

CHRISTIAN LIFE INSTITUTE

BIBLE BASICS

An Introduction to the Bible

WE AFFIRM:

- ▣ All Scripture is inspired
- ▣ All Scripture is authoritative
- ▣ Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation

Canonization

- ▣ The books of the Bible comprise what we call the Canon
- ▣ Canon – etymology
- ▣ Canon – definition: The body of scripture that is deemed authoritative and standard for use by the community of faith

The Canon

STABILITY

- ▣ God word stands firm
- ▣ Scripture worked for our ancestors
- ▣ The Bible speaks to God's unchanging characteristics

FLEXIBILITY

- ▣ God's word is relevant
- ▣ Scripture works for us
- ▣ The Bible speaks to God's flexibility

The Old Testament

- First Testament
- *TaNaKh*
- Hebrew Bible

Three Divisions: *Torah, Nevi'im,*
Ketuvim

39 Books

Books of the Old Testament

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Kings

1 & 2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea, Joel,

Obadiah, Jonah

Micah, Nahum,

Habakkuk,

Zephaniah

Haggai, Zechariah

Malachi

Torah/Law/Pentateuch

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Prophets / *Nevi'im*

Joshua

Judges

Samuel

Kings

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekial

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Writings/ Khetuvim

Psalms

Job

Proverbs

Ruth

Song of Solomon

(Songs)

Ecclesiastes

(Qoheleth)

Lamentations

Esther

Daniel

Ezra

Nehemiah

Chronicles

Three Stages of Canonization

1. The Pentateuch was canonized first (400 BCE)
2. The Prophets around 200 BCE
3. The Writings 200 CE

Genres

Narrative

- ▣ foundation stories
- ▣ historiography
- ▣ legend

Legal Material

Historiography

Prophecy

Poetry

Prophecy

Court Tales

Apocalyptic

Revisionist History

LANGUAGES?

When Reading the Bible...

Text/Context
+Reader/Context
Dialogue

A Dialogic Reading...

- ▣ The many voices in scripture are in conversation with each other
- ▣ Meaning comes from the conversation
- ▣ The conversation is theological
- ▣ Multiplicity of Consciousness
- ▣ Chronotope
- ▣ Unfinalizability

One Bible – 4 Worlds

- ▣ Historical-Geographical World
- ▣ Literary
- ▣ Contemporary
- ▣ Theological

Historical-Geographical

- ▣ What do we know about the historical context?
 - When?
 - What else was going on in the world?
- ▣ What do we know about the cultural context?
 - What cultural practices and values can we learn about?
 - Are there cultural clues in the text?

Literary

- ▣ Boundaries
- ▣ Type of literature
- ▣ Pay attention to language
- ▣ Themes
- ▣ Structure
- ▣ Bring it all together

Contemporary

- ▣ Are there natural points of correspondence between the world of the text and ours?
- ▣ Are there demands that our own context makes of the text?
- ▣ What is our own context as readers? How do our demographics form the questions we ask of the text?

Theological

- ▣ Where is God in the narrative?
 - Think about obvious and less-obvious ways
- ▣ Think about and describe God's presence in the text. Is God's presence surprising, comforting, disturbing or confusing?
- ▣ What are the potential "take-aways" from the narrative?

A Dialogic Reading...

- ▣ The many voices in scripture are in conversation with each other
- ▣ Meaning comes from the conversation
- ▣ The conversation is theological
- ▣ Multiplicity of Consciousness
- ▣ Chronotope
- ▣ Unfinalizability