



Jewish- Christian Roots of European Civilization

CEVRO INSTITUTE

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Petr Sláma

Texts of written cultures

- **Classical** texts:
to be imitated
- **Canonical** texts:
to be interpreted
- **Sacred** texts:
to be recited

• (Assmann 2011, 76ff)



The term ***canon*** is from Greek *kanwn* “measure”, originally west-Semitic term קָנָה, reed or cane.

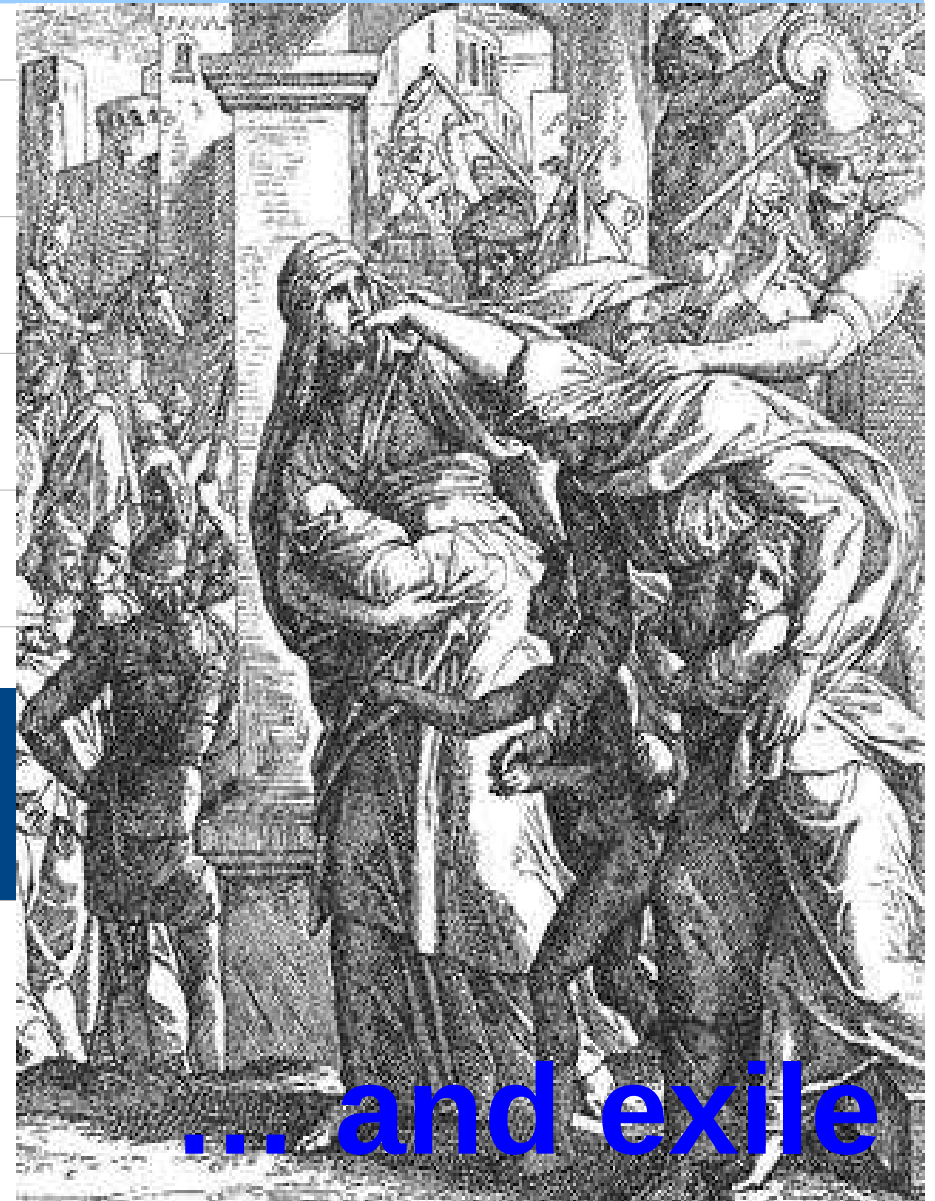
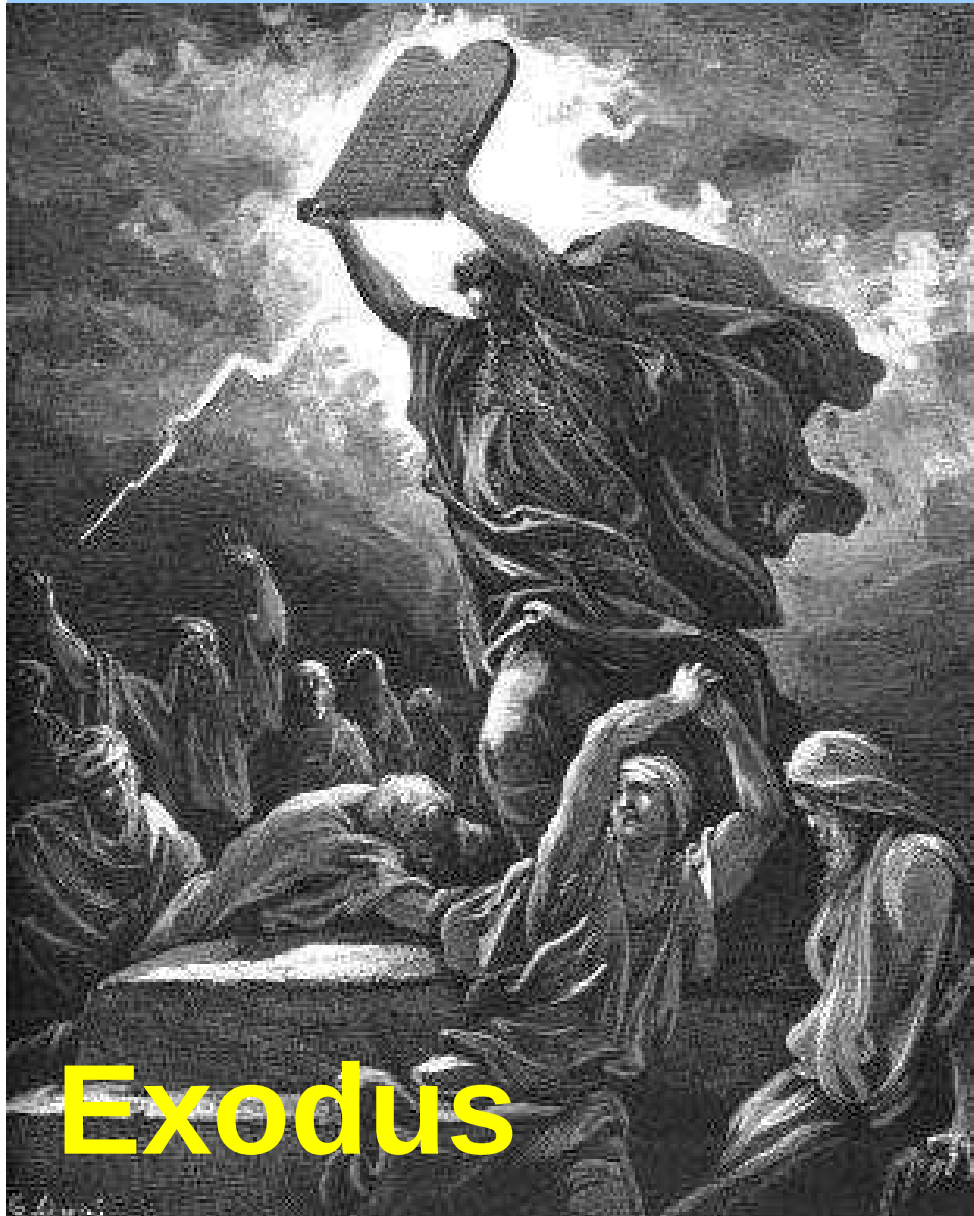
**Christian Bible
comprised of
the Old and the New Testament**



