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# **Introduction to the Old Testament**

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**Discipleship Track  
Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
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# Introduction to the Bible



## Origin of “Bible”

βιβλός

**biblos**

βιβλίον

**biblion**

# Testament?

“Testament” derives from *testamentum*, the Latin equivalent of *diatheke*, a Greek noun that can be translated “testament” OR “covenant.” *Diatheke* is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew noun *berith*.

**THEREFORE . . .**

**We should refer to the Bible’s two parts as the Old COVENANT and the New COVENANT.**

# Old Testament

# New Testament

<b>39 = 59%</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>27 = 41%</b>
<b>920 = 77.37%</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>269 = 22.63%</b>
<b>23,215 = 74.47%</b>	<b>Verses</b>	<b>7,958 = 25.53%</b>

# Therefore . . .

**OT > NT**

**[Quantity]**

**OT = NT**

**[Authority]**

# Biblical Hebrew

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ 1  
וְהָאָרֶץ חֹשֶׁךְ וְחֹשֶׁךְ וְרוּחַ עֹלֵל עַל-פְּנֵי  
מַיִם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרִיפֵת עַל-פְּנֵי  
הַמַּיִם 2 וְהָאֵלֹהִים חָתַם אֶת-הַמַּיִם  
וְהָאֵלֹהִים חָתַם אֶת-הַמַּיִם 3 וְהָאֵלֹהִים  
חָתַם אֶת-הַמַּיִם

Hebrew is [a] the original language of the Old Testament and [b] the predominant language of the Old Testament. Aramaic appears in parts of Daniel and Ezra.

## TRANSLATION

- preserves wording
- Objective: Precision
- *always* involves a change of language

KJV

NASB

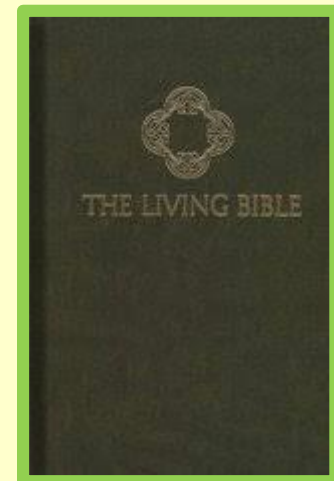
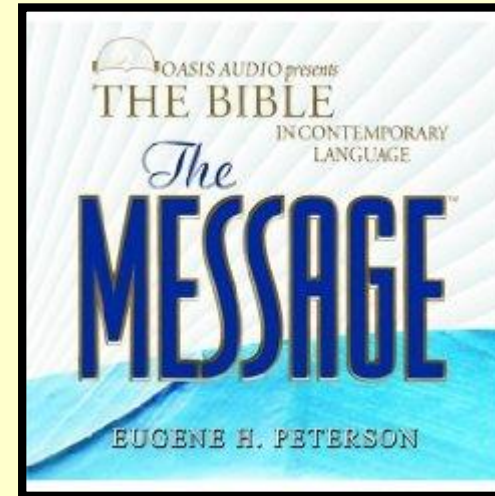
NIV

RSV

ESV

## PARAPHRASE

- preserves meaning
- Objective: Clarity



# Comparison of Translations

<b>Literal</b>	<b>Dynamic Equivalence</b>	<b>Free</b>				
<b>KJV</b>	<b>RSV</b>	<b>NIV</b>	<b>GNB</b>	<b>PHILLIPS</b>	<b>LB</b>	
<b>NASB</b>		<b>NAB</b>	<b>JB</b>			
		<b>NEB</b>				

Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 36



# Dead Sea Scrolls



**Qumran**

**Oldest Copies  
of the Old  
Testament  
Books**



# Dead Sea Scrolls

1st Century B.C.





Archbishop Stephen Langton

responsible for **CHAPTER DIVISIONS** in the Old and New Testaments

1228



Masoretes

responsible for **VERSE DIVISIONS** in the Old Testament

900

# Definitions

... CANON

1. list, standard, measure
2. collection of sacred writings

# Distinction

- 😊 list of authoritative books
- 😞 authoritative list of books

# Jewish Bible

**T**orah

**N**evi'im

**K**etuvim

