

HOW THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS FORMED

1. The formation of the OT began with THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Exodus 31:18 "When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tables of stone **inscribed by the finger of God.**" (NIV)

Deuteronomy 4:13 "He declared to you His covenant, the Ten Commandments, which He commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets." (NIV)

2. MOSES recorded the first five books of the Bible.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26 "²⁴ After **Moses** finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, ²⁵ he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord: ²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you." (NIV)

3. JOSHUA, Moses' successor, added to the record.

Joshua 24:26 "And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God ..." (NIV)

4. The PROPHETS were sent by God to give a message to God's people. They would also record God's words.

1 Chronicles 29:29-30 "²⁹ As for the events of King David's reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of **Samuel** the seer, the records of **Nathan** the prophet and the records of **Gad** the seer, ³⁰ together with the details of his reign and power, and the circumstances that surrounded him and Israel and the kingdoms of all the other lands." (NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:34 “The other events of Jehoshaphat’s reign, from beginning to end, are written in the annals of **Jehu** son of Hanani, which are recorded in the book of the kings of Israel.” (NIV)

2 Chronicles 26:22 “The other events of Uzziah’s reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet **Isaiah** son of Amoz.” (NIV) – see also 2 Chronicles 32:32

Jeremiah 36:1-2 ¹ “In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to **Jeremiah** from the Lord: ² “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah until now.” (NIV)

5. The prophets spoke and recorded GOD’S WORD, not their own.

Jeremiah 30:1-2 ¹ This is the word that came to Jeremiah **from the Lord**: ² “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says, ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.’” (NIV)

Jeremiah 30:4-5 ⁴ These are the words **the Lord spoke** concerning Israel and Judah: ⁵ **“This is what the Lord says ...”** (NIV)

6. The Old Testament writings were finished in 435 B.C.

7. There was no word from the Lord for 400 YEARS.

8. The APOCRYPHA books were not accepted as Scriptures by many.

Apocrypha = “hidden”

9. There is an accepted THREE-FOLD DIVISION of the OT.

- **The Law** (5 books)—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **Prophets** (8 books)—Former: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings; Latter: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Book of Twelve Prophets

- **Writings** (11 books)—Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles.

10. The primary basis for the Christian acceptance of the OT is JESUS' own attitude toward the Old Testament.

Matthew 23:35 *"And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of **righteous Abel** to the blood of **Zechariah son of Berekiah**, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar."* (NIV)

Luke 24:44-45 ⁴⁴ *He 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.** ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."* (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

God's people did not create the Old Testament, but through the years, God revealed Himself and spoke through leaders and prophets—they were to be the voice pieces of God. They were also to write down what God told them, so each generation could learn about who God is and how He wants to relate to His special people. God's people recognized these recordings as the Word of God, therefore, having authority over the lives.

Romans 15:4 *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."* (NIV)