

Introduction to the Bible

A. Overview of the Bible

1. The Bible contains 66 books, divided among the Old and New Testaments.
 - Old Testament contains 27 books
 - New Testament contains 27 books
 - **Apocrypha** The term comes from the Greek word meaning "hidden" or "secret". Originally, the term was applied to sacred books whose contents were too exalted to be made available to the general public. Gradually, the term "apocrypha" took on a disparaging connotation, since the orthodoxy of these hidden books was often questionable.
"The Apocrypha" includes 15 books, all but one of which are Jewish in origin and found in the Septuagint [*Greek translation of OT*] (parts of 2 Esdras are possibly Christian and Latin in origin). Because it was influenced by the "Jewish canon of the OT," the custom arose of making the Apocrypha a separate section in the Protestant Bible, or sometimes even omitting them entirely.
The Apocrypha is recognized in Catholicism but not by almost every Protestant.
2. Testament means "covenant" or "contract."
3. The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors from all walks of life: shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests, philosophers and kings.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

 - Despite these differences in occupation and the span of years it took to write it, the Bible is an extremely cohesive and unified book.
 - Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, referred to as the Pentateuch; the foundation of the Bible.
 - The Apostle Paul wrote 14 books (over half) of the New Testament.
 - All of the authors, with the exception of Luke and Titus, were Jewish in culture and mindset. It is safe to assume that this was the perspective of their inspiration.
4. The Bible over a period of some 1,500 years, from around 1450 B.C. (the time of Moses) to about 100 A.D. (following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ).
5. The chronological age of the Bible is as follows:
 - Many scholars agree that Job is the oldest book in the Bible, written by an unknown Israelite about 1500 B.C.
 - Others hold that the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), written by Moses, are the oldest books in the Bible, written between 1446 and 1406 B.C.
 - The book of Malachi, the newest Old Testament book, was written about 400 B.C.
 - The Epistle of James is the considered the earliest New Testament book written as early as A.D. 45. This is before the four gospel records were penned.
 - The Book of Revelation is the youngest book of the New Testament, written about 95 A.D.
6. The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek.
7. John Wycliffe translated The Bible into English in 1382 A.D.
8. The Bible was printed in 1454 A.D. by Johannes Gutenberg, who invented the "type mold" for the printing press. It was the first book ever printed.

B. How was the "Canon" of Scripture determined?

New Testament

1. The entire New Testament, as we know it today, was canonized before the year 375 A.D. The Old Testament had previously been canonized by the Jewish scribes and authors long before the advent of Christ.

Introduction to the Bible

- "Canon" is derived from the Greek word "Kanon," signifying a measuring rod. This means the Bible has been measured by a standard or test for its divine inspiration and authority.
 - It became the collection of books or writings accepted by the apostles and leadership of the early Christian church as a basis for Christian belief. It is the standard by which all Christians throughout the ages live and worship.
 - The litmus test for the canonization of the New Testament was that it had to be written by an Apostle who had been with Jesus or by someone who received their input from an apostle.
2. All New Testament writings that made it into the Canon of Scripture had to meet one of the following criteria:
 - It had to be authored by an Apostle, a recognized associate of an Apostle, or a relative of Jesus, (i.e., James and Jude)
 - It had to contain divinely inspired truths that could be taught as Christian doctrine.
 3. No books written after the Apostles' death were considered for the New Testament Canon. Other writings of the time were recognized as inspirational documents suitable for reading aloud in church services. This was primarily because of their edifying nature. Ultimately, only Apostolic documents were considered authoritative to be used as a basis of faith and practice.

Old Testament

1. The Old Testament was copied through the generations by scribes. It was fragmented into the Greek **Septuagint** and the **Hebrew**.
2. The Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1948 were a complete Old Testament copy with few exceptions. The significance of the find was that it was able to validate the Hebrew source, which derived modern translations. The accuracy of these copies was paramount.
3. In 1534 Martin Luther translated the original Greek and Hebrew into the Latin Vulgate. (i.e., Roman Catholic translation). The apocryphal books were not in the Hebrew Bible, so he translated them last and placed them between the New and Old Testaments.
4. Miles Coverdale followed the same pattern when he put out the first printed English Bible the next year, 1535.

Introduction to the Bible

C. The Didache

“The *Didache* (/ˈdɪdəkiː/; Koine Greek: Διδαχή) or *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (*Didachē* means "Teaching")^[1] is a brief early Christian treatise, dated by most scholars to the mid to late first century.

