



Around the Bible in 40 Minutes or Less Take Home Resource Guide

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Table of Contents

Old Testament Timeline and Key Events

Old Testament Timeline and Books of the Bible by the Events they Record

New Testament Timeline and Key Events

New Testament Timeline and Books of the Bible by the Events they Record

Books of the Bible

Book Summaries of the Old Testament Books

Book Summaries of the New Testament Books

Acknowledgements

Old Testament Book Dates at a Glance

Timeline and Theory of the Development of the Old Testament

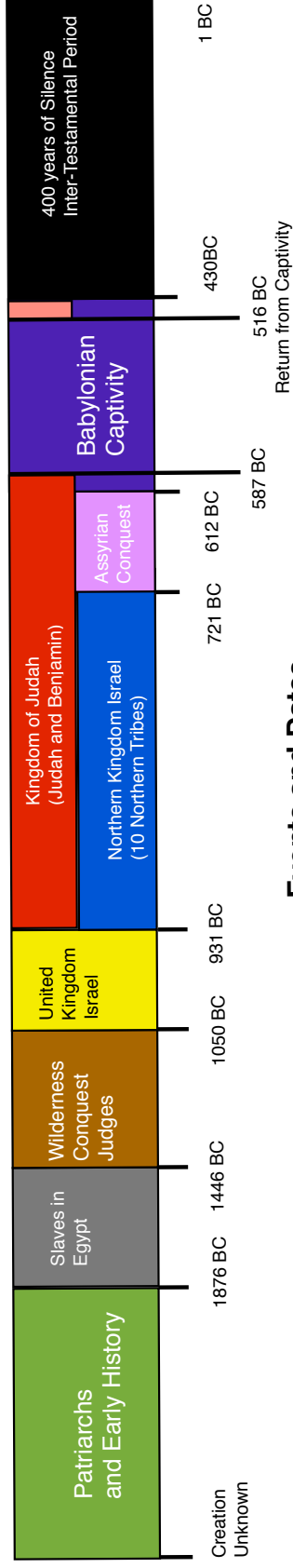
New Testament Dates at a Glance

Timeline and Theory of the Development of the New Testament

Old Testament History

Timeline and Key Events

Timeline



Events and Dates

Creation (Unknown)

Moses (1520s BC)

Adam & Eve (Unknown)

The Exodus (1440s BC)

The Fall (Unknown)

Noah's Flood (Unknown)

Entering and Conquest of the Promised Land beginning with the Fall of Jericho (1406 BC)

Tower of Babel (Unknown)

Abraham (2100 BC)

Isaac (2000 BC)

Rule of the Judges in Israel (1389-1050 BC)

Jacob (1900BC)

Jacob's sons (below) make the 12 Tribes of Israel:

- Ruben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Judah
- Dan
- Naphthali
- Zebulun
- Gad
- Ashter
- Isachar
- Joseph (Joseph's son)
- Ephraim (Joseph's son)
- Benjamin

Jacob's family moves to Egypt to be with Joseph in Egypt (1870s BC)

King Saul (1050-1010 BC)

King David (1010-970 BC)

King Solomon (970-931 BC)

Temple begun (966 BC)

The nation of Israel split during the reign of Rehoboam in Judah and Jeroboam in the Northern Kingdom in 931 BC. The two kingdoms shared the land of Israel until the conquest of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria in 721 BC.

Elijah (870s-850s BC)

Elisha (850s-810s BC)

Obediah (845 BC)

Joel (810 BC)

Jonah (800 BC)

Amos (760 BC)

Hosea (725 BC)

Isaiah (740-680 BC)

Micah (690 BC)

Nahum (640 BC)

Zephaniah (630 BC)

Fall of the Northern Kingdom (721 BC)

Fall of Assyria to Babylon (612 BC)

Babylon conquered the Assyrians in 612 BC. They then conquered the Kingdom of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 587 BC. Much of the native Israelite population was exiled to Babylon. About 70 years later, they were allowed to returned and rebuild the Temple in 516 BC. After the death of Malachi in 430 BC, prophetic revelation and the writing of Scripture ceased in Israel until the birth of John the Baptist. This time period is called the "400 years of Silence."

