



## The Word of God

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## The Hebrew Scriptures

Written in Hebrew with brief passages in Daniel written in Aramaic

הרות  
*Torah, The Law*

The first 5 books of the Bible

Written by Moses

*"For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'" (Mark 7:10, ESV)*

- [תישארב](#)  
Genesis
- [תומש](#)  
Exodus
- [ארקיו](#)  
Leviticus
- [רבדמב](#)  
Numbers
- [פירבד](#)  
Deuteronomy

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## The Hebrew Scriptures

פוחנ  
[Nahum](#)

קוקבח  
[Habakkuk](#)

הינפצ  
[Zephaniah](#)

גח  
[Haggai](#)

הירכז  
[Zechariah](#)

יכאלמ  
[Malachi](#)

סאיבנ  
**Nebiim, Prophets**

- [לאוי](#)  
Joel
- [היעשי](#)  
Isaiah
- [סומע](#)  
Amos
- [הינפצ](#)  
Zephaniah
- [הימרי](#)  
Jeremiah
- [הידבוע](#)  
Obadiah
- [גח](#)  
Haggai
- [הירכז](#)  
Zechariah
- [עשוה](#)  
Joshua
- [א פילמ](#)  
1 Kings
- [לאקזחי](#)  
Ezekiel
- [הנוי](#)  
Jonah
- [פוטפוש](#)  
Judges
- [ב פילמ](#)  
2 Kings
- [עשוה](#)  
Hosea
- [הכימ](#)  
Micah

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**The Hebrew Scriptures**

סיבותכ  
*Ketuvim, Writings*

<a href="#">פילהת</a> Psalms	<a href="#">תור</a> Ruth	<a href="#">לאינד</a> Daniel
<a href="#">ילשמ</a> Proverbs	<a href="#">הפיא</a> Lamentations	<a href="#">הימחנ</a> Nehemiah
<a href="#">בויא</a> Job	<a href="#">תלהק</a> Ecclesiastes	<a href="#">א סימיה ירבד</a> 1 Chronicles
<a href="#">פירישה ריש</a> Song of Solomon	<a href="#">רתסא</a> Esther	<a href="#">ב סימיה ירבד</a> 2 Chronicles

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**The Hebrew Scriptures**

The scriptures of Jesus and the early Christians

Jesus quoted from all three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures

The writers of the New Testament quote or refer to 31 of the 39 books of the Old Testament

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**The Hebrew Scriptures**

**Impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls the oldest complete Hebrew Bible was the Leningrad Codex (A.D. 1008). The Great Isaiah Scroll and the Great Psalms Scroll (two of the most well-preserved and most complete scrolls found) date from 125 B.C and A.D. 30-50 respectively. (Christianity Today: A Closer Look: the Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Ed Stetzer)

This gives us copies of these scriptures 1000 years earlier than before. Yet, the accuracy of transmission remains true.

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**The Septuagint, LXX**

Greek Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures

Translated approximately 250 B.C.

Placed the books of the Old Testament in the current order we have today

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**The Septuagint, LXX**

Contained some additional books not included in the Hebrew

Those works which appear in the Septuagint but not in the Hebrew Bible are sometimes referred to as the 'Septuagintal plus'; together with two or three other compositions they are the books which since Jerome's time, have commonly been called the Apocrypha.

--*The Canon of Scripture*, F.F. Bruce p48

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**The Apocrypha**

Wisdom of Solomon 30 B.C. Didactic

Ecclesiasticus 32 B.C. Didactic

Tobit c. 200 B.C. Religious Novel

I Esdras c. 150 B.C. Historic & Legendary

I Maccabees c. 110 B.C. Historic

II Maccabees c. 100 B.C. Historic & Legendary

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**The Apocrypha**

Judith	c. 150 A.D.	Romantic Novel
Baruch	c. 100 A.D.	Prophetic
Letter of Jeremiah	c. 200 B.C.	Prophetic
II Esdras	c. 100 A.D.	Prophetic
Additions to Esther	c. 130 B.C.	Legendary

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**The Apocrypha**

Prayer of Azariah*	c. 100. B.C.	Legendary
Suzanna (Daniel 13)	c. 100 B.C.	Legendary
Bel & the Dragon (Daniel 14)	c. 100 B.C.	Legendary
Prayer of Manasseh	c. 150 B.C.	Legendary

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**The Apocrypha**

Early church leader Athanasius (298-373 A.D.) distinguished three categories of books:

1. Canonical (inspired scripture)

"Canon" is derived from the Greek word "Kanon," signifying a measuring rod. Thus, to have the Bible "canonized" meant that it had been measured by the standard or test of divine inspiration and authority.

