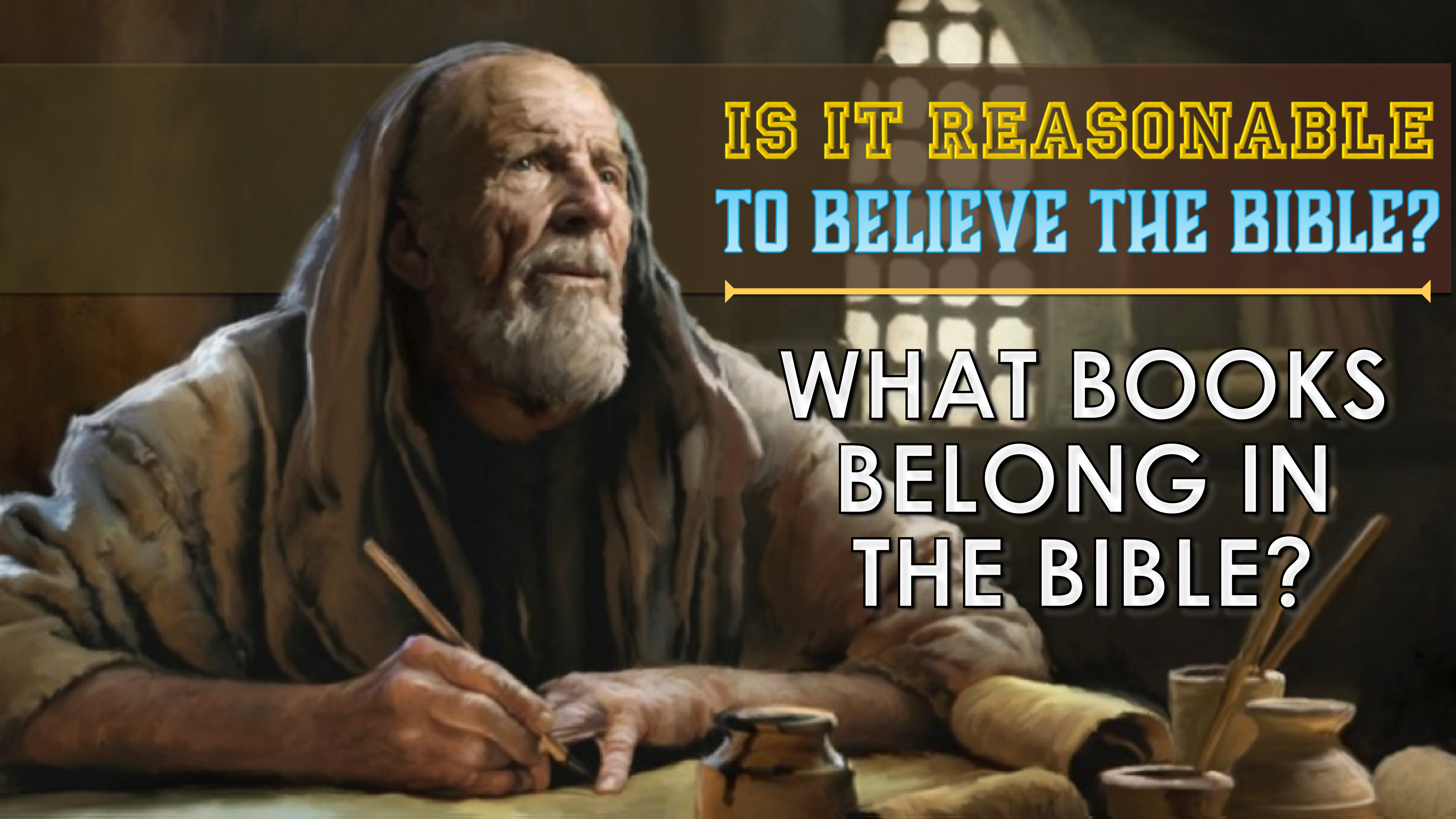
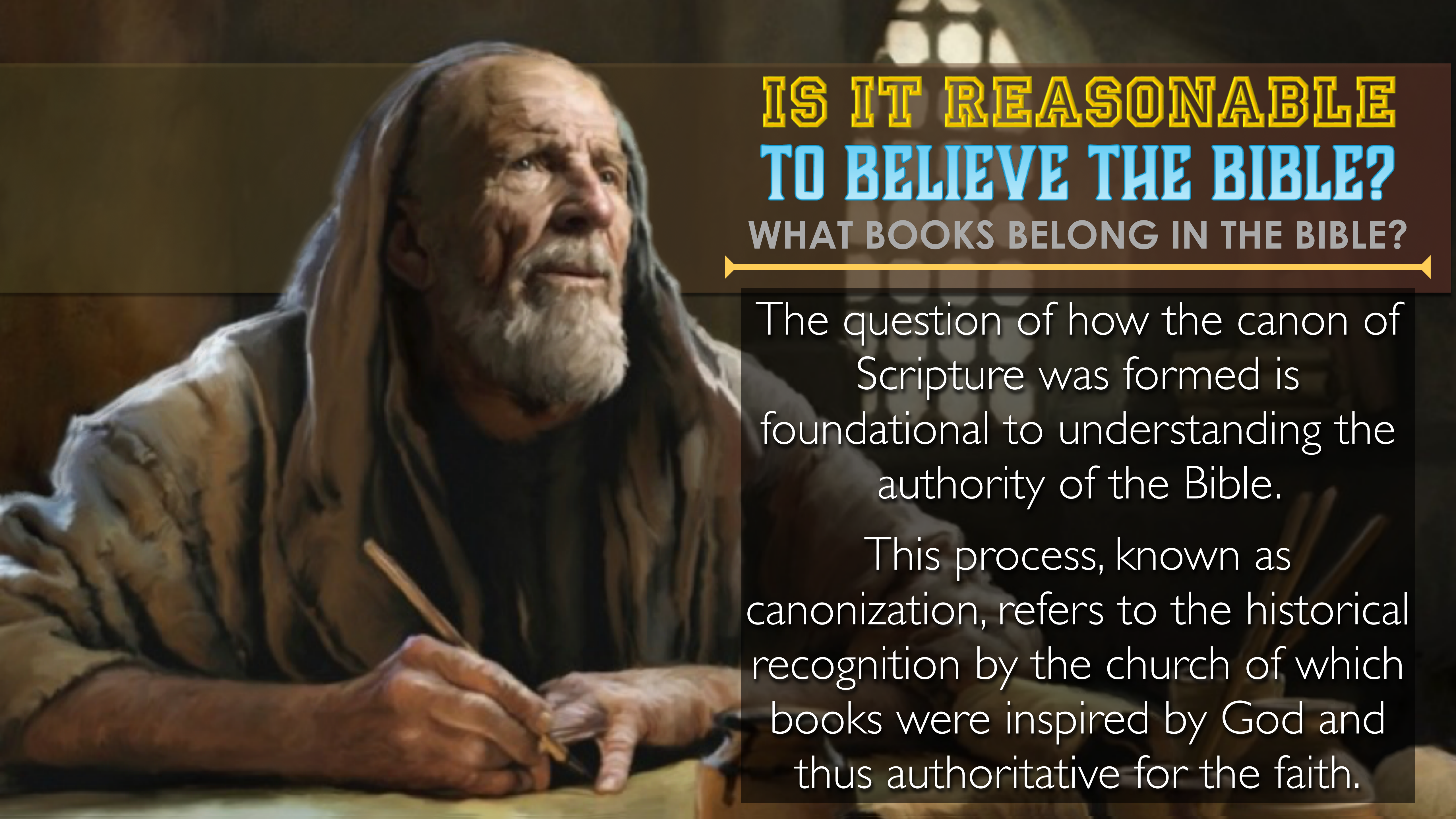


A man with a long white beard and a brown robe is seated at a desk, writing on a scroll with a quill. The desk is cluttered with various items, including a small jar, a scroll, and a quill holder. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting.