The first line of this treatise is "*Teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles (or Nations) by the Twelve Apostles*"^[2]

The text, parts of which constitute the oldest surviving written catechism, has three main sections dealing with Christian ethics, rituals such as baptism and Eucharist, and Church organization. It is considered the first example of the *genre* of the Church Orders.

The work was considered by some of the Church Fathers as part of the New Testament^[3] but rejected as spurious or non-canonical by others,^[4] eventually not accepted into the New Testament canon. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church's "broader canon" includes the Didascalia, which draws on the *Didache*.

Lost for centuries, a Greek manuscript of the *Didache* was rediscovered in 1873 by Philotheos Bryennios, Metropolitan of Nicomedia in the Codex Hierosolymitanus. A Latin version of the first five chapters was discovered in 1900 by J. Schlecht.^[5] The *Didache* is considered part of the category of second-generation Christian writings known as the Apostolic Fathers.

Notes:

1. Strong's G1322 *Didache*: instruction (the act or the matter): – doctrine, hath been taught.
2. Greek: Διδαχή κυρίου διὰ τῶν δώδεκα ἀποστόλων τοῖς ἔθνεσιν
3. Rufinus, *Commentary on Apostles Creed* 37 (as Deuterocanonical) c. 380; John of Damascus *Exact Exposition of Orthodox Faith* 4.17; and the 81-book canon of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
4. Athanasius, *Festal Letter* 39 (excludes them from the canon, but recommends them for reading) in 367; Rejected by 60 Books Canon and by Nicephorus in *Stichometria*
5. John Chapman (1913). "Didache". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache>

For completed research for the "Didache," refer to the above website.

Introduction to the Bible

D. Interesting Facts about the Bible

1. **What is the longest book in the Bible?**

The book of Psalms. -150 chapters

2. **What is the shortest book in the Bible?**

2 John

3. **What is the longest chapter in the Bible?**

Psalm 119 -117 verses

Psalm 119:88 is the halfway point in the whole Bible

Psalms 119:88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,
So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth

4. **What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?**

Psalm 117 - 2 verses

Psalms 117:1-2

1 Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!

Laud Him, all you peoples!

2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us,

And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord

5. **What is the longest verse in the Bible?**

90 words

Esther 8:9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, a hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

6. **What is the shortest verse in the Bible?**

2 words

John 11:35 "Jesus wept."

7. **Which book in the Bible does not mention the word "God?"**

The book of Esther.

8. **Who was the oldest man that ever lived?**

Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old (Genesis 5:27).

9. **Who were the two men in the Bible who never died but were caught up to heaven?**

- Enoch, who walked with God and was no more (Genesis 5:22-24).
- Elijah, who was caught up by a whirlwind into heaven (II Kings 2:11).

10. **Who does the Bible say was the meekest man in the Bible (not including Jesus)?**

Moses (Numbers 12:3).

11. **How many languages has the Bible been translated into?**

The Holy Bible has been translated into 2,018 languages, with countless more partial translations, and audio translations (for unwritten languages). (This is an enormous amount of translations. In comparison, Shakespeare, considered by many to be the master writer of the English language, has only been translated into 50 languages.)

Introduction to the Bible

E. The Bible is still the Best Selling Book in the World

Rank	Title	Author	Copies Sold (millions)
1	<i>The Bible</i>	40 authors	5,000 - 6,000
2	<i>Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong</i>	Mao Zedong	900
3	<i>The Qur'an</i>	Given to Mohammad, who was illiterate, by the Angel Gabriel	800
4	<i>Xinhua Zidian [Chinese Dictionary]</i>	n/a	400
5	<i>The Book of Mormon</i>	Joseph Smith, Jr.	120
6	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>	J.K. Rowling	107
7	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Agatha Christie	100
8	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	100
9	<i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i>	J.K. Rowling	65
10	<i>The Da Vinci Code</i>	Dan Brown	65
11	<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	J.K. Rowling	60
12	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	J.D. Salinger	60
13	<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>	J.K. Rowling	55
14	<i>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</i>	J.K. Rowling	55
15	<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	J.K. Rowling	55
16	<i>Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ</i>	Lew Wallace	50
17	<i>Heidi's Years of Wandering and Learning</i>	Johanna Spyri	50
18	<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paulo Coelho	50
19	<i>The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care</i>	Dr. Benjamin Spock	50
20	<i>The Little Prince</i>	Antoine de Saint-Exupéry	50
21	<i>The Mark of Zorro</i>	Johnston McCulley	50

