

# myBible

## The Structure and Organization of the Bible

### Breakout Group Activity Handout

The Old Testament was written primarily in the Hebrew language while the New Testament was written in the Greek language. Why did God choose two different primary languages for the two testaments? Here are a few thought starters to get you going...

- Consider what the word, “testament” means.
- Who spoke the Hebrew language at the time the Old Testament was written? Who spoke the Greek language at the time the New Testament was written?
- What is the Old Testament? Who was the audience? Read Ex. 19:3-8.
- What is the New Testament? Who is the audience? Read Jer. 31:31-34, Matt. 26:28, 28:18-20.

According to history, the gospels were not the first books to be written in the New Testament. Some of the Pauline epistles were first. Note that there was likely a span of about 20 years between the resurrection and ascension of Christ and the writing of the first gospel. Why would this be? How could their memories be so accurate? The Scriptures address these issues in 1 Corinthians 15:6 and John 14:26.

Why is this important that the books of the New Testament were written either by an apostle or a prophet under the influence of an apostle? Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and 3:4-5.

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### Breakout Group Activity **Answers**

The Old Testament was written primarily in the Hebrew language while the New Testament was written in the Greek language. Why did God choose two different primary languages for the two testaments? Here are a few thought starters to get you going...

- Consider what the word, “testament” means. **Covenant**
- Who spoke the Hebrew language at the time the Old Testament was written? Who spoke the Greek language at the time the New Testament was written? **Jews spoke Hebrew. Greek was spoken commonly throughout the known world.**
- What is the Old Testament? Who was the audience? Read Ex. 19:3-8. **It is a covenant with God’s people, the Jews.**
- What is the New Testament? Who is the audience? Read Jer. 31:31-34, Matt. 26:28, 28:18-20. **It is a covenant with those who put their faith in Christ, a message that was not just intended for the Jewish people by blood but for all nations, tribes and tongues.**

**God chose the language of the Jews for the Old Testament, but chose an international trade language for the New Testament. He had different purposes for each testament!**

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**The gospels did not need to be recorded at first because eyewitnesses were present (1 John 1:1-3). The apostles travelled extensively and served as first person witnesses to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. As they began to age and die, the Lord inspired some of them to commit their divinely-enabled memories to writing. As Christ promised them, the Holy Spirit would help them to remember what Christ had said and done.**

Why is this important that the books of the New Testament were written either by an apostle or a prophet under the influence of an apostle? Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and 3:4-5.

**The early church was taught that they were being built upon a foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-22, 3:4-5). The foundation of the apostles and prophets is their teaching. These teachings are preserved for us in the New Testament, a foundation we still lean upon today the source of our beliefs and practices.**