Fall of Jerusalem (587 BC)

Jeremiah (626-570 BC)

Daniel (600-530 BC)

Ezekiel (592-570 BC)

Haggai (519 BC)

Exiles Return and Second Temple Built (520-516BC)

Esther (479 BC)

Ezra (457 BC)

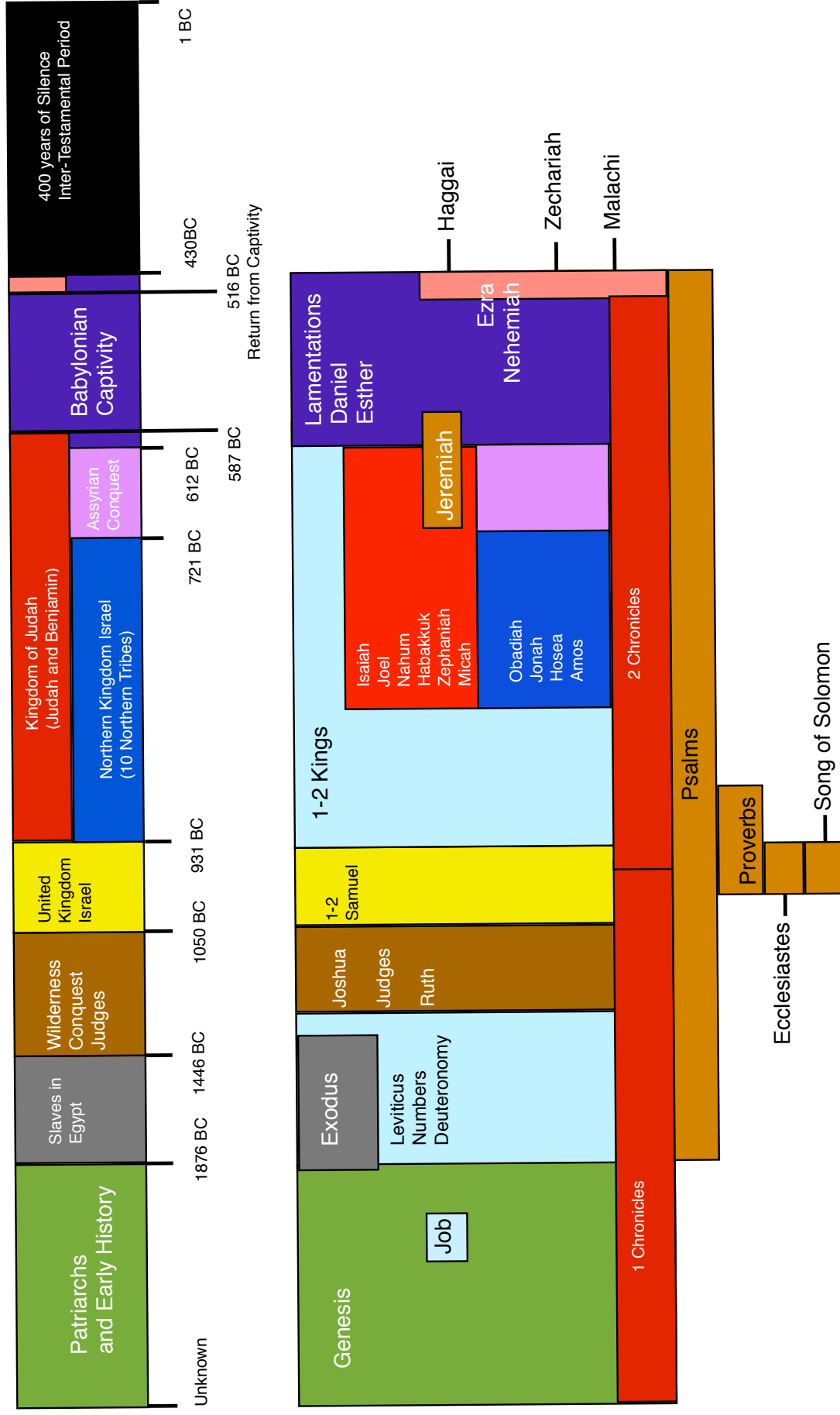
Nehemiah (445 BC)

Walls of Jerusalem rebuilt (460s BC)

Malachi (430 BC)

