

## ~HEBREW SCRIPTURES (741)

- The Writers
- Canon Of Hebrew Scriptures
- Preservation And Transmission
- Importance

• The 39 divinely inspired books from Genesis to Malachi, according to the common arrangement today, constitute the major portion of the Bible.

• The books of the Hebrew Scriptures as they appear in most Bible versions may be divided into three sections.

(1) **Historic**, Genesis to Esther, 17 books, (2) **Poetic**, Job to The Song of Solomon, 5 books, (3) **Prophetic**, Isaiah to Malachi, 17 books. Such divisions are rather general, since the historical section contains poetic portions (**Judges Chapter 5**).

- Then the man said; This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken. (**Genesis 2:23**)
- Consequently Lamech composed these words for his wives Adah and Zillah; Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech; Give ear to my saying; A man I have killed for wounding me, yes, a young man for giving me a blow. (**Genesis 4:23**)
- If seven times Cain is to be avenged, then Lamech seventy times and seven. (**Genesis 4:24**)
- At this he said; Cursed be Canaan. Let him become the lowest slave to his brothers. (**Genesis 9:25**)
- And he added; Blessed be Yehowah, Shem's God, and let Canaan become a slave to him. (**Genesis 9:26**)
- Let God grant ample space to Japheth, and let him reside in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan become a slave to him also. (**Genesis 9:27**)
- At that time Moses and the sons of Israel proceeded to sing this song to Yehowah and to say the following; Let me sing to

**Yehowah, for he has become highly exalted the horse and its rider he has pitched into the sea. (Exodus 15:1)**

- **My strength and my might is Yah, since he serves for my salvation. This is my God, and I shall laud him, my father's God, and I shall raise him on high. (Exodus 15:2)**
- **Yehowah is a manly person of war. Yehowah is his name. (Exodus 15:3)**
- **Pharaoh's chariots and his military forces he has cast into the sea, and the choice of his warriors have been sunk in the Red Sea. (Exodus 15:4)**
- **The surging waters proceeded to cover them, down they went into the depths like a stone. (Exodus 15:5)**
- **Your right hand, O Yehowah, is proving itself powerful in ability, Your right hand, O Yehowah, can shatter an enemy. (Exodus 15:6)**
- **And in the abundance of your superiority you can throw down those who rise up against you. You send out your burning anger, it eats them up like stubble. (Exodus 15:7)**
- **And by a breath from your nostrils waters were heaped up, they stood still like a dam of floods, the surging waters were congealed in the heart of the sea. (Exodus 15:8)**
- **The enemy said; I shall pursue! I shall overtake! I shall divide spoil! My soul will be filled with them! I shall draw my sword! My hand will drive them away! (Exodus 15:9)**
- **You blew with your breath, the sea covered them, they sank like lead in majestic waters. (Exodus 15:10)**
- **Who among the gods is like you, O Yehowah Who is like you, proving yourself mighty in holiness. The One to be feared with songs of praise, the One doing marvels. (Exodus 15:11)**
- **You stretched out your right hand, the earth proceeded to swallow them up. (Exodus 15:12)**
- **You in your loving-kindness have led the people whom you have**

- recovered; You in your strength will certainly conduct them to your holy abiding place. (**Exodus 15:13**)
- Peoples must hear, they will be agitated; Birth pangs must take hold on the inhabitants of Philistia. (**Exodus 15:14**)
  - At that time the sheiks of Edom will indeed be disturbed. As for the despots of Moab, trembling will take hold on them. All the inhabitants of Canaan will indeed be disheartened. (**Exodus 15:15**)
  - Fright and dread will fall upon them. Because of the greatness of your arm they will be motionless like a stone; Until your people pass by, O Yehowah, until the people whom you have produced pass by. (**Exodus 15:16**)
  - You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance; An established place that you have made ready for you to inhabit, O Yehowah, a sanctuary, O Yehowah, that your hands have established. (**Exodus 15:17**)
  - Yehowah will rule as king to time indefinite, even forever. (**Exodus 15:18**)
  - When Pharaoh's horses with his war chariots and his cavalrymen went into the sea, then Yehowah brought back the waters of the sea upon them, while the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea. (**Exodus 15:19**)
  - And Miriam kept responding to the men; Sing to Yehowah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has pitched into the sea. (**Exodus 15:21**)
  - As well as prophetic;
  - And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (**Genesis 3:15**)
  - And Yehowah's angel proceeded to call to Abraham the second time out of the heavens (**Genesis 22:15**)
  - And to say; By myself I do swear, is the utterance of Yehowah, that by reason of the fact that you have done this thing and you

have not withheld your son, your only one. ([Genesis 22:16](#))

