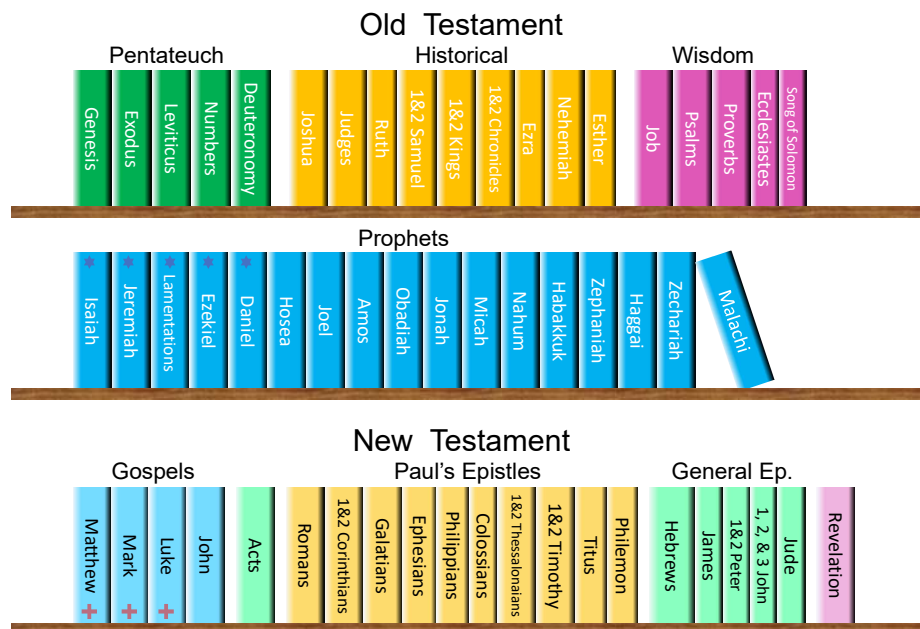


History of the English Bible

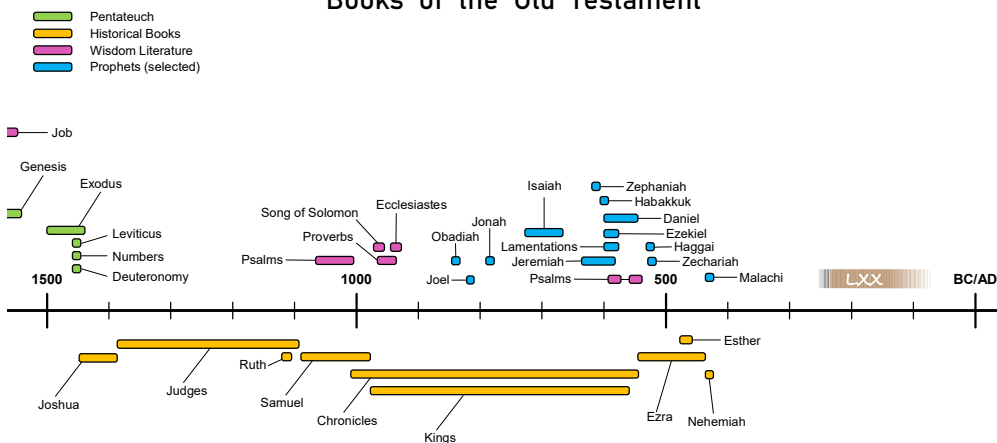
What is the Bible?

The Protestant Bible is composed of 66 books divided into two sections, the Old Testament (39) and the New Testament (27). The OT is in Hebrew.



The **Septuagint** (LXX) is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. Work on it first began around 250 BC. It was in wide circulation by the time of the NT, and is often quoted by NT authors.

General Placement of the Books of the Old Testament



The books of the **New Testament** were written in Greek. They were all written in the second half of the 1st century. It is possible that Matthew was written as early as AD 40, and Revelation perhaps as late as AD 90. Some of Paul's books can be precisely dated, although for many books we can only estimate.

The earliest manuscripts of the NT discovered so far come from the early 2nd century AD (ca. 100-150). The earliest complete Bibles we have now are from the 4th century AD. All manuscripts prior to about AD 800 place Hebrews among the Pauline epistles. The groupings of the NT (*epcr*), along with book titles, appear in our very earliest exemplars (2nd century AD); the best explanation is that they were published as sets at a very early stage. It seems likely Paul collected and published his own letters as a set prior to his death in the 1st century.

The **Apocrypha** is a group of books written during the Intertestamental Period (ca. 400 BC – AD 1). It includes books such as 1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Additions to Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah, Prayer of Azariah, Susannah, Bel & the Dragon, Prayer of Manasseh, 1 & 2 Maccabees.

Why do Protestants reject the apocrypha?

- Those books were not accepted by the _____.
- They are not treated as authoritative by the _____.
- The sermons in _____ that cover OT history never mention the intertestamental period or the books of the apocrypha.

Points to Ponder

- As more manuscripts have come to light in the last few centuries it has become clear that both Hebrew and Greek manuscripts have been transmitted _____.
 - Translations into other languages are just as _____.
- Just like the Persian king Ahasuerus considered his decrees that were sent out in many languages to all be authoritative, so is the Word of God.