

How Our Bible is organized Page 1 - Old Testament

The Old Testament books are organized 1) by category (narrative, poetry, or prophecy) and then in Chronological order.

Old Testament Book (Author, Date)	Style of Writing; Primary Topic Emphasis
1. Genesis (Moses 1450-1410 BC)	Narrative; from "Beginning" to Jews entering Egypt.
2. Exodus(Moses 1450-1410 BC)	Narrative; from Birth of Nation of Israel
3. Leviticus(Moses 1450-1410 BC)	Instructional; Focus on How God is to be worshipped.
4. Numbers(Moses 1450-1410 BC)	Narrative; 40 years of "wandering in the desert".
5. Deuteronomy(Moses 1450-1410 BC)	Instructional;; Focus on laws, promises, warnings
6. Joshua(Joshua 1406-1375)	Narrative; generation after Moses, enter Promised Land
7. Judges (Unknown, "tradition"- Samuel time of Judges 1375-1050 BC)	After Joshua, Israel was ruled by Judges during this time period. Mostly a history of failure to obey God.
8. Ruth (Unknown, "tradition"- Samuel written during time of Judges 1375-1050 BC)	Narrative; A story that takes place during time of Judges.
9. 1 Samuel (Samuel via scribes Nathan&Gad) (covers time of 1105-1010 BC)	Narrative;. In Jewish Bible, 1 st & 2 nd Samuel – One book. Covers the time of Rise and fall of 1 st King – Saul.
10. 2 Samuel(same as 1 st Samuel, others suggested "Nathan's son"; time frame 1010-970)	2 nd Samuel covers the reign of King David.
11. 1 Kings (Unknown, "tradition"- Jeremiah) (covers time 970 BC – 853 BC)	Narrative;. In Jewish Bible, 1 st & 2 nd Kings – One book. Starts with first king after David -> Solomon.
12. 2 Kings(Unknown, "tradition"- Jeremiah) (covers time 853 BC- 586 BC)	After Solomon, Israel "splits" into 2 kingdoms: Northern & Southern. Book covers reign of North/South kings.
13. 1 Chronicles (Unknown, "tradition"- Ezra) (Chpts 1-8 "Adam to David", then 1010-970 BC)	Narrative;. In Jewish Bible, 1 st & 2 nd Chronicles– 1 book. After Chapter 9, book covers time from David to the conquering of both kingdoms (100 years apart). Emphasis on how each king did from God's perspective.
14. 2 Chronicles (Unknown, "tradition"- Ezra) (970BC - 538 BC)	
15. Ezra (Ezra, 450 BC)	Narrative; 70 years after Southern Kingdom conquered/ dispersed, Jews come back to Israel. Ezra & Nehemiah were leaders in this movement.
16. Nehemiah (Nehemiah, 445-432 BC)	
17. Esther (Unknown, "tradition"-Mordecai, 483-471BC)	During "return" period, many Jews stayed in lands of captivity. Esther is Jewish woman picked to be a Queen.
18. Job (Job 2000-1800 BC)	Poetry style; Debate over why do the innocent suffer?
19. Psalms (Mostly David 1010-970, others:1440-586 BC)	Poetry style; Focus on how to praise and worship God.
20. Proverbs (Solomon 950-930 BC)	Poetry style; Advice for living a Godly life.
21. Ecclesiastes (Solomon approx. 935 BC)	Poetry style; Advice on "don't let this happen to you"
22. Song of Songs (Solomon approx. 950-945 BC))	Poetry style; Love poem, advice on marital relationship
23. Isaiah (Isaiah 700-681 BC)	Prophecy emphasis; These authors are called " the major prophets " <u>only</u> because the <i>size</i> of their books are bigger than the rest of the prophets. Emphasis on future events, predictions of 1 st and 2 nd comings of Jesus, future events about Israel and surrounding nations.
24. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 627-586 BC)	
25. Lamentations (Jeremiah 586 BC)	
26. Ezekiel (Ezekiel approx. 571 BC)	
27. Daniel (Daniel approx 535 BC Events 605-535 BC)	
28. Hosea (Hosea 715 BC written to Northern Kingdom)	
29. Joel (Joel 835 - 796 BC written to Southern Kingdom)	
30. Amos (Amos760-750 BC written to N. Kingdom)	
31. Obadiah (Obadiah 853-841BC written to Edomites)	
32. Jonah (Jonah 785-760 BC, written to all Israelites)	
33. Micah (Micah742-687 BC, written to all Israelites)	Prophecy emphasis; These authors are called " the minor prophets " <u>only</u> because the size of the books are much smaller. The emphasis is some/all of the same themes as the major prophets.
34. Nahum (Nahum 663-654BC to Nineveh & S.Kngdm)	
35. Habakkuk (Habakkuk 612-589 BC to S. Kingdom)	
36. Zephaniah (Zephaniah 640-621 BC S. Kindom/All)	
37. Haggai (Haggai 520 BC to those returned exile)	
38. Zechariah (Zechariah 520-518 BC, 480 BC Same #37)	
39. Malachi (Malachi 430 BC Same as #37)	