- I shall surely bless you and I shall surely multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and like the grains of sand that are on the seashore, and your seed will take possession of the gate of his enemies. ([Genesis 22:17](#))
- And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice. ([Genesis 22:18](#))
- Even from the day that I put judges in command over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. And Yehowah has told you that a house is what Yehowah will make for you. ([2 Samuel 7:11](#))
- When your days come to the full, and you must lie down with your forefathers, then I shall certainly raise up your seed after you, which will come out of your inward parts, and I shall indeed firmly establish his kingdom. ([2 Samuel 7:12](#))
- He is the one that will build a house for my name, and I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingdom firmly to time indefinite. ([2 Samuel 7:13](#))
- I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son. When he does wrong, I will also reprove him with the rod of men and with the strokes of the sons of Adam. ([2 Samuel 7:14](#))
- As for my loving-kindness, it will not depart from him the way I removed it from Saul, whom I removed on account of you. ([2 Samuel 7:15](#))
- And your house and your kingdom will certainly be steadfast to time indefinite before you, your very throne will become one firmly established to time indefinite. ([2 Samuel 7:16](#))
- The poetic section contains historical material.
- And your house and your kingdom will certainly be steadfast to time indefinite before you, your very throne will become one firmly established to time indefinite. ([2 Samuel 7:16](#))
- And it came about after Yehowah had spoken these words to Job,

that Yehowah proceeded to say to Eliphaz the Temanite. My anger has grown hot against you and your two companions, for you men have not spoken concerning me what is truthful as has my servant Job. ([Job 42:7](#))

- And now take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job, and you men must offer up a burnt sacrifice in your own behalf, and Job my servant will himself pray for you. His face only I shall accept so as not to commit disgraceful folly with you, for you have not spoken concerning me what is truthful, as has my servant Job. ([Job 42:8](#))
- Accordingly Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did just as Yehowah had spoken to them, and so Yehowah accepted Job's face. ([Job 42:9](#))
- And Yehowah himself turned back the captive condition of Job when he prayed in behalf of his companions, and Yehowah began to give in addition all that had been Job's, in double amount. ([Job 42:10](#))
- And there kept coming to him all his brothers and all his sisters and all those formerly knowing him, and they began to eat bread with him in his house and to sympathize with him and to comfort him over all the calamity that Yehowah had let come upon him, and they proceeded each one to give him a piece of money and each one a gold ring. ([Job 42:11](#))
- As for Yehowah, he blessed the end of Job afterward more than his beginning, so that he came to have fourteen thousand sheep and six thousand camels and a thousand spans of cattle and a thousand she-asses. ([Job 42:12](#))
- He also came to have seven sons and three daughters. ([Job 42:13](#))
- And he went calling the name of the first Jemimah and the name of the second Keziah and the name of the third Keren-happuch. ([Job 42:14](#))
- And no women were found as pretty as Job's daughters in all the land, and their father proceeded to give them an inheritance in among their brothers. ([Job 42:15](#))

