

translated into Greek for the use of Jews living outside of Palestine. This Greek version, known as the Septuagint, is the one most frequently quoted by the writers of the New Testament, since they all wrote in Greek.

Number of Books

As accepted by Jews and Protestants, the Old Testament collection consists of 39 books.

This number is easily remembered from the number of letters in the two words, O-l-d T-e-s-t-a-m-e-n-t, 3 and 9=39.

The Greek version contained a number of other books, usually called the Apocrypha. These were inserted also in the Latin version, known as the Vulgate, used by the Roman Catholic church. But the Apocrypha, though read for edification, were never regarded as authoritative either by the Jews or by Christians, until the time of the Council of Trent, held in the 16th century shortly after the Protestant Reformation. Since that time they have been accepted as authoritative by Roman Catholics.

Jewish Division of the Books

The order of the books in the Hebrew Bible is somewhat different from that in the English version which, like most modern versions, has largely followed the order found in the Septuagint.

The Jews divided the books into three groups :

- (1). The Law, including the five books of Moses.
- (2). The Prophets, including—(a) The earlier Historical books, namely, Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. These are called Prophetical, probably because supposed to have been written by members of the prophetic order. (b) The Prophetical books proper,—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.
- (3). The other Writings or Scriptures, including all the rest, namely, the poetical books, the book of