

Biblical Studies: This is the Bible

66 books
39 Old Testament
27 New Testament

The Old Testament is also known as the Hebrew Bible, which constitutes (in most Jewish circles) the entirety of the Holy Scriptures of Judaism. The Hebrew Bible – or Old Testament – also shares many similarities to the Qur’an (Koran) – which is the sacred scripture of Islam. Islam, Judaism and Christianity are all birthed out of the same geographic region of the world. The Old Testament books share the most in common with these other greatly populated faiths.

The New Testament is referred as the Second Testament in academic circles, and generally tells the story and theology of Jesus, the Christian Church and the work of their proponents. The dating of books is more certain in the New Testament than the Old Testament; but there still lives some discrepancy as to when some books were written.

It is helpful when trying to read, understand and apply what is written in the Bible to one’s life to read the Bible in community, to understand the Bible from the perspective of community and to apply the work of theologians (through scholarly texts, critical analysis, theological instructors and invested students), which could include those who have studied the Bible for many years.

What must always be remembered is that the overwhelming majority of the books of the Bible were written in retrospect of the times the books refer to. Nearly all of the biblical books were not written as eyewitness accounts. Furthermore, it should be known that there the audiences to whom the Bible was being written were those that were primarily believers in God, and eventually believers in God through Jesus the Christ. **There is no original copy of the Bible**, therefore no translation of the Bible that has precedence or authority over another based on its source. All biblical translations are translations of a copy, of a copy, of a copy.....

The primary languages of the Bible are Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

What is/has been your primary interaction and use of the Bible outside of a Church or religious setting?

Constructive Black Theology: The Theology of Dr. King

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?

- The last year of Dr. King's life
- Lowest approval rating of his career
- Marriage is under strain
- Death threats against he and his family have become regular
- After the civil rights bill and voting act, he speaks against the Vietnam war
- Clergy "friends," supporters and president Johnson shun and discourage him

Similar to the Apostle Paul and John the revelator, it is short sighted to summarize Dr. King's theology without considering where he was in his life's work.

Amid being ostracized by America and those close to him, dr. king writes that we need: THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The antithesis: "The segregationist goal is the total reversal of all reforms, with reestablishment of naked oppression and if need be, a native form of fascism... There is a strong mood to bring the civil rights movement to a halt or reduce it to a crawl."

The vision: "This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men... when I speak of love, I am speaking of that force which all great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life... let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day."

In what ways can the Church better model and integrate the ideals of the Beloved Community in this current day?

Christian Ethics: Where Are We Now?

"Churches have the world's greatest mission: after all, eternity is at stake. I'm convinced we should be doing everything possible short of sin to see lives changed forever. With that, I want churches to strive for the pinnacle of the life cycle, where they are continually making new disciples and experiencing what I refer to as sustained growth. (This should not be) a season to be a brief moment in time...(but churches should) arrive at this place of maximum kingdom impact and stay there."

The Unstuck Church

Do we approach how we are the Church from a perspective of membership or a "mission-ship"?

