

### I.1. Lambs to Rams: The Bible: The Two Covenants

The entire Bible consists of 66 books with 39 that make up the Old Testament (*Genesis through Deuteronomy- Law; Joshua through Esther- History; Job through Song of Solomon- Poetry; Isaiah through Daniel- Major Prophets; Hosea through Malachi- Minor Prophets*) and 27 that make up the New (*Matthew through John- Gospels; Acts- History; Romans through Philemon- Paul's Letters; Hebrews through Jude- General Epistles; and The Revelation*). It was written by over 40 men from differing backgrounds over a period of roughly 1500-1600 years.

#### Canon of Scripture

“The English word ‘canon’ goes back to the Greek word *kanon* and then to the Hebrew word *ganah*. Its basic meaning is ‘reed’, our English word ‘cane’ being derived from it. Since a reed was sometimes used as a measuring rod, the word *kanon* came to mean a standard or rule.” (*Rev 11:1; 21:15*) “Thus if one speaks of the ‘canonical’ writings, one is speaking of those books which are regarded as having divine authority and which comprise the Bible.”

Neil R. Lightfoot; *How We Got the Bible* (pg. 152)

In truth, no church, synod or council can claim responsibility for canon of scripture. Scripture canonized scripture.

#### Scribes

Because there weren't any copying machines from the beginning, scribes had the task of recopying or ‘scribing’ these documents. As they became worn and unable to be read, a new one was reproduced which is why original manuscripts are so rare to non-existent. Scribes were

highly sought after professionals. Once the New Testament writers began circulating their letters they were copied and circulated on a wider scale. Eventually these inspired writings were canonized, as was the Old Testament prior to the time of Christ since He and His disciples often quoted from them. Since the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 we have further evidence of scribes having copied these ancient texts, keeping them alive and available for generations to come. How We Got the Bible- Lightfoot

### Old Testament/Covenant

First, what is a ‘testament’? According to the Greek (1242) a testament is “a *disposition*, that is, (specifically) a *contract* (especially a devisory *will*): -covenant, testament. Thus, in this context, God made a *contract* between Himself and Israel under the Old Covenant. Such a contract could be broken by either party but it was Israel who ultimately broke it because they worshipped the gods of the nations they were supposed to destroy. (*Jer 16:10-12*) According to Hebrews 9:16; “For where a will (testament) is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established”. Thus, the blood of animal sacrifices was given under the Old Testament to establish that contract between the Israelites and God. God gave promises to Israel but they obtained them only under the sacrificial system.

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

Exo 24:6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the

altar. 7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. 8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, Behold **the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you** concerning all these words. (*Emp. added*)

### New Testament/Covenant

But that first covenant between Israel and God had fault even though God doesn't do anything that is faulty. The fault lied with Israel in that Israel could not keep it perfectly (*Act 7:53; Jas 2:10*) and since to begin with "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (*Heb 10:4*).

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all (*spiritual*) Israel (*Jew and Gentile-Gal 3:28*) shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this *is* My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Heb 8:4 For if He were on earth, He should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the Law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith He, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the Mediator of a better Covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first *covenant* had been

faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Christ became the High Priest of the New Covenant (*thus fulfilling what the Law and prophets stated concerning Him -Mat 5:17; Rev 11:7-12*), even though under the Old the priesthood belonged only to the tribe of Levi. Jesus was of the tribe of Judah.

Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the Law. 13 For He of Whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. 14 For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Mat 22:35 Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, tempting Him, and saying, 36 Master, *which is* the great commandment in the Law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets.

*(10 Commandments: 1-4 man's relationship to God; 5-10 man's relationship to man. Ex 20:1-17)*

Jesus knew when He was being baited with insincere questions. The lawyer tried to find something with which to catch Christ off guard as if making one law superior over the rest in order to make the others less important and not subject to be obeyed. Jesus masterfully answered by stating that our love for God is most important but at the same time He compared it to the love of our fellow man.

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That

ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Therefore, God had planned from eternity a New Covenant (*Heb 8:10; 10:16*) since He is omniscient (*all knowing-Job 37:16*) and knew man's weaknesses before He even created him. It wasn't God's choice that man would fall (*2 Pet 3:9*). We have been given "free-agency" since God loves us and wants us to make the decision whether to love Him in return.

1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (*atonement*) for our sins.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled. (*Rev 11*)

### I.1. Questions

1. The Bible consists of a total of how many books? a) 100; b) 66; c) 75
2. How many of these are found in the Old Testament? a) 29; b) 32; c) 39
3. How many of these are found in the New Testament? a) 24; b) 107; c) 27
4. What is the English word that means ‘standard or rule’? a) yardstick; b) canon; c) scripture
5. What is a testament? a) written testimony; b) will or contract; c) book
6. What sealed both Covenants? a) wax; b) blood; c) tar
7. True or false: the first Covenant had fault? a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say
8. What is the key factor in the “new commandment” that Jesus gave to His disciples? a) love; b) science; c) attitude