For more on Bible Authorship, see [Http://www.bibleprobe.org/bibauth.html](http://www.bibleprobe.org/bibauth.html)

How Our Bible is *Organized* Page 2 -- **New Testament** and The Roman Catholic “**Apographa**”

The New Testament books are organized 1) books about life and resurrection of Jesus; 2) books written about and by the early apostles. Most of the works are by Paul. Those are *apparently* organized “biggest to smallest”. The remaining books are categorized by author. The exception is Revelation, which is purposely placed last as the focus in on end-time events

New Testament Book (Author, Date)	Style of Writing; Primary Topic Emphasis
1. Matthew (Matthew, the Apostle 60-65 AD)	Narrative; Jesus as the promised Messiah of Israel. Matthew was one of 12 Apostles.
2. Mark (Mark, possibly dictated from Peter 55-65 AD)	Narrative; Emphasis on Jesus as a servant for man. Mark was cousin of Luke. Also called “John-Mark”.
3. Luke (Luke approx. 60 AD)	Narrative; Emphasis on the humanity of Jesus. Luke was missionary with Paul and a historian.
4. John (John, the Apostle 85-90 AD)	Narrative; Emphasis on Jesus as son of God. John was 1 of 12 apostles, <u>not</u> John the Baptist.
5. Acts (Luke 63-70 AD)	Narrative; story of early apostles after the resurrection. Explains “who” Paul is, and his missionary journeys.
6. Romans (Paul approx. 57 AD)	Instructional, nicknamed “Gospel according to Paul”.
7. 1 Corinthians (Paul approx. 55 AD)	Instructional letters by Paul. Mostly deal with correcting church problems and explaining Christian doctrinal viewpoints
8. 2 Corinthians (Paul approx. 55-57 AD)	
9. Galatians (Paul approx. 49 AD)	
10. Ephesians (Paul approx. 60 AD)	
11. Philippians (Paul approx. 61 AD)	These are nicknamed Paul’s “prison letters” as they were written from a jail cell while Paul was waiting for trial in Rome. A lot of emphasis on “joy in tough times.”
12. Colossians (Paul approx. 60 AD)	
13. 1 Thessalonians (Paul approx. 51 AD)	Additional instructional letters by Paul. There are correctional issues and some end-time issues.
14. 2 Thessalonians (Paul approx. 51-52 AD)	
15. 1 Timothy (Paul approx. 64 AD)	These are nicknamed Paul’s “pastor letters” as they were written to his missionary associates. A lot of advice on church organization and ministry.
16. 2 Timothy (Paul approx. 66-67 AD)	
17. Titus (Paul approx. 64 AD)	
18. Philemon (Paul approx. 60 AD)	
19. Hebrews (author unknown, consensus opinion – was Paul, written before 70AD)	Instructional letter focusing on Jesus as fulfillment of promises made in the Old Testament.
20. James (James, half-brother of Jesus, est. < 49 AD)	Instructional, emphasis on Christian living.
21. 1 Peter (Peter approx. 62-64 AD)	Instructional; Written near end of Peter’s life. Emphasis on keeping your focus on Jesus during difficult times.
22. 2 Peter (Peter approx. 67 AD)	
23. 1 John (John, the Apostle approx. 85-90 AD)	Instructional letters written by same “John” who wrote the Gospel of John & Revelation.
24. 2 John (John, the Apostle approx. 90 AD)	
25. 3 John (John, the Apostle approx. 90 AD)	Emphasis on the love of God.
26. Jude (Jude, half-brother of Jesus, approx. 65AD)	Instructional, emphasis on false teachers.
27. Revelation (John, the Apostle approx. 95AD)	Mainly Prophecy; Emphasis on end time events.