**IS IT REASONABLE
TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?**

**WHAT BOOKS
BELONG IN
THE BIBLE?**

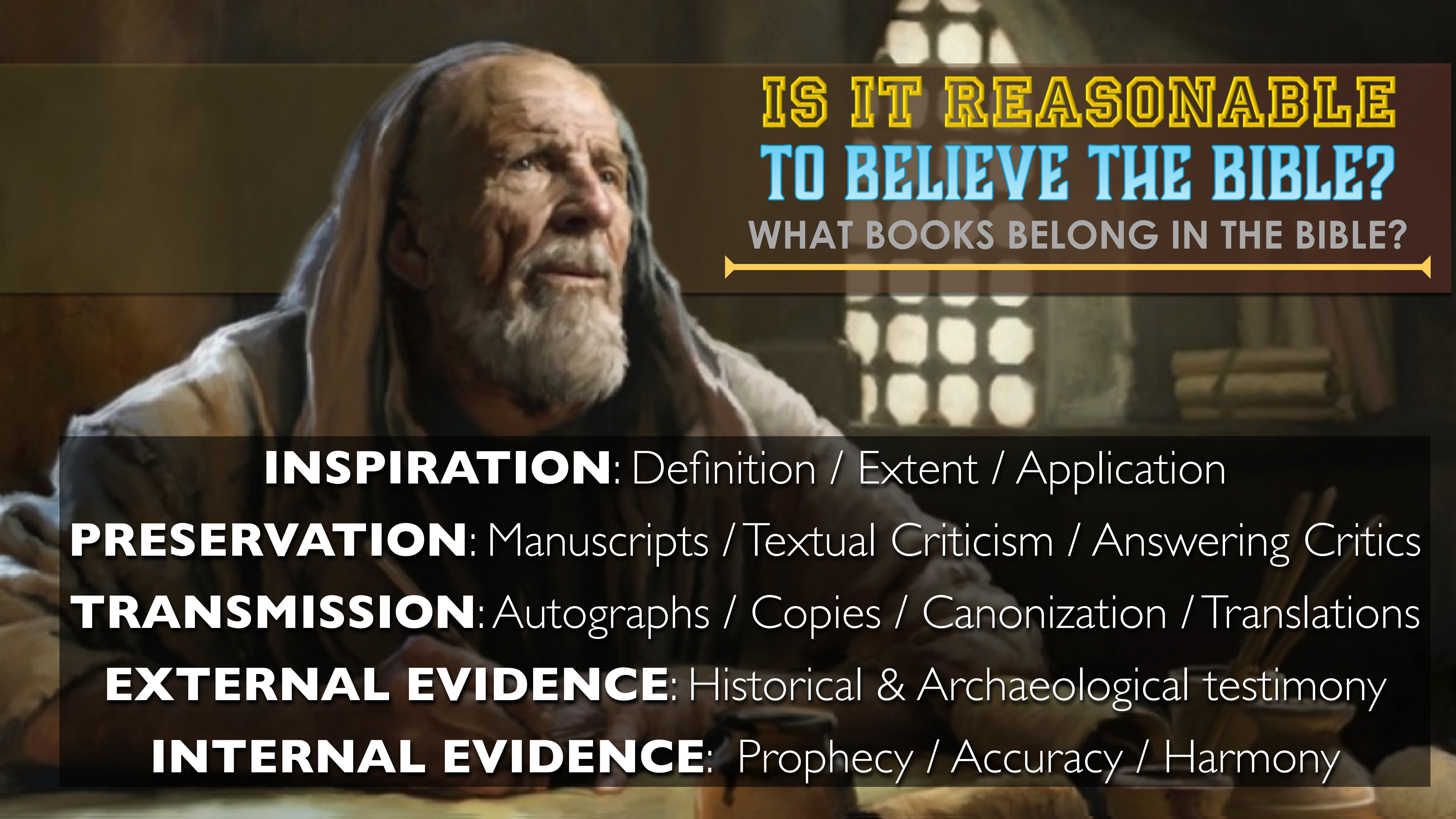


IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The question of how the canon of Scripture was formed is foundational to understanding the authority of the Bible.

This process, known as canonization, refers to the historical recognition by the church of which books were inspired by God and thus authoritative for the faith.



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

INSPIRATION: Definition / Extent / Application

PRESERVATION: Manuscripts / Textual Criticism / Answering Critics

TRANSMISSION: Autographs / Copies / Canonization / Translations

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE: Historical & Archaeological testimony

INTERNAL EVIDENCE: Prophecy / Accuracy / Harmony

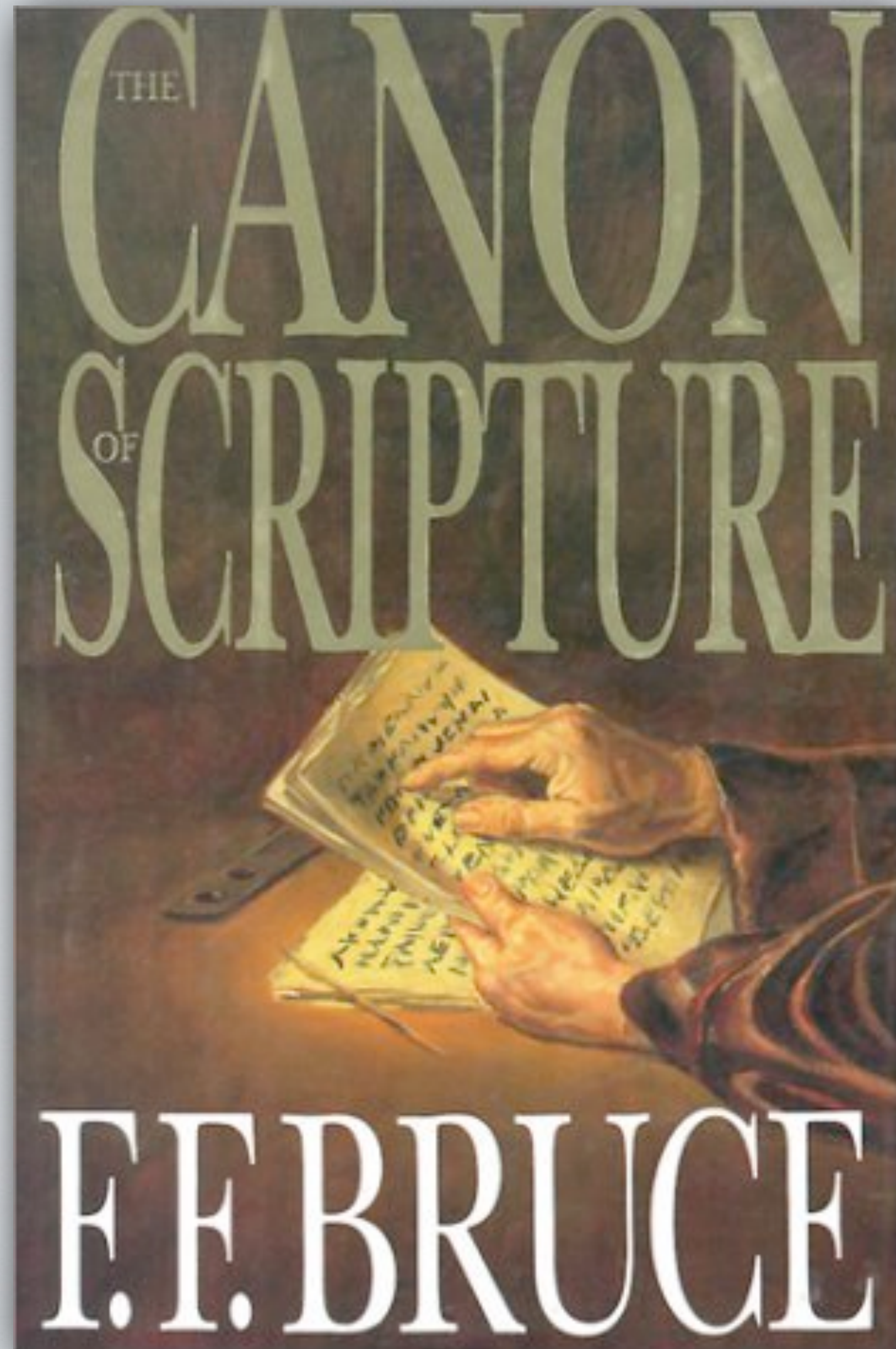
IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

The BIBLE is by far
the best attested
book of antiquity!

Psalms 119:160 (NKJV)

¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word is truth,
And every one of Your righteous
judgments *endures* forever.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?