- **And Job continued living after this a hundred and forty years and came to see his sons and his grandsons, four generations. (Job 42:16)**
- **And gradually Job died, old and satisfied with days. (Job 42:17)**
- **As well as prophetic.**
- **Why have the nations been in tumult and the national groups themselves kept muttering an empty thing? (Psalms 2:1)**
- **The kings of earth take their stand and high officials themselves have massed together as one against Yehowah and against his anointed one. (Psalms 2:2)**
- **Saying; Let us tear their bands apart and cast their cords away from us! (Psalms 2:3)**
- **The very One sitting in the heavens will laugh; Yehowah himself will hold them in derision. (Psalms 2:4)**
- **At that time he will speak to them in his anger and in his hot displeasure he will disturb them. (Psalms 2:5)**
- **Saying; I, even I, have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. (Psalms 2:6)**
- **Let me refer to the decree of Yehowah. He has said to me; You are my son. I, today, I have become your father. (Psalms 2:7)**
- **Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession. (Psalms 2:8)**
- **You will break them with an iron scepter, as though a potters vessel you will dash them to pieces. (Psalms 2:9)**
- **The utterance of Yehowah to my Lord is; Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. (Psalms 110:1)**
- **The rod of your strength Yehowah will send out of Zion, saying; Go subduing in the midst of your enemies. (Psalms 110:2)**
- **Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force. In the splendors of holiness, from the womb of**

the dawn, you have your company of young men just like dewdrops. (**Psalms 110:3**)

- Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret; You are a priest to time indefinite according to the manner of Melchizedek! (**Psalms 110:4**)
- Yehowah himself at your right hand will certainly break kings to pieces on the day of his anger. (**Psalms 110:5**)
- He will execute judgment among the nations, he will cause a fullness of dead bodies. He will certainly break to pieces the head one over a populous land. (**Psalms 110:6**)
- From the torrent valley in the way he will drink. That is why he will raise high his head. (**Psalms 110:7**)
- And in the prophetic section historical information and poetic material are found.
- Now it came about in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham the son of Uzziah, the king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem for war against it, and he proved unable to war against it. (**Isaiah 7:1**)
- And a report was made to the house of David, saying; Syria has leaned upon Ephraim. And his heart and the heart of his people began to quiver, like the quivering of the trees of the forest because of a wind. (**Isaiah 7:2**)
- And it occurred when the military force of the Chaldeans had withdrawn themselves from against Jerusalem because of the military force of Pharaoh. (**Jeremiah 37:11**)
- They even proceeded to send and take Jeremiah out of the Courtyard of the Guard and give him over to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, in order to bring him forth to his house, that he might dwell in the midst of the people. (**Jeremiah 39:14**)
- In time all the chiefs of the military forces who were in the field, they and their men, got to hear that the king of Babylon had commissioned Gedaliah the son of Ahikam over the land and that

he had commissioned him over the men and women and little children and some of the lowly people of the land, who had not been taken into exile in Babylon. (**Jeremiah 40:7**)

- And they finally came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of Yehowah, and they came gradually as far as Tahpanhes. (**Jeremiah 43:7**)
- O how she has come to sit solitary, the city that was abundant with people! How she has become like a widow, she that was populous among the nations! How she that was a princess among the jurisdictional districts has come to be for forced labor! (**Lamentations 1:1**)
- O how she has come to sit solitary, the city that was abundant with people! How she has become like a widow, she that was populous among the nations! How she that was a princess among the jurisdictional districts has come to be for forced labor! (**Lamentations 1:1**)
- By combining and rearranging these same 39 books in a different order, the Jews counted only 24 or 22 books and, according to their traditional canon, arranged them as follows:
  - First, there was the **Law Hebrew**, *Toh-rah'*, also called the Pentateuch, consisting of,

- (1) Genesis,
- (2) Exodus
- (3) Leviticus
- (4) Numbers
- (5) Deuteronomy.

Second came the **Prophets Hebrew**, *Nevi- 'im'*, divided into the Early Prophets,

- (6) Joshua
- (7) Judges
- (8) Samuel(First and Second together as one book)
- (9) Kings (First and Second as one book), and the Later Prophets, subdivided into the Major Prophets
- (10) Isaiah
- (11) Jeremiah
- (12) Ezekiel



(13) Twelve Minor Prophets (a single book composed of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).

- The third section was called the **Holy Writings**, Hagiographa or, in **Hebrew**, *Kethu-vim'*, beginning with,

(14) Psalms

(15) Proverbs

(16) Job

- Then came the Five Megilloth or five separate scrolls, namely;

(17) The Song of Solomon

(18) Ruth

(19) Lamentations

(20) Ecclesiastes

(21) Esther

(22) Daniel

(23) Ezra-Nehemiah (combined)

(24) Chronicles (First and Second together as one book).

