



1

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!**



2

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.



3

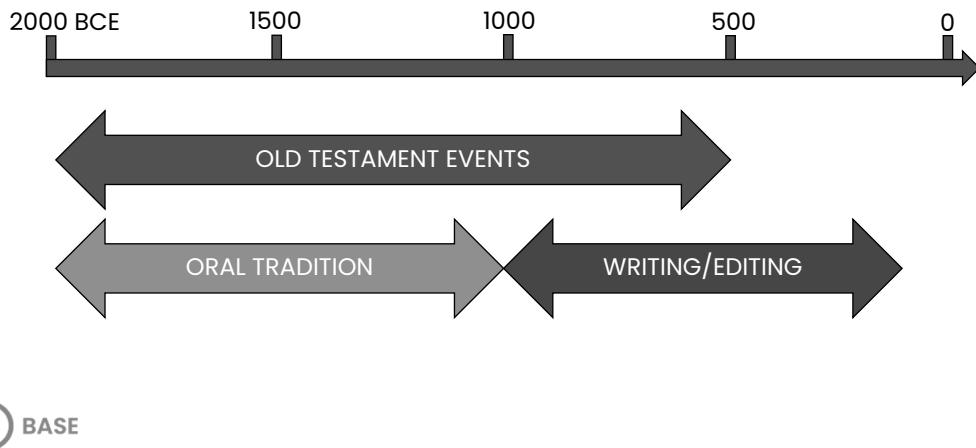
Types of Literature in the Old Testament

- **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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When was the Old Testament written?



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Sources of the Old Testament

J (Judah)
 E (Israel)
 P (Priests) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

D Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings

C 1-2 Chronicles

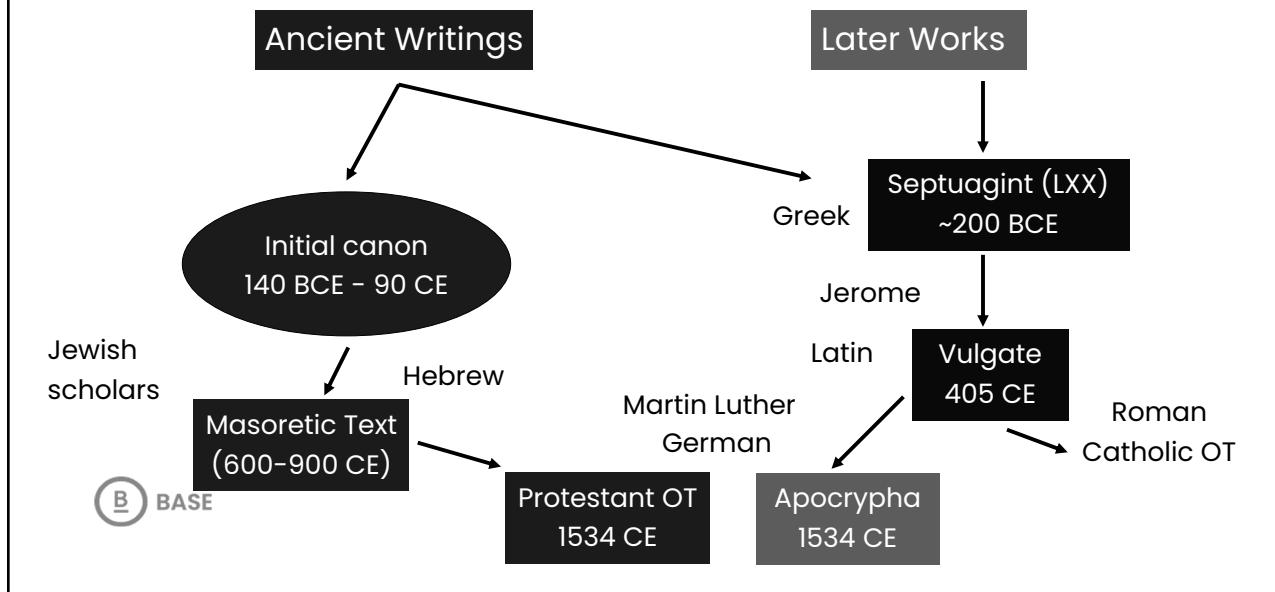
The prophet
 His disciples
 Final editors Prophets