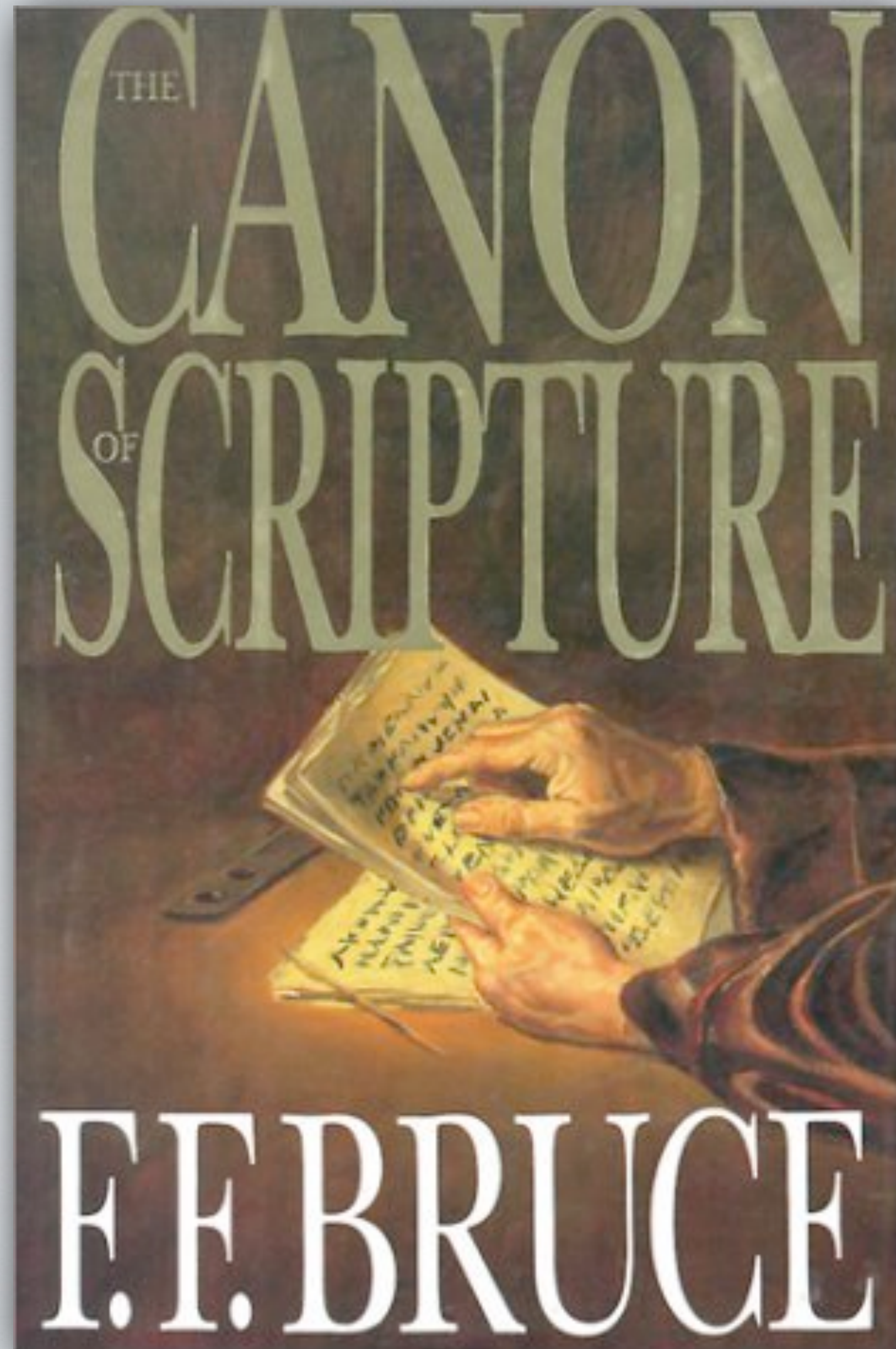
Canonization

QANAH (Hebrew) - a “reed, rod” (cf. Ezekiel 40: 3-8; 42:16-19).

KANNA (Greek) - “a straight rod used as a measuring rule,” thus qualifying it to be a **KANON** (Greek): “a rule, standard” (cp. Galatians 6:16).

CANON (Latin > English) - As applied to the Bible: “the list of sacred books acknowledged to be the rule (standard) of faith and practice”

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?



Canonization

- **CANON:** a measuring rod.
- **SCRIPTURE:** The list of books recognized as inspired and binding for faith and practice.
- **INCLUSION:** Recognized over centuries as writings were composed, received, copied, read in worship, tested, and either kept or set aside.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



The Hebrew Canon

**24 Books divided into three sections
The Law, Prophets, & Writings**

Same, identical content!

The Protestant Canon

**39 Books divided into five sections
The Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets,
& Minor Prophets**

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- While roughly 99% of the Old Testament was written in ancient Hebrew, 268 verses were originally written in Aramaic (*Daniel 2:4b-7:28; Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26; Jeremiah 10:11; Genesis 31:47*).
- By the 1st century A.D., Hebrew scripture was already widely circulated as a complete unit and found in synagogues throughout the Roman world.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

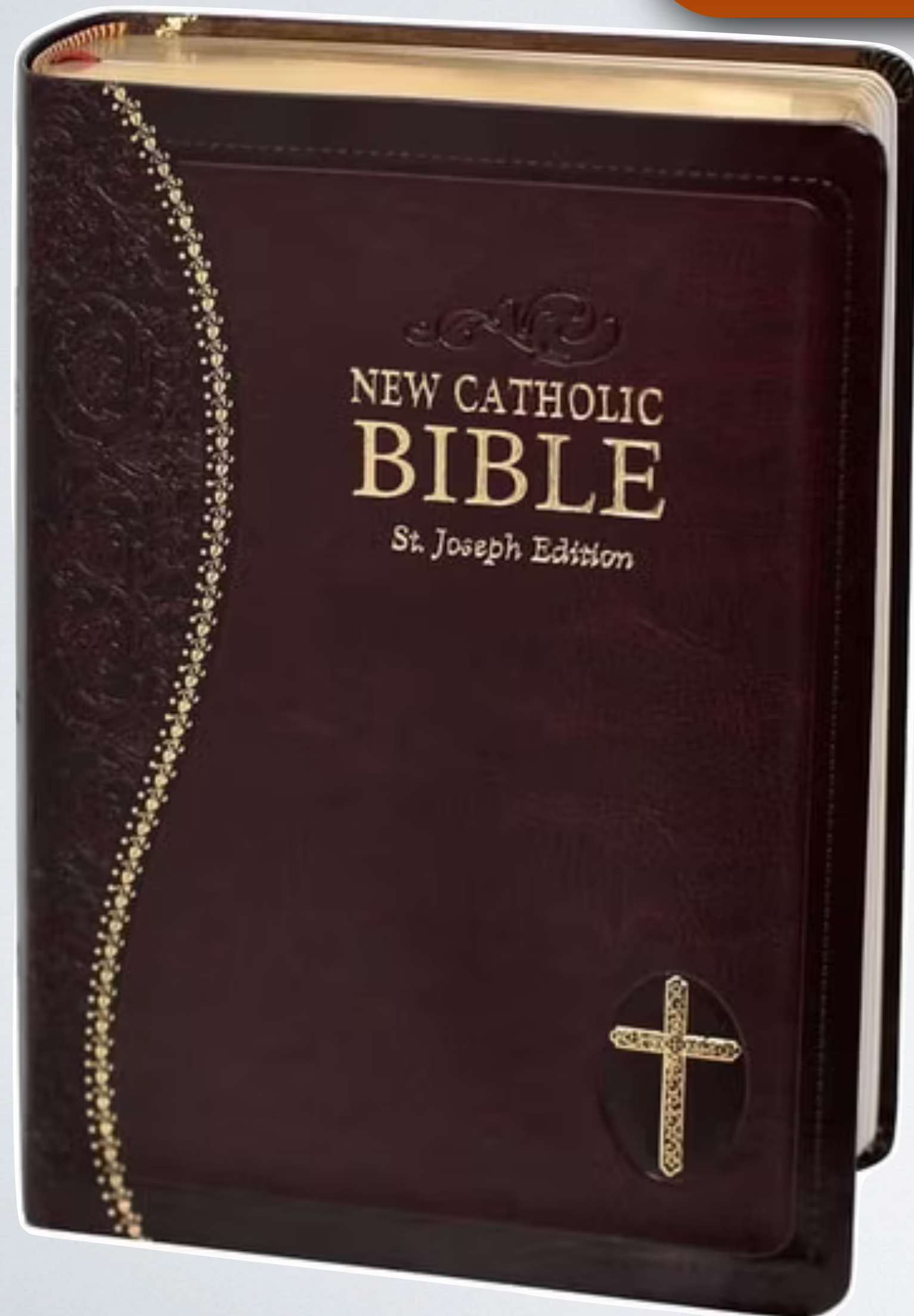
The Old Testament Canon



- They came to a close during the time of Artaxerxes.
- Established among the Jews well before the time of Christ.
- God entrusted the Jews with His word (Romans 3:2).
- **They knew what belonged in the Hebrew canon.**

