

Which books set the standard for how we live, worship etc.

Some people we believe we do not have an actual "canon", that God has not inspired any books, while others say that some books are still debatable or that even the Bible is unreliable.

We believe that the Word of God, as we have it, is in the inspired Word of God, as we have it in OT and NT.

Prophecy in OT was given and fulfilled throughout history, ultimately culminating in the life of Christ.

Because the NT fulfilled prophecy of OT that makes them both legitimate.

Prophecy proves God speaks and thus we can confidently say that these records of how God interacts with man are our measuring stick for all other documents.



OT: Written by 40+ authors over a period of 1000 years. Dating from about 1400 BC- 400 BC

3 major sections: Torah, Prophets and Writings.

The Jewish Bible actually combines some books so even though we have the same Bible, the lists are a little different. Some may have 22 or 24 books listed instead of the 39.

A common misunderstanding about the transference of early scripture is that it was <u>all</u> passed down orally.

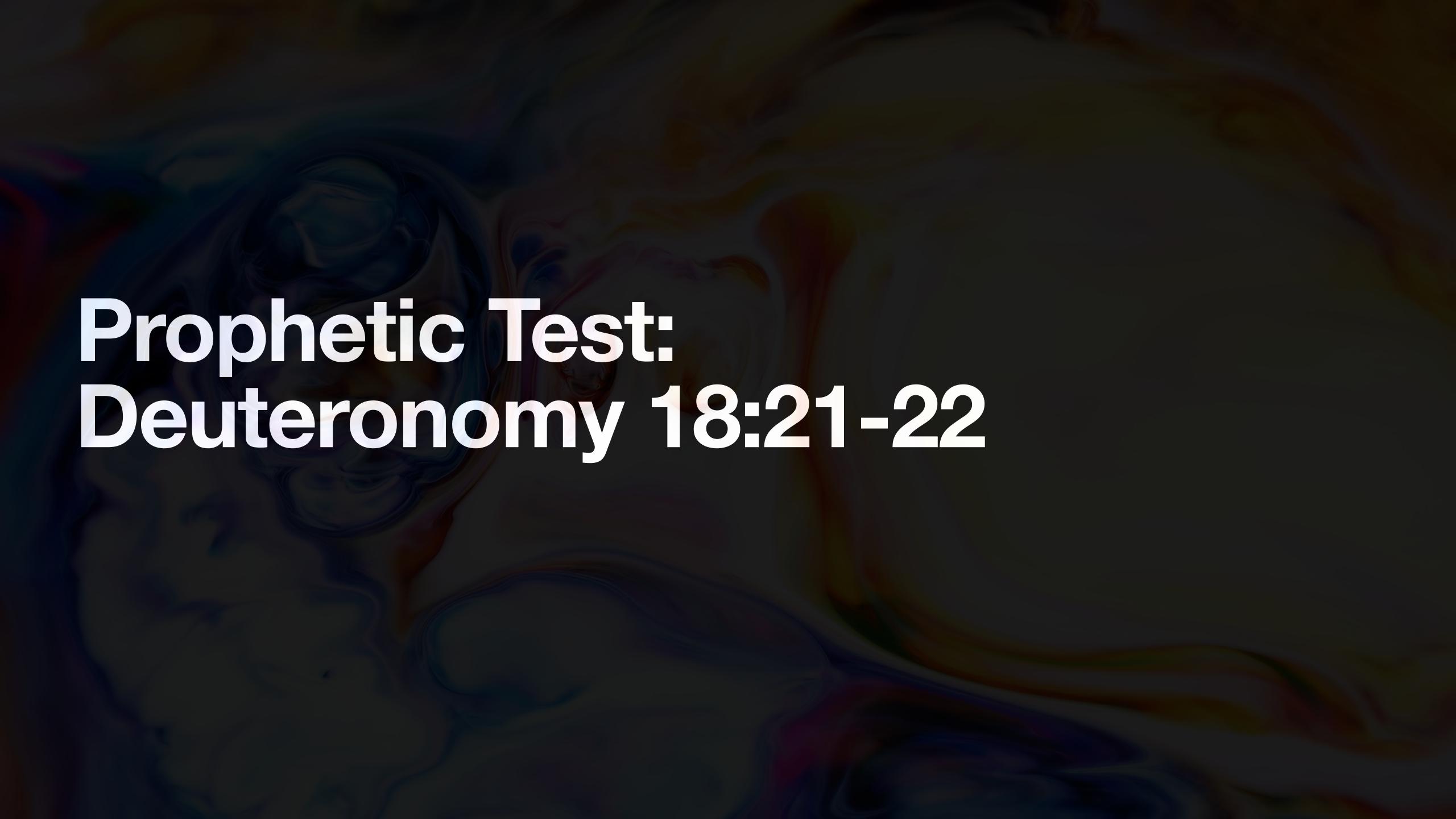
Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." Joshua 24:26-27