Apocrypha (Catholic Old Testament Books 250-400 BC)

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. 1 Esdras (Placed after Narrative Books | 8. Book of Wisdom |
| 2. 2 Esdras | 9. Sirach |
| 3. Book of Esther (Additional Chapters) | 10. Baruch |
| 4. 1 Maccabees | 11. Susanna |
| 5. 2 Maccabees | 12. Azariah |
| 6. Tobias (Tobit) | 13. Manasseh |
| 7. Judith | 14. Bel |

Most Apocrypha are located after Esther in this order Except Book of Wisdom, listed after Proverbs

Most of the books are narrative in style, some poetry works as well.

For more on the Apocrypha (Catholic website) <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03267a.htm>

A History of the Canonization of the New Testament (95-395AD)

(Most of these documents were preserved through Vatican Library & Archeological findings)

- 1) AD 95 - Clement of Rome wrote a letter to the Christians in Corinth and uses material from Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
 - a) He also was familiar with the Book of Romans and the 2 Corinthian Letters, as well as 1st Timothy, Titus, 1st Peter & Ephesians.
 - b) This means these books were in his possession at this time.
- 2) AD 125 An archeologist named John Rylands found sections of a "Gospel of John" scroll that date back to AD 125
- 3) AD 115 "The Epistles of Ignatius". This is commentaries on books of the Bible.
 - a) There is direct reference to the Gospels and a number of Paul's letter.
 - b) Ignatius draws a distinction between his letters and "scriptures".
- 4) AD 130 "The Epistle of Barnabus". This is commentaries on books of the Bible. Used the term "It is written" referring to various parts of the New Testament as Scripture"
- 5) AD 110-120 (approx.) "The Epistle to the Phillipians" by Polycarp. Polycarp studied under the Apostle John. He uses the term "Scriptures"
- 6) AD 130-140 (approx.) Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis mentions by name the Gospels of Matthew & Mark, and accepts them as Scripture.
- 7) AD 150-170 (approx.) Irenaeus, student of Polycarp, in his writings, quotes from all 4 Gospels, references to Acts, 1 Peter, 1 John, all of Paul's letters except Philemon, and book of Revelation
- 8) Titian, pupil of Justin Martyr, made reference to the 4 Gospels as being scriptural. He also acknowledged "other" gospels as being heretical (false).
- 9) AD 170 - a "complete" Bible was found (8th Century copy) which was mutilated at both ends. Includes all 4 gospels, Acts, All 13 Paul's' Epistles, Jude, 1st and 2nd John (not 3rd) & Revelation).
- 10) AD 170 pieces of the Bible found in Syriac and Old Latin translations.
- 11) AD 185-254 Origen, A church historian and scholar. He wrote commentaries on most of the books of the Bible. He believed all 27 were inspired by God.
- 12) By the year 300, there was still some disagreement over the final 27 books, but not over any single book. For example, almost all of the Western Church accepted Revelation, but not all the Eastern churches. The opposite was true of Hebrews.
- 13) AD 270-340 Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, a church historian, wrote a 3-chapter book on the canon of Scripture. He categorized all 27 books as either "universally accepted or majority accepted". He also eliminated some of the false-books as being heretical (false).
 - a) When Roman Emperor Constantine accepted Christianity, he asked Eusebius to prepare for him 50 copies of the Bible. The 27 books we have today are included.
- 14) AD 367 Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria formalized the list of 27 books and formally eliminated other heretical books.
- 15) AD 397 "Council of Carthage formalized the 27 books we have today.

Notes and Resources:

Source: "The Origin of the Bible", Tyndale Publishers 1992. From the chapter: The Canon of the New Testament by Milton Fisher, from the book "The Origin of the Bible", Tyndale Publishers 1992.

Web Sites:

<http://www.bible-history.com/> (A web site specializing in Bible History)

<http://www.webcom.com/ctt/exegesis.html#texts> (A web site specializing in Bible Accuracy)

History of the English Versions of the Bible¹

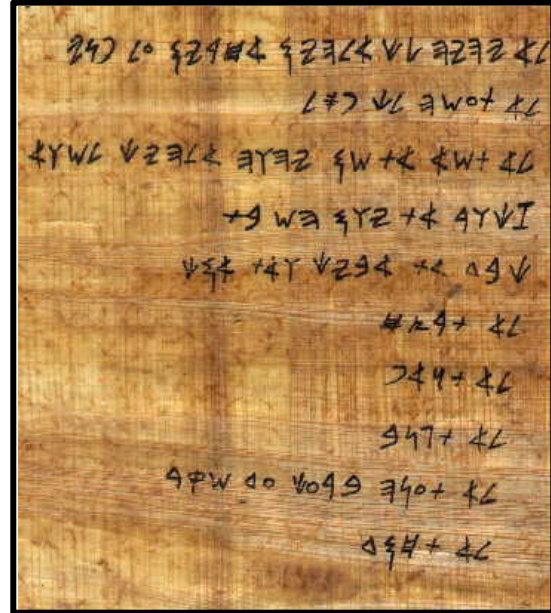
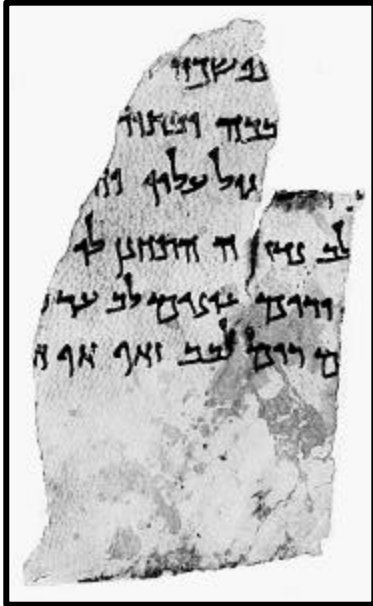
- 1) 6th Century AD - Missionaries from Rome
 - a) Brought the Latin Vulgate Translated by Monks from Latin to English
 - b) Various translations were made in 6th, 7th and 8th Century
 - c) “English” as we know it, was very different from this language (prior to Normandy Invasion)
 - d) No “complete” Bible was ever translated (as discovered)
- 2) 13th Century AD - John Wycliff (1329-1384) (a.k.a. “Wycliffe Bible”)
 - a) First to translate entire Latin Bible to English
 - b) Taught doctrines opposed by the Catholic Church (no purgatory, no “indulgences”, et.al.)
 - c) Although the Roman Catholic Church couldn’t stop him, after his death, he was condemned for heresy, his grave was dug up and body burned (as a warning to others!)
- 3) 15th Century AD - William Tyndale (a.k.a. “Tyndale” Bible)
 - a) The first to translate directly from the Greek into English. (He did a New Testament-only).
 - b) Was banned from England by the Catholic Church. He worked out of Germany.
 - c) 15,000 copies, in six editions were smuggled into England between 1525-1530
 - d) Affiliated with Calvin and Reformation. Wrote commentaries with Calvin’s ideas.
 - e) In 1536 he was imprisoned, and burned at the stake by a Pro-Roman Catholic England
- 4) 15th Century AD - Mike Coverdale (a.k.a. “Coverdale” Bible)
 - a) Student of Tyndale at Cambridge.
 - b) Finished Wycliffe’s work. Translated Old Testament from Hebrew to English.
 - c) In 1537, King Henry VIII, broke ties with the Pope, and endorsed this Bible. The same King Henry was the one who earlier sentenced Tyndale to death for his translation.
- 5) 1538-1540 John Rogers (a.k.a. “The Great Bible”)
 - a) First Bible Authorized for public use by the King.
 - b) It was given its name because of its large size and print.
- 6) 1568 “The Geneva Bible”
 - a) It was made for English exiles in Geneva (to escape Roman Church persecution)
 - b) Acknowledged as a little superior to the Great Bible, it was not as well accepted in England due to its commentary that was very “Calvinistic.”
- 7) 1611 King James Bible (a.k.a. “King James” or “Authorized Version”)
 - a) James VI of Scotland became King James I of England.
 - b) He invited “factions” of Church of England (Anglicans) and Puritans to reconcile differences. This was unsuccessful
 - c) King James authorized a version of the Bible they could *both* use. No “commentaries” allowed. It was called the “Authorized” version as it was endorsed by the King.
 - d) 50 Hebrew & Greek scholars worked as a committee on the translation.
 - e) It was the most popular translation of 17th and 18th Centuries. It was written in “common English” (as opposed to formal English). The word usage was far less than Shakespeare.
 - f) The manuscripts were based on studying copies of existing scrolls found through Rome, Mid-East, etc. Minor differences between the scrolls/books were settled by a “majority rules” , where the final version was based majority of the texts.
 - g) It is also known as “Textus Receptus” or “Received Text”.
 - h) Problems of King James. It was Greek manuscripts dating from 10th-13th Centuries. Also the understanding of ancient Hebrew has improved since this time. They also lacked complete scrolls of Revelation in the Greek, and used the Latin Vulgate.

¹ History of the English Bible by Phillip Comfort, from the book “The Origin of the Bible”, Tyndale Publishers 1992.