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon

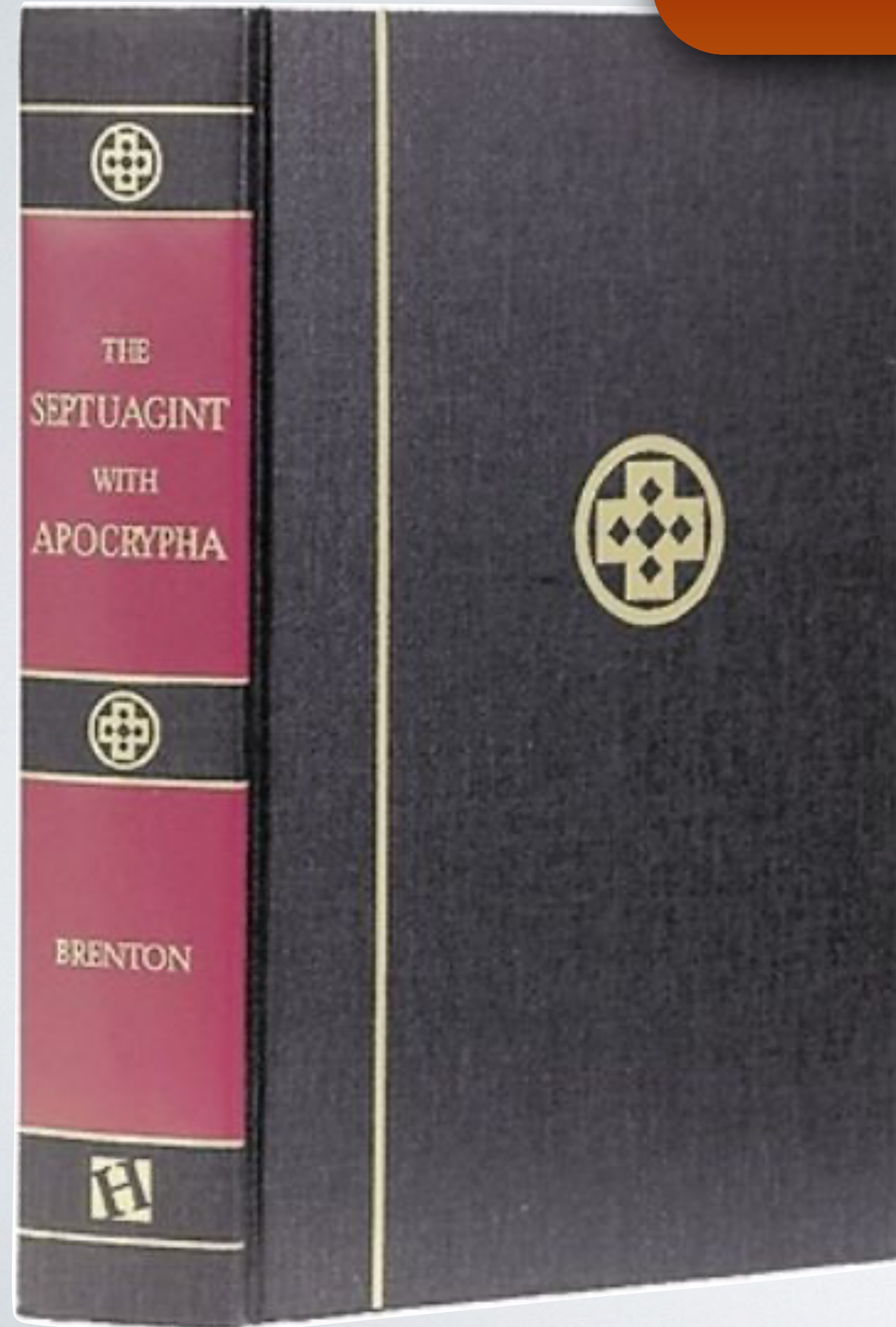


- The Roman Catholic Bible contains 7 more books for a total of 46:

Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, Baruch, (Epistle of Jeremiah), Additions to Daniel (Susanna, Bel and the Dragon), Tobit, Judith, Additions to Esther, First & Second Macabees,

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- From the 3rd century BCE, Jews in Egypt translated Scripture into Greek.
- The Septuagint—including the Hebrew books plus additional writings circulating in Greek.
- The mainstream Jewish communities in antiquity did not generally view the additional LXX books as divinely inspired.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon

AGAINST APION



Flavius Josephus

“We do not possess myriads of inconsistent books... Our books, those which are justly accredited, are but twenty-two... five are the books of Moses... from the death of Moses until Artaxerxes the prophets wrote in thirteen books. The remaining four contain hymns to God and precepts for human life.

From Artaxerxes to our own time history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit... because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets.”

This quote is from *Against Apion* (Book 1, Paragraph 8 / Sections 37–42).

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon

- He spoke of it as one unit:

Matthew 22:37–40 (NKJV)

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”



WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon

- He spoke of it as one unit:

Luke 24:44–45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.



WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- Jesus referred to the OT as an identifiable body of text (Matthew 5:17; 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; 26:56; Luke 16:16,29,31; 24:27,44; John 5:45-47; 7:19).
- Jesus did not quote from every OT book, but He did quote from all three divisions – The Law, [Torah], The Prophets, [Nebhiim], The Writings, [Kethubhim].

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- Jesus did not dispute the books of the Hebrew canon with the Jews.
- In fact he urged them to read, believe, and follow the Scriptures they had as authoritative for truth.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- He used the authoritative phrase, “It is written” (Matthew 4:4,7,10; 21:13; 26:24,31; Mark 7:6; 9:12,13; 11:17; 14:21,27; Luke 4:4,8; 7:27; 10:26; 18:31; 19:46; 20:17; 21:22; 22:37; 24:44,46; John 6:45; 8:17; 10:34; 15:25).
- He rebuked the Jews for their ignorance when they did not know the scriptures (Matthew 22:29-32).

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- Jesus referenced the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- He referred to the Hebrew Scriptures at least 82 times

