

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

INTRODUCTION

Lesson 1

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2006 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- *What is in it?*
- *Why is it unique?*
- *Internal claims:*
- *Claims of faith and orthodoxy*

2 Timothy 3:16

- All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:21

- For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man; but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26

- But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

JOSEPHUS

- Jewish historian (around 70 a.d.)
- When speaking of the Old Testament, references the “holy books” as divine pronouncements of unquestionable authority that originated within the prophetic period and were under divine inspiration.

Josephus

- We have given practical proof of our reverence for our own scriptures. For, although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventures to either add, or to remove, or to alter a syllable: and it is an instinct with every Jew, from the day of his birth, to regard them as decrees of God, to abide by them, and, if need be, cheerfully to die for them. (*Ag. Ap.* 1.39-42)

St. Thomas Aquinas (1250's)

- “The Holy Spirit is the principal author of the Scriptures, men were his instruments.”

Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)

- “The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received because it is the word of God.”

Ch. 1, art. iv

Pope Leo XIII (1893)

- “Inspiration is a supernatural impulse by means of which the Holy Spirit excited and moved the sacred writers to write and helped them whilst they wrote in such a way that they could conceive exactly, wished to report faithfully and expressed with infallible accuracy, all that God commanded them to write and nothing else.”

Povidentissimus Deus

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

- The New International Version (“N. I. V.”)
- Scholars’ tasks
- What did the originals say?
 - History of writing
 - Archeology of writing

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Authors
- Language
- Copies
- Masoretes
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Translations
- Bottom Line

WHAT MAKES UP THE O.T.?

- Pentateuch (first five books of O.T.; also called the “Books of Moses”)
- Prophets
- Writings (remaining O.T. books starting with Psalms)
- New Testament view

Luke 24:44-45

- [Jesus] said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures....