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## What the Bible Is...

### The Bible is...

- Not *a* book, but a *library* of 66 books in two parts:
  - Old Testament (story of God among the ancient Hebrew people)
  - New Testament (story of Jesus and the early church)
- A diverse yet cohesive collection of literature written by many people across many centuries
- Written in Hebrew (OT) and Greek (NT)
- Literature that predates modern history, science, and medicine
- Full of stories that more often pose questions than provide answers
  
- **A way to encounter the living God!**



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## The Word Within the word

*We read the word so that we can hear the Word.*

### The word

Words on a printed page that result from careful translation of the original texts from Hebrew or Greek.

### The Word

Revelation from God, given to a reader of the Bible through careful study, reflection, prayer, service and the witness of the church. The Word transcends all language.



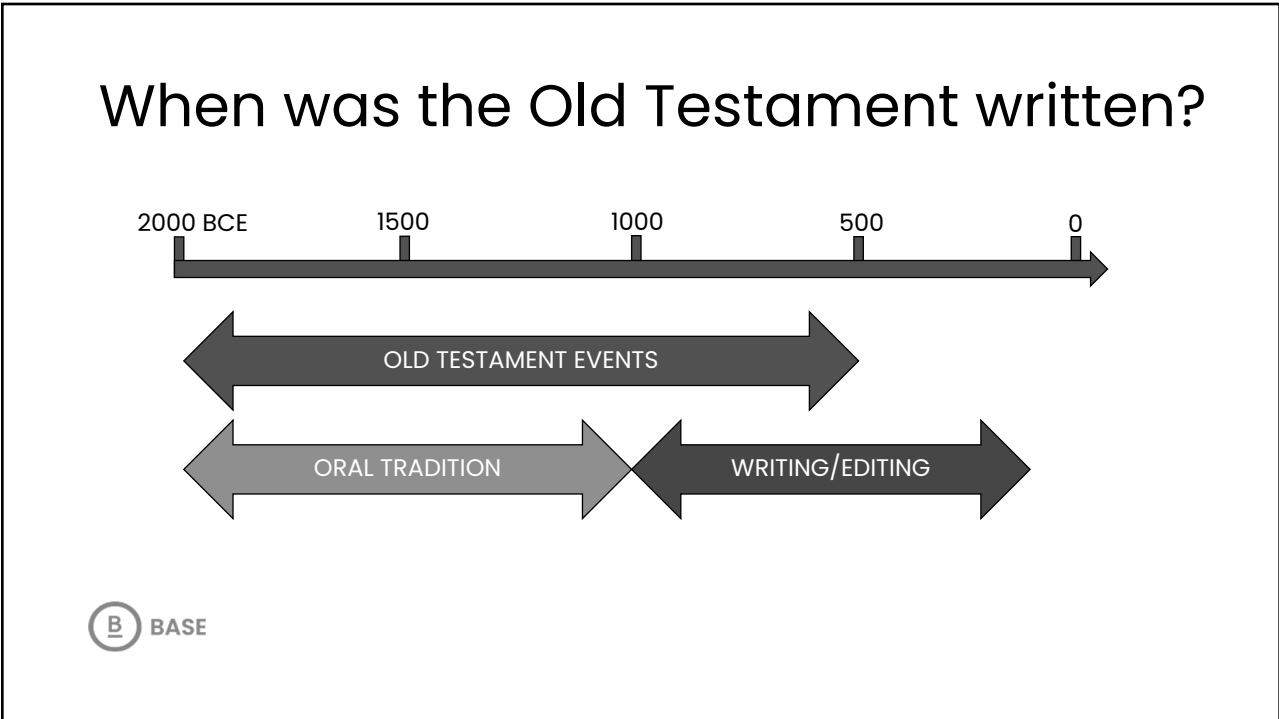
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## Types of Literature in the Old Testament