Old Testament History

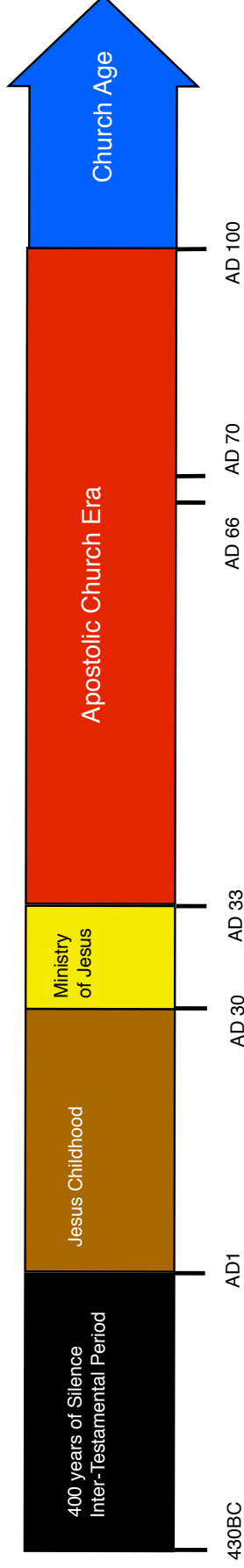
Timeline and Books of the Bible by the Events they Record



New Testament History

Timeline and Key Events

Timeline



Events and Dates

When Gabriel appears to Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, in Luke 1, it is the first prophetic revelation in more than 400 years and breaks the period of "silence." Scholars are not certain on the exact year of Jesus' birth. Estimates range from 3BC-7AD. For simplicity sake, we will use the traditional dates.

Birth of John the Baptist (AD-1)

Birth of Jesus (AD 1)

Jesus ministering in the Temple in Jerusalem (AD 12)

Jesus begins his earthly ministry (AD 30)

The earthly ministry of Jesus lasts roughly 3 years. It begins with the wedding of Cana, in John 2, and ends at his ascension.

Jesus begins earthly ministry (AD 30)

Jesus dies, resurrected and ascends to heaven (AD 33)

The Apostolic Church Era is the time period in which Jesus' 12 Apostles and the Apostle Paul were still alive and leading the church. It began at Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2, and concludes after the death of John near the end of the first century.

The Church Begins (Day of Pentecost AD 33)

Stephen is martyred (AD 40s)

New Testament begins to be written (AD 40s)

Paul and Peter executed in Rome (AD 66)

Fall of Jerusalem (AD 70)

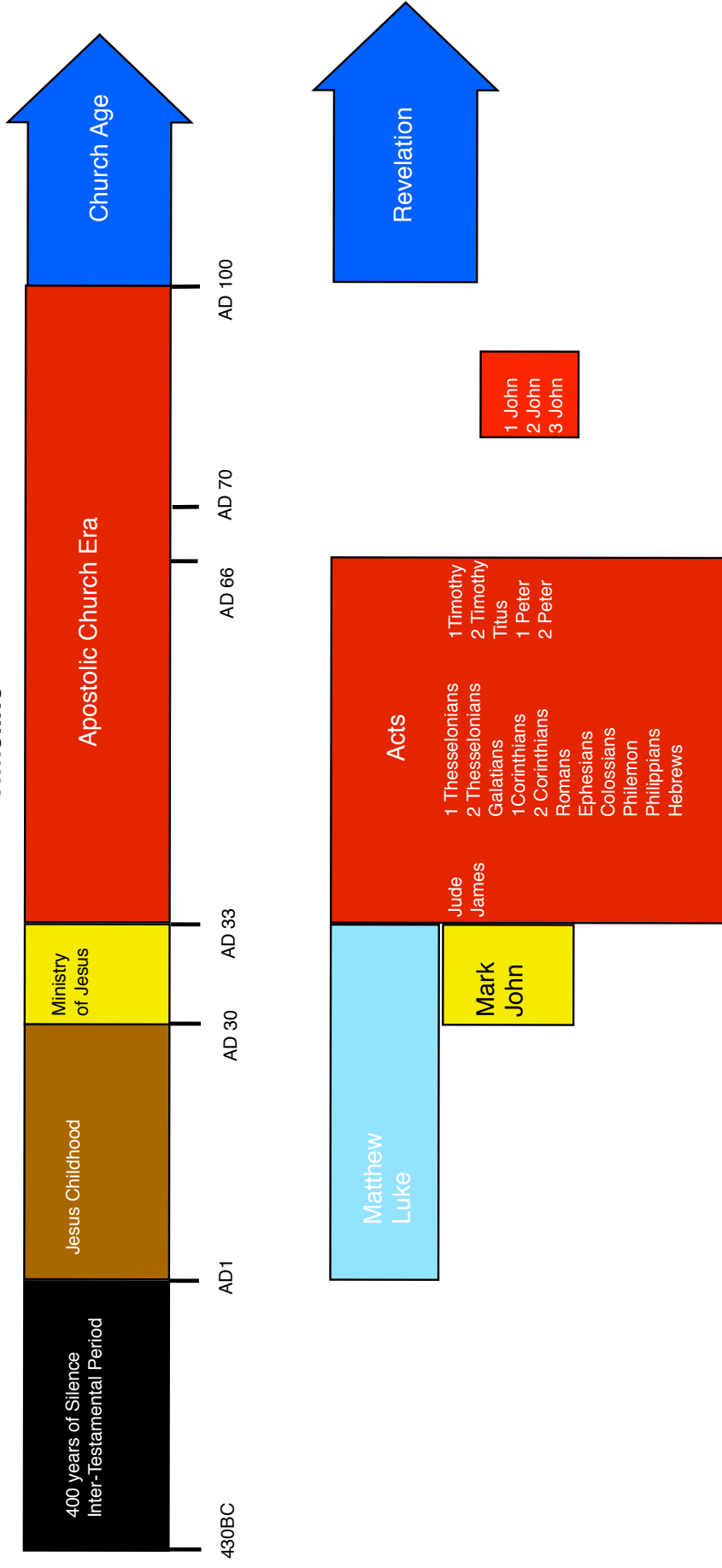
The last of Jesus' Apostles, John, dies (AD 90s)

The Church Age traditionally begins with the death of the Apostle John around the end of the first century and continues until today.

New Testament History

Timeline and Books of the Bible by the Events they Record

Timeline



Books of The Bible

Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 & 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 & 2 Thessalonians
1 & 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 & 2 Peter
1, 2 & 3 John
Jude
Revelation

BIBLE SUMMARIES

The following is a brief summations of all 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, including their authors and estimated date of their composition.

Old Testament

The Old Testament are the 39 books of the Bible beginning with Genesis and ending with Malachi that records God's relationship with his people, primarily the 12 Tribes of Israel, before the coming of Jesus.

The Pentateuch

Author: Moses

Date: 1500 BC

Summary: The Pentateuch, also known as the Torah, is one work believed to be written by Moses in the 1500s. It was later divided into five separate books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) primarily for practical reading purposes (the entire work fit into about five scrolls). The general theme that runs throughout the Pentateuch is one of sin, law, death and belief. Mankind is constantly sinning against God, God adds a law code to identify that sin, the sin results in death. Contrasting this general pattern are heroes of faith like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Joseph who have their sins forgiven based on the righteousness found in believing upon God. The summaries of each of these books are below:

- **Genesis Summary:** The Book of Genesis is a theological history that tells us God created the universe and our world. God then created man. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve did not listen to God and were punished, called the "Fall". God commanded Adam and Eve to populate the land. From there, we learn about major characters and their families, mostly their sons. God was so upset with sin that He created a flood to destroy almost everything He created on earth. Noah was chosen by God so that he may save his family and other life in the arc that he built. Years later, Abraham was chosen next by God, this time, to create a nation. We learn about Abraham and how his faith was tested. God uses Jacob, Abraham's grandson, to begin to fulfill the promises made to Abraham. Finally, we learn how Joseph, Jacob's son, and his family moved to Egypt.
- **Exodus Summary:** The Book of Exodus picks up 400 years after Jacob's family moved to Egypt. We are told of the oppression of his descendants, the Israelites, by the Egyptians. Moses was born an Israelite, but raised an Egyptian. God used a burning bush to speak to Moses and inform him that he is the one to deliver the Israelites out of bondage. Moses did not think he could convince Pharaoh to release God's people. God gave Moses signs to use to convince the Israelites and Pharaoh that this is God's command. Moses confronted Pharaoh with the ten plagues. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and to Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai, God gave the people his commandments or laws. These laws taught the Israelites how to have a relationship with God and each other.
- **Leviticus Summary:** The Book of Leviticus continues the description of law. Israelites are told how and why to have sacrificial offerings. These offerings are broken into three general categories. Consecratory offerings were used to dedicate a person or thing to God. Expiatory offerings were to acknowledge sin. Communal offerings were a way for communities to celebrate their thankfulness to God. The priesthood began so the Israelites and God had a mediator. The priests were the only ones to perform a sacrifice. God also tells the Israelites of feasts and celebrations that will happen. Including Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, God then informs of his rewards for obedience and punishment for disobedience. This all created the basis of Israelite society.
- **Numbers Summary:** The Book of Numbers continues the story of the Pentateuch. Per God's instruction, Moses took a census of all the Israelites. This helped to organize them by their 12 tribes. Levites were not included in the count as they were to serve as priests. The Israelites left Sinai to go to the Promised Land. Along the way there were complaints and hardships. Israelites rebelled against Moses and God. God condemned them, but Moses interceded on their behalf. God showed them mercy. The Israelites defeated several powerful city-states and took their land. Before going to the Promised Land, Moses took a second census. Joshua was appointed to succeed Moses. The tribes of Rueben and Gad requested the land on the eastern side of the Jordan River. Moses agreed.
- **Deuteronomy Summary:** In the Book of Deuteronomy Moses retells of what God has done for the Israelites. Moses starts by giving the historical account of the appointment of Moses as the leader. Moses

recounts the rebellion and distrust on the journey to the Promised Land. Moses reiterates the wanderings of the desert and how the Israelites defeated several city-states. Moses restates the dividing of the land. Moses retells the Ten Commandments. Moses then tells the Israelites how to love the Lord as their God, and not worship other gods. Moses is retelling how the Israelites will have relationships with each other and with God. Also by retelling this, Moses is addressing future generations. Joshua was commissioned as Moses successor. Moses recites a song in closing to those assembled Israelites. The book also prophesies of a prophet like Moses who will have God's words put into his mouth and will usher in the obedience of the people of God. At the end of the Book of Deuteronomy, we learn about Moses' death.

Joshua

Author: Unknown, tradition says its Joshua

Date: 1400-1380s BC

Summary: The Book of Joshua is a historical theology about the conquest of the Promised Land of Israel through God's commands. Jericho was the first conquest after crossing the Jordan River. Rahab, a Canaanite, helped two Israelite spies escape. For her loyalty, the Israelites spared her family. Ai was next, although the first battle was lost. Ai's first battle was lost due to Achan's sin. After Ai was destroyed, Joshua renewed the Covenant of Moses. Joshua went on to defeat the different kings of the land. After the Promised Land was conquered, the land was divided among the tribes. Joshua then gathered the leaders and reminded them to follow the Book of the Law of Moses. He was saying his good-bye. Then he gathered the leaders at Shechem so that God could speak through Joshua. God reminded the leaders, elders, judges and officials of how He fulfilled the Covenant of Abraham.

Judges

Author: Unknown, tradition says it's the prophet Samuel

Date: 1390s-1050s

Summary: The Book of Judges is a historical theology about Israel's cycles of committing "evil in the eyes of the Lord." God chose leaders, or judges, to help Israel fight off oppression and restore peace to the land. There were many judges, but three major ones. God used Deborah to fight and win a battle with the Canaanites. The Song of Deborah gives an account of what happened. Next, Gideon helped when Israel was oppressed by the Midianites. Gideon was a coward, but had great faith in God. Before the battle that he would lead, God commanded Gideon to reduce his troops to 300 men. With 300 men, there was no doubt that the victory was God's. The third major judge was Samson. Samson was to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines through his strength. Samson broke his Nazirite vows and God left him. After the account of Samson's death, Israel degenerates into a society that is constantly at civil war and is "doing what it pleases" because there is "no king." The book looks forward to the rise of a kingship that will bring Israel into proper alignment with the will of God.

Ruth

Author: Unknown

Date: 1390s-1050s

Summary: The Book of Ruth is a historical theology about the faith of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi and her husband move to Moab from Israel in search of a better life because of the famine. Their sons marry Moabite women, one is Ruth. Shortly after Naomi's husband dies, her two sons die as well. Naomi declares she is heading back to her homeland. Ruth insists she is going with her as she states her love for Naomi and her God. Upon arrival Ruth gleaned the fields, after the harvesters, on Boaz's fields. Boaz was kind to Ruth, in part due to his faith in God. Ruth learned that Boaz was a kinsman-redeemer and proposed to him. But, he knew there was a closer kinsman-redeemer. He facilitated a deal so he could marry Ruth. The end of the book demonstrates the genealogy of Boaz and Ruth being the great-grandparents of David.

Samuel

Author: Unknown – most likely written and compiled over several decades

Date: 1050-950 BC

Summary: Originally, the book of Samuel was one book named after the prophet Samuel who appears at the beginning of the book. It was later divided into two books (1 and 2 Samuel) for practical purposes (each book roughly fits into one standard scroll). Summaries of their contents are below:

- **1 Samuel Summary:** The Book of 1 Samuel is a historical theology of Samuel, Saul, and David. The book opens with a description of the birth of Samuel to Elkanah, a priest, and his wife, Hannah. Samuel was dedicated to serve God as a judge. Meanwhile, the Philistines won a battle and captured the Ark of God. Through God's intervention, the Ark was returned to Israel. Then Samuel intercedes with the Lord to subdue the Philistines. Because Israel asks for a king, Samuel anoints Saul, God's choice. Saul looks like a perfect example of a king, but lacks faith in God. Goliath, a Philistine, waged a battle on Israel. David, who was anointed by God to be the next king, took out Goliath with one shot from his sling. Saul, then jealous of David being anointed next king, chased David in order to kill him. David escaped and eventually, Saul died.
- **2 Samuel Summary:** The Book of 2 Samuel continues the story of David ruling over Israel. David laments over Saul and Jonathan's death. David is first anointed king of Judah, then Israel. David conquers Jerusalem and brings the Ark there. God sets out promises for David. David says prayers. He then defeats the Philistines and the Ammonites. David desires to build a Temple for God, but God promises to build David into an eternal kingdom with an heir whose throne will last forever. David commits adultery and gets Bathsheba pregnant, even though she is married. David calls for her husband to be killed in battle and marries Bathsheba. Nathan, a prophet, cries out to David because of his sins. David and Bathsheba's first child dies. Their second child is named Solomon. David's other sons have a fight, Absalom kills Amnon. Absalom flees to Geshur. After he returned to Jerusalem, Absalom planned a takeover, but was killed. David avenges the Gibeonites by giving them seven of Saul's descendants to be killed by them. David sings a song of praise to the Lord. David then builds an altar so that the plague of his people may be stopped.

Kings

Author: Unknown

Date: 970s-580s

Summary: Originally, the book of Kings was one work probably compiled over several centuries. Its primary focus is on the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel, the ministry of Elijah and Elisha, and the eventual destruction and exile of the 12 Tribes. It was later divided into two books (1 and 2 Kings) for practical purposes (each book roughly fits into one standard scroll). Summaries of their contents are below:

- **1 Kings Summary:** The Book of 1 Kings is a historical theology that continues the account in Samuel. David's fourth son, Adonijah, tried to set himself up as king. Nathan, the prophet, warned Bathsheba who then warned David. Solomon is made king by David. Solomon prays and receives wisdom, insight and understanding from God. Solomon built a temple and a palace. The Ark was brought to the temple after the temple was completed. Solomon's dedication of the Ark included prayers and many offerings. God gave Solomon a warning of what would happen if he or his sons turned from God. After Solomon's death, his son, Rehoboam became king. Israel rebelled against Rehoboam. Jeroboam, who rebelled against Solomon in earlier times, took over the Northern Kingdom. Many kings ruled Israel. During Ahab's reign, God sent the prophet Elijah to pronounce that rain will come. But, the Israelites still rejected God's covenant. The book ends with Micaiah prophesied Ahab would lose his life in the battle at Ramoth Gilead.
- **2 Kings Summary:** The Book of 2 Kings continues with Ahab's son, Ahaziah became king. God curses Ahaziah because he inquired about his survival to a pagan god. After Ahaziah's death, Joram, his brother, took the throne. Elijah, the prophet ascends to heaven and passes his ministry on to Elisha. God uses Elisha to assist Joram in wars against the Moabites and the Arameans. Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu king of Israel. Jehu killed Joram, king of the north, and Ahaziah, king of the south. He went on to kill Ahab's family. Many more kings and dynasties followed, without much success in living up to the Covenant. Most of the kings of the Northern Kingdom "did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Some of the kings of the Southern

Kingdom “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.” Hoshea became the last king of Israel. Because of Israel’s sins, they were exiled out of their homeland into Assyria and then Babylon.

1 Chronicles

Author: Unknown, tradition ascribes to Ezra the priest.