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

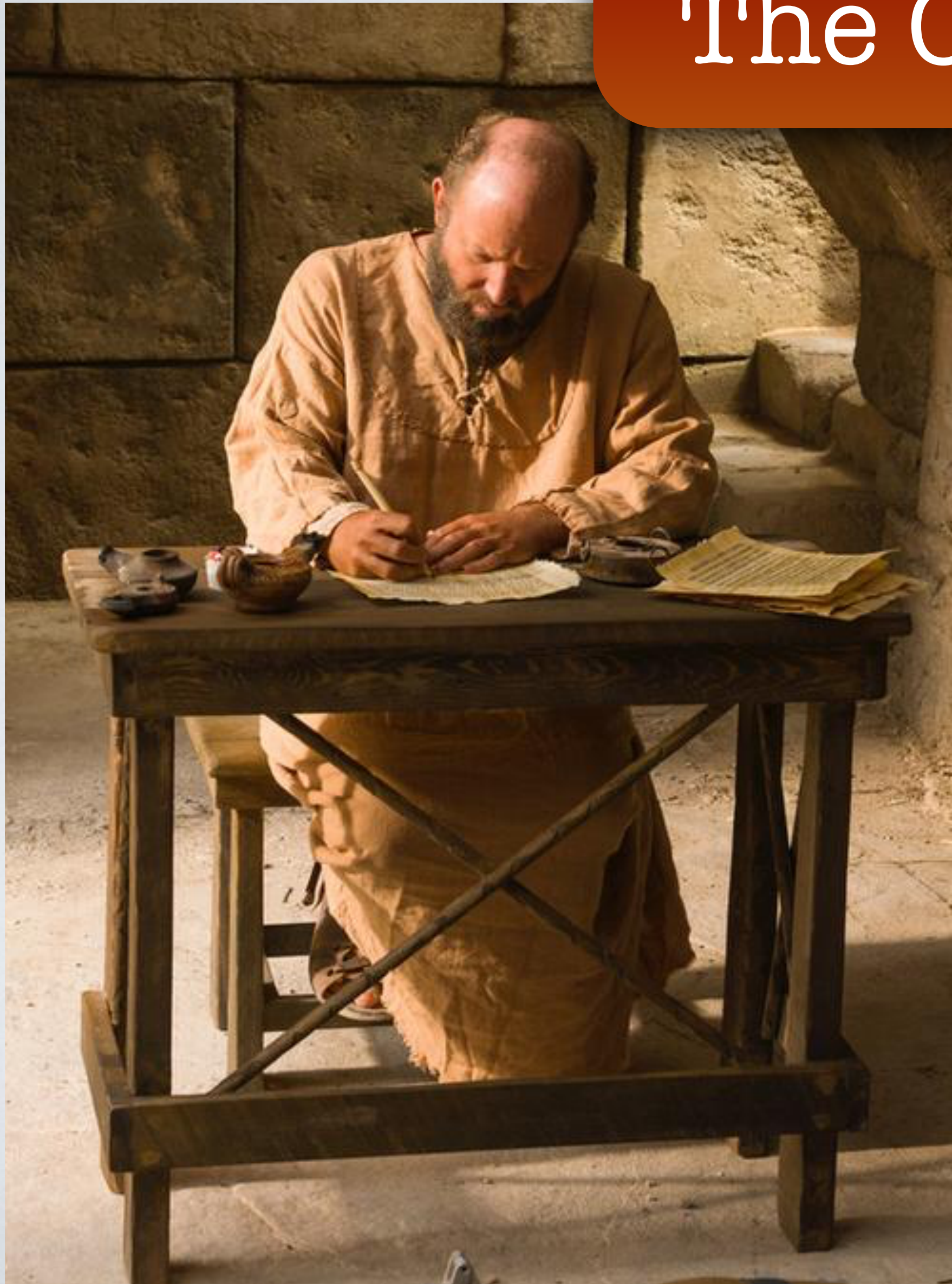
The Old Testament Canon



- He spoke of these Old Testament people by name: Adam, Eve, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Lot's wife, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah, Zechariah, Daniel.
- He spoke of the prophets as a group of inspired men.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Old Testament Canon



- **Paul acknowledged the Hebrew canon as:**
 - ✧ Written for our learning (Romans 15:4)
 - ✧ Written for our admonition (1 Corinthians 10:11)
 - ✧ Profitable for doctrine (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

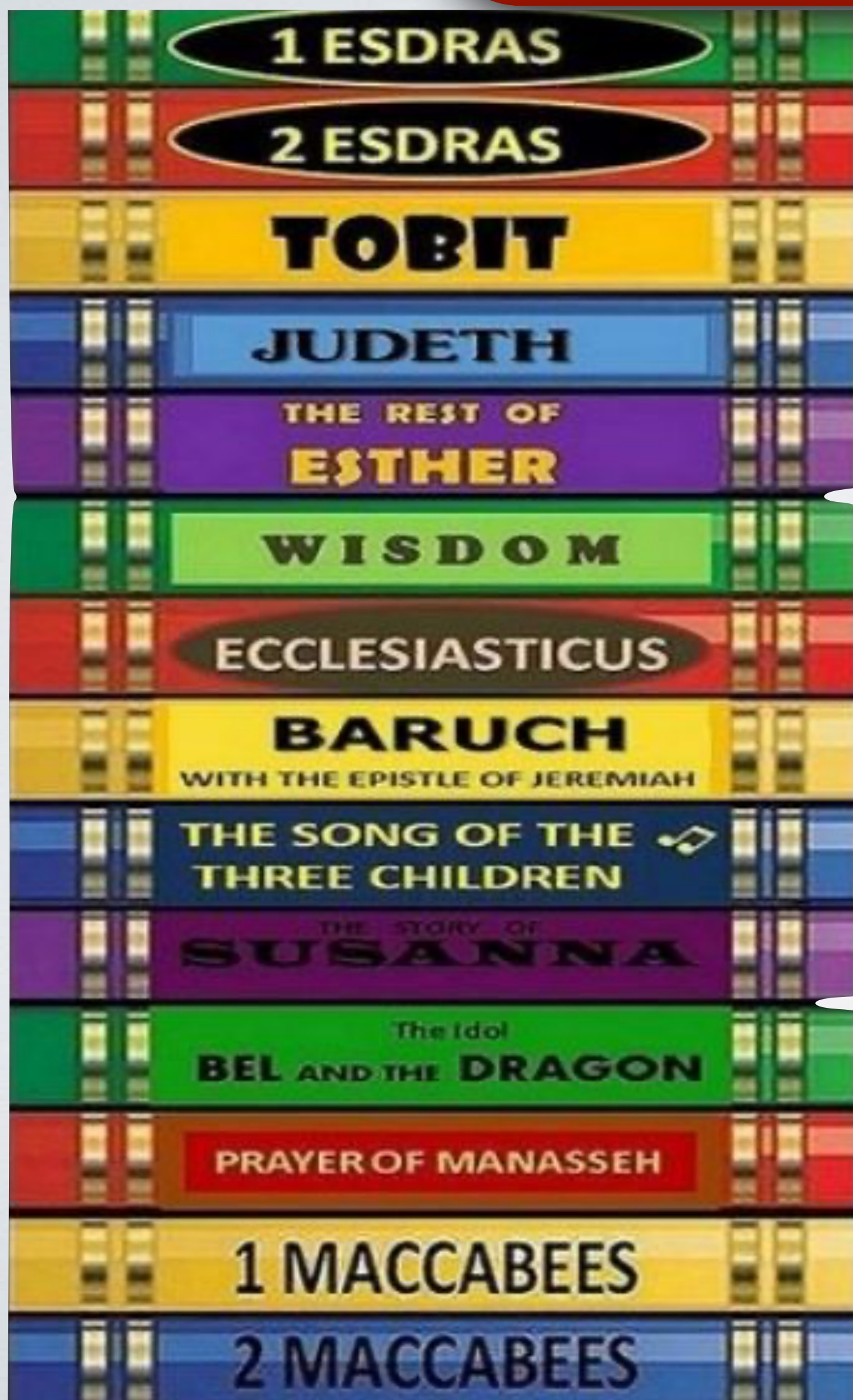
The Old Testament Canon

- 
- The apostles and New Testament writers frequently quoted the LXX, but their quotes were from the books found in the Hebrew canon
 - Books “MOST” Quoted in the NT:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Isaiah, 419 in 23 books. | ◆ Ezekiel, 141 times in 15 books. |
| ◆ Psalms, 414 times in 23 books | ◆ Daniel, 133 times in 17 books. |
| ◆ Genesis, 260 times in 21 books. | ◆ Jeremiah, 125 times in 17 books. |
| ◆ Exodus, 250 times in 19 books. | ◆ Leviticus, 107 times in 15 books |
| ◆ Deuteronomy, 208 times in 21 books. | ◆ Numbers, 73 times in 4 books. |

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha



- **Apocrypha** (“hidden”) — usual Protestant term (*Athanasius* — “*apocrypha*” means *heretical forgeries*).
- **Deuterocanonical** (“second canon”) — Catholic term, meaning second in time of universal reception, not second in dignity in official Catholic teaching.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha

Apocrypha Book	Type / Theme or Content	App. date
Tobit	Pious story: almsgiving, angels, marriage	200 B.C.
Judith	Tale of a heroine who saves Israel	150 B.C.
Wisdom of Solomon	Greek wisdom theology	30 B.C.
Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)	Hebrew wisdom, translated into Greek	132 B.C
Baruch + Letter of Jeremiah	Prayer and polemic against idols	150-50 B.C.
1 & 2 Maccabees	History of the Jewish revolt / Theological history; prayers for the dead	110 B.C.
Additions to Esther	Greek expansions (10:4-16:24)	140-130 B.C.
Additions to Daniel	Prayer of Azariah, Song of the Three, (3:24-90); Susanna, (13); Bel and the Dragon (14)	100 B.C.
Prayer of Manasseh	Prayer of deep repentance, request for divine mercy.	100 B.C.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha

WHO ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA?

