

RABS

Unit 3 The Bible and Christianity

Offered by Liu, Xiaoxia
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Reaction to medieval culture

- Middle Ages (blind acceptance of Church doctrine)
- Petrarch (d. 1374) : “millennium tenebrarum” (a thousand years of darkness)
- Petrarch as a proto-humanist: “reformatio Romae purum priscumque iubar” (return to the pure and ancient splendor of Rome)

What a piece of work is a man!
How noble in reason!
How infinite in faculties!
In form and moving! How express
and admirable! In action
how like an angel! In apprehension
how like a god!
The beauty of the world,
The paragon of animals!
--*Hamlet II, ii, 307-321*

- 人是一件多么了不起的作品，
- 在理性上如此高贵，
- 在才能上多么无限，
- 在形式上既赢笔墨，
- 在运动上又获赞美，
- 在行为上如同一位天使，
- 在理解上又似一位神仙；
- 世界之精华，动物之典范。

——《哈姆雷特》第二幕第二场307-321行(朱生豪 译)

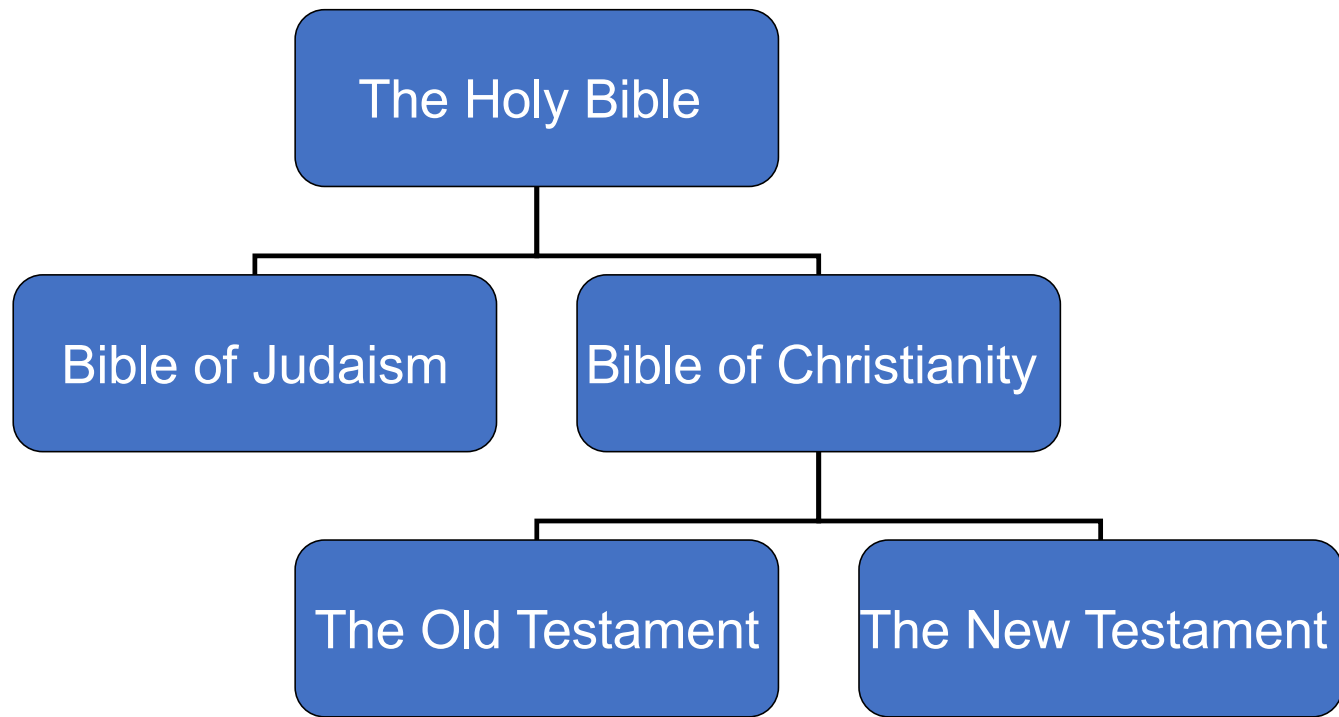
What is humanism?

- Studia humanitatis (studies of humanities)
- Grammar
- Rhetoric (修辞)
- Logic
- Poetry
- History
- Moral philosophy (伦理学)
- Classical Latin, recovery of Greek, of Hebrew (希伯来文)