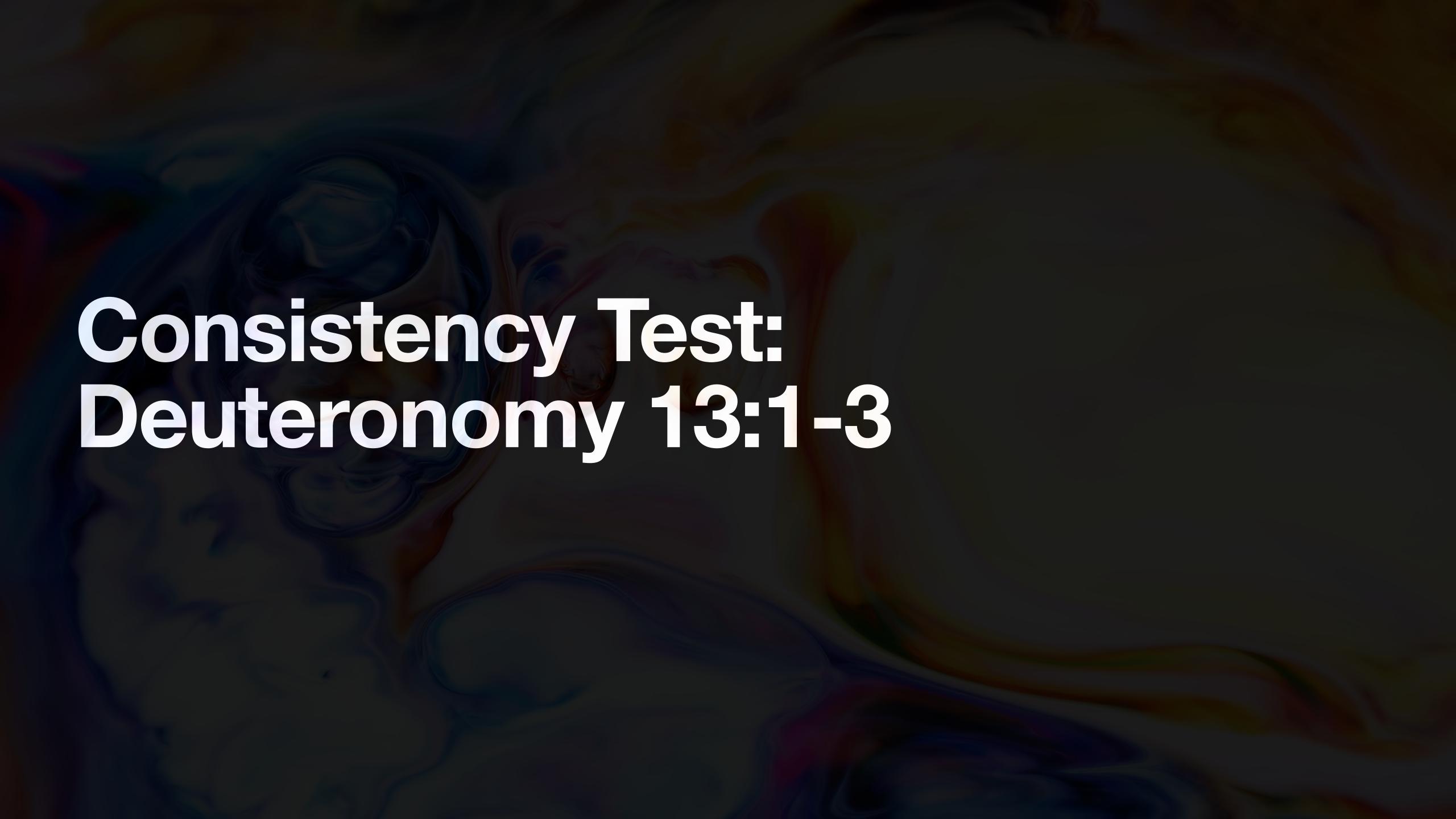
Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. 1 Samuel 10:25