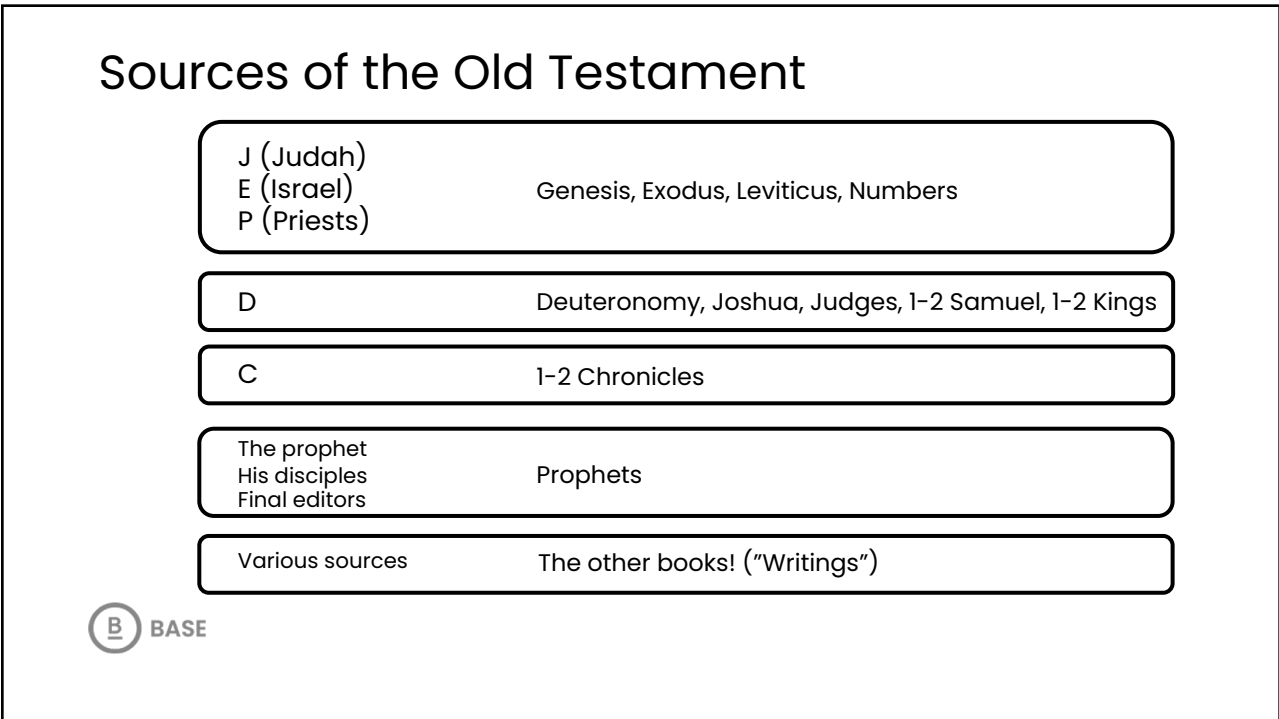
- **Law** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **History** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I-II Samuel, I-II Kings, I-II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah
- **Poetry** Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations
- **Wisdom** Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
- **Narrative** Ruth, Esther
- **Prophecy**
  - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,
  - Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- **Apocalyptic** Daniel



