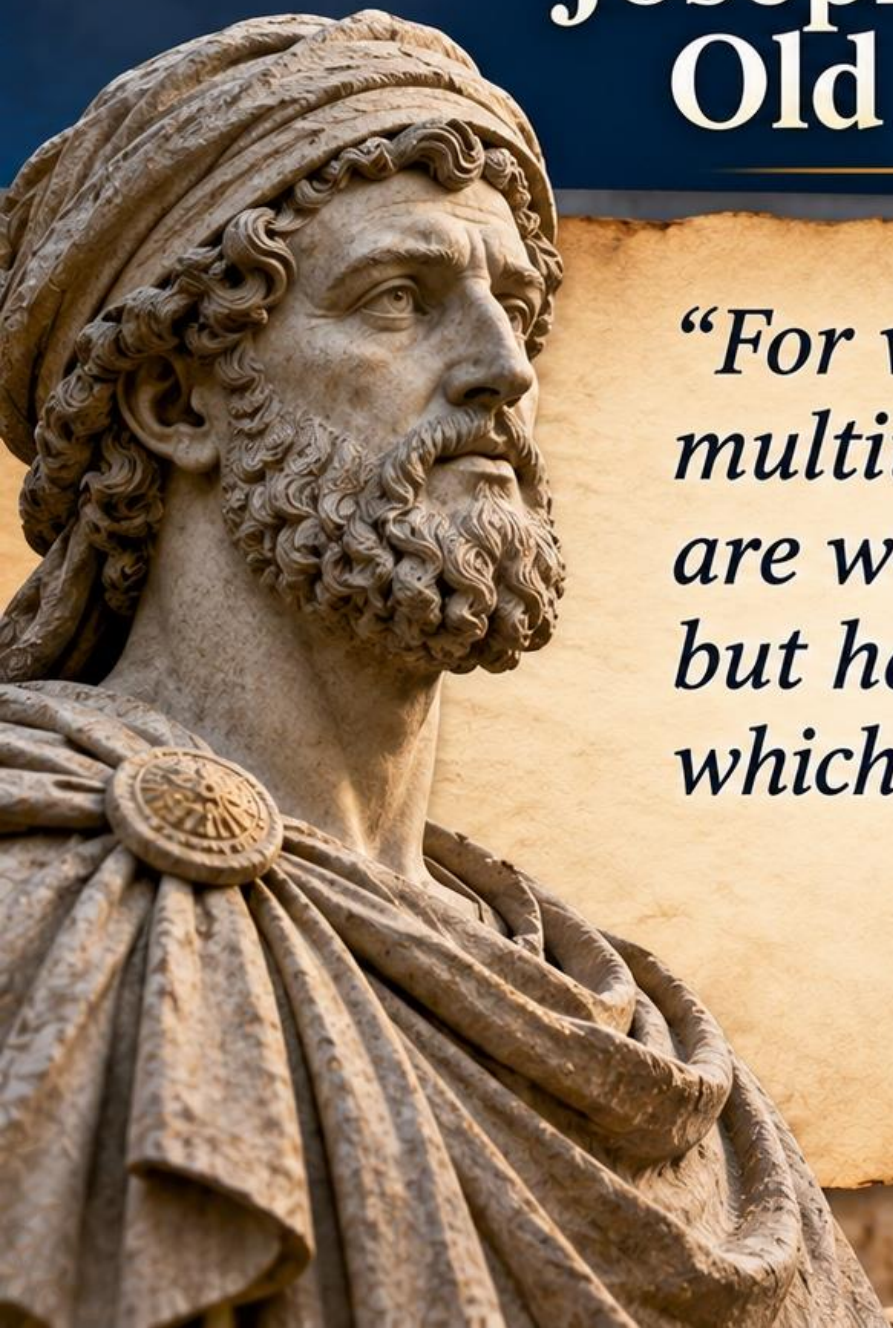
5. 

   This may function similarly to our saying: ***"From Genesis to Revelation."***

Why Do Different Bibles Have Different Numbers of Old Testament Books?

