Old Testament Literature (BCM 101) Lecture 1 (1/19/17)—Ted Hildebrandt

Is there a God? Why would I believe that?

Teleological Argument: design/order; Jolly Green Giant argument, Intelligent Design

Pascal’s wager

Jesus: liar, lunatic, Lord—legend? Jn 10:33

Personal testimony

Predictive prophecy, miracles

Old Testament Overview: P-PEW C-JU D-ERA

Primeval History: Adam/Eve, Noah/Flood, Babel
Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
Exodus: Pharaoh, Plagues, Moses, and Red Sea
Wilderness: Sinai Covenant, 10 commands, Tabernacle, Manna, 40 years in desert
Conquest: Joshua/Jericho, tribes get land
Judges: Deborah/Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Samuel
United Monarchy: Saul, David, Solomon

Divided Monarchy: Kings north all bad (Ahab); Kings of South some good (Uzziah, Hezekiah, Josiah), Prophets Assyria and Babylon (enemies)
Exile: Judah to Babylon 70 years, temple destroyed, Daniel, Ezekiel
Return: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jerusalem walls and temple rebuilt
Apocrypha: Maccabees and Antiochus Epiphanes, Persian→ Greek→ Rome

Five OT Dates to know for OT Lit:

2000 BC Abraham
1000 David
722 Northern kingdom scattered (Assyria)
586 Judah exiled [temple/Babylon]
400 end of OT

Bible-Robics: Genesis 1-25

Where & how did we get the Bible? 4 Step Process from God to us

Inspiration: God speaks to prophets, prophets speak to people, written down
Canonization – community collects sacred writings
Transmission – scribal copying
Translation: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek→ Eng.

Does the Bible claim to be from God? Inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16 God-breathed
2 Peter 1:21 origin in God not man

External Corroboration

**Moral Quality:** Love God, love neighbor, 10 commandments, yet not simplistic, interfaces with culture yet deep values on human life—what you’d expect of God

**Historicity:** camels? Hittites? David? Balaam, Omri, Sennacherib

Archaeological Confirmation: Bullae: *Berekhyahu son of Neriyahu the Scribe.* Jeremiah; incl. Jaramael, Seriah & Gemaryah (see Jer.36:26, 22, & 10-12)

**Canonization**
Immediately authoritative deposited; Dan 9:2-Jeremiah

Peter of Paul 2 Pet 3:15f

Certain books not accepted--which? why?

**Criterion of Canonization**
Is it inspired by God? -- Thus saith the Lord (Isa. 7:7)
Is it written by a prophet/apostle?
Does it agree with previous revelation?
Was it received by the people of God?

**Canonization Process**
Antilegomena: questioned books
Proverbs
Ezekiel
Esther
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
TaNaK: Torah, Nebi’im; Kethubim

Apocrypha Pros/cons

**Transmission – Did God use flawed processes to preserve His word?**
Copying process not always 100%
1 Sam 13:1f: KJV/NKJV; ASV/NASB; NIV/ESV, NRSV/ESV

Mark 16

1 Jn 5:7

How do we correct for that?
Why didn’t God preserve it perfectly?

**Scribal errors: Internal Evidence**
- Misreading Gen 10:4 dodanim/rodanim d/r
- Mis-hearing Ps 100:3; not we/we are his
- Metathesis: their
- Conflation: church of God/ church of Lord → Church of Lord God

**Text Criticism: External**
- Older manuscripts better—MT [Hebrew Masoretic Text], LXX [Septuagint-Greek OT]

- DSS—Dead Sea Scrolls

- Silver amulet of Numbers 6:24ff (700 BC)

**Translation Theory**
- Literal word for word ... pros/cons Prov 10:5 –NASB, ESV

- Modified literal... pros/cons-NIV/NRSV/KJV

- Dynamic equivalence: meaning for meaning... pro/cons, NLT, Message

- Politically Corrected texts... pros/cons TNIV

- MT → LXX → Vulgate → KJV/NIV/NRSV et al

Different ways to translate: which one is right?
Do translators make mistakes: Prov 26:23  
KJV: Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.


Does language change: 2 Cor 8:1 KJV: “We do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on ....”

Conclusions
Better manuscript evidence than ever before
No major doctrine affected
Realistic view on transmission and translation issues
Confidence in God’s word... benefit of plurality of translations
God speaks the language of the people