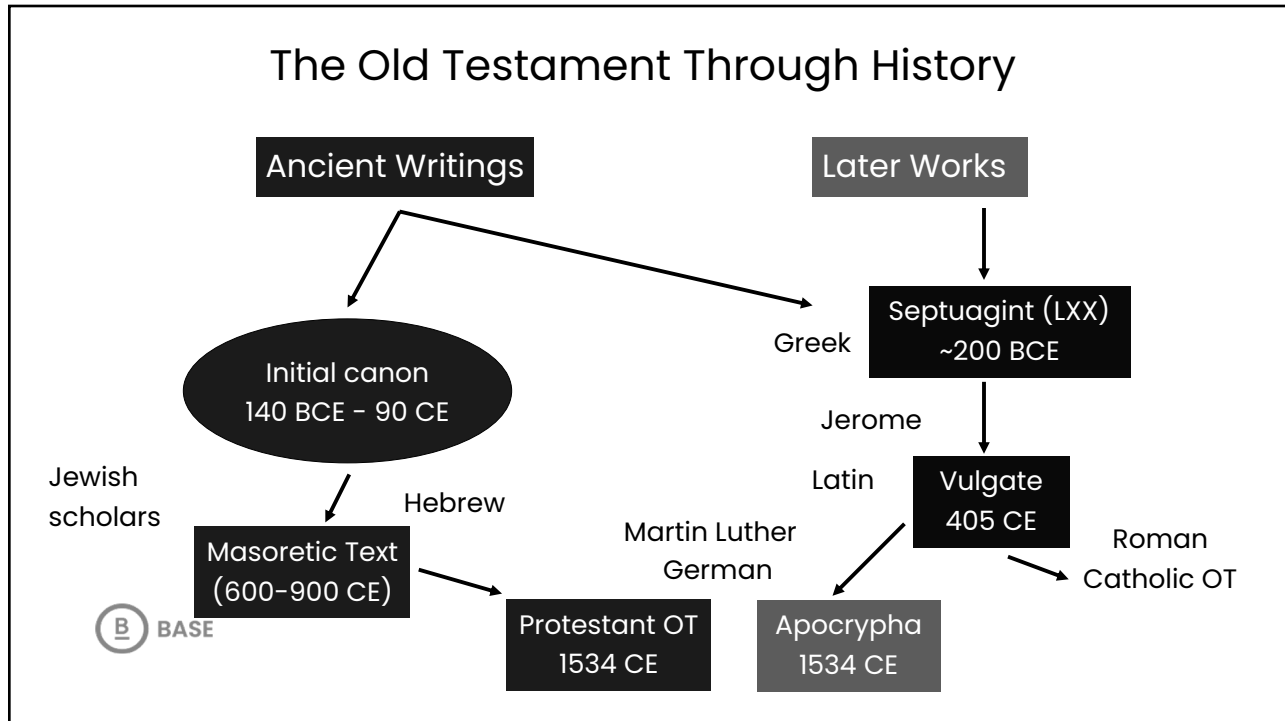
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### Current Old Testaments

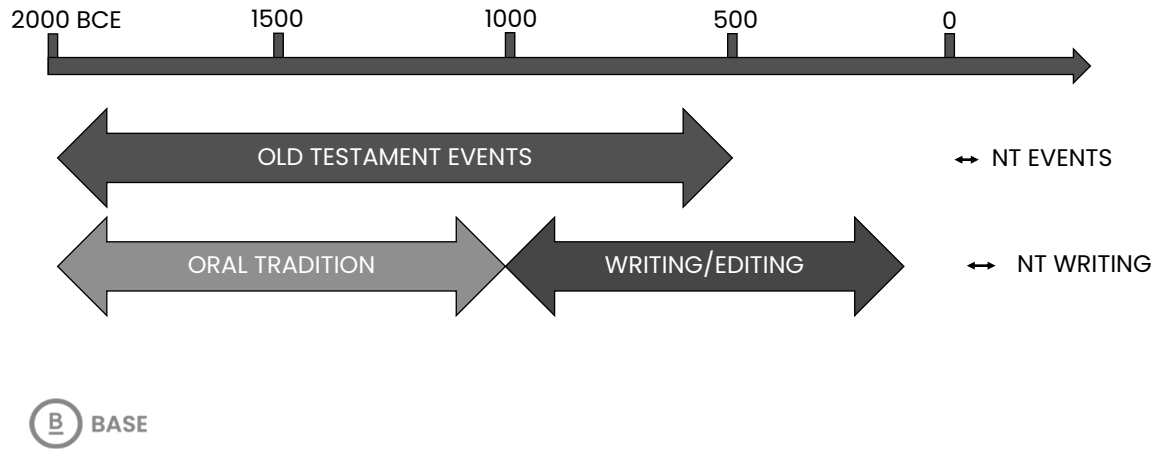
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Testament#Formation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament#Formation)

Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) (24 books) <sup>[c]</sup>	Protestant Old Testament (39 books)	Catholic Old Testament (46 books)	Eastern Orthodox Old Testament (49 books)	Original language
<i>Torah (Law)</i>	<i>Pentateuch or the Five books of Moses</i>			
Bereshit	Genesis	Genesis	Genesis	Hebrew
Shemot	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Hebrew
Vayikra	Leviticus	Leviticus	Leviticus	Hebrew
Bamidbar	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers	Hebrew
Devarim	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Hebrew
<i>Nevi'im (Prophets)</i>	<i>Historical books</i>			
Yehoshua	Joshua	Joshua (Josue)	Joshua (Iesous)	Hebrew
Shoftim	Judges	Judges	Judges	Hebrew
Rut (Ruth) <sup>[d]</sup>	Ruth	Ruth	Ruth	Hebrew
Shmuel	1 Samuel	1 Samuel (1 Kings) <sup>[e]</sup>	1 Samuel (1 Kingdoms) <sup>[f]</sup>	Hebrew
	2 Samuel	2 Samuel (2 Kings) <sup>[e]</sup>	2 Samuel (2 Kingdoms) <sup>[f]</sup>	Hebrew
Melakhim	1 Kings	1 Kings (3 Kings) <sup>[e]</sup>	1 Kings (3 Kingdoms) <sup>[f]</sup>	Hebrew
	2 Kings	2 Kings (4 Kings) <sup>[e]</sup>	2 Kings (4 Kingdoms) <sup>[f]</sup>	Hebrew
Divrei Hayamim (Chronicles) <sup>[d]</sup>	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles (1 Paralipomenon)	1 Chronicles (1 Paralipomenon)	Hebrew
	2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles (2 Paralipomenon)	2 Chronicles (2 Paralipomenon)	Hebrew
			1 Esdras <sup>[g][h]</sup>	Greek
Ezra–Nehemiah <sup>[d]</sup>	Ezra	Ezra (1 Esdras)	Ezra (2 Esdras) <sup>[i][j][k]</sup>	Hebrew and Aramaic
	Nehemiah	Nehemiah (2 Esdras)	Nehemiah (2 Esdras) <sup>[i][j]</sup>	Hebrew
		Tobit (Tobias)	Tobit <sup>[l]</sup>	Aramaic and Hebrew
		Judith	Judith <sup>[l]</sup>	Hebrew
Ester (Esther) <sup>[d]</sup>	Ester	Esther <sup>[k]</sup>	Esther <sup>[k]</sup>	Hebrew
		1 Maccabees (1 Machabees) <sup>[l]</sup>	1 Maccabees <sup>[l]</sup>	Hebrew and Greek <sup>[m]</sup>
		2 Maccabees (2 Machabees) <sup>[l]</sup>	2 Maccabees <sup>[l]</sup>	Greek
			3 Maccabees <sup>[l]</sup>	Greek

**BASE**

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## Adding the New Testament



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## Types of Literature in the New Testament