Ancient Jewish Reckoning (Josephus)	Jewish Hebrew Bible (Tanakh)	Protestant Old Testament	Roman Catholic Old Testament	Greek Orthodox Old Testament	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo
22 Books	24 Books	39 Books	46 Books	49 Books	46 Books

Josephus on the Number of Old Testament Books



"For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, neither are we at variance with one another; but have only ***twenty-two books,*** *which are justly believed to be divine."*

— Josephus

(Against Apion 1.8)

Why Did Josephus Count 22 Books?



1. Josephus was a Jewish historian who lived during the first century A.D.
2. In *Against Apion* (1.37–43), he described the Jews as possessing 22 books regarded as authoritative.
3. His description included:
   i. Five books of Moses.
   ii. Thirteen books of the prophets or historical record.
   iii. Four books containing hymns and practical instruction.
4. His total differs from the traditional Jewish count of 24.
5. Scholars debate precisely how Josephus grouped individual writings, but the difference largely concerns how books were combined.

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Why Does the Hebrew Bible Have 24 Books?



1. The traditional Jewish Bible contains 24 books.
2. Several writings that appear separately in English Bibles are combined in the Hebrew count.
3. The Twelve Minor Prophets are counted as one book.
4. Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah are each counted as single books.

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Why Does the Protestant Old Testament Have 39 Books?

The Protestant Old Testament contains the same writings as the traditional 24-book Hebrew Bible but divides several books.

Hebrew Bible (24 Books)		Protestant Bible (39 Books)
Samuel – 1 book	→	1 and 2 Samuel – 2 books
Kings – 1 book	→	1 and 2 Kings – 2 books
Chronicles – 1 book	→	1 and 2 Chronicles – 2 books
Ezra–Nehemiah – 1 book	→	Ezra and Nehemiah – 2 books
The Twelve – 1 book	→	Twelve Minor Prophets – 12 books

These divisions account for the difference:

24 Hebrew books = 39 Protestant Old Testament books

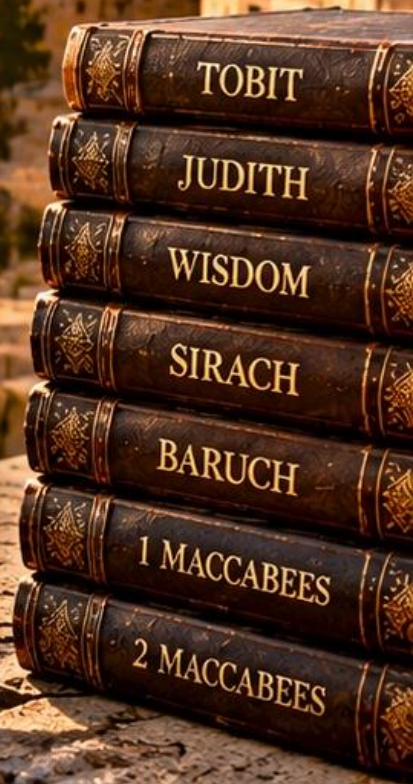
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Why Does the Catholic Old Testament Have 46 Books?

1. The Roman Catholic Old Testament includes seven additional books beyond the Protestant collection.
2. These books are called *deuterocanonical* in Catholic tradition.
3. The Catholic Old Testament also includes Greek additions to Esther and Daniel.
4. The seven additional books are:

The Seven Additional Books	
1	Tobit
2	Judith
3	Wisdom of Solomon
4	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
5	Baruch
6	1 Maccabees
7	2 Maccabees



Why Do Different Bibles Have Different Numbers of Old Testament Books?

