

of the early Christian Church that those books which the Jews considered to be part of the Old Testament were also considered by Christians to be part of the Old Testament.

Toward the end of the second century we find Melito, bishop of Sardis give special consideration to the matter of knowing exactly what are the books of the Old Testament. He made a trip to Palestine, particularly for the purpose. His account of it is preserved in Eusebius' Church History. It was written at about 325 AD. Eusebius doubtless quotes from an early copy of Melito, which has otherwise been lost. Melito tells how he was anxious to determine exactly what were the correct books of the Old Testament and they visited Palestine for the purpose.

Melito, like most Christian leaders of the day, probably had scrolls of a good many of the New Testament books. I doubt that he had all of them, though he probably could have at one time or another had access to copies ^{of the ones} that he did not personally possess. In preparation for his trip to Palestine it would be my guess that he was able to buy or to borrow a complete set of Old Testament scrolls. With these Doubtless other friends of his in Asia Minor were also interested in knowing for sure what were the correct books of the Old Testament. There were certain scrolls which were circulated from which they had quotations in the gospels or in the epistles of Paul which they knew definitely were a part of the Old Testament. There were other books