The book of Ruth was sometimes appended to Judges, and Lamentations to Jeremiah, to give 22 books, a total corresponding to the number of letters in the **Hebrew** alphabet, although this is not the usual arrangement in Hebrew Bibles today.

**See Also PENTATEUCH**

- Not all the early catalogs had the books of the **Hebrew** Scriptures arranged in the above order. This is because at the time the individual books were in separate scrolls.

- To illustrate; In the **Babylonian Talmud** [*Bava Batra 14b*], it is stated: **Our Rabbis taught: The order of the Prophets is, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and the Twelve Minor Prophets.** [*Translated by M. Simon and I. Slotki*]

- This may explain why Jeremiah precedes Isaiah in a number of Hebrew manuscripts written in Germany and France.

•• **The Writers**

- All the **Hebrew** Scriptures were written and compiled by Jews, members of the nation entrusted with the sacred pronouncements of God.
- What, then, is the superiority of the Jew, or what is the benefit of the circumcision? (**Romans 3:1**)
- A great deal in every way. First of all, because they were entrusted with the sacred pronouncements of God. (**Romans 3:2**)
- And, for the most part, these pre-Christian Scriptures were written in **Hebrew**, with the following limited portions in Aramaic.
- And Laban began calling it Jegarsahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. (**Genesis 31:47**)
- Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king, as follows: (**Ezra 4:8**)
- And they appointed the priests in their classes and the Levites in their divisions, for the service of God which is in Jerusalem, according to the prescription of the book of Moses. (**Ezra 6:18**)
- Artaxerxes, the king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the copyist of the Law of the God of the heavens. Peace be perfected. And now (**Ezra 7:12**)
- By me an order has been put through that everyone in my realm of the people of Israel and their priests and Levites that is willing to go to Jerusalem with you should go. (**Ezra 7:13**)
- Inasmuch as from before the king and his seven counselors an order was sent to investigate concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the Law of your God that is in your hand. (**Ezra 7:14**)
- And to bring the silver and the gold that the king and his counselors have voluntarily given to the God of Israel, whose residence is in Jerusalem. (**Ezra 7:15**)
- With all the silver and the gold that you find in all the jurisdictional district of Babylon along with the gift of the people and the priests who are voluntarily giving to the house of their God, which is in Jerusalem. (**Ezra 7:16**)

- Accordingly you will promptly buy with this money bulls, rams, lambs and their grain offerings and their drink offerings and you will present them upon the altar of the house of your God, which is in Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:17](#))
- And whatever it seems good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, according to the will of your God, you men will do. ([Ezra 7:18](#))
- And the vessels that are being given to you for the service of the house of your God deliver in full before God at Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:19](#))
- And the rest of the necessities of the house of your God that it devolves upon you to give, you will give out of the king's house of treasures. ([Ezra 7:20](#))
- And by me myself, Artaxerxes the king, an order has been put through to all the treasurers that are beyond the River, that everything that Ezra the priest, the copyist of the Law of the God of the heavens, requests of you men it will be done promptly. ([Ezra 7:21](#))
- Even to a hundred talents of silver and a hundred cor measures of wheat and a hundred bath measures of wine and a hundred bath measures of oil, and salt without limit. ([Ezra 7:22](#))
- Let all that is by the order of the God of the heavens be done with zeal for the house of the God of the heavens, that there may occur no wrath against the king's realm and his sons. ([Ezra 7:23](#))
- And to you men it is being made known that, as respects any of the priests and the Levites, the musicians, the doorkeepers, the Nethinim, and the workers of this house of God, no tax, tribute or toll is allowed to be imposed upon them. ([Ezra 7:24](#))
- And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand appoint magistrates and judges that they may continually judge all the people that are beyond the River, even all those knowing the laws of your God, and anyone that has not known them you men will instruct. ([Ezra 7:25](#))
- And as for everyone that does not become a doer of the Law of