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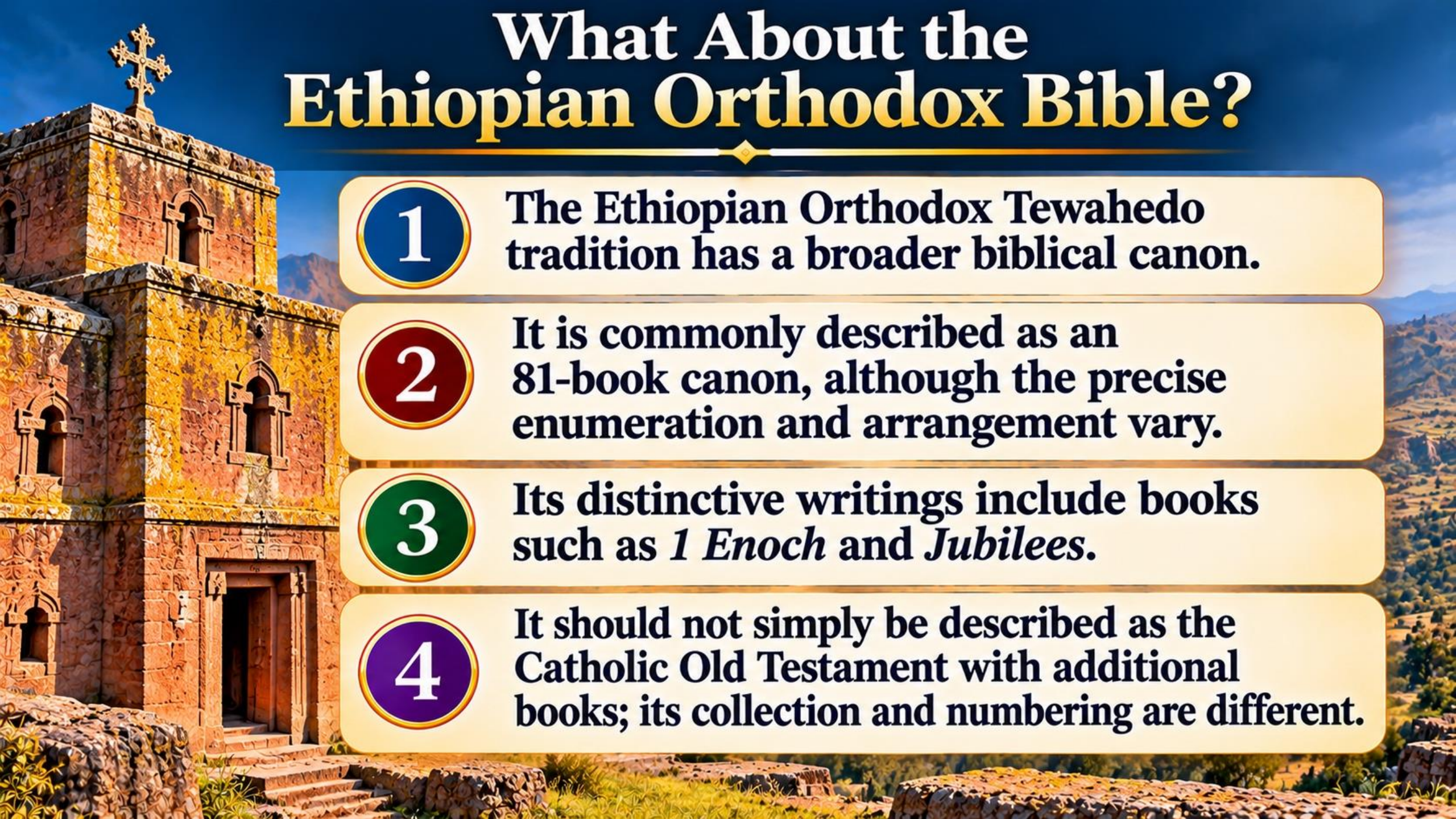
Why Does the Greek Orthodox Old Testament Commonly Have More Books?



1. Greek Orthodox biblical collections include additional writings found in the Greek biblical tradition.
2. These commonly include 1 Esdras, 3 Maccabees, and Psalm 151, with the Prayer of Manasseh also appearing in Orthodox biblical or liturgical collections.
3. Some traditions also include 4 Maccabees as an appendix.
4. The exact total depends on the edition and how individual writings are counted.

Why Do Different Bibles Have Different Numbers of Old Testament Books?