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON

1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES

GREEK ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS

TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH

1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES
3 MACCABEES
4 MACCABEES
PSALM 151

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS

2 ESDRAS
TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH

1 MACCABEES
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3 MACCABEES

PSALM 151

COPTIC

1 ESDRAS

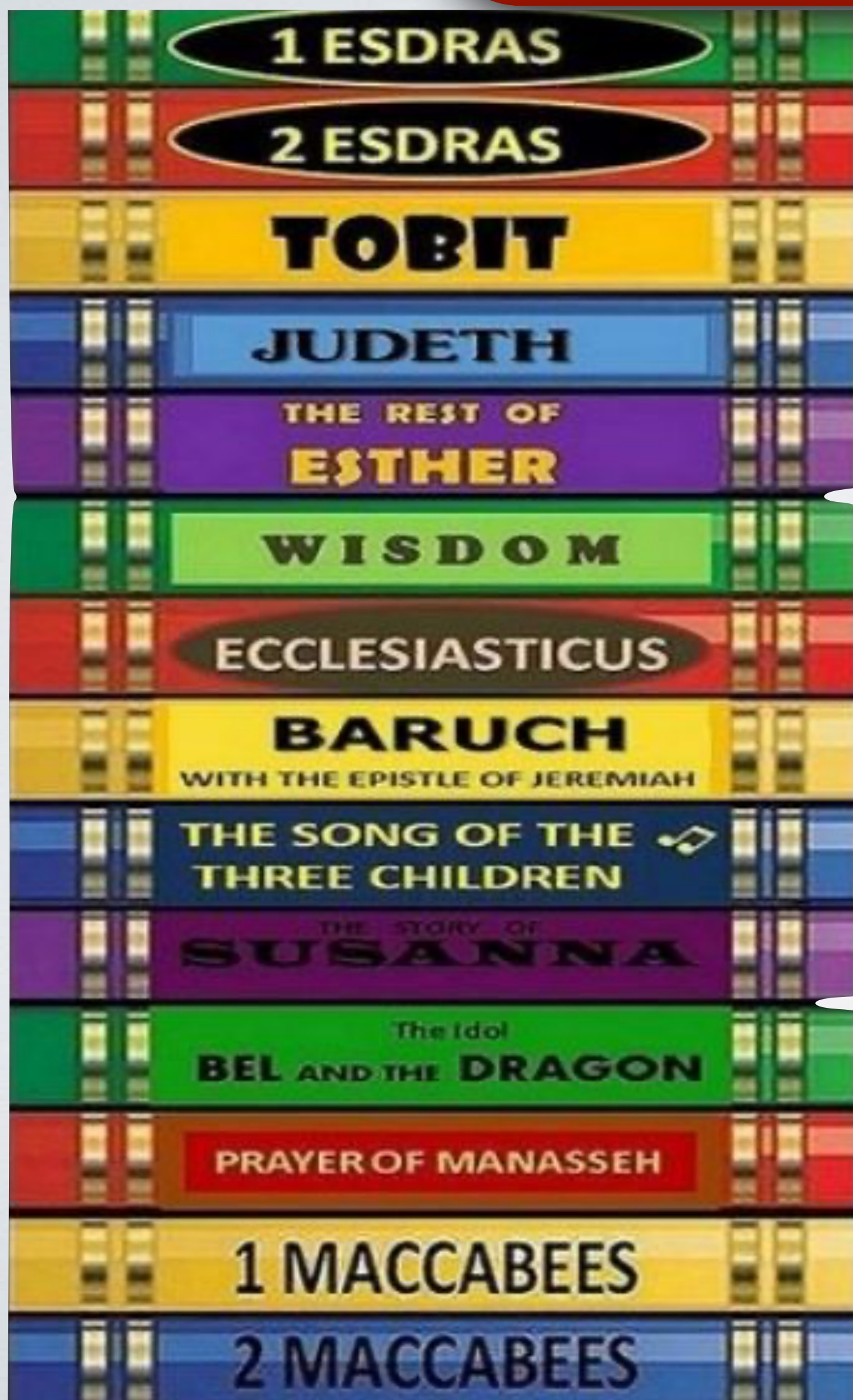
2 ESDRAS
TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH

1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES
3 MACCABEES

PSALM 151

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha

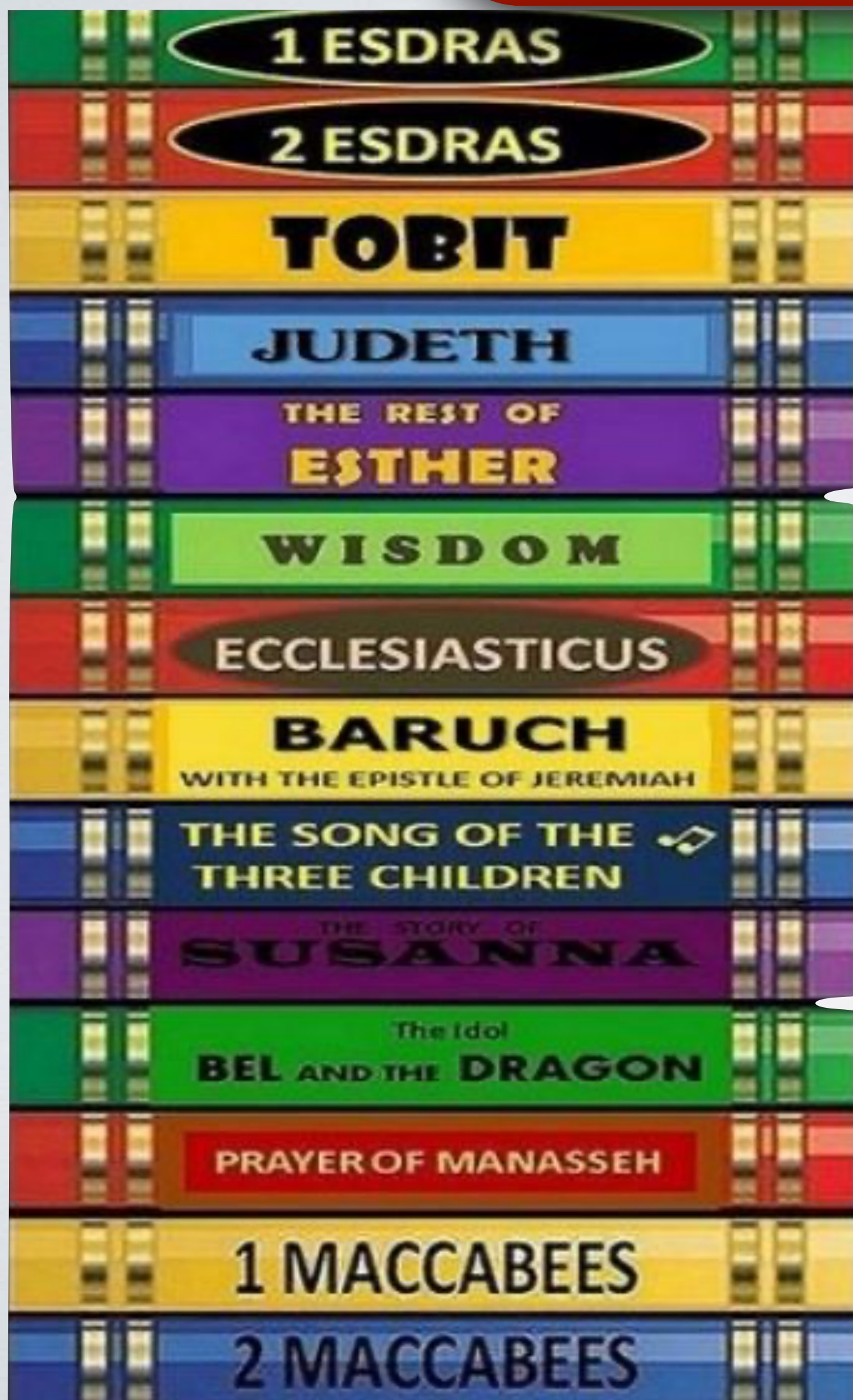


■ Why Reject The Apocrypha:

- ✂ Never sanctioned or quoted by Jesus, the apostles, nor any NT writer.
- ✂ Never part of the Hebrew canon; They were not in the collection Josephus treated as uniquely authoritative, nor in the rabbinic Tanakh. “The Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2).
- ✂ Recognized as works of men, not God.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha

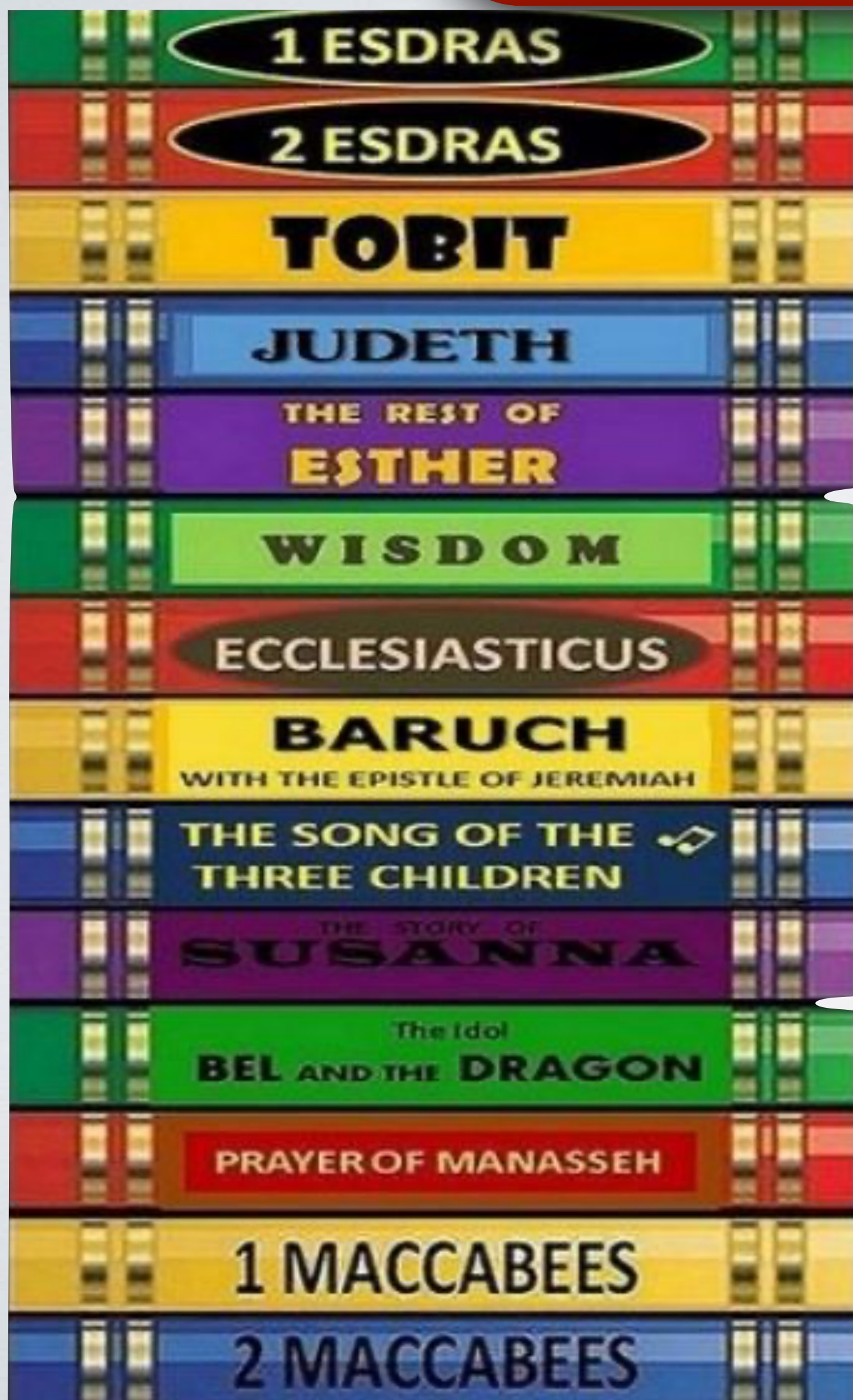


■ Why Reject The Apocrypha:

- ✂ Rejected by the early “church fathers.”
- ✂ It wasn’t until the fourth century A.D. that the apocryphal books were placed alongside canonical books as books helpful to read, (397), but not considered equal to Scripture.
- ✂ The Roman Catholic church elevated them to canonicity during the Council of Trent (1546).
- ✂ They contain historical inaccuracies and teachings inconsistent with God’s word.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

What About The Apocrypha



■ Why Reject The Apocrypha:

- ✂ Their inclusion provided the Catholic church with texts to support their false doctrines which lacked support in (and contradicted by) the other books.
- ✂ Realizing all of this, we must do what so many have done (including many Catholics in the past) and reject these extra books as uninspired works of men (cf. Revelation 22:18-19).

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Criteria For Canonical Books

OLD TESTAMENT

Recognition within Israel as sacred Scripture.

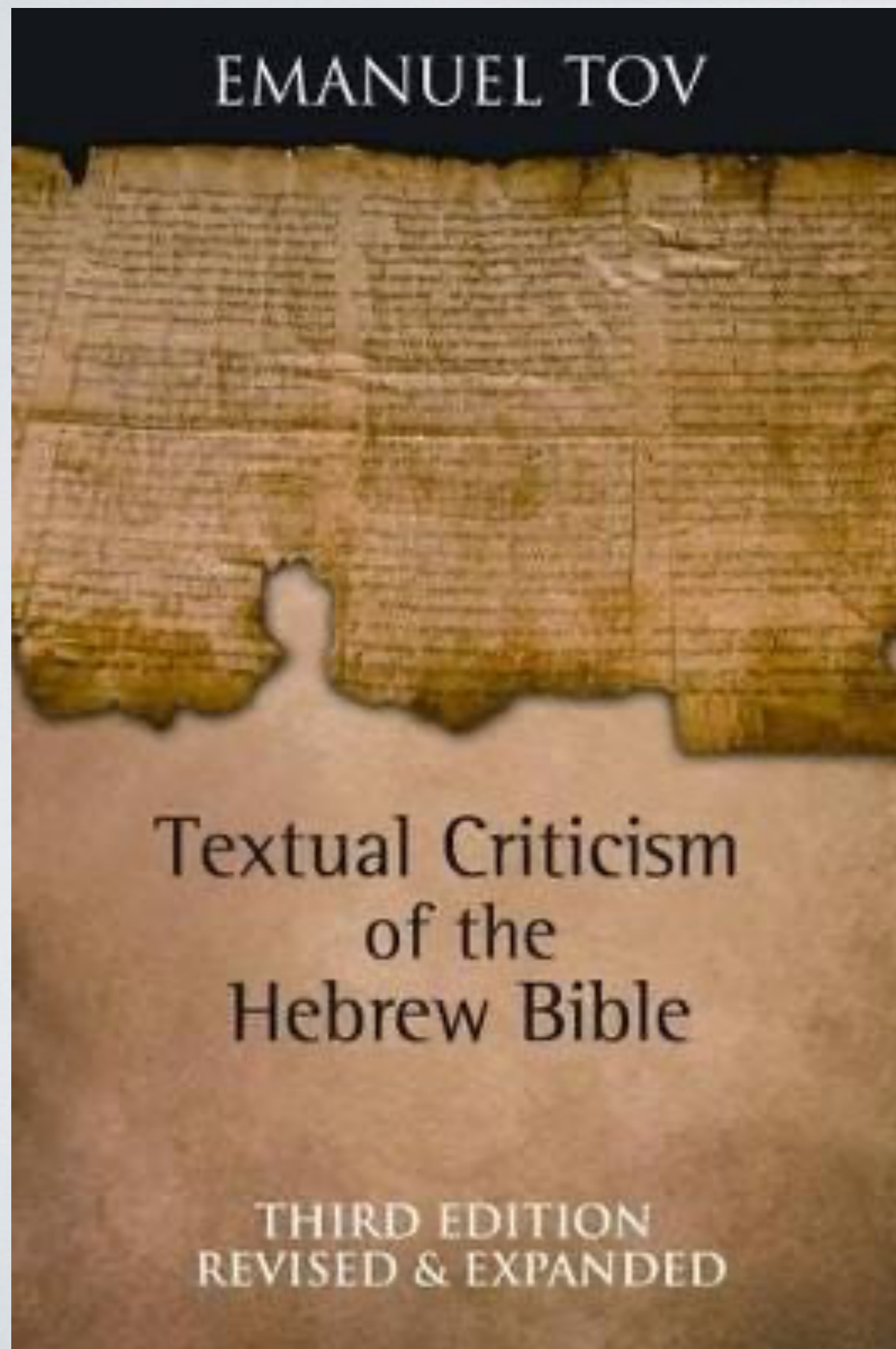
Origin in the period when prophecy was understood to be active (Josephus's "succession of prophets").

