

Old Testament Literature (BCM 101) Lecture 1 (1/19/17)—Ted Hildebrandt

Is there a God? Why would I 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

Old Testament Overview: P-PEW C-JU D-ERA

Primeval History: Adam/Eve, Noah/Flood, Babel

Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Exodus: Pharaoh, Plagues, Moses, and Red Sea

Wilderness: Sinai Covenant, 10 commands, Tabernacle, Manna, 40 years in desert

Conquest: Joshua/Jericho, tribes get land

Judges: Deborah/Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Samuel

United Monarchy: Saul, David, Solomon

Divided Monarchy: Kings north all bad (Ahab); Kings of South some good (Uzziah, Hezekiah, Josiah), Prophets Assyria and Babylon (enemies)

Exile: Judah to Babylon 70 years, temple destroyed, Daniel, Ezekiel

Return: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jerusalem walls and temple rebuilt

Apocrypha: Maccabees and Antiochus Epiphanes, Persian → Greek → Rome

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: Torah, Nebi'im; Kethubim

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