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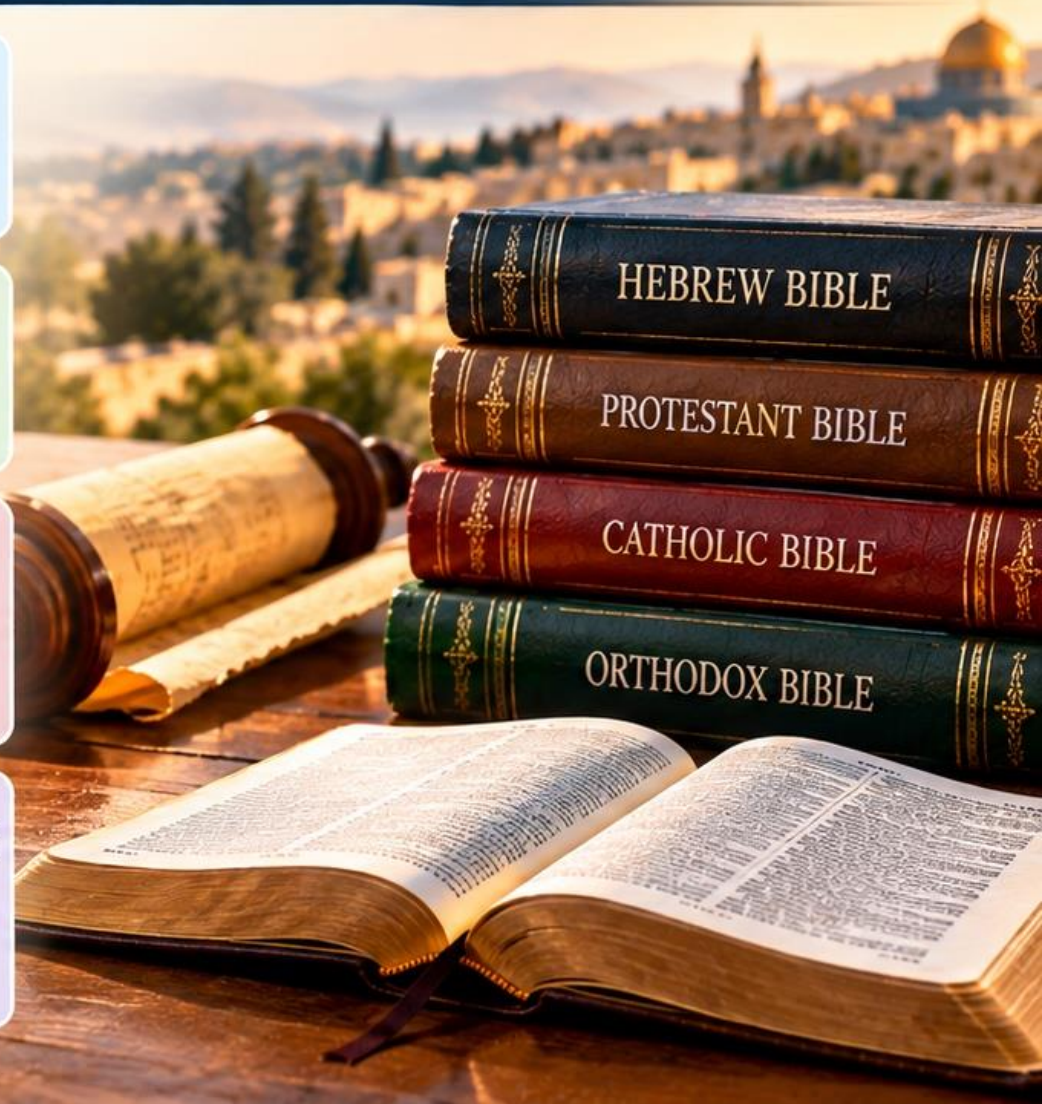

What About the
Ethiopian Orthodox Bible?
1
The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo tradition has a broader biblical canon.
2
It is commonly described as an 81-book canon, although the precise enumeration and arrangement vary.
3
Its distinctive writings include books such as *1 Enoch* and *Jubilees*.
4
It should not simply be described as the Catholic Old Testament with additional books; its collection and numbering are different.