Various sources The other books! ("Writings")

(B) BASE

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The Old Testament Through History



7

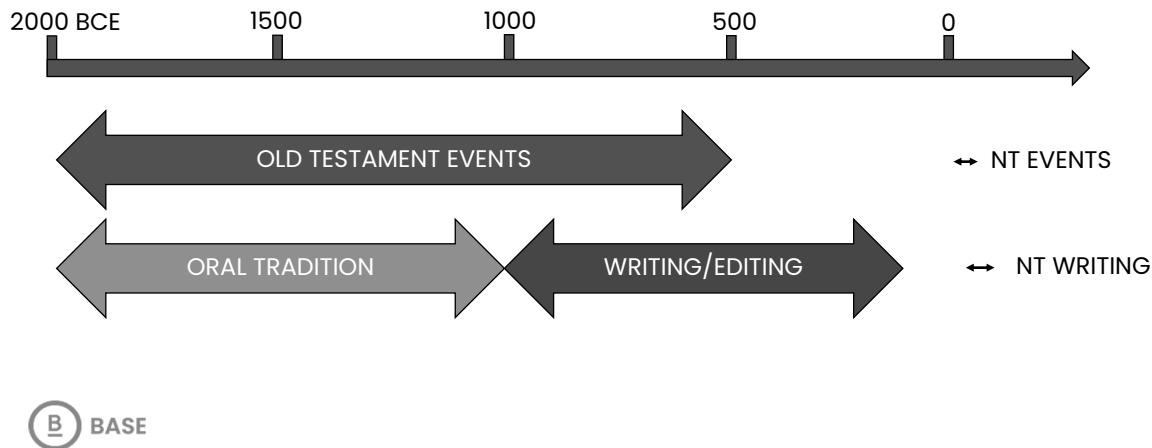
Current Old Testaments

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament#Formation

Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) (24 books) ^[c]	Protestant Old Testament (39 books)	Catholic Old Testament (46 books)	Eastern Orthodox Old Testament (49 books)	Original language
<i>Torah</i> (Law)	Pentateuch or the Five books of Moses			
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</i> (Prophets)	Historical books			
Yehoshua	Joshua	Joshua (Josue)	Joshua (Iesous)	Hebrew
Shoftim	Judges	Judges	Judges	Hebrew
Rut (Ruth) ^[d]	Ruth	Ruth	Ruth	Hebrew
Shmuel	1 Samuel 2 Samuel	1 Samuel (1 Kings) ^[e] 2 Samuel (2 Kings) ^[e]	1 Samuel (1 Kingdoms) ^[f] 2 Samuel (2 Kingdoms) ^[f]	Hebrew
Melakhim	1 Kings 2 Kings	1 Kings (3 Kings) ^[e] 2 Kings (4 Kings) ^[e]	1 Kings (3 Kingdoms) ^[f] 2 Kings (4 Kingdoms) ^[f]	Hebrew
Divrei Hayamim (Chronicles) ^[d]	1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles	1 Chronicles (1 Paralipomenon) 2 Chronicles (2 Paralipomenon)	1 Chronicles (1 Paralipomenon) 2 Chronicles (2 Paralipomenon)	Hebrew
			1 Esdras ^{[g][h]}	Greek
Ezra-Nehemiah ^[d]	Ezra Nehemiah	Ezra (1 Esdras) Nehemiah (2 Esdras)	Ezra (2 Esdras) ^{[i][j]} Nehemiah (2 Esdras) ^{[i][j]}	Hebrew and Aramaic
		Tobit (Tobias)	Tobit ^[g]	Aramaic and Hebrew
		Judith	Judith ^[g]	Hebrew
Ester (Ester) ^[d]	Esther	Esther ^[k]	Esther ^[k]	Hebrew
		1 Maccabees (1 Maccabees) ^[l] 2 Maccabees (2 Maccabees) ^[l]	1 Maccabees ^[g] 2 Maccabees ^[g] 3 Maccabees ^[g]	Hebrew and Greek ^[m]
				Greek
				Greek