**Gospel** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**History** Acts

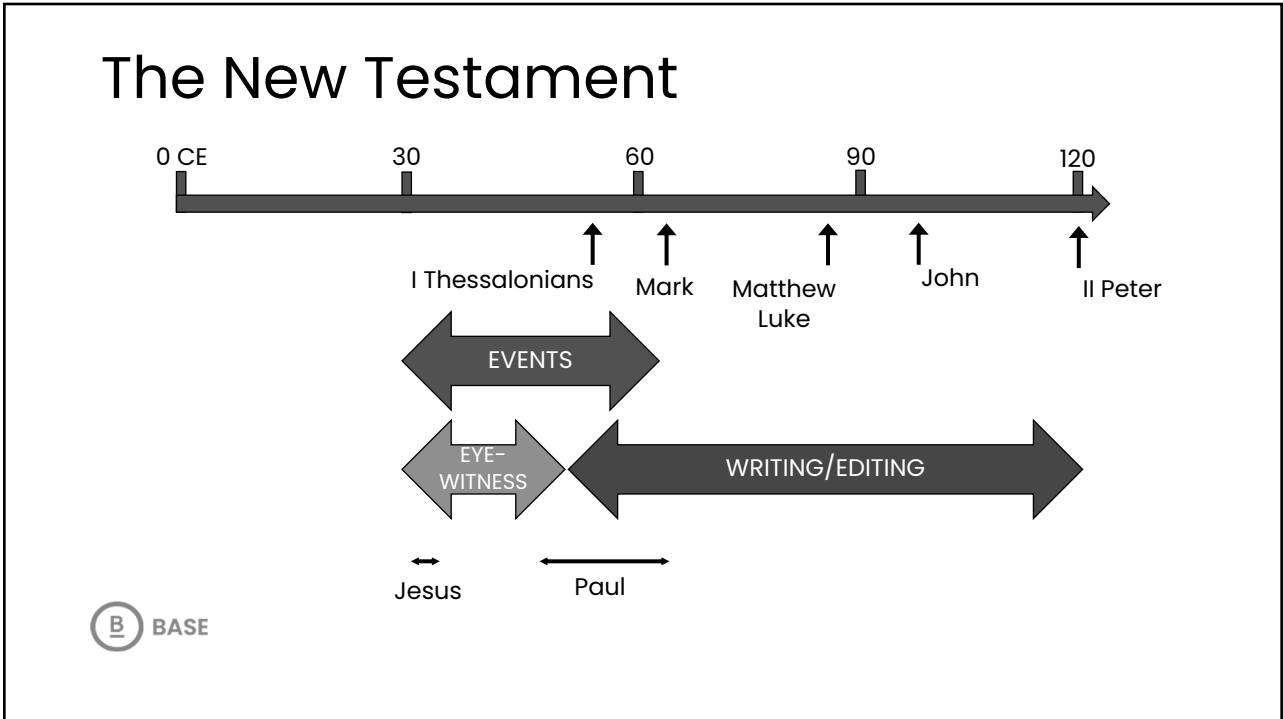
### Letters

- **Paul:** Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon
- **Possibly Paul:** Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus
- **Not Paul:** Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude

**Apocalyptic** Revelation

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## The New Testament Canon

- The current set of 27 New Testament books was first assembled by Athanasius (Bishop of Alexandria) in 367 CE
- All New Testament books were originally written in Greek
- The four canonical Gospels were widely read and respected by many ancient churches
- Many other Gospels and Christian writings existed, but were not included in the canon
- Today all Christians use the same New Testament canon

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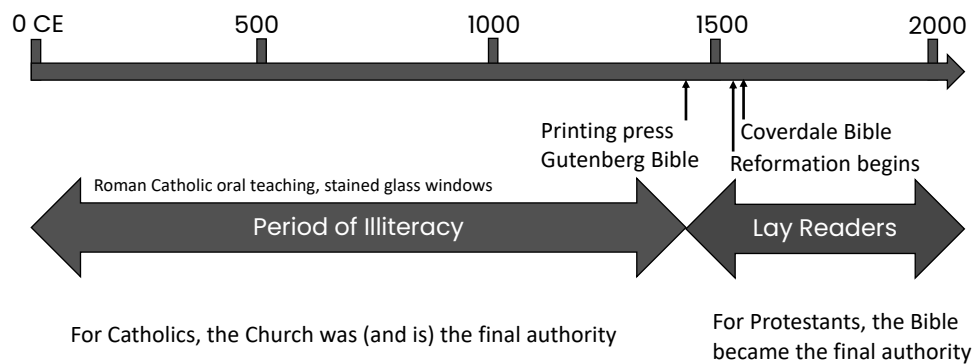
## English Versions of the Bible

- Coverdale Bible (1535) – first complete Bible in English
- King James Version (1611) – the most widespread
- Translations – seek to reproduce the original Hebrew and Greek meanings as much as possible
  - New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
  - New International Version (NIV)
  - Common English Bible (CEB)
- Paraphrases – seek to recast the original languages into modern syntax to clarify meanings
  - The Living Bible
  - The Message



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## How have we read the Bible?



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