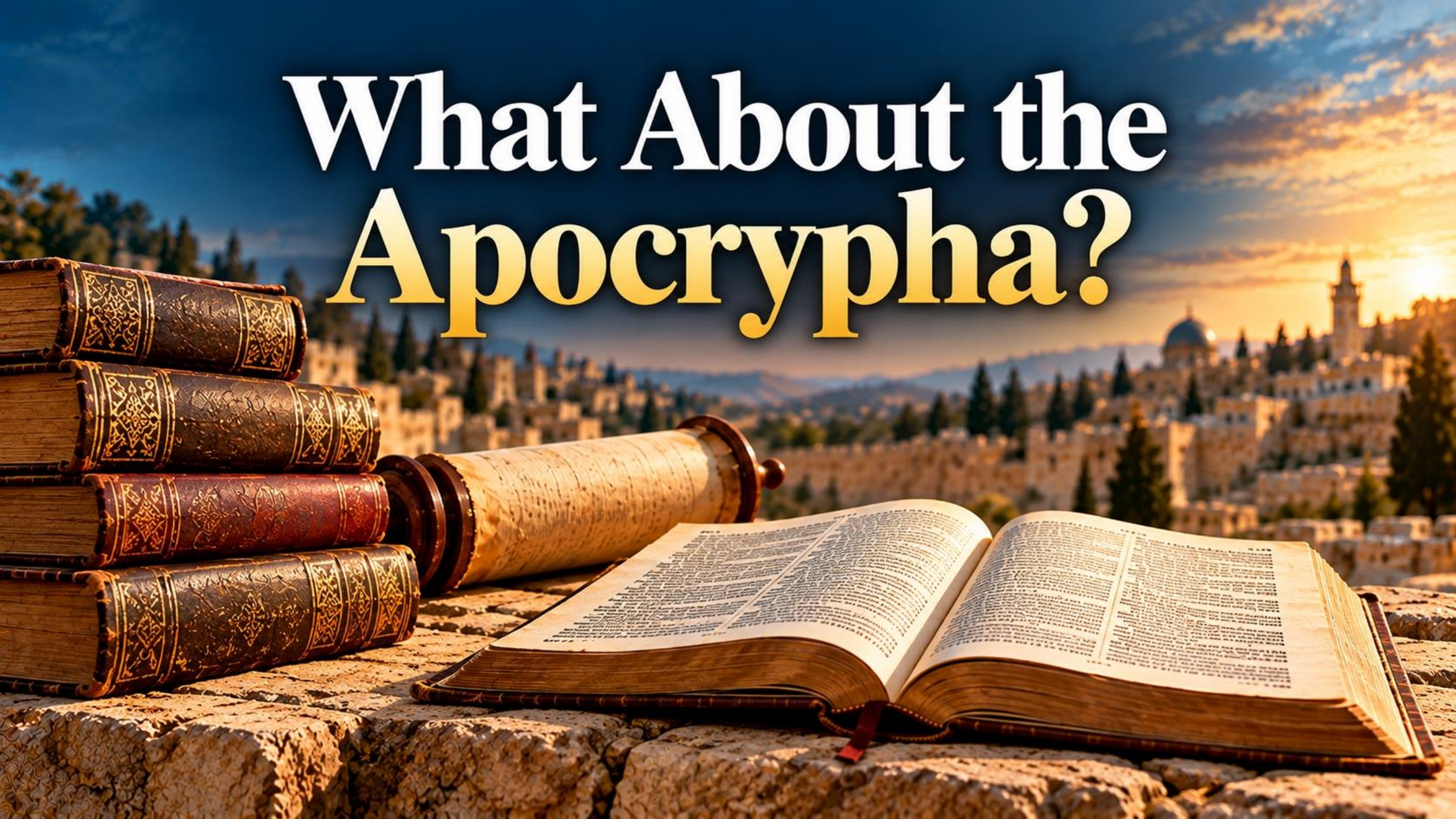
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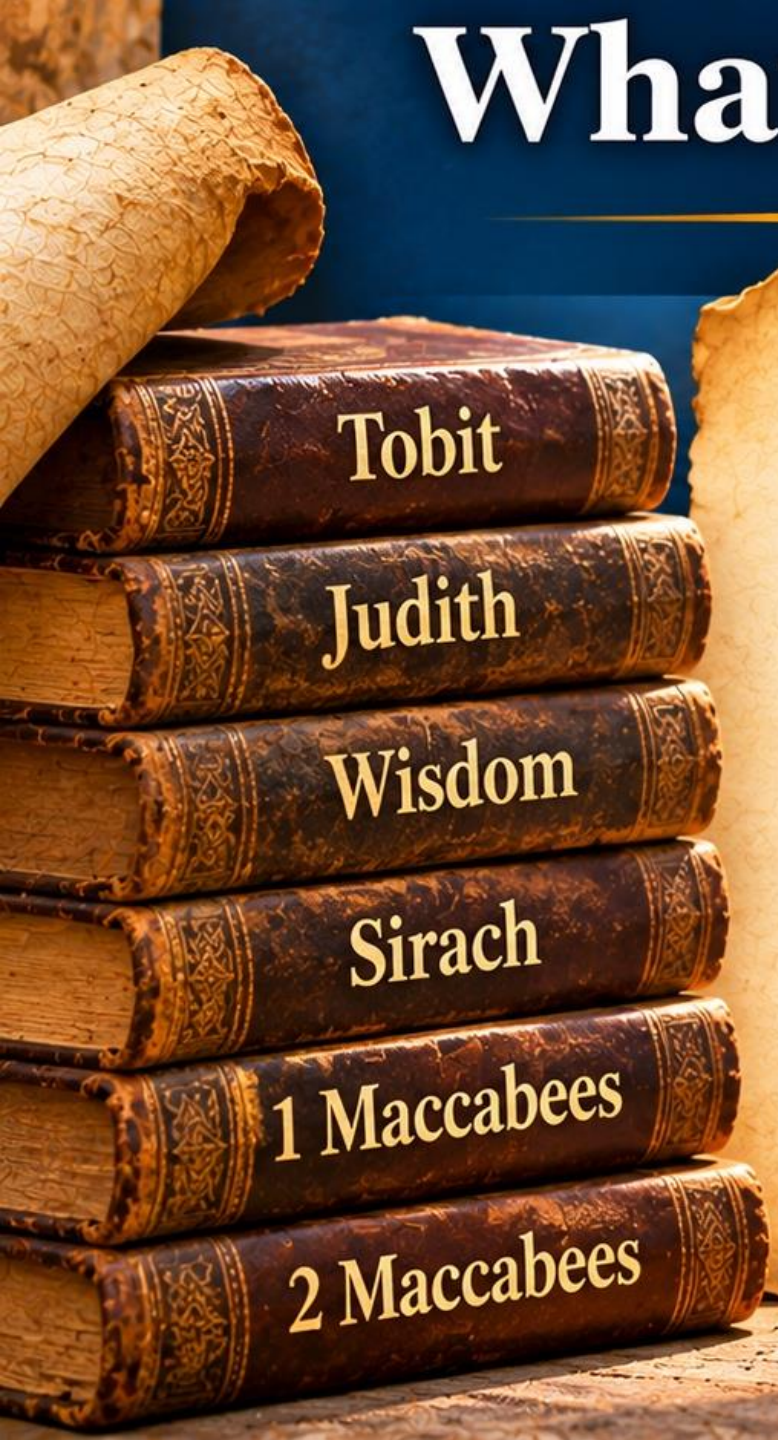
What Should We Learn from These Differences?

1. A different book count does not automatically mean different contents.
2. The Hebrew 24 and Protestant 39 contain the same writings.
3. Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Ethiopian Orthodox traditions have genuine differences in their canonical collections.
4. These differences raise the historical question: Which writings were recognized as Scripture, and on what basis?




What About the
Apocrypha?

What Is the Apocrypha?



The *Apocrypha* refers to a collection of ancient Jewish writings that are included in the **Catholic, Greek Orthodox,** and **Ethiopian Orthodox** Bibles, but are not part of the traditional Hebrew Old Testament.

The Books of the Apocrypha

The Seven Deuterocanonical Books

- **Tobit**
- **Judith**
- **Wisdom of Solomon**
- **Sirach** *(Ecclesiasticus)*
- **Baruch**
- **1 Maccabees**
- **2 Maccabees**

Additional Apocryphal Writings

(in various traditions)

- **Additions to Esther** *(Greek sections)*
- **Additions to Daniel** *(Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, Prayer of Azariah, and the Song of the Three Young Men)*
- **1 Esdras**
- **3 Maccabees**
- **Psalm 151**
- **Prayer of Manasseh**
- **4 Maccabees** *(in some traditions)*