Date: Unknown, but believed to be in the 5th century BC

Summary: Originally, Chronicles was one work. It was written late in Israel’s history after the nations return from exile for the purpose of explaining “what went wrong.” The book finds its hope in the Kingship of David. It was later divided into two books (1 and 2 Chronicles for practical purposes (each book roughly fits into one standard scroll). Summaries of their contents are below:

- **1 Chronicles Summary:** The Book of 1 Chronicles is a historical theology that recaps Israel’s history beginning with the genealogy of Adam. The book lists Israel’s sons and their mighty men. It is recounted how David brought the Ark to Jerusalem. David gives a psalm of thanks to the Lord. Retold is the promise God makes to David about subduing his enemies. There is a recap of David’s victories and of some battles he pursued. After David made his son, Solomon, King, he divided the Levites into groups. The divisions of priests were recorded. Singers and musicians were listed. Other lists included gatekeepers, army divisions, officers of the tribes and the King’s overseers. David’s plans for the temple are retold even though he would not be the one to complete it. David praised the Lord in a prayer. David died sometime after Solomon was acknowledged as the second king of Israel.
- **2 Chronicles Summary:** The Book of 2 Chronicles continues where 1 Chronicles left off. As king, Solomon asks God for wisdom. Preparations took place to build the Temple and royal palace. The Temple and its furnishings are described. The Ark is brought to the temple. Solomon stands before Israel and says a prayer of dedication. God appears to Solomon and gives him His blessing and a warning. Solomon’s riches are listed. After Solomon’s death, Israel rebels against Rehoboam, Solomon’s son that now was King. Rehoboam strengthens Judah. Summarized is Rehoboam’s reign and his son’s, Abijah, reign. The kings of Judah that followed and some of their actions are recapped. Some of these kings tried to bring Israel back to God. Because of Israel turning against God, Jerusalem was destroyed. The book ends with a decree by the Babylonian King, Cyrus, that the Temple be rebuilt in Jerusalem.

Ezra

Author: Ezra

Date: 475-430 BC

Summary: The Book of Ezra is a historical theology of the Israelites that return to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon. King Cyrus, of Persia, helps the exiles return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Listed in their groups or divisions are the exiles who returned. First rebuilt was the Altar of God to sacrifice burnt offerings. Rebuilding of the Temple started, but faced some opposition. Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, wrote a letter to Darius questioning the authorization of rebuilding the temple. Darius had the royal archives searched and then issued a decree stating that indeed King Cyrus authorized the rebuilding. The Temple was completed and the dedication included celebrating Passover. Ezra went back to Jerusalem from Babylon. Listed are families that went with him. Ezra was a priest and a teacher of Law of God. Once back in Jerusalem, Ezra prays to God about sin, in particular, intermarriage. The Israelites confess their sins.

Nehemiah

Author: Nehemiah

Date: 445-430 BC

Summary: The Book of Nehemiah is historical theology that continues the history of the Israelites after they return from exile. Nehemiah prays to God about Jerusalem and God's promises. Nehemiah is sent from Babylon to Jerusalem where he inspects Jerusalem's walls. Different sections were rebuilt by different groups of people. Through prayer, they were able to complete the rebuilding even when there was opposition. Nehemiah helped the poor by summoning the priests to make the nobles and officials take an oath to follow God's law. A genealogical record is listed of the exiles who returned. Ezra read The Book of the Law to the Israelites. The Israelites prayed to God and confessed their sins and signed the Law of God. The Levites were brought to Jerusalem for the dedication of The Wall of Jerusalem. The Book of Moses was read out loud. Nehemiah warned the Israelites of selling food on the Sabbath. He also warned them of intermarriage. The book ends with an overwhelming sense that the rebuilding of the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem was not what God has promised to David and his "everlasting" house. The people are left still seeking a greater move of God.

Esther

Author: Unknown

Date: 485-464 BC

Summary: The Book of Esther is a theological history of Israel during the exile. King Xerxes drunk on wine decides to dispose of Queen Vashti. Later, he realized his mistake. A search for a replacement queen was conducted. Esther had won King Xerxes' favor and becomes queen. She was a Jew who hid her nationality. Mordecai uncovers a plot to kill King Xerxes. Because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, Haman wanted to kill not only Mordecai, but all Jews. With Queen Esther's help, Mordecai is honored and Haman is hanged. The King then writes a decree and copies of the text were issued to every province as law. The decree protects the Jews. The Jews celebrated, the celebration was named Purim. The book ends with the declaration of Mordecai's greatness. The book of Esther is unique in that the name of God is never mentioned in the book. It demonstrates how God is ever present in preserving the nation of Israel even though there is a rift in the relationship.

