

# Unleashing the Old Testament

*with Alan Gilman*  
Bible Teacher

Session 2



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## The Old Testament Canon



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### The Old Testament Canon

- ❖ Some books exhibit divine awareness
- ❖ Ezra and the Torah
- ❖ Lists in Ecclesiasticus & 2 Maccabees
- ❖ The Septuagint
- ❖ New Testament assumptions
- ❖ Jewish and Christian Councils
- ❖ Jerome and the Latin Vulgate
- ❖ The Protestant Reformation & Catholic Response



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The Canon of the Old Testament

**Reflections**

- ❖ The problem of expectations
- ❖ Acceptance based on received tradition
- ❖ “Bibles” are a recent invention
- ❖ The Bible implicitly supports itself
  - ❖ Inner cohesion
  - ❖ Jesus & the NT



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The Canon of the Old Testament

**Reflections**

- ❖ “The Bible is a sensitive book”
- ❖ Historically accurate
- ❖ Strong prophetic component
- ❖ Reflects life
- ❖ Dependable



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Is the English Bible the Word of God?



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Is the English Bible the Word of God?

Outline

- ❖ Inspiration
- ❖ The reliability of copies
- ❖ What about translations?
- ❖ Are English translations trustworthy?



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Is the English Bible the Word of God?

Inspiration

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



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Is the English Bible the Word of God?

Inspiration

First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:20-21)



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**Inspiration**

- ❖ Is not dictation
- ❖ Doesn't nullify human agency
- ❖ Is found in direct quotes, narration, & creative writing



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**Is the English Bible the Word of God?**

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."  
(Matthew 19:3-6; see Genesis 2:24)



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**Inspiration is...**

God's influence upon the biblical writers & their writings, resulting in communicating his intentions



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The Reliability of Copies

- ❖ All we have are copies
- ❖ Most editions/versions have been copies
- ❖ Masoretic tradition



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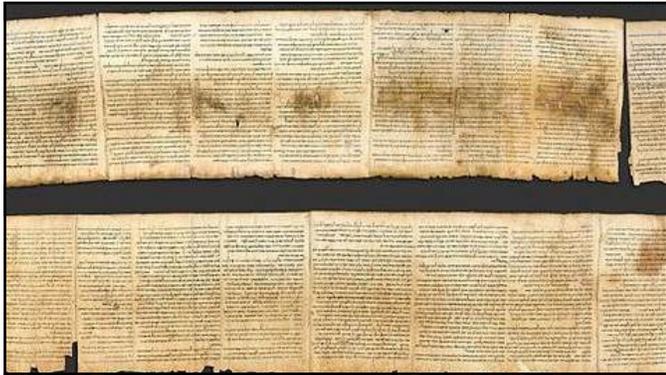
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### The Reliability of Copies

- ❖ All we have are copies
- ❖ Most editions/versions have been copies
- ❖ Masoretic tradition
- ❖ The Dead Sea Scrolls
- ❖ NT manuscripts

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### What about translations?

**Translations used from early times**

- ❖ Language of Bible sometimes a translation
- ❖ Scripture translated in Ezra's time (Nehemiah 8:1-8)

<sup>8</sup>They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading

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### What about translations?

#### New Testament Is Based On Translation

- ❖ Quoted material in Gospels (Aramaic/Hebrew)
- ❖ Greek Translation(s) of OT used
- ❖ NT's use of Greek OT ensures accuracy



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### Are English translations trustworthy?

- ❖ Long translation history
- ❖ English translations based on vast amount of scholarship
- ❖ Divine authorship
- ❖ Scripture interprets scripture



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