

Pastor's Notes

This month's Pastor's notes were taken from: R.C. Sproul, "Before the Face of God: Book 3: A Daily Guide for Living from the Old Testament."

The Old Testament Canon

The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. [Rom. 1:2]. Read Romans 1:1-6

The books written by Moses comprised the first *canon* or list of authoritative and God-breathed writings. Ancient Israel placed the five scrolls in the most holy place of the tabernacle, next to the ark of the covenant, as a memorial before God. They were to live by these books; God would call the people to account for what these five books recorded of the covenant between God and his people.

Other books were written later. Over time, through common use, study, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, certain books gained authority as inspired. We do not know at what time the complete list of Old Testament books came into being, but by the New Testament era three different Old Testaments circulated. At one extreme, the Samaritan version accepted only the five books of Moses. Jesus did not take this view, for when he said the Samaritans did not understand God's revelation (John 4:22) he quoted other books as God's Word. At the other extreme, the *Alexandrian Canon* based on the *Septuagint* (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) seems to have included the Apocrypha.

By Jesus' time the orthodox Hebrew canon was almost certainly the *Palestinian Canon*—identical to the Protestant Old Testament in that it does not contain the Apocrypha. It looks different, since the books are divided and organized differently, so that the Hebrew Bible contains twenty-four books, corresponding to thirty-nine in the Christian Old Testament. They did not divide Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles and counted Ezra-Nehemiah as one book and all twelve Minor Prophets as one. Much of the reason for this is due to the length of the scrolls upon which the books were written.

The Jewish Bible is organized into three parts: (1) the *Law* (the five books of Moses); (2) the *Prophets* (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and "The Twelve," what we call the Minor Prophets), and (3) the *Writings* (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles).

Coram Deo ("before the face of God")

Most Christians readily agree with the traditional canon of Scripture. In practice, though, we often set up our personal "canon within the canon" of certain favorite books we read. We avoid others we dislike or do not understand. This week challenge yourself to read a book of the Bible you usually ignore.

For further study: Deuteronomy 31:24–27; Psalm 1

Upcoming Services

7 June

Sermon series: The Unseen Realm
Sermon title: The importance of understanding and living in the kingdom of God
Speaker: Pastor Paul Long
W/ leader: Magdalene Gan
AV: Timothy Wan & Isaac Wan
Communion: Jin Wan
Ushers: Mary Ann Driesen & Chara Saw
Emblems: Irene Ho & Charlie Ho
Morning Tea: James Gan & Quan Low
M/ service speaker: Fann Choy

14 June

Sermon series: The Unseen Realm
Sermon title: The Cosmic victory and restoration
Speaker: Pastor Paul Long
W/ leader: Jessica Meyer

21 June

Sermon title: I am the Truth that will set you free (John 8:28-32)
Speaker: Jin Wan
W/ leader: Laura Wrigley

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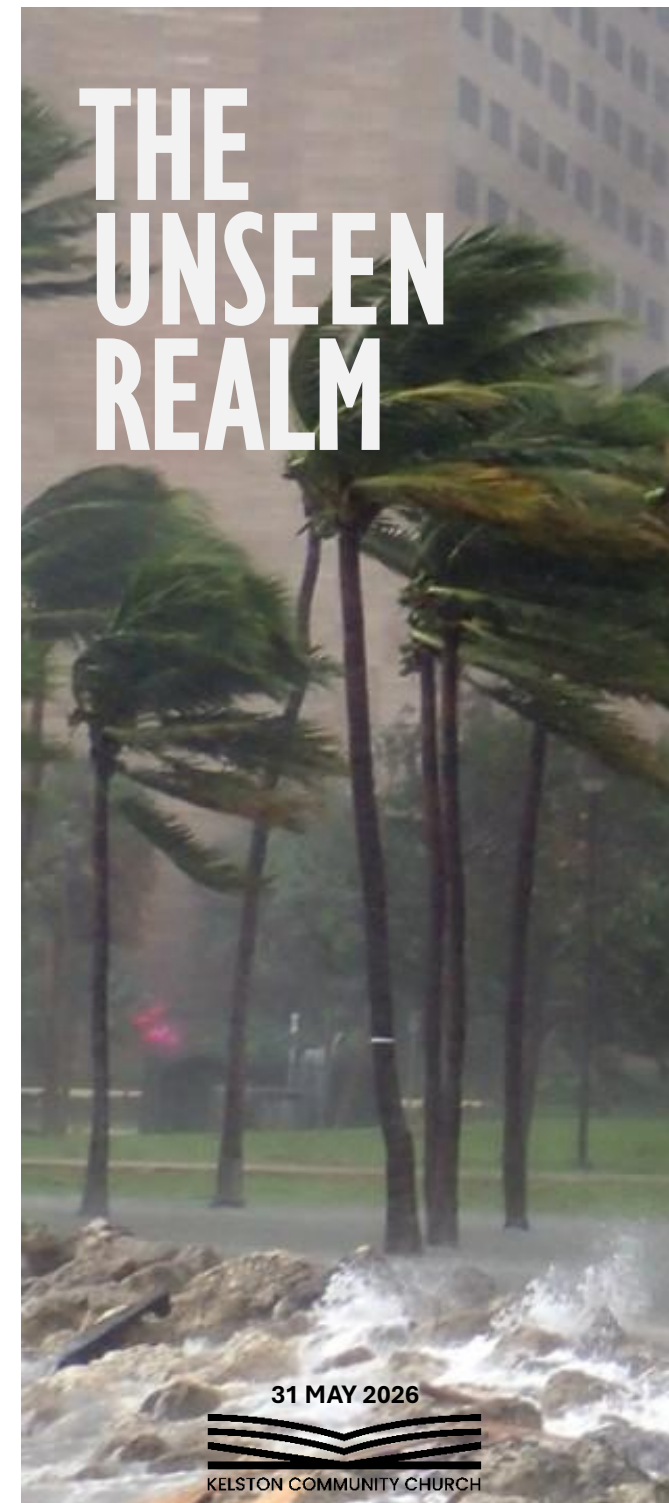
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Statement of Faith



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