

## Support of OT by Jesus

1. Anyone who accepts the authority of Jesus will accept what He acknowledged as Scripture
  - a. He pointed people to the Scriptures - cf. **Jn 5:39**
  - b. He spoke of the faithfulness of Scripture - cf. **Jn 10:35**
2. Jesus recognized three major divisions of the OT, which included 39 books - cf. **Lk 24:44**
  - a. **The Law (Torah)** - the five books of Moses (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
  - b. **The Prophets (Nebhiim)** - "the former prophets" (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings) and "the latter prophets" (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and a book containing the 12 minor prophets).
  - c. **The Writings (Kethubhim)** - three poetical books (Psalms, Proverbs, and Job), five rolls (the Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Esther, and Ecclesiastes), and several historical books (Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles)
3. Jesus followed the arrangement of the OT books that was customary among the Jews
  - a. We see this from His comments in **Lk 11:49-51**
  - b. There he speaks of the persecution of the prophets from the murder of Abel (**Gen 4:8**) to the slaying of Zechariah (2 Chr **24:20,21**)
  - c. This arrangement is the one that is followed in the Hebrew OT today also
4. "Jesus does not quote from every book of the Old Testament, but he does quote from all three of the main divisions, showing that he accepted the entire Old Testament as canonical."<sup>1</sup>

## Criteria for the Composition the Bible

As the books of the Bible were composed, they were recognized by God's people (first the Jews regarding the Old Testament, then the Christians, who also recognized the New Testament books) as God's Word. The books were tested according to the following principles: The book must be written by a person of God (e.g., a prophet, an apostle, a trusted associate of an apostle, etc.).

1. The writer and writings must be confirmed by facts and the acts of God (e.g., Moses said a prophet whose prophecy did not come true was a false prophet -- Deuteronomy 18:18-21, etc.).
2. The book must come with the power of God. Application produces godly transformation in believers' lives (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:17, etc.).
3. The book must be accepted by the people of God *initially* (see Peter call Paul's words "scripture" in 2 Peter 3:15-16) and over time (before the second half of the second century all of the main churches in the Roman empire accepted at least the four gospels, the Acts of the apostles, and Paul's writings as scripture).

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<sup>1</sup> Wilbert R. Gavrish. "How The Canonicity Of The Bible Was Established" (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992).