- your God and the Law of the king, let judgment be promptly executed upon him, whether for death or for banishment, or for money fine or for imprisonment. (Ezra 7:26)**
- **This is what you men will say to them; The gods that did not make the very heavens and the earth are the ones who will perish from the earth and from under these heavens. (Jeremiah 10:11)**
  - **At that the Chaldeans spoke to the king in the Aramaic language; O king, live on even for times indefinite. Say what the dream is to your servants, and we shall show the very interpretation. (Daniel 2:4)**
  - **Up to this point is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my own thoughts kept frightening me a great deal, so that my very complexion changed in me, but the matter itself I kept in my own heart. (Daniel 7:28)**
  - **Aramaic words are also found in Job, certain Psalms, The Song of Solomon, Jonah, Esther, and in the Hebrew parts of Daniel. The book of Ezekiel likewise shows Aramaic influence.**
  - **Moses wrote and compiled the first five books of the Bible, and he was followed by some 38 other writers and compilers including Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.**
  - **They lived over a period of 1,100 years, from the 16th to the 5th Century B.C.E, and came from various occupations, such as that of shepherd, copyist, governor, king, prophet, and priest.**
  - **Some of the Bible writers were eyewitnesses of the incidents they recorded; Moses wrote of his experiences before Pharaoh.**
  - **And afterward Moses and Aaron went in and proceeded to say to Pharaoh; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Send my people away that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness. (Exodus 5:1)**
  - **Take both your flocks and your herds, just as you have stated, and go. Also, you must bless me besides. (Exodus 12:32)**

- They gathered certain historical data from previous records through diligent research, as when compiling the genealogical records. (1 Chronicles Chapters 1-9)
- But many things, such as knowledge concerning the assembly of angelic hosts in heaven and revelations in the field of prophecy, were matters beyond the realm of human knowledge and could be learned only by direct inspiration of God.
- This and the perfect unity of the whole, despite being the composite work of many writers extending over so long a period of time with their various backgrounds, all attest to and demonstrate that Bible writers indeed spoke from God as they were borne along by Holy Spirit.
- For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

## •• Canon Of Hebrew Scriptures

- The books of the **Hebrew** Scriptures do not appear in our Bibles in the order in which they were written. Joel, Amos, and Jonah lived about two centuries or so before Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Nor do the titles of the books always disclose their writer.
- The book of Job, for instance, was apparently written by Moses, the book of Ruth, by Samuel. Details about the individual books, as to when and by whom each was written, are set out in the Table of Bible Books in the article **BIBLE**.
- See the articles on the individual books for contents, importance and significance, proof of authenticity, and other information.

## See Also **BIBLE**

- The canon of the **Hebrew** Scriptures was well established when Jesus Christ was on earth, as is evidenced by his statements recorded in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**. For example, he referred to the three-section arrangement when he spoke of all the things written in the **Law of Moses** and in the **Prophets** and **Psalms**.
- He now said to them; These are my words which I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all the things written in the Law of

Moses and in the Prophets and Psalms about me must be fulfilled. ([Luke 24:44](#))

- His followers wrote of or spoke of the public reading of the Law and of the Prophets, the Scriptures, the Law of Moses and the Prophets, the holy Scriptures, and the holy writings.
- After the public reading of the Law and of the Prophets the presiding officers of the synagogue sent out to them, saying; Men, brothers, if there is any word of encouragement for the people that you have, tell it. ([Acts of Apostles 13:15](#))
- Now a certain Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent man, arrived in Ephesus, and he was well versed in the Scriptures. ([Acts of Apostles 18:24](#))
- They now arranged for a day with him, and they came in greater numbers to him in his lodging place. And he explained the matter to them by bearing thorough witness concerning the kingdom of God and by using persuasion with them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. ([Acts of Apostles 28:23](#))
- Which he promised aforetime through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. ([Romans 1:2](#))
- And that from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. ([2 Timothy 3:15](#))

### See Also CANON

- Noteworthy too is the fact that no Apocryphal writings were admitted into the **Hebrew** canon. From the days of Ezra and Malachi, in the **Fifth Century B.C.E**, the completed canon of the **Hebrew** Scriptures has been guarded and protected against the inclusion of any writings of questionable nature.
- Scrupulous care was exercised by the manuscript copyists called Sopherim, who at a later time were succeeded by the Masoretes.