in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Daniel 9:2

Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. Daniel 9:11

Prophecy was important in setting up who was speaking Truth and representing God and His Truth.



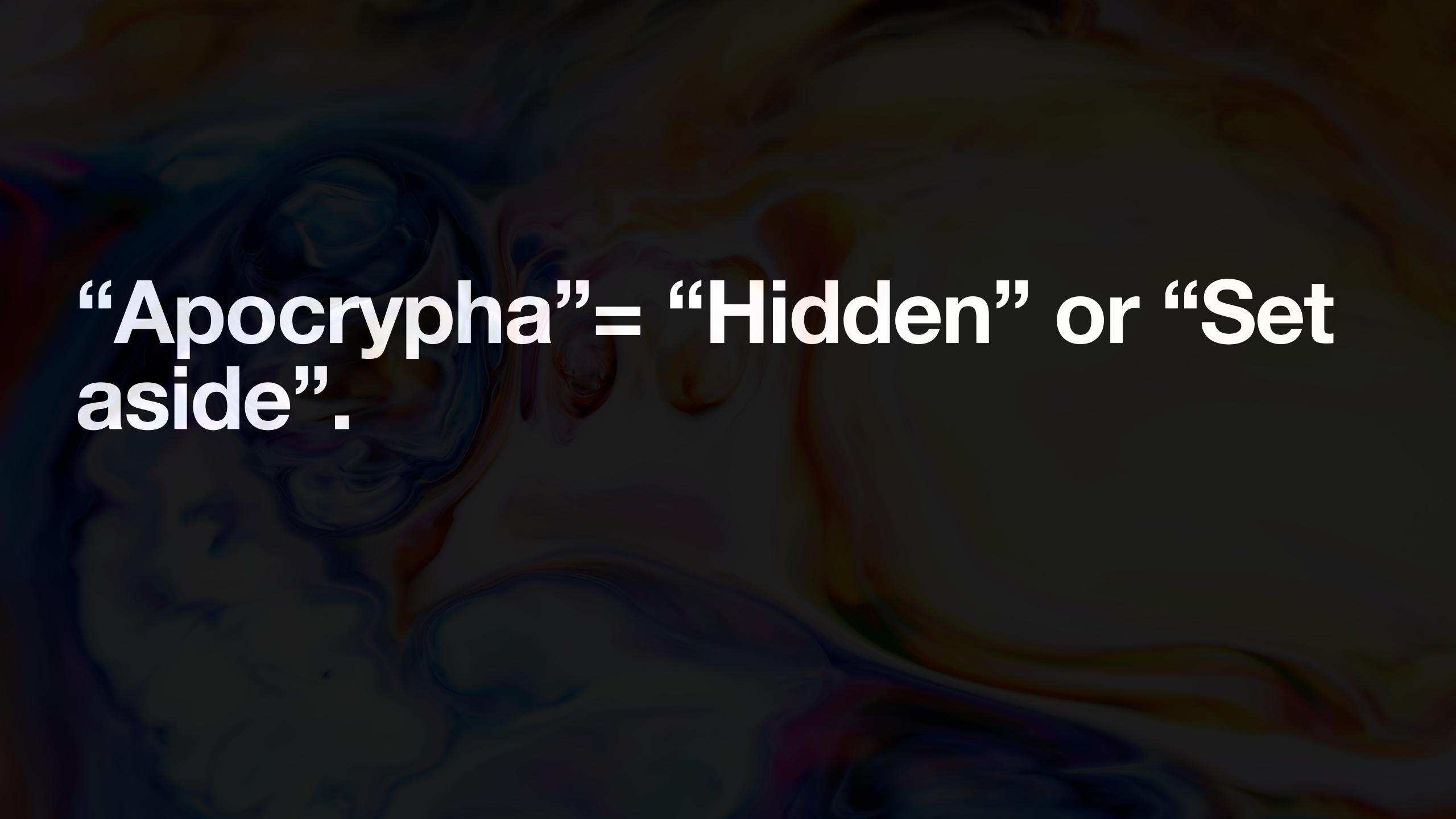


There is no "new revelation" or new "Truth".

Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. Isaiah 8:20 NLT

The Jews accepted the books we have in the OT as God's Word, thus we can be comfortable accepting they are God's Word.

What about the extra-biblical books that have been discovered or included as "Apocrypha"?



Jerome translated the Greek Septuagint. As He did, he went back to the Hebrew texts and found that there were certain books not included in the Jewish Bible. Thus he "set them aside" and called them "Apocrypha". Many agreed but some debated even Augustine was against removing them.

"Apocrypha" is 13 other books that are not considered "canon" by most Christians but some accept as books from which lessons can be learned. There are some historical errors in the books and none of them claim to be scripture.

Pope Gregory The Great said they were not canon.

April 1546 AD Council of Trent adds "Apocrypha" to the Bible.

Basically the Council of Trent (Catholic) set up what could be called scripture and what couldn't based on words from "leadership".

"... if any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately contemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema." (http:// www.bible-researcher.com/trent1.html)

