Old Testament Literature (BCM 101) Lectures 1-2 —Ted Hildebrandt

**Is there a God? Why would you believe that?** Teleological Argument: design/order; Jolly Green Giant argument, Intelligent Design  
  
 Pascal’s wager  
  
 Jesus: liar, lunatic, Lord—legend? Jn 10:33  
  
 Personal testimony  
  
 Predictive prophecy, miracles, Jews

**Old Testament Overview: P-PEW C-JU D-ERA** **P**rimeval History: Adam/Eve, Noah/Flood, Babel  
 **P**atriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph  
 **E**xodus: Pharaoh, Plagues, Moses, and Red Sea  
 **W**ilderness: Sinai Covenant, 10 commands, Tabernacle, Manna, 40 years in desert  
   
 **C**onquest: Joshua/Jericho, tribes get land  
 **J**udges: Deborah/Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Samuel  
 **U**nited Monarchy: Saul, David, Solomon  
   
 **D**ivided Monarchy: Kings north all bad (Ahab); Kings of South some good (Uzziah, Hezekiah,   
 Josiah), Prophets Assyria and Babylon (enemies)  
 **E**xile: Judah to Babylon 70 years, temple destroyed, Daniel, Ezekiel  
 **R**eturn: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jerusalem walls and temple rebuilt  
 **A**pocrypha: Maccabees and Antiochus Epiphanes, Persian🡪 Greek🡪 Rome

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Primeval History Patriarchs Exodus Wilderness Conquest Judges United Monarchy

Abraham 2000 BC 1400/1200 BC David 1000 BC

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Divided Monarchy Judah to Babylon Return Apocrypha Jesus

586 BC 400 BC 5 BC

**Five OT Dates to know for OT Lit:** 2000 BC Abraham   
 1000 David   
 722 Northern kingdom scattered (Assyria)  
 586 Judah exiled [temple/Babylon]  
 400 end of OT

Bible-Robics: Genesis 1-25

**Where & how did we get the Bible? 4 Step Process from God to us  
 Inspiration**: God speaks to prophets, prophets speak to people, written down  
 **Canonization** – community collects sacred writings  
 **Transmission** – scribal copying  
 **Translation**: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek🡪 Eng.

**Does the Bible claim to be from God? Inspiration** 2 Tim. 3:16 God-breathed  
  
 2 Peter 1:21 origin in God not man

External Corroboration  
  
 **Moral Quality:** Love God, love neighbor, 10 commandments, yet not simplistic, interfaces with   
 culture yet deep values on human life—what you’d expect of God  
  
 **Historicity:** camels? Hittites? David? Balaam, Omri, Sennacherib

Archaeological Confirmation: Bullae: ***Berekhyahu son of Neriyahu the Scribe***.  
 Jeremiah; incl. Jaramael, Seriah & Gemaryaha (see Jer.36:26, 22, & 10-12)

**Canonization** Immediately authoritative deposited; Dan 9:2-Jeremiah  
  
 Peter of Paul 2 Pet 3:15f  
  
 Certain books not accepted--which? why?

**Criterion of Canonization** Is it inspired by God? -- Thus saith the Lord (Isa. 7:7)  
 Is it written by a prophet/apostle?  
 Does it agree with previous revelation?  
 Was it received by the people of God?

**Canonization Process** Antilegomena: questioned books  
 Proverbs   
  
 Ezekiel

Esther

Ecclesiastes

Song of Songs

TaNaK: **T**orah, **N**ebi’im; **K**ethubim

Apocrypha Pros/cons

**Transmission – Did God use flawed processes to preserve His word?** Copying process not always 100%

1 Sam 13:1f: KJV/NJKV; ASV/NASB; NIV/ESV, NRSV/ESV

Mark 16

1 Jn 5:7

How do we correct for that?   
 Why didn’t God preserve it perfectly?

**Scribal errors: Internal Evidence** Misreading Gen 10:4 dodanim/rodanim d / r  
 Mis-hearing Ps 100:3; not we/we are his   
 Metathesis: their  
 Conflation: church of God/ church of Lord🡪 Church of Lord God

**Text Criticism: External** Older manuscripts better—MT [Hebrew Masoretic Text], LXX [Septuagint-Greek OT]

DSS—Dead Sea Scrolls

Silver amulet of Numbers 6:24ff (700 BC)

**Translation Theory** Literal word for word … pros/cons Prov 10:5 –NASB, ESV

Modified literal… pros/cons-NIV/NRSV/KJV

Dynamic equivalence: meaning for meaning… pro/cons, NLT, Message

Politically Corrected texts… pros/cons TNIV

MT 🡪 LXX🡪 Vulgate🡪 KJV/NIV/NRSV et al

Different ways to translate: which one is right?

Do translators make mistakes: Prov 26:23  
 KJV: Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with **silver dross.**

New Discoveries: 1 Kgs 6:31 *mezuzot* –5 recessed – Tel Qeiyafa (BAR Aug 2015)

Does language change: 2 Cor 8:1 KJV: “We do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on ….”

**Conclusions** Better manuscript evidence than ever before  
 No major doctrine affected  
 Realistic view on transmission and translation issues  
 Confidence in God’s word… benefit of plurality of translations  
 God speaks the language of the people