### See Also APOCRYPHA

- Originally the **Hebrew** Scriptures were written without vowels or punctuation, and without our present chapter and verse divisions. In the second half of the **First Millennium C.E.** the Masoretes, who were also very careful Bible copyists, established a system of vowel points and accent marks as an aid to reading and pronunciation.

## · Preservation And Transmission

- The Jewish Sopherim, scribes, although meticulous as to avoiding errors in copying, made certain emendations, or corrections, in the text where, in their opinion, the original text seemed to show irreverence for God or disrespect for his representatives.

- In more than 140 instances the Jewish scribes changed the Tetragrammaton, the consonantal equivalent of the name Yehowah, to read either Sovereign Lord or God. [See NW. appendix, pp. 1562,1569]

- None of the original writings of the **Hebrew** Scriptures are extant today, but there are possibly 6,000 handwritten copies containing all or part of the **Hebrew** Scriptures.

- The Nash Papyrus, which contains small portions of Deuteronomy, and many of the Dead Sea Scrolls were copied before our **Common Era**. Besides copies of the Scriptures in Hebrew, many versions of the pre-Christian Scriptures have been made, either the whole or in part, in many languages.

- The first actual translation was the **Greek Septuagint**, which commenced about **280 B.C.E.** Jerome's **Latin Vulgate** also contained an early translation of the **Hebrew** Scriptures. The **New World Translation** of the **Hebrew** Scriptures was based on the seventh, eighth, and ninth editions of **Rudolf Kittel's Biblia Hebraica**, which is the printed edition of **Codex Leningrad B 19A**, the earliest complete manuscript of the **Hebrew Scriptures**.

- Critics of the Bible have expended considerable effort in an attempt to discredit the **Hebrew** Scriptures, labeling them as either forgeries or simply folklore lacking historic authenticity. One line of attack has been to dissect the different Bible books in an effort to prove that they were written by different hands, as if a person were incapable of writing in more than one style.

- Such argument is altogether unsound, for persons who write poetry can also write prose, and vice versa. A lawyer who formulates a

legal document easily and quickly shifts his style when relating some personal experience.

- When the critics claim that certain verses, which they label J and in which the name Yehowah occurs, were written by men other than the writers of the verses where the title God **Hebrew**, '*Elo-him*' appears, and which they designate as **E**, they demonstrate shallow reasoning.

- In pointing out the fallacy of the critics claim, **K. A. Kitchen, of the University of Liverpool**, says: **Nowhere in the Ancient Orient is there anything which is definitely known to parallel the elaborate history of fragmentary composition and conflation, composite text, of Hebrew literature, or marked by just such criteria, as the documentary hypotheses would postulate.**

- And conversely, any attempt to apply the criteria of the documentary theorists to Ancient Oriental compositions that have known histories but exhibit the same literary phenomena results in manifest absurdities. [**Ancient Orient and Old Testament, 1968, p. 115**]

## **.. Importance**

- The importance of the **Hebrew** Scriptures cannot be overemphasized, for without their Law code, history, and prophecies, much in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** would be doubtful in meaning.

- And commencing at Moses and all the Prophets he interpreted to them things pertaining to himself in all the Scriptures. (**Luke 24:27**)

- He now said to them; These are my words which I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and Psalms about me must be fulfilled. (**Luke 24:44**)

- For all the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope. (**Romans 15:4**)

- Now these things went on befalling them as examples, and they were written for a warning to us upon whom the ends of the systems of things have arrived. (**1 Corinthians 10:11**)



- Hence, the Christian Bible writers repeatedly quoted from and alluded to the former Bible writings, in this way carrying forward and expanding many of the themes and promises set forth in the **Hebrew** Scriptures.
- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, the **New World Translation** presents as direct quotations 320 passages from the **Hebrew** Scriptures. According to a listing published by **Westcott and Hort**, the combined total of quotations and references is some 890.
- Without the **Hebrew** Scriptures we would be lacking many details about man's origin, the cause of death, and the Edenic promise that the Serpents head will be crushed by the seed of the woman.
- Without the **Hebrew** Scriptures we would not know many details about such things as the Noachian Flood, why blood is sacred, God's covenant with Abraham, how Yehowah fought for his covenant people, and the history of the pictorial theocratic kingdom.