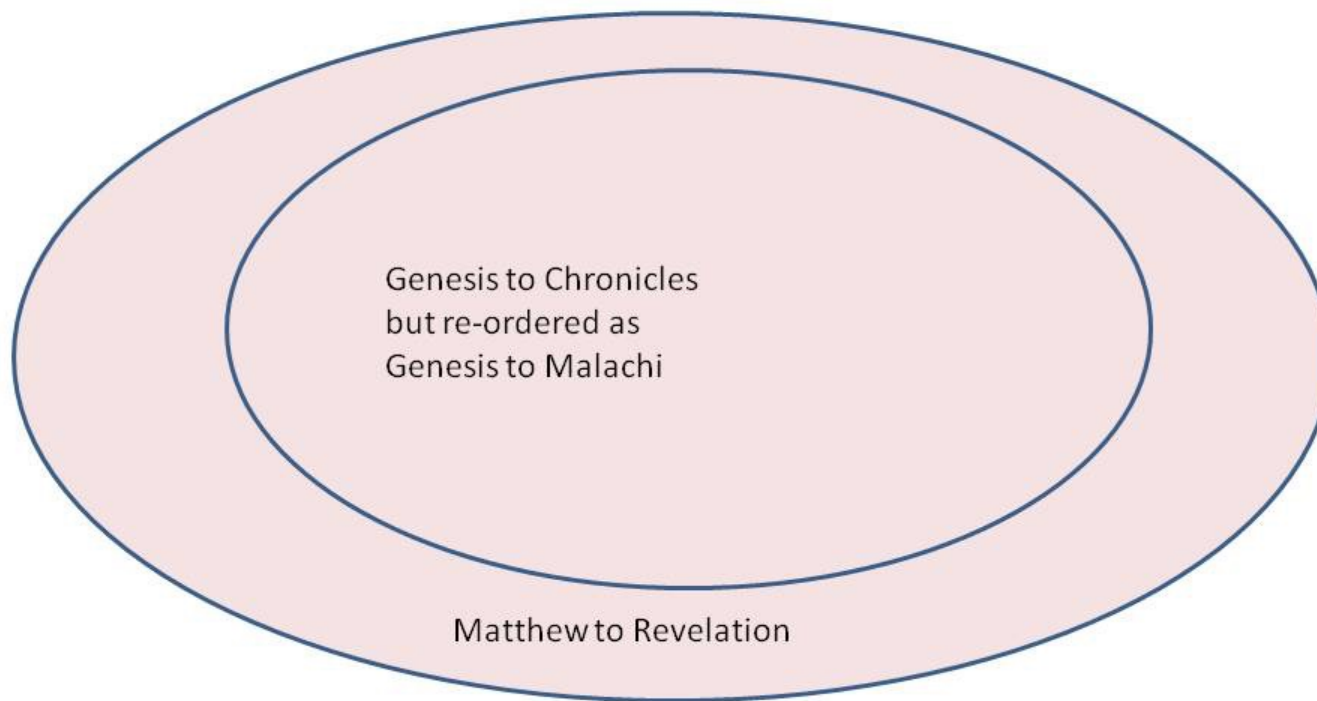
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Judaism and Christianity – Holy texts



The Old Testament

- Based on the Jewish Bible/the Hebrew Bible
- sacred to both Jewish and Christian religions
- originally written in Hebrew
- consists 39 books written between 1000 B.C and 100 A.D

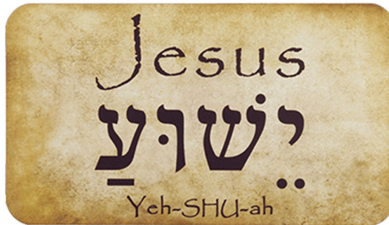
The New Testament

- originally written in Greek
- holy only to Christians
- consists 27 books written between the second half of the 1st century and lasted about 80 years

Christianity

- Christianity
- Christian
- Christ





- y-š-ʿ (Aramaic)
- Iesous (Greek)
- **Jesus** (English)
- **“Jah is salvation.”** (=God Saves)



- * Messiah (Hebrew)
- * Christ (Greek)
- * **Christ** (English)
- * **“the anointed”** (God’s Chosen)
- Examples in OT: King David



Christianity

- Sect vs. a new religion
 - Establish its own Institutions
 - Collate its own Scriptures
 - Develop its own concept of redemption through the lordship of Jesus Christ
- ↓
- new religion vs. heresy
- persecuted
- by Jews (Judaism) and by Romans (polytheism/Judaism)



Roman Empire and Christianity

- 27 BC. Roman Empire (1st Emperor Augustus)
- 6 AD. Judea becomes a province of the Roman Empire, governed by a procurator
- 30AD. Jesus is believed to have been crucified and resurrected
- 313AD. by the Edict of Milan, Constantine(272-337) grants tolerance to Christians in the Roman Empire
- 380A Christianity became the official religion of Roman Empire (last Emperor Theodosius)

?

Branches of Christianity

- Christianity (基督教)
- Catholicism (天主教)
- Orthodoxy (正教)
- Protestantism (新教)

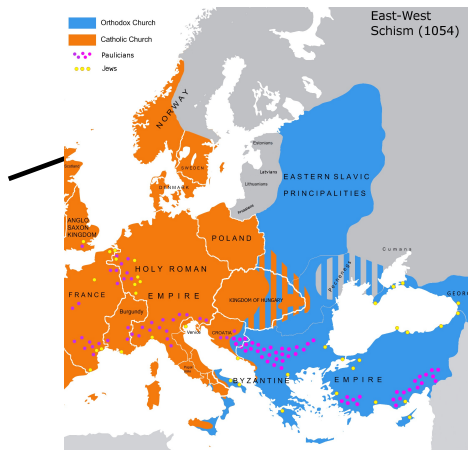
The Roman Empire
27B.C~

Latin-speaking West
Roman Empire
395~476

The Great Schism
1054

Greek-speaking East
Roman Empire
395~1453

Roman Catholic



Eastern Orthodox