Job

Author: Unknown, tradition holds that it was Job

Date: Unknown

Summary: The Book of Job is of wisdom literature. Job was a righteous, rich man. God and Satan have a confrontation regarding Job's faith in God. God allows Satan to test Job by taking away his family, sheep, camels, and servants. Job passed the test. Job was tested again. This time it was his health that was taken away. Job speaks to his three friends and curses the day he was born. The four of them have a lengthy conversation as to why Job is being punished. Elihu enters the conversation and becomes somewhat angry with Job's lack of faith in God. God speaks to Job in question form. God speaks to the three friends and advises them to sacrifice a burnt offering. Job was then made prosperous and was "given twice as much as he had before" by God.

Psalms

Author: Collections of authors ranging from Moses to post-exilic priests. Most of the book is written by King David.

Date: 1450-450 BC

Summary: The Book of Psalms poetic literature. Psalms are musical prayers and praise to God and of God. The Book of Psalms is divided into five books, Book one is Psalms 1-41, Book 2 is Psalms 42-72, Book 3 is Psalms 73-89, Book 4 is Psalms 90-106, and Book 5 is Psalms 107-150. Psalms 120-134 are referred to as songs of ascents. Psalms 146-150 praise the Lord. The majority of the Psalms are written by King David, but they include a wide variety of authors such as Moses and Solomon. They are also written during a time period that stretches from the Exodus to the Exile. Psalms is one of the two most quoted books of the New Testament, often in reference to the nature of Jesus Christ as God and King, leading some scholars to comment on them as prophetic in nature instead of simply poetic music.

Proverbs

Author: Collection of sayings from various authors. Most of the book is written by King Solomon.

Date: 970-931

Summary: The Book of Proverbs is of the wisdom literature. Proverbs begins with the purpose of attaining wisdom and discipline. It is about “doing what is right and just and fair” (1:3). Warnings are given of enticement and of rejecting wisdom. Listed are some of the moral benefits of wisdom. Throughout these proverbial sayings mentioned is the fear of the Lord. Proverbs sets the stage for all the wisdom books as the fear of the Lord applied to everyday life. God’s wisdom is most evident when he is the object of our central focus.

Ecclesiastes

Author: King Solomon

Date: 971-931

Summary: The Book of Ecclesiastes is of the wisdom literature that explores the meaning of life. In it, Solomon states that anything that is not connected to the eternal is “vanity” or like a vapor. The book has more to say on wisdom and the states to “obey the king’s command” (8:2). Death is the same destination for all, even though wisdom fares better than folly. The author reminds the audience to remember God while young. The book concludes with “fear God and keep his commandments...for God will bring every deed into judgment” (12:13-14).

Song of Songs

Author: Solomon

Date: 970-931

Summary: The Book of Song of Songs is in poetic literature depicting the love relationship between king Solomon and his bride. The song has several implications. First, it is a practical demonstration of the beauty of married love when it is done in the wisdom of God. Second, it demonstrates the wisdom of God by conducting intimate human affairs in the fear of the Lord. Finally, many scholars see it as a prophetic picture of the love affair between God and his Bride and a promise to reunite the love-relationship that was between God and man in the Garden of Eden.

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah

Date: 750-690

Summary: The Book of Isaiah is of the prophetic literature. Isaiah writes about Judah and Jerusalem’s rebellion. Isaiah notes the last days of Judah and Jerusalem and God’s judgment. Isaiah sings a song about a vineyard. The Lord tells Isaiah to speak to the people. Isaiah records God’s warnings of the people breaking the covenant. Isaiah prophesied the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah speaks of the joy of the redeemed. Isaiah speaks of the king of Assyria threatening Jerusalem. Isaiah prophesied Jerusalem’s deliverance and King Hezekiah prayed. The king of Assyria, Sennacherib died just as God told Isaiah it would happen. Isaiah declares that the Jews are indeed God’s chosen people. He tells of their deliverance from Babylon and of rebuilding of the nation of Israel. There is a reminder that God is the one and only. Idols are not acceptable. Isaiah is also known for some of the clearest prophecies of the coming Messiah in all of the Old Testament.

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah

Date: 640-580

Summary: The Book of Jeremiah is prophetic literature. Jeremiah is appointed a prophet to the nations by the Lord. Israel is unfaithful and Jerusalem is attacked. Jeremiah addresses the people of Judah and declares that false religions are worthless. The covenant is not kept. Jeremiah complains to God of