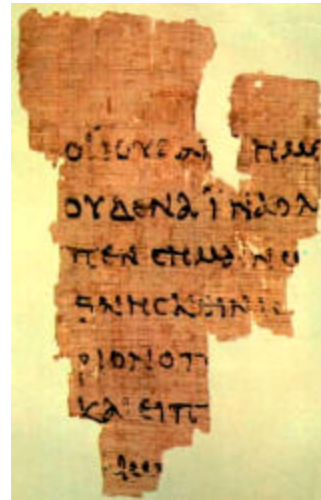
History of the English Versions of the Bible (cont.)

- 8) 18th & 19th Centuries. Discoveries of older Greek manuscripts (Codex = “scrolls”)
 - a) “Codex Aleandrinus” A 5th Century Greek New Testament was brought to England.
 - b) “Codex Sinaiticus” was found in St. Catherine’s Monastery (Israel). Dated 350 AD
 - c) “Codex Vaticanus” from the Vatican library, public release 1481, Dated 320 AD
 - d) “Pro-King James” scholars argue that these manuscripts originated from Alexandria, Egypt, the home of a great library. They make arguments of the superiority of the “Textus Receptus” (received text) is superior based on its geographical location.
 - (1) “Is the King James the best translation?” debate has been going on for a long time.
 - (2) There are good “pundits” on both sides. This is very “heated” debate among scholars.
 - (3) For more on this debate: Read
 - (a) “The King James Only Controversy : Can You Trust the Modern Translations? by James R. White (Bethany House; ISBN: 1556615752) (“Excellent! - John)
 - (b) Which Bible? by David Otis Fuller (Inst. for Biblical Textual Studies; ISBN: 0944355242, (This is a “Pro-King James Only” Book. - John)
- 9) 1871-1872 The “English Revised Version” and American Standard Version (1901)
 - a) Use of “older” scrolls were used to write new versions.
 - b) Differences between these versions/King James were minor.
 - c) Most Modern Bibles, like these foot-noted where a word or phrase was included/not included in these versions vs. Textus Receptus
 - d) No significant doctrinal differences between these versions. Mostly “scholastic debate”.
- 10) 19th Century - New Archeology Discoveries/New Translations
 - a) thousands of scrolls discovered in Egypt dating between 2nd Cent. BC -3rd AD
 - b) Discovery that most of the New Testament was written in common Greek (called “Koine”) as opposed to “Formal Greek”
 - (1) Newer translations took these factors into account.
 - c) Translations called “The Complete Bible An American Translation (1935)
 - d) The Revised Standard Version
 - (1) Took the English Revised Version and paraphrased to make it “smoother”.
- 11) 20th Century - Discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls
 - a) A library of scrolls hidden in caves near the Dead Sea. The parchment texts, wrapped in linen and stored in pottery jars, were hidden in the first century AD and recovered between 1947 and 1956, at which time they became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is earliest known Hebrew copies of Old Testament texts.
- 12) 20th Century Bibles (to be discussed Next week). Most Popular:
 - a) The New English Bible (1946)
 - b) Good News Bible (1960)
 - c) The Living Bible (1962)
 - d) The New International Versions (1973)
 - e) The New American Standard (1981)
 - f) The New King James (1982)
- 13) 20th Century Catholic Bibles
 - (1) 1943 Pope Pius XII issued a decree encouraging Catholics to read/study Bible
 - b) 1966 The Jerusalem Bible. First Catholic Bible translated from original languages to English
 - c) 1970 The New American Bible.
 - (1) Both books have commentaries that go with the text.

2nd Source: http://www.geocities.com/bible_translation/english.htm (Bible History - English Translations)



<p>This is a fragment from “The Dead Sea Scrolls”, 1st Century AD</p>	<p>This is the 10 commandments in “ancient” Hebrew Script”. In Hebrew, one reads from right to left. (English is left to right).</p>
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<p>This is the style of Old Testament Scrolls used by Jews from time of return Babylon Captivity, approx. 450 BC. Pages were typed or pasted on scrolls. This is a picture of a modern Jewish Bible scroll.</p>	<p>“P52” is the oldest known manuscript fragment of the New Testament. This photo is of the recto (front side). ©Copyright John Rylands Library of Manchester http://www.stolaf.edu/people/kchanson/johnpap.html</p>
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For more visual pictures of New Testament Scrolls, see:
<http://www-user.uni-bremen.de/~wie/bibel.html#coll>