

Bible Study – Wednesday February 22, 2023

Bible Structure

An overview of the origin of the Bible

2 Tim. 3:16

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

2 Peter 1:21

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

2 Tim 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The Book of Books - No two books are just alike

The word bible is originally from the Greek word “biblos” which was the name assigned to the outer coat of a papyrus reed in Egypt during the eleventh century B.C.

The plural form of "biblos" is "biblia" which word the Christians by the second century A.D. were using to describe their writings. (Byblos was a Phoenician city (now ruins in Lebanon) that exported papyrus. From that we get biblos, meaning papyrus, a word that came to be used to mean scroll. The diminutive of biblos in Greek was biblion -- **'little scroll'**.)

The Latin picked up the word, using the same spelling and it was then transliterated into French maintaining the Greek spelling. The English word came from the Old French, changing its ending making the word Bible.

The Bible is composed of 66 books written over a period of about 16-1800 years by 40 different people. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament [or Old Covenant] which consists of 39 books. These Books are divided into 4 general categories:

Books of Law called the Pentateuch or” Torah, the Historical Books, the Poetic Books, and the Prophetic Books.

The New Testament [or New Covenant] has 27 books which is also divided in 4 categories: The Gospels, The Historical Book, The Letters, (Epistles)and The Book of Vision (Prophecy).

Talk about the Bible before the printing Press.

No need for many Bibles before the reformation, which began Oct.31, 1517 (Luther was the leader of the Protestant Reformation; download and read his 95 Theses)

Luther taught Salvation by Grace through faith.

And that salvation was not extended by the Church but received by faith Ep.2:8

The just shall live by faith Ro.1:17, Gal 3:11 Etc.

First printed bible 1450

Luther’s translation 1517-1535, Etc.

Bibles translated into English:

Coverdale Bible 1535 (from Hebrew, Greek, German and Latin

Tyndale Bible 1535 from Hebrew, Greek and relied heavily on the vulgate Bible and the

Wycliffe Bible (which was the first to use chapters)

And later divided into verses in 1555-57 (William Whittingham)

The first English Bible to use chapter and verse is the Geneva Bible (1560)

The King James Bible is the first Bible to be translated solely from the original Hebrew and Greek texts... using 47 Scholars and translators.

The first complete Bible was the Vulgate Bible that was compiled by Saint Jerome at the beginning of the 5th Century!

The Structure or Division Of The Books of The Old Testament

Books of the Law [also called the Pentateuch or Torah]

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Historical Books

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

I & II Samuel

I & II Kings

I & II Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Poetic Books

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Prophetic Books

Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

The Structure or Divisions of the Books of The New Testament

The Gospels

Also called the books of the life (history) of Christ

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

The Historical Book (Of the Church)

Acts

The Letters or Epistles

Romans

I & II Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

I & II Thessalonians

I & II Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

I & II Peter

I, II, & III John

Jude

The Book of Vision
(Prophecy)

Revelation

(The Book of Daniel is the apocalyptic book of the Hebrew bible.) [describing or prophesying the complete destruction of the world.] **Its sister book is the Book of Revelation.** And in fact, the Book of Revelation is largely the Christian interpretation of the Book of Daniel.)

The Bible was written over approximately 1600-1800 years in three different languages, on three different continents, by 40 different authors. The following table lists out the order of the books as they were written. The following dates are not exact because we cannot be exactly sure of the very year of every book. However, they are very good estimates.

Old Testament

Book	Author	Date Written
Genesis	Moses	? – 1445 B.C.
Exodus	Moses	1445 – 1405 B.C.
Leviticus	Moses	1405 B.C.
Numbers	Moses	1444 – 1405 B.C.
Deuteronomy	Moses	1405 B.C.
Joshua	Joshua	1404-1390 B.C.
Judges	Samuel	1374-1129 B.C.
Ruth	Samuel	1150? B.C.
First Samuel	Samuel	1043-1011 B.C.
Second Samuel	Ezra?	1011-1004 B.C.
First Kings	Jeremiah?	971-852 B.C.
Second Kings	Jeremiah?	852-587 B.C.
First Chronicles	Ezra?	450 – 425 B.C.
Second Chronicles	Ezra?	450 – 425 B.C.
Ezra	Ezra	538-520 B.C.
Nehemiah	Nehemiah	445 – 425 B.C.
Esther	Mordecai?	465 B.C.
Job	Job?	??

Psalms	David wrote 73 Psalms	1000? B.C.
	Sons of Korah wrote Psalms 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87; Asaph wrote Psalms 50, 73-83; Heman wrote Psalm 88; Ethan wrote Psalm 89; Hezekiah wrote Psalms 120-123, 128-130, 132, 134-136; Solomon wrote Psalms 72, 127.	
Proverbs	Solomon wrote 1-29 Agur wrote 30 Lemuel wrote 31	950 – 700 B.C.
Ecclesiastes	Solomon	935 B.C.
Song of Solomon	Solomon	965 B.C.
Isaiah	Isaiah	740 – 680 B.C.
Jeremiah	Jeremiah	627 – 585 B.C.
Lamentations	Jeremiah	586 B.C.
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	593-560 B.C.
Daniel	Daniel	605-536 B.C.
Hosea	Hosea	710 B.C.
Joel	Joel	835 B.C.
Amos	Amos	755 B.C.
Obadiah	Obadiah	840 or 586 B.C.
Jonah	Jonah	760 B.C.
Micah	Micah	700 B.C.
Nahum	Nahum	663 – 612 B.C.
Habakkuk	Habakkuk	607 B.C.
Zephaniah	Zephaniah	625 B.C.
Haggai	Haggai	520 B.C.
Zechariah	Zechariah	520 – 518 B.C.
Malachi	Malachi	450 – 600 B.C.

New Testament

Book	Author	Date Written (A.D)
Matthew	Matthew	60's
Mark	John Mark	late 50's early 60's
Luke	Luke	60
John	John	late 80's early 90's
Acts	Luke	61
Romans	Paul	55
1 Corinthians	Paul	54
2 Corinthians	Paul	55
Galatians	Paul	49
Ephesians	Paul	60
Philippians	Paul	61
Colossians	Paul	60
1 Thessalonians	Paul	50 – 51
2 Thessalonians	Paul	50 – 51
1 Timothy	Paul	62
2 Timothy	Paul	63
Titus	Paul	62
Philemon	Paul	60
Hebrews	(Paul, Apollos, Barnabas . ..?)	60's
James	James, half brother of Jesus	40's or 50's
1 Peter	Peter	63

2 Peter	Peter	63 – 64
1 John	John	late 80's early 90's
2 John	John	late 80's early 90's
3 John	John	late 80's early 90's
Jude	Jude, half brother of Jesus	60's or 70's
Revelation	John	late 80's early 90's