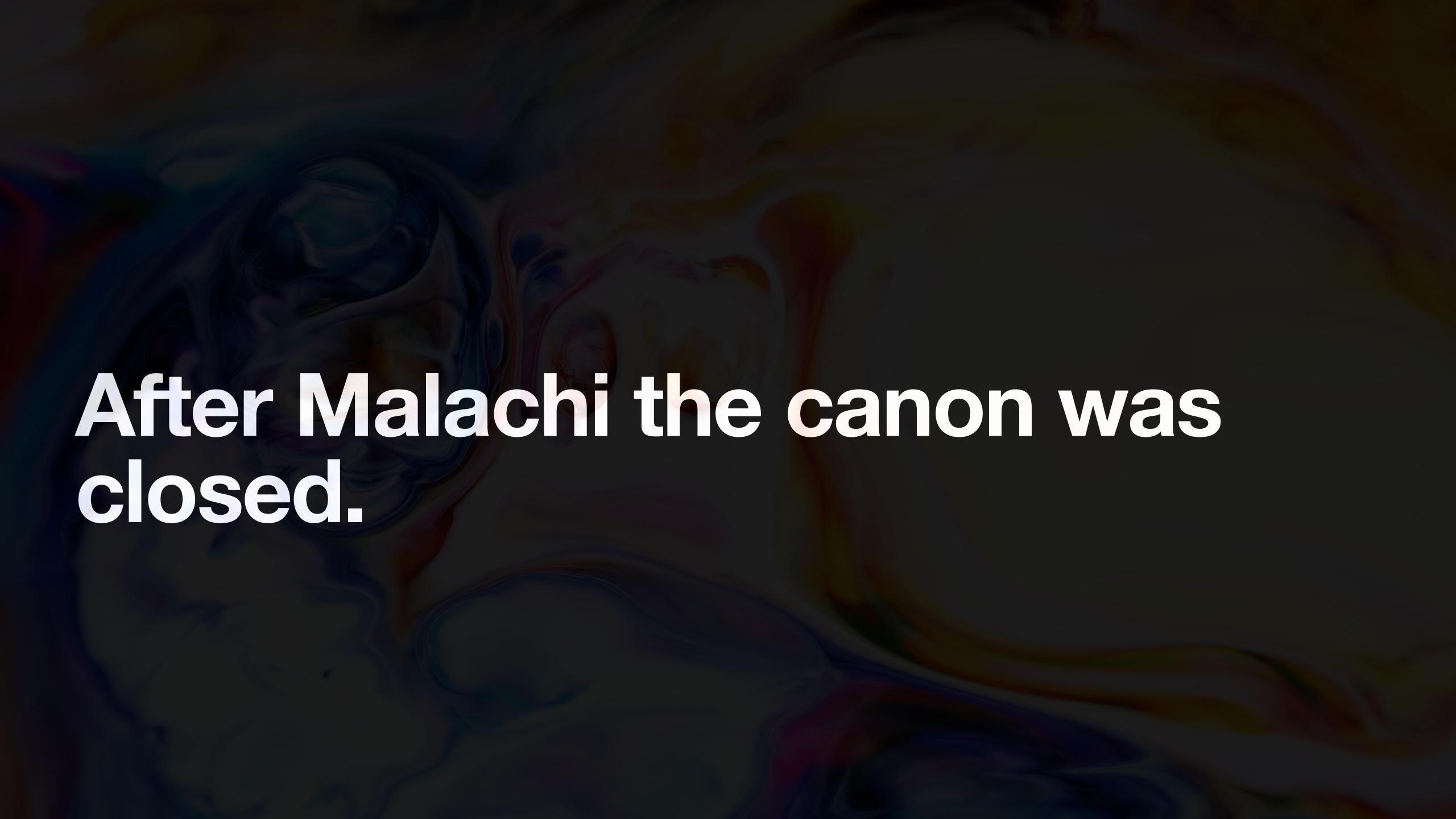
Many doctrines unique to Catholicism, such as the teachings of purgatory, prayers for the dead, and salvation by works, are found in these books.

Josephus: nothing of the same quality or level as the OT. He lists the same books as we have in our OT.

When Jesus quotes scripture, He never uses anything other than references from what we call OT.