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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

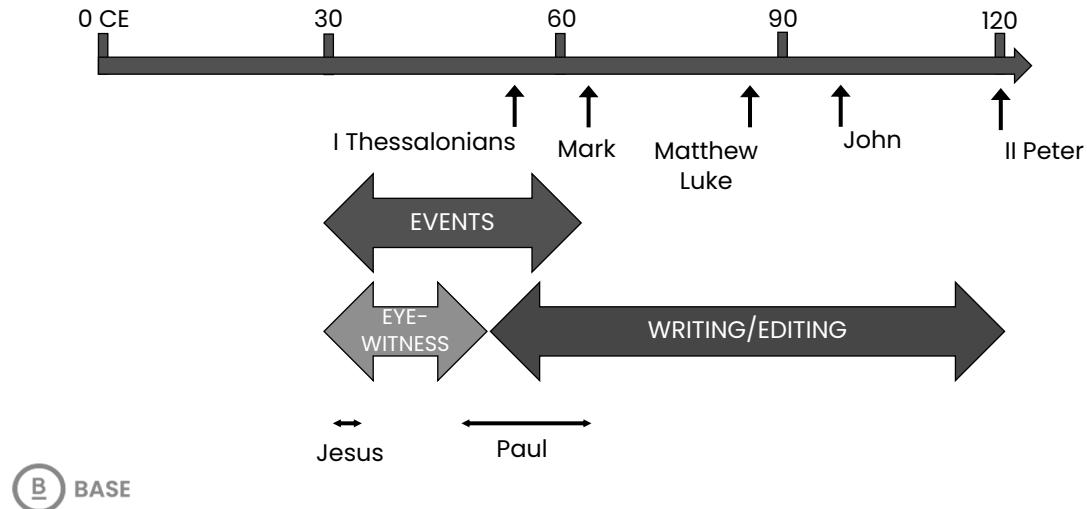
- **Paul:** Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon
- **Possibly Paul:** Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus
- **Not Paul:** Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude

Apocalyptic Revelation

 **BASE**

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The New Testament



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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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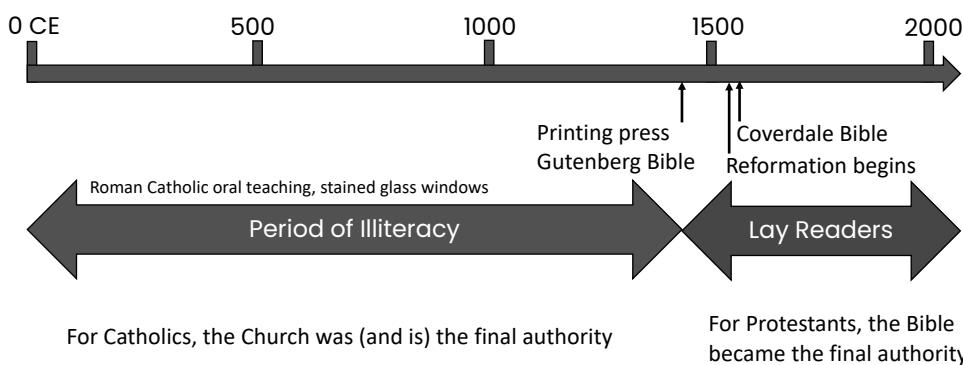
English Versions of the Bible

- 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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