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**The Apocrypha**  
 Early church leader Athanasius (298-373 A.D.) distinguished three categories of books:

2. Edifying (but not canonical)— acceptable to be read in church but not on par with scripture
3. Apocryphal—books to be avoided altogether  
 The word apocryphal means of doubtful authorship or authenticity

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**The Apocrypha**  
 Jerome, (347-420 A.D.), translated the Bible into Latin, a version commonly known as the Vulgate, to this day the official biblical text of the Roman Catholic Church.

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**The Apocrypha**  
 Jerome uses the designation **Apocrypha** for these writings but uses the term differently than Athanasius as seen in these comments:

1. They are not in the canon properly speaking
2. They may not be used for the establishment of doctrine
3. But they retain great ethical value which makes them suitable for reading in the course of Christian worship

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**The Apocrypha**

Martin Luther in his German Bible, "The Apocrypha: Books which are not to be held equal to holy scripture but are useful and good to read."

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**The Apocrypha**

Coverdale's English Bible of 1535, "Apocrypha: the bokes and treatises which amonge the fathers of old are not rekened to be of like authorite with the other bokes of the bible, nether are they founde in the Canon of Hebrue."

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**The Apocrypha**

The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, (The Church of England) statement on the Apocryphal books in 1563 "And the other Books the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners, but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine..."

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**The Apocrypha**

During the Council of Trent, 1545, no distinction was made between the canonical and apocryphal books, thus for the first time giving them official equal status in the Roman Catholic Church.

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**The Apocrypha**

F.F. Bruce, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Biblical Scholar: "As for the status of the books which Jerome called apocryphal, there is general agreement among Roman Catholic scholars today (as among their colleagues of other Christian traditions) to call them 'deuterocanonical' (a term first used, it appears, in the sixteenth century); Jerome's distinction is thus maintained in practice, even if it does not enjoy conciliar support.

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**The Apocrypha**

Conclusion: These books, though enjoying a varying degree of acceptance throughout history have never been widely viewed on the level with the Old Testament scriptures of the Hebrew Bible.

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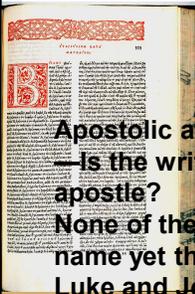
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**The New Testament**  
 Criteria for inclusion of New Testament writings:

**Apostolic authority**  
 —Is the writing clearly connected to an apostle?  
 None of the gospel writers gives his name yet the identity of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have been attested from ancient times. Contrast this to false gospels which always propose that they were written by an apostle to try to gain credibility.

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**The New Testament**  
 Criteria for inclusion of New Testament writings:

**Antiquity**  
 —Is the writing old enough to have been written in the “eyewitness” period?  
 By A.D. 108 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch had quoted from or referred to 24 of the 27 books in what we have as the New Testament.

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**The New Testament**  
 Criteria for inclusion of New Testament writings:

**Orthodoxy**  
 —Is it consistent with the teaching of Jesus and the apostles? (Compare with the ending of the Gospel of Thomas)

**Catholicity**  
 —Has the writing been widely accepted by the church as universally and permanently authoritative?

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**The New Testament**

Criteria for inclusion of New Testament writings:

Other relevant issues:

Inspiration—God’s word to us  
2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Persecution—What books were worth dying for?  
Edict of Diocletian A.D. 303 ordered all Christian books to be burned.

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**The New Testament**

Criteria for inclusion of New Testament writings:

Other relevant issues:

Appropriateness—Which books might properly be read in church?

Authority—Which books might be used for settling doctrinal questions from those which were generally edifying.

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**Observations**

The books of the Bible were written over a period from around 1450 B.C. (the time of Moses) to about 100 A.D.

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.

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**Observations**

Despite the length of time and diversity of the writers, the Bible has the unifying theme of God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ. This is punctuated by the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.

*"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me," (John 5:39, ESV)*

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*•"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10–11, ESV)*

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**Three Basic Questions Answered**

How did we get here? **God**

Why is evil and suffering in the world? **Sin**

What hope do we have both in this life and the life to come? **Jesus**

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