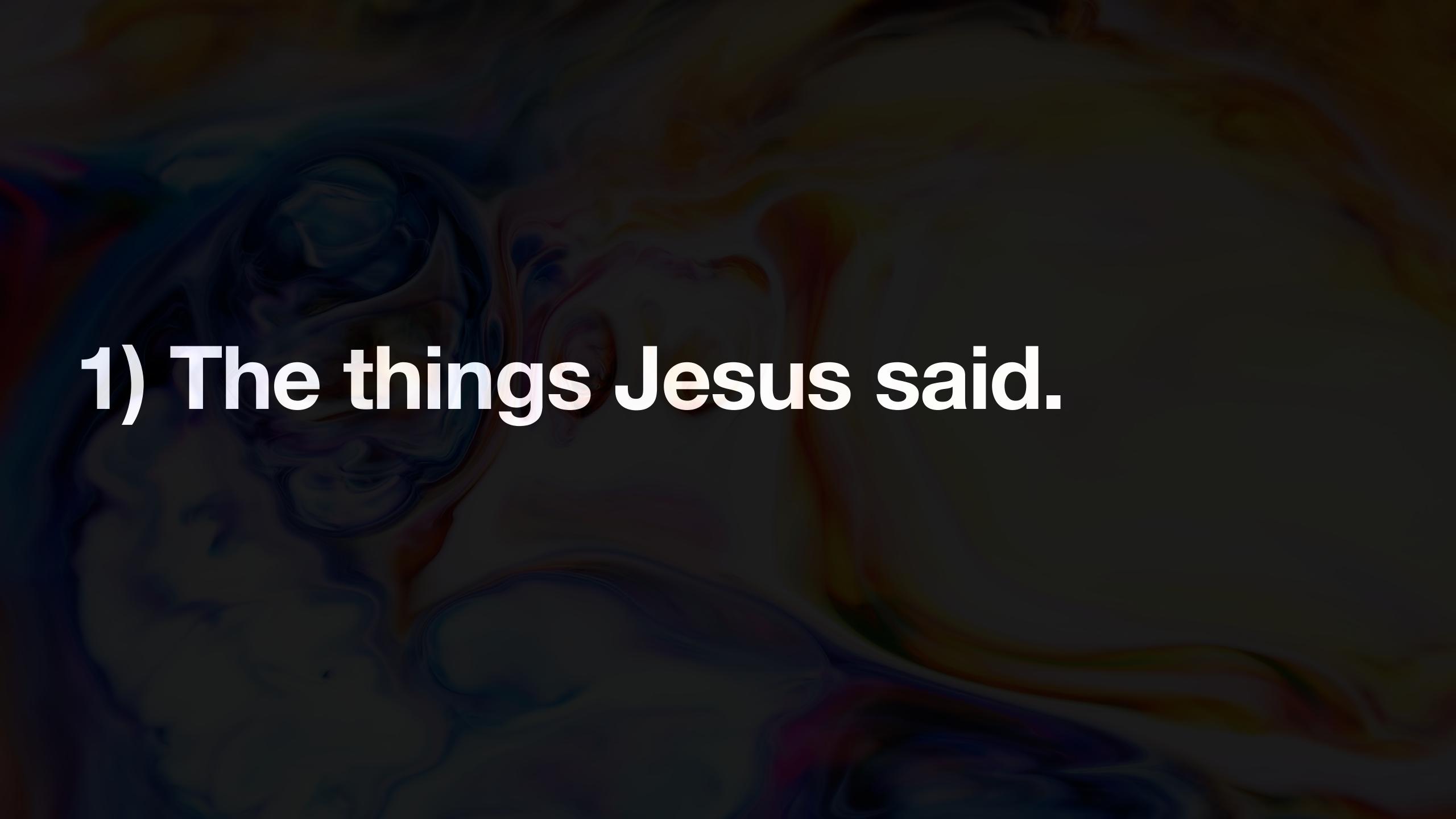
In the NT, there are 300 times quotes are given from OT.

So there was great distress in Israel, the worst since the time when prophets ceased to appear among them. 1 Maccabees 9:27



NT: covers the time from about 5 BC-95 AD. Everything written in the NT was completed by the end of the 1st century.

What did the early church and Christians accept as spiritual and holy writings?



Christians would obviously be following the words of Jesus.

We have records of the words of Jesus and no one disputes them.