Acknowledged by Jesus and the apostles as being from God

Consistency with already recognized Scripture.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

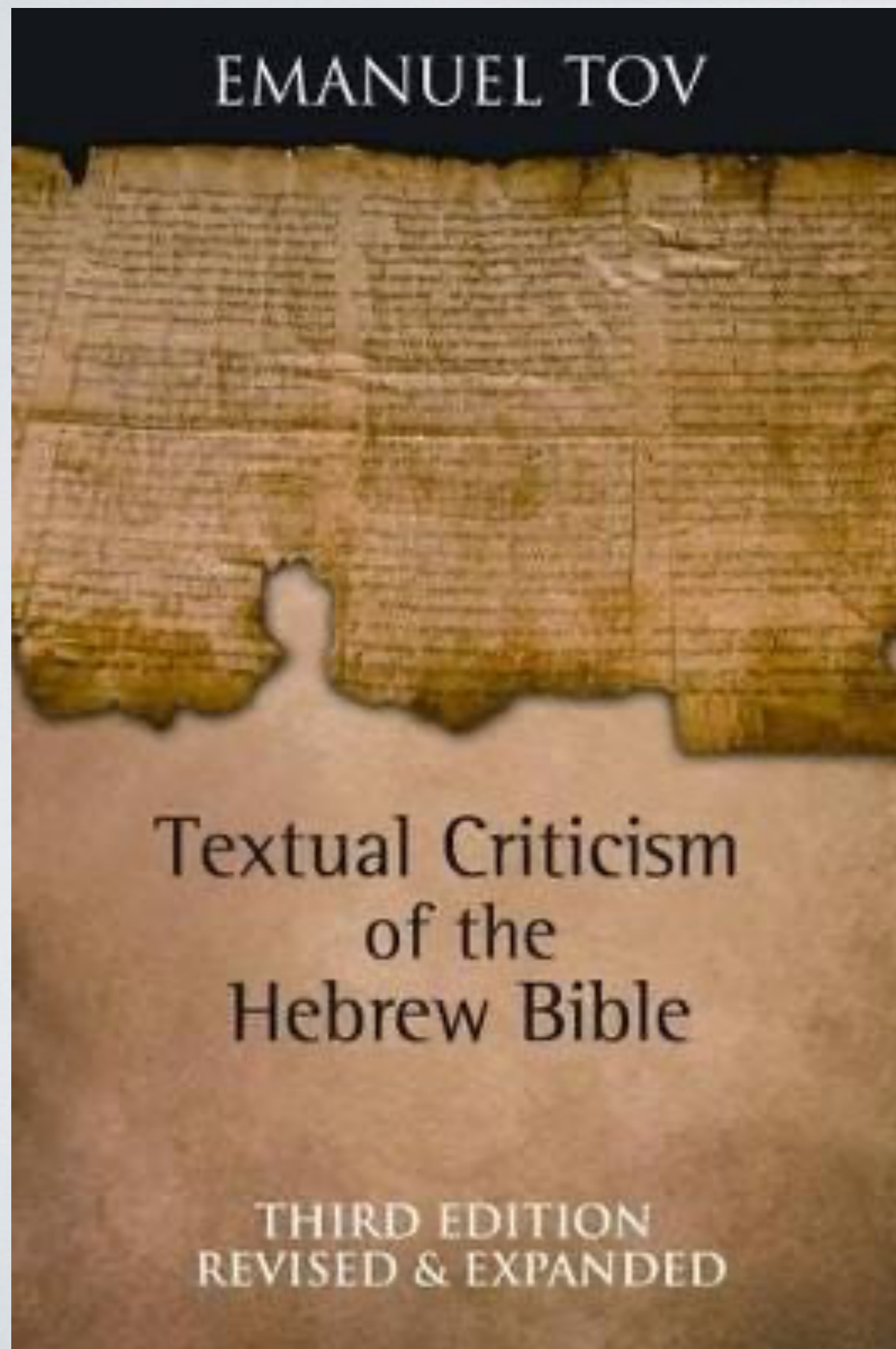
The Criteria For Canonical Books



- An inspired book should reflect the characteristics of God, (omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent) in such ways as fulfilled prophecy and accurate statements with regard to geography, astronomy, science, math, psychology, and all areas of knowledge to the extent that it makes reference to these.
- If God is the Creator of both the world and man, He could not make an inaccurate statement about them.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

The Criteria For Canonical Books



- Written by an inspired man.
- For the purpose of instructing the people of God.
- Recognized by the people of God as authoritative at the time.
- Inherent and true.
- Preserved by the providence of God.

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

OLD

TESTAMENT

History

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Poetry

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Songs of Solomon

Laws of Moses

Prophecy

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Major Prophets

Minor Prophets

Biography

History

Paul's Letters

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

(The Gospels)

Other Letters

Prophecy

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

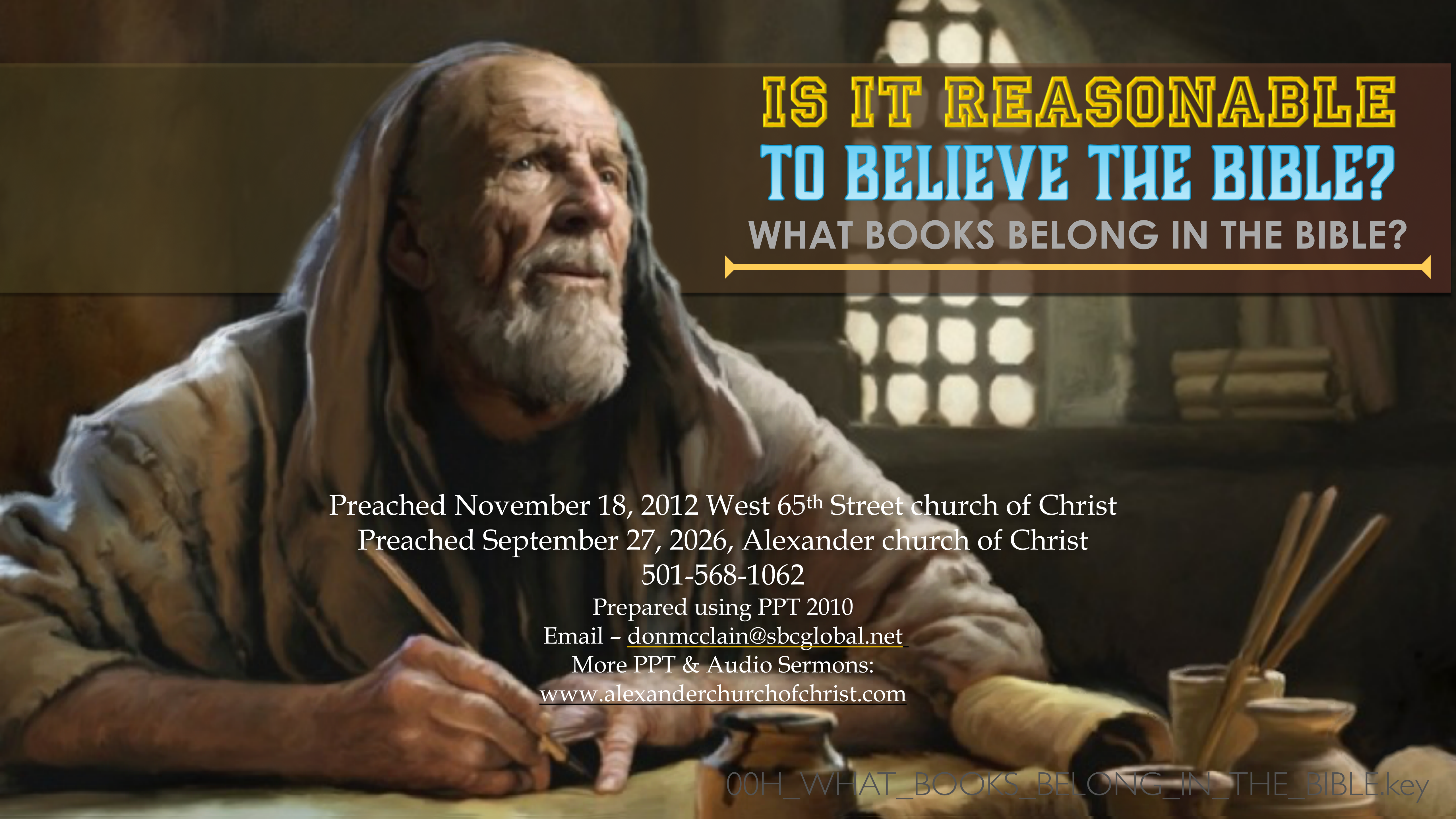
3 John

Jude

Revelation

NEW

TESTAMENT



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

WHAT BOOKS BELONG IN THE BIBLE?

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