The Old Testament or the Hebrew Bible ?

- **Five books** of Moses (= Pentateuch) and historical books
- **Poetical books** (e.g. Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs...)
- **Prophetic books** (e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah...)
- **Five books** of Moses (= **T**orah)
- **Prophetic books** (= **N**eviim), divided to Former prophets (history) and Latter prophets
- **Writings** (**K**etuvim)

The Old Testament: two focuses



The New Testament: one focus



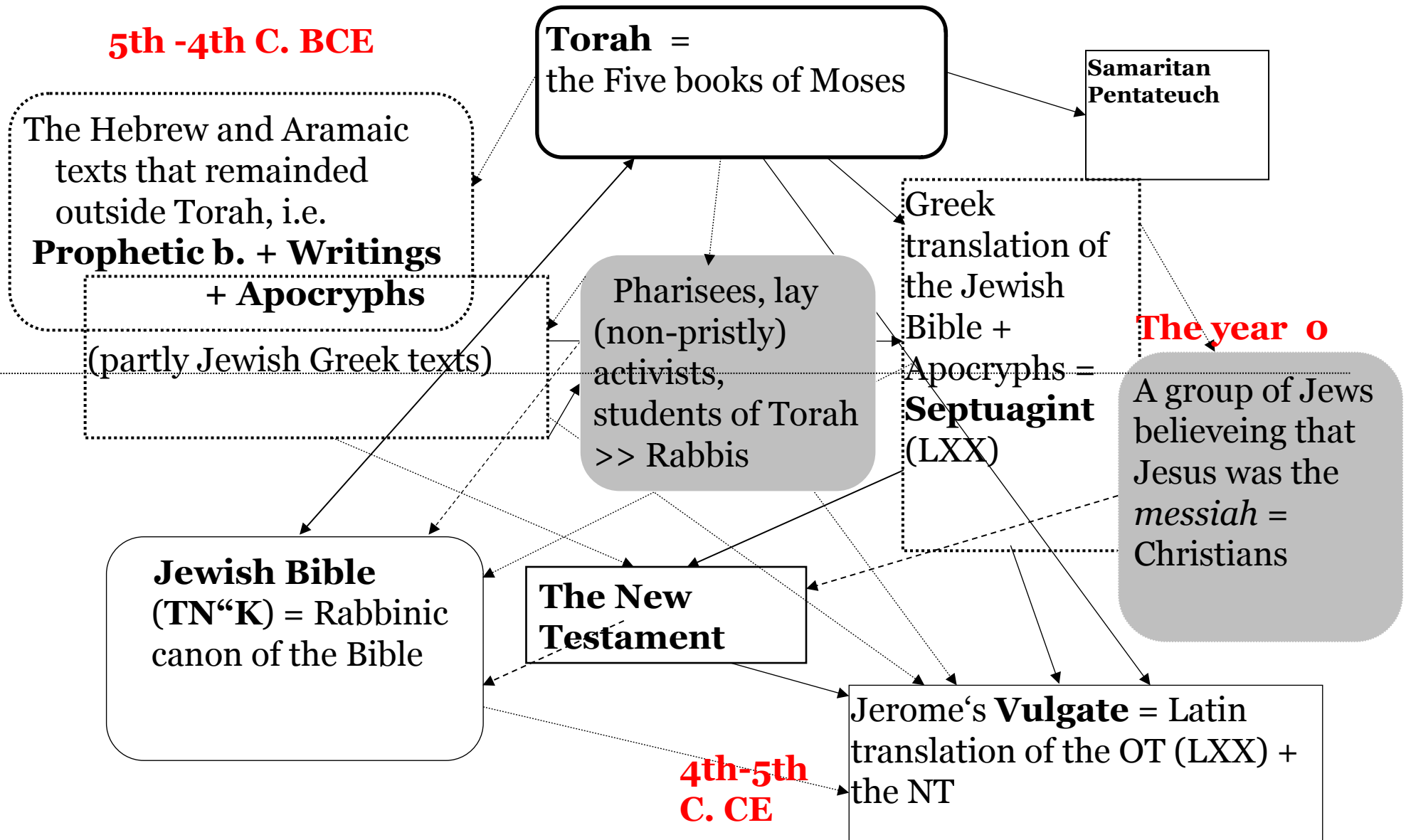
The key plot:

The expected Jewish king and deliverer or *messiah* (מְשִׁיחַ In Hebrew, χριστός in Greek, “anointed“, referring to the way kings and priests have been inaugurated in Ancient Israel) has come already.

It was **Jesus of Nazareth**. In a paradoxical way he really matched the OT expectations. In many ways he did not.

The canons of the Bible: their growth and their interdependence

5th -4th C. BCE



Torah =
the Five books of Moses

Samaritan Pentateuch

The Hebrew and Aramaic texts that remained outside Torah, i.e. **Prophetic b. + Writings + Apocryphs**

Pharisees, lay (non-pristly) activists, students of Torah >> Rabbis

Greek translation of the Jewish Bible + Apocryphs = **Septuagint (LXX)**

The year 0
A group of Jews believing that Jesus was the messiah = Christians

Jewish Bible (TN"K) = Rabbinic canon of the Bible

The New Testament

Jerome's Vulgate = Latin translation of the OT (LXX) + the NT

4th-5th C. CE