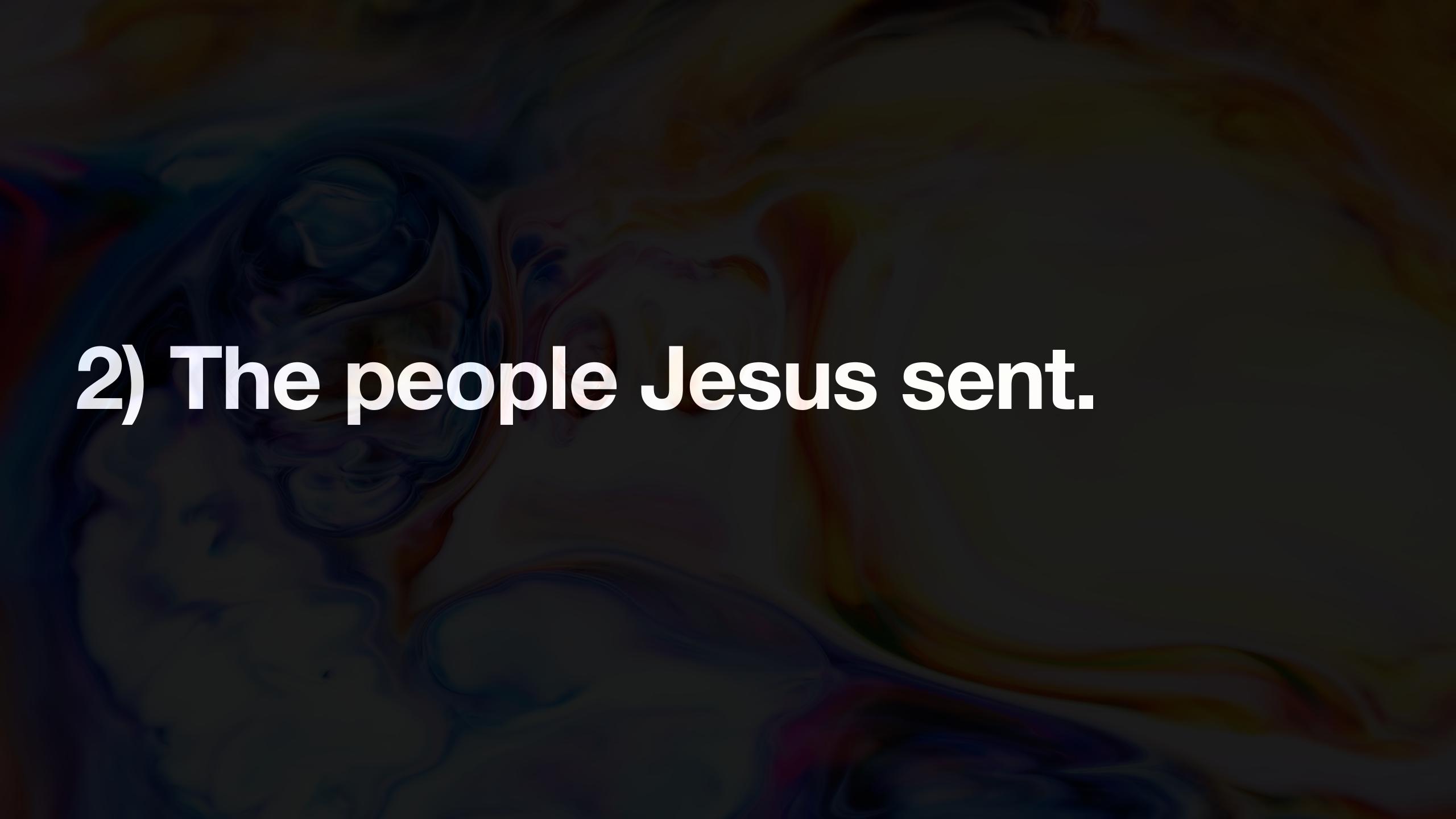


And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. Deuteronomy 18:17-19

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2

For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. John 12:49

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21

And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, anot to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:39-43

that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 2 Peter 3:2

For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, Hebrews 2:2-3

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 2 Thess. 3:6

1Clement 42:1-2 (95 AD) The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ. Both therefore came of the will of God in the appointed order.

3) The written record is permanent.

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. 2 These. 2:15

If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. 1 Corinthians 14:37-38

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. Revelation 1:1-3

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15-16

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 2 Peter 3:1-2

Is it apostolic? Or from people who were with Apostles?

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:1-4

Mark is the author conveying the testimony of Peter. James was a pillar in the church and half brother of Jesus, along with Jude who became a believer after the resurrection.

Didache= "didakay" first known collection of spiritual writings/teachings of the Christian leaders. It includes things about Christian ethics, baptism and Communion, along with church organization. Written late first century to 2nd century AD.

