

The Formation of the Bible

- **Brief history**

- First books were written over 3500 years ago
- 1600 years from the first book to the last book written
- Old Testament was written in primarily Hebrew with some chapters in Aramaic (not Arabic)
- During the Intertestamental period (between Old and New Testaments) Alexander the Great conquered Israel and Greek began to become the common language
- New Testament is written entirely in Ancient (Koine) Greek

- **What was the process for picking the books we have now?**

- The Old Testament was well established by Jesus' time and he used the 39 books included to preach and teach his followers.
- The New Testament books were picked using a process to determine what was inspired.
- Canon- and ancient Greek word literally meaning "reed" which were used as measuring rods at the time.
- The early church determined what was canon (inspired) using a series of tests including who wrote the document, when was it written, and does the content align with the rest of scripture.
- The early church also determined this by coming to decision on the books by group decision.
- By the Council of Nicaea in 325AD the church made an official statement that these 66 books were the inspired word of God.

5
DAY

- **How can we be confident that the words I am reading were in the originals?**
 - The Bible has more remaining pieces of ancient literature than any other book.
 - The Dead Sea's Scrolls discovered in the mid 1900's confirmed that our Bible aligns with texts from the early church (100-300 AD).
 - We have faith that God intended for his Word to be used and has preserved it through the ages. This is constantly confirmed by new archeological discoveries.

What is your one takeaway from this session?