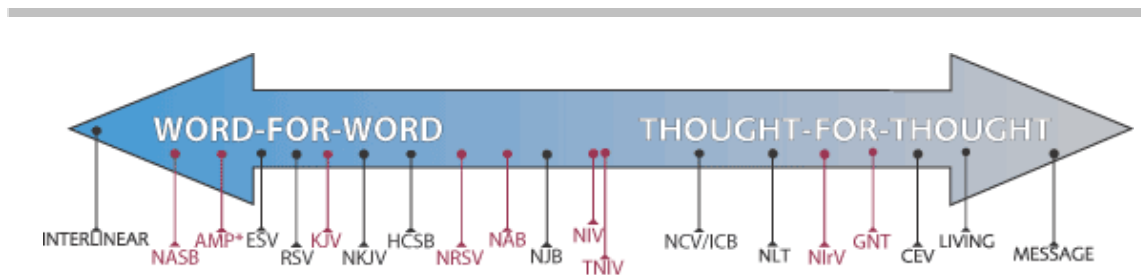
References:

American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023
 Halley, Henry H. Halley's Bible Handbook (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1927, 1965).
 Maxwell, Arthur. Your Bible And You (Washington D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1959).
 Mickelson, A. Berkley, and Alvera. Understanding Scripture (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1982, 1992).
 Unger, Merrill F. TH.D., PH.D. Unger's Bible Handbook (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967)

Introduction to the Bible

F. What is the difference between the translations of the Bible?

1. There are three different approaches used to translate the Bible.
 - **Literal Translation** – seeks a word-for-word rendering from the Textus Receptus of “Received Text.” There are no “original Greek” manuscripts. ALL New Testament writings were copies of the original gospels or epistles.
These include the King James Version, New King James Version and the New American Standard Version, and Young’s Literal Translation, etc.
 - **Free Translation** –The attempt is to create the same sense of the content of the original but not necessarily the same grammatical form of the closeness of words. These include the New International Version (combines Literal & Free), the New Jerusalem Bible, Today’s English Version, etc.
 - **Paraphrase Translation** – this is not a true translation but more like a minister would speak in the vernacular common to the hearer. It is in the writer’s own words and not the wording or form of the Greek text. It is more like reading a commentary than an actual translation. The most popular paraphrase is The Living Bible. Others include The Message Bible and The Book. These can be considered supplemental and useful to understand what is being said.
2. Strong’s Concordance and almost every other Lexicon is based on the King James Version when it comes to defining the meaning of both Hebrew and Greek words.



Translation Comparison Chart

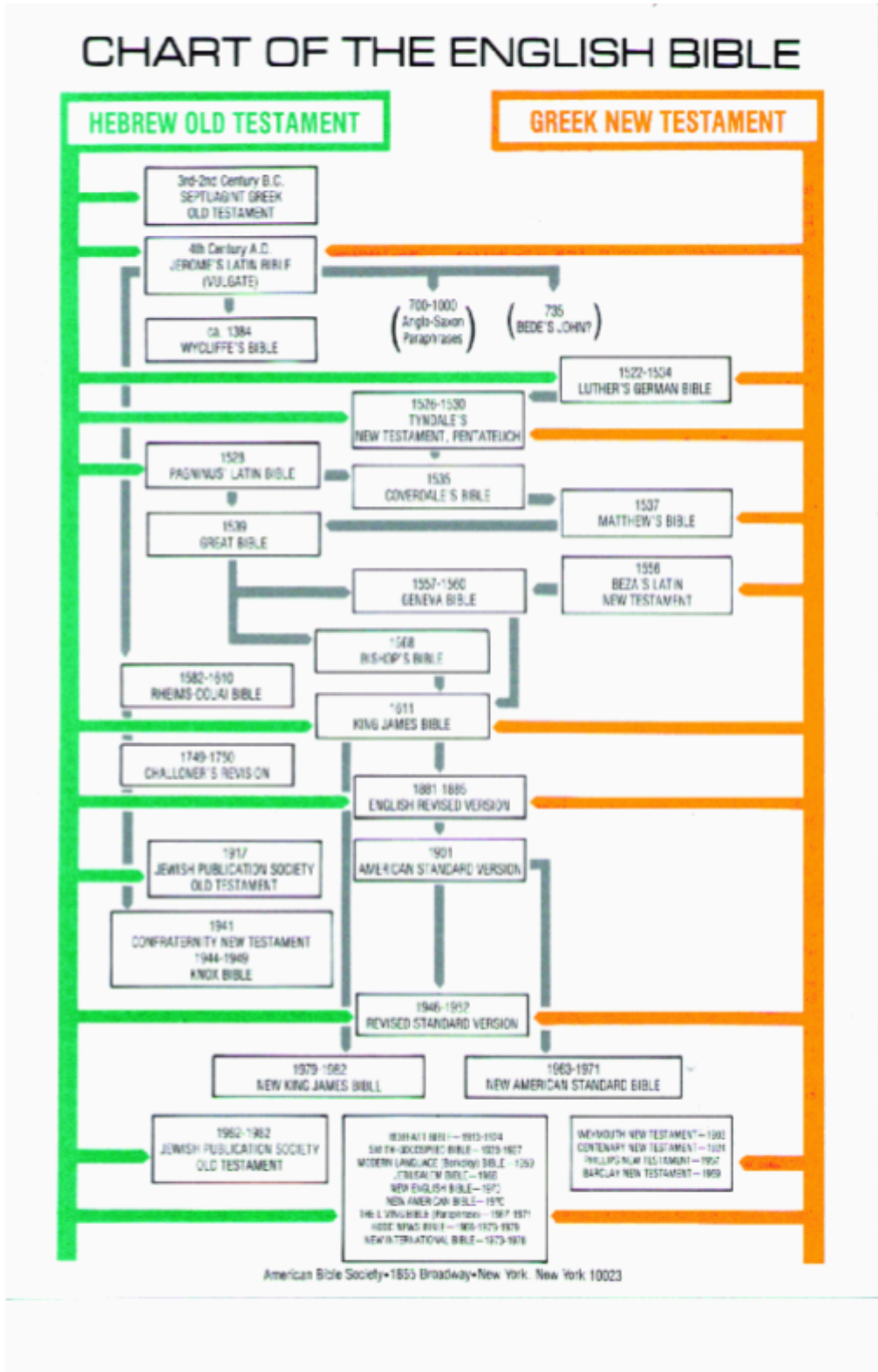
Above chart taken from <http://www.zondervanbibles.com/translations.htm>

NASB	New American Standard Bible (1971; update 1995)	NIV	New International Version (1984)
AMP	Amplified Bible (1965)	TNIV	Today’s New International Version (NT 2001, OT 2005)
ESV	English Standard Version (2001)	NCV	New Century Version
RSV	Revised Standard Version (1952)	NLT ¹	New Living Translation (1 st ed. 1996; 2 nd ed. 2004)
KJV	King James Version (1611; significantly revised 1769)	NIrV	New International reader’s Version
NKJV	New King James Version (1982)	GNT	Good News Translation (also Good News Bible)
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Version (2004)	CEV	Contemporary English Version
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version (1989)	Living	Living Bible (1950). Paraphrase by Ken Taylor. Liberal treatment of ‘blood.’
NAB	New American Bible (Catholic, 1970, 1986 (NT), 1991 (Psalms))	Message	The Message by Eugene Peterson (1991-2000s)
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic,		

Introduction to the Bible

1986; revision of 1966 Jerusalem Bible)	
---	--

G. Development of the New Testament to Modern Times



Introduction to the Bible

H. Terminology

1. **Inspiration** – The Divine influence of God that caused the writers of the scripture to be infallible in their communication of truth
2. **Illumination** – Divine quickening by the Holy Spirit to the mind and heart of man, enabling him to understand the truth already revealed.
3. **Revelation** – “An uncovering. The communication of the knowledge of God to the soul (heart)” - W.E. Vines
4. **Preservation** – Refers to God’s ability to preserve, intact, the written record of His Word through the centuries.
5. **Koine Greek** –the language the New Testament was originally written. It was the common tongue of the common people of that day.
6. **Autographs** – refers to the “original manuscript” written by the original author. i.e. Paul’s letter to the Romans was written and hand-signed by Paul (Logos News, p. 4)
7. **Textual** – refers to the various Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament. A “textual reading” is the reading of a particular manuscript, or group of manuscripts, especially where it differs from others. (USB Handbook, pg. 173)
8. **Textual Criticism** – Currently, we have over 5,000 early Greek manuscript portions and over 20,000 early translations of the New Testament. For the most part, all agree, with the exception of a few places. Where there is a difference, a decision is made as to which reading is the most likely original reading. This process is called “*Textual Criticism*.” (Elgin L. Hushbeck, Jr, Affirm Magazine, pgs. 10, 11)

I. Other Terms to Know

1. **Papyrus** –the earliest form of paper made from the stems of reeds
2. **Codex** – Writing material that was folded and fastened together on one side. It was much like our modern books. It replaced the scroll in the 2nd Century A.D.
3. **Parchment** – Skins of sheep or goats that were cleaned and treated so it could be written upon. Many times it was bonded into a codex.
4. **Scribe** – A secretary who was responsible for copying manuscripts (scriptures). A scribe could count the number of lines and words and compare them with the original text. (USB, Handbook)
5. **Jot & Tittle** – From Matthew 5:18, the “jot” is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The “tittle” is the tiniest part of the letter.
6. **Aramaic** – The language that was widespread in Southwest Asia before the time of Christ. It became the common language of the Jewish people in place of Hebrew, which is closely related. Jesus spoke Aramaic. (HSB Handbook, pg. 164)
7. **Apocrypha** –means “hidden.” A total of fourteen books or parts of books written between 200 BC and 100 AD. The Catholic bible includes 12 of these books, which are rejected by Protestants.

Introduction to the Bible

Synopsis of the OLD TESTAMENT

Book	Date	Author	Written to	Synopsis
Genesis	1450-1410 BC	Moses	Hebrews	Describes the creation; gives the history of the old world before the Flood. Introduces Israel's Patriarchs. Introduces the doctrines found throughout the OT & NT.
Exodus	1450-1410 BC	Moses	Hebrews	The history of Israel's departure from Egypt; the giving of the law; the tabernacle.
Leviticus	1450-1410 BC	Moses	Hebrews	Ceremonial law
Numbers	1450-1410 BC	Moses	Hebrews	Census of the people; the story of the wanderings in the wilderness.
Deuteronomy	1450-1410 BC	Moses	Hebrews	Law rehearsed; the death of Moses.
Joshua	1400-1370 BC	Joshua	Hebrews	The conquest and partition of Canaan.
Judges	1050-1000 BC	Uncertain (Samuel?)	Hebrews	The history of the nation from Joshua to Samson. Describes the warfare, as the Hebrews tried to complete the occupation of the land. The book serves as a link between the conquest of Palestine and the monarchy. This was a period of turbulence in Israel's history
Ruth	1000 BC	Uncertain (Samuel?)	Israel	Describes the ancestors of the royal family of Judah. Traces Ruth, a gentile, to the ancestry of King David. It is marked by an oasis of faithfulness towards God during an age of idolatry and unfaithfulness by others outside of Israel. Closes with the death of King Saul.
1 Samuel	930 BC & later	Samuel & others (Nathan, Gad)	Israel	Describes Israel under Samuel's judgeship and Saul's reign. God uses Samuel to deal with unfaithful Saul and faithful David. Shows the conflict between Saul and David. Tells of Israel's (David's) conquest over Goliath.
2 Samuel	930 BC & later	Samuel & others (Nathan, Gad)	Israel	A history of the reign of David, his rise to the throne and his life and death. Establishment of Jerusalem as Israel's political, religious, and social center. Tells of the exploits, triumphs, and personal defeats of King David. Talks of the important covenant between God and David and his posterity.
1 Kings	550 BC	Jeremiah	Israel	The books of Kings form only one book in the Hebrew MSS. They contain the history of the kings of both Israel and Judah, from King Solomon to the Babylonian captivity. It abruptly ends with the reign of King Ahaziah in 853 BC. It shows what happens when a nation or king depends on even a measure of God's law. The failure resulted in decline and captivity. This was the peak of Israel's history; the golden years. The Temple was built and dedicated. The Queen of Sheba visited, and Elijah's ministry confronting the priests of Baal took place during this time
2 Kings	550 BC	Jeremiah	Israel	Traces the decline of the kings and kingdom of both Israel and Judah. After 130 years, civil war divided the nation into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah),

Introduction to the Bible

				<p>leading to the Assyrian captivity. This created the Samaritan (Jewish-Syrian), who were considered half-breed and not pure Jews from this point forward. Briefly told is the history of Judah, culminating in the Babylonian captivity.</p> <p>Records the miracles of Elisha and revivals under Kings Hezekiah and Josiah.</p> <p>Amos and Hosea prophesied in Israel. Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah prophesied in Judah.</p>
1 Chronicles	450-425 BC	Ezra	Israel	<p>The title means “the words (affairs) of the days.” Focuses heavily on genealogies and the reign of King David. Complied to emphasize the importance of racial and religious purity, the proper place for the law, the Temple, and the priesthood.</p> <p>Ezra led a group of exiles back to Jerusalem in 458 BC</p>
2 Chronicles	450-425 BC	Ezra	Israel	<p>Both Chronicles covered the same period as 1 & 2 Kings. 2 Kings focuses on the kings of Judah while excluding those of Israel.</p>
Ezra	450-444 BC	Ezra	Israel	<p>Describes the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity, and of the rebuilding of the temple.</p>
Nehemiah	445-425 BC	Nehemiah	Israel	<p>Another account of the rebuilding of the temple and Jerusalem. It contains the obstacles and resistance that was encountered and overcome.</p>
Esther	465 BC	Unknown	Israel	<p>A presentation of a Jewess who becomes queen of Persia and saves the Jewish people from destruction. The name of God is mentioned nowhere in this book, although His oversight and providence are evident throughout.</p>
Job	Uncertain	Uncertain	Israel	<p>Job is the oldest book in the Bible. It tells the trials and patience of Job, a holy man of Edom. It presents the universal question, “Why good or righteous people suffer, if God is a God of love and mercy?”.</p> <p>The book presents the need to strip oneself of all self-righteousness and decide to trust in God regardless of the situation. This book also gives some insight into Satan. This book was written before the Promises of Abraham, the Flood, the formation of the Patriarchs of Israel, and the Law of Moses.</p>
Psalms	Various times	David, Solomon, sons of Korah, Asaph, Heman, Ethan, Moses	Israel	<p>A collection of songs, laments, and praises intended for use in the worship of Jehovah. Unlike Western poetry or rhyme and meter, Psalms is based on rhythm and parallelism. Rhythm is achieved by tonal stress or accent on important words. Parallelism is achieved by stating a theme in the first lines and then repeating it in succeeding lines.</p> <p>Psalms include prophecies concerning the Promised Messiah of Israel. (2, 8, 16, 22, 40, 45, 72, 110, 118)</p>
Proverbs	950-700 BC	Solomon & others	Israel	<p>A collection of wise sayings where a person may guide their lives. Almost every facet of the relationship to God and to people is found in this book.</p>
Ecclesiastes	935 BC	Solomon	Israel	<p>The title means “preacher.” It is derived from the word “assembly.” The book looks at the aimless cycles of life (vanity) and the inexplicable paradoxes, the enjoyment of life given by God and the wisdom of obedience to God who will eventually</p>

Introduction to the Bible

				judge all men.
Solomon's Song	935 BC	Solomon	Israel	An allegory relating to Jesus and his love for the church. It speaks of intimacy and love.
Isaiah	740-680 BC	Isaiah	Judah	Isaiah was born in an influential upper-class family who had a relationship with royalty. His prophecies gave advice in foreign affairs, warning not to trust them as allies but to trust God alone. Tradition says that he lived in Jerusalem and was martyred by being sawn in two after being placed in a hollow log. .Isaiah has been called the “evangelical prophet” because of his prophecies respecting Christ and his coming kingdom. More is found here than any other book of the Old Testament.
Jeremiah	627-585 BC	Jeremiah	Judah	Commanded not to marry, Jeremiah was called the “weeping prophet,” the “prophet of loneliness”, and the “reluctant prophet”. He endured imprisonment, beatings, and constant opposition while prophesying apostate Judah’s unfaithfulness to God. Prophecies announcing the captivity of Judah, its sufferings, and the final overthrow of its enemies. He died in Egypt.
Lamentations	586-585 BC	Jeremiah	Jews in Palestine	Lamentations means “to cry loudly”. The utterance of Jeremiah’s sorrow upon Jerusalem’s capture and the temple’s destruction.
Ezekiel	592-570 BC	Ezekiel	Jews in Babylon	Ezekiel was from the priestly family, Levites, whose name means “God Strengthens.” Messages of warning and comfort to the Jews in their captivity in Babylon. Reminded the people of the sins that brought them into captivity while reassuring them of God’s future deliverance, blessing, and the restoration of the temple. There are important Messianic sections in this book.
Daniel	537 BC	Daniel	Jews in Babylon	Daniel’s name means “God is my Judge.” A statesman-prophet who narrates some of the occurrences of the captivity and details many prophecies concerning both the First & Second Advents of Christ and future events of Israel. It also contains timelines for the Redemption and Restoration of all things.
Hosea	710 BC	Hosea	Israel	Prophesied to the Northern Kingdom (Israel). His prophecies related to Christ and the latter days. He was told to marry a harlot as a demonstration to Israel of their abandonment of God. Some say it was just an allegory with no historical proof.
Joel	835 BC	Joel	Judah	The name means “Yahweh is God”. Prediction of woes upon Judah, and of the favor with which God will receive the penitent people. Predicted the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on ALL flesh, an event which had never happened before.
Amos	755 BC	Amos	Judah	Prophecies concerning Israel and other neighboring nations will be punished by conquerors from the north and of the fulfillment of the Messiah's kingdom. Preached against social and moral evils and pagan worship in the nation.
Obadiah	841-586 BC	Obadiah	Judah	Prophecies of the desolation of Edom because of her prideful rejoicing over the misfortunes that befell Jerusalem.
Jonah	760 BC	Jonah	Israel	This book is believed by some to be an allegory instead of a historical writing. Jesus made reference to the resurrection using Jonah and the great fish. Prophecies relating to Nineveh, their repentance, and God’s ultimate choice to have mercy independent of man’s choice to show judgment.

Introduction to the Bible

Micah	700 BC	Micah	Judah	Predictions relating to the invasions of Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, the Babylonian captivity, the establishment of a theocratic kingdom in Jerusalem, and the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. He also prophesied about the future glory of Israel.
Nahum	630-312 BC	Nahum	Assyria	Name means "consolation". Prediction of the downfall of Assyria. Jonah had converted the nation (Assyrians) to God 100 years earlier, but they failed to transmit this knowledge to their children which results in cruel and heathen practices.
Habakkuk	606-604 BC	Habakkuk	Judah/ Chaldeans	Name means "embracer" because of his love for God. Predicted God's judgment on Judah with the upcoming Babylonian captivity. A prediction also of the doom of the Chaldeans.
Zephaniah	625 BC	Zephaniah	Judah	A prophet of noble birth, he spoke of pending judgment of Judah as the central theme. He initially brought revival under King Josiah but the people reverted after Josiah's death.
Haggai	520 BC	Haggai	Judah	Name means "feast". A contemporary to Zechariah his prophecies called for the rebuilding of the temple.
Zechariah	520-518 BC	Zechariah	Judah	Prophecies relating to the rebuilding of the temple and the Messiah. His predictions about Jesus are more than any other prophet. He predicted His first and second comings.
Malachi	450-100 BC	Malachi	Judah	Name means "my messenger". Rebuked the people for their unfaithfulness to God. Prophecies relating to the calling of the Gentiles and the coming of Christ.

Introduction to the Bible

Synopsis of the NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	50-60 AD	Matthew (Levi)	Jews	The theme is "Christ the King" and the kingdom of God
Mark	50-60 AD	John Mark	Gentiles	The theme is "Christ the Servant". Its emphasis is on "what Jesus did" rather than "what He said". Exclude is the genealogy of Jesus because of the Gentile readership. It would have no meaning to them. He was a close friend of Peter and he received much of his information from the Gospel of Peter. He also traveled with Paul and Barnabas.
Luke	60 AD	Luke	Written to Theophilus slanted towards Gentiles	The theme is "Christ the Son Of Man," showing Jesus's humanity and emotions. He is given to much detail because of his medical observation skills. His work can be seen as carefully researched and documented. There is considerable effort in showing Jesus's most important acts and discourses.
John	85-90 AD	John the Apostle	Jews	Presented Jesus as the "Son of God", the "Word of God", the "Messiah," and the "Anointed One." More "I am's" are found in this gospel. There are no parables and only seven miracles of which five are not found in the other gospels. It is the most theological representation of Jesus Christ of the four. The life of Christ, giving important discourses not related by the other evangelists.
Acts of the Apostles	61 AD	Luke	Written to Theophilus it is slanted towards Gentiles	Gives an eyewitness account of the spread of Christianity and the growth of the early church. It covers a total of 30 years. The gospel was preached only to the Jews in the first 12 chapters and the remainder speaks of the Gentile conversions to Christ with Paul being converted. Early church doctrines are first developed here and the principles of missionary work are found. This book also shows how the Holy Spirit worked with the early church to establish the gospel.
Romans	57-58 AD	Paul	Roman Believers mostly Gentile	A treatise by St. Paul on the doctrine of justification by Christ in a systematic approach. The main theme is the righteousness of God. It discussed basic doctrines such as justification, faith-righteousness, the universality of sin, union with Christ, the role of Israel, spiritual gifts, and respect for government authority.
1 Corinthians	55 AD	Paul	Gentile	This letter corrects problems and errors into which they had fallen. It talks about the influences of idolatrous society and the doctrine of new birth. The most complete explanation of spiritual gifts is found. The doctrine of the resurrection and the Lord's cup is also included.
2 Corinthians	56 AD	Paul	Gentile	Paul confirms his joy at the church's response to him and his authority as the founding apostle and teacher. He reminds them of their commitment to the saints in Jerusalem. It contains many personal and autobiographical insights into Paul's life.
Galatians	49-50 AD	Paul	Gentile	The most practical letter which addresses a group of people who started out in the spirit and have gone back under the law. They were adding things to grace because of "Judaizers" who had come into their midst claiming the need for circumcision and observance of feasts. Grace and grace alone through faith in Christ is the theme.
Ephesians	61 AD	Paul	Gentiles	The theme is God's will and purpose to establish and complete His body, the church. Doctrines of predestination, Christ's headship, the body as the temple, the mystery of Christ hidden and now revealed. Also, spiritual gifts and the church as the bride of Christ are presented. This is one of the "prison epistles"

Introduction to the Bible

Philippians	61 AD	Paul	Gentiles	Called a joyful letter which was void of correction and full of encouragement. Talked about the relationship with God through humility. Sets forth the beauty of Christian kindness.
Colossians	61 AD	Paul	Gentile	The theme is the supremacy and the all-sufficiency of Christ. Includes Christ's person and work, heresy, and the believer's union with Jesus..
1 Thessalonians	51 AD	Paul	Gentile	Key passages discuss events of the last days; the rapture and the "day of the Lord. Paul exhorts his disciples to continue in the faith and in holy conversation.
2 Thessalonians	51 AD	Paul	Mostly Gentile	Discuss the "man of sin" to be revealed. He corrects an error concerning the speedy coming of Christ the second time.
1 Timothy	63-66 AD	Paul	Timothy as a pastor	St. Paul instructs Timothy in the charge of a pastor, and encourages him in the work of the ministry.
2 Timothy	67 AD	Paul	Timothy as a pastor	Encourages Timothy and talks about the apostasy in the last days, the inspiration of the scriptures and the crown of righteousness awaiting the believer.
Titus	63-68 AD	Paul	Titus	St. Paul encourages Titus in the performance of his ministerial duties. Topics are qualifications of elders, instructions to various age groups, relationships to governments, and the relationship of human works to the Spirit.
Philemon	61 AD	Paul	Philemon	An appeal to a converted master to receive a converted escaped slave with kindness.
Hebrews	64-68 AD	Uncertain	Mainly Jewish	St. Paul maintains the superiority and priesthood of Christ to the law. Talks about why the New Covenant.
James	45-50 AD	James brother of Jesus	Universal	Concerns itself with the practical aspects of the believer's life and how to relate to God through faith. A treatise on the efficacy of faith united with good works.
1 Peter	63-64 AD	Peter	Believers scattered	Defines the "true grace of God" in the life of the Believer (5:12) Exhortations to Christian life, with various warnings and predictions.
2 Peter	66 AD	Peter	Believers scattered	Reminder of the truths of Christianity as opposed to the heresies of false teachers. Talks of the Transfiguration and the inspiration of Scripture and the second coming of Christ
1 John	90 AD	John Apostle	general	Respecting the person of our Lord, and an exhortation to Christian love and conduct. It is a letter of contrast comparing the children of light to the children of darkness. Is the most profound attempt to counter the influence of Gnosticism against the Christian doctrines of the divinity of Christ and His sovereign reign as king.
2 John	90 AD	John Apostle	"Chosen Lady" unknown	St. John warns a converted lady against false teachers. The main teaching is an admonition to walk in Christ's commandments
3 John	90 AD	John Apostle	Gaius	A letter to Gaius, praising him for his hospitality.
Jude	70-80 AD	Jude Brother of James	To the Church	Warnings against deceivers. Condemns heresies and exhorts believers to contend earnestly for the faith.
Revelation	Mid 90s	John Apostle	To the Church	The revelation of Jesus Christ is central to this book. The future of the Church foretold.