

PART ONE: KNOWING THE BIBLE

CHAPTER 2

HOW MANY PARTS DOES THE BIBLE HAVE?

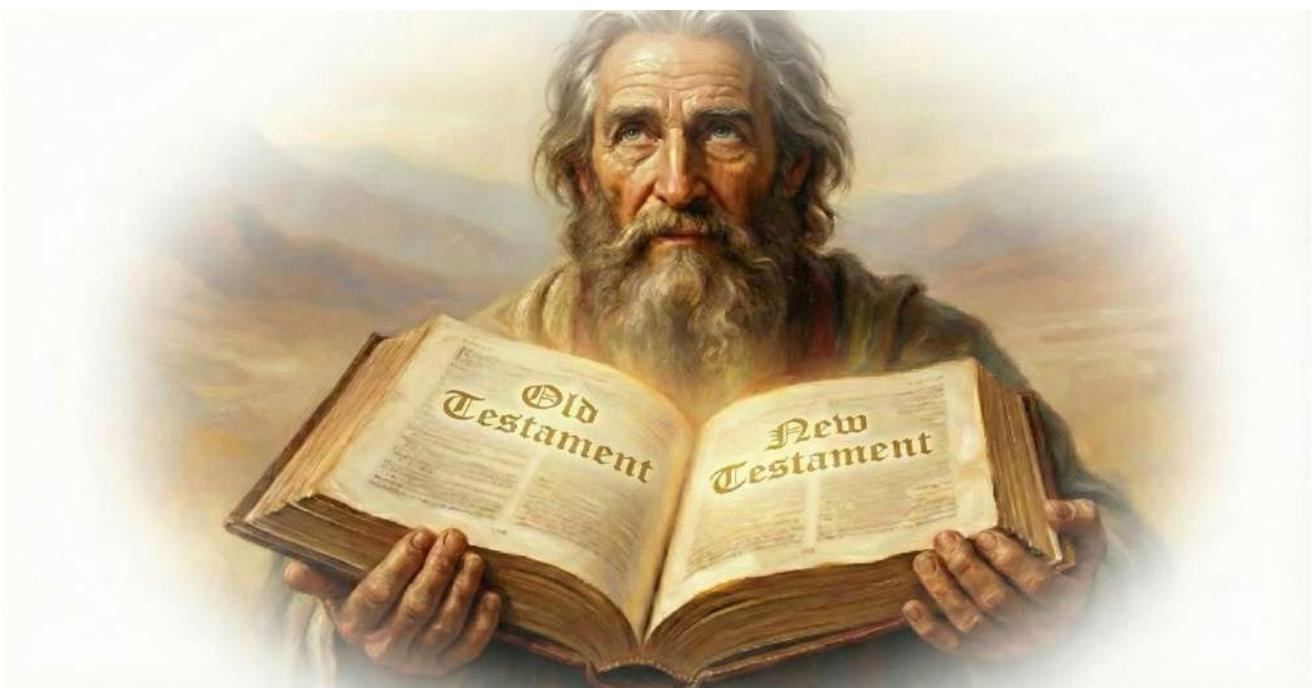
The Christian Bible is divided into two main parts: the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. The word "testament" (*berith* in Hebrew) means **covenant, covenant, union**. The Bible tells us of two covenants:

The **first covenant** was made by God with the people of Israel so that they might be the chosen people and prepare for the coming of the Savior.

The **Second Covenant** was made by God with all mankind through the Savior (Jesus Christ).

The **Old Testament** tells us about the first covenant. It tells us the story of the creation of humanity and very specifically the history of the people of Israel (the people chosen by God to prepare for the coming of the Savior of the world).

The **New Testament** tells us about the second covenant. It tells us about the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, Savior of humanity. In Him God made a new and eternal covenant with all human beings. This new alliance meant the cessation of the previous alliance.



The **Old Testament** contains **46 books**. The **New Testament** contains **27 books**. When we talk about a book we simply refer to a piece of writing, whatever its size. For example: the third letter of the Apostle John is only a leaf and yet we call it a book.

