


# Parchments of Promise

## Lesson 9: Canonization of the Old Testament

# Canon

- The revealed *rule* and instructions from God
  - The Bible is the record of the canon.
  - The canon of the Old Testament was revealed differently than the canon of the New Testament.
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# Old Testament Canon

- Before Jesus, the Old Testament Scriptures were directly inspired and preserved as the laws of the Jews.
- As God inspired new prophets and leaders, this resulted in an *open canon* that changed until God decided to close it.
- Malachi 3–4 identify that a messenger will come to prepare for the day of the Lord. That is identified as John the Baptist (Matthew 11:13–14)
- Those writing books of history between the last prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) and John the Baptist are **not** recognized as inspired prophets.

# Unclean Hands

- Touching the Scripture made a person ritually unclean; it “dirtied their hands.”
- Today, Synagogues still use a *yad* to point to and handle the Scripture so as not to touch the pages physically.



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# Question 1

In the Old Testament, who were entrusted with the *oracles* or *words* of God? (Romans 3:1–2)

# My Answer

- The Jews

# Question 2

Who were the laws and statutes of the Lord for in the Old Testament?  
(Deuteronomy 4:5–8, Leviticus 24:22,  
Numbers 9:14, Numbers 15:15–16)

# My Answer

- the nation (Israelites) and those who sojourned through the land



# Question 3

Identify some passages where Jesus quoted from the Old Testament.  
Why is it important to know how Jesus treated Scripture?


# My Answer

- Jesus refuted Satan with Scripture. (Matthew 4:1–11)
- Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 on the cross. (Matthew 27:46)
- Jesus quotes from Zechariah in Matthew 26:31.
- Jesus held people accountable to the Scriptures. This demonstrates how the Scriptures hold us accountable to God today.

# Question 4

How were the Jews supposed to identify false prophets and Scriptures? What was the punishment for giving false commandments in the name of Yahweh? (Jeremiah 14:14–15, Deuteronomy 18:22, Deuteronomy 13:1–5)

# My Answer

- If the thing they prophesied about didn't come to pass, they were not considered a prophet.
  - If the thing they prophesied did come to pass but they were told to serve other gods in contradiction to what they had already received from Yahweh, they were not supposed to obey that prophet.
  - The penalty was death.
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# Question 5

Is there anything that meets the definition of *canon* that is not preserved in the Bible?

# My Answer

- While God may know other rules and may have different plans (for example, what would the canon for spiritual beings like angels include?), the definition of canon limits those rules to what have been revealed to us.
  - God holds us accountable only to the rules He has revealed. (Romans 5:13)
  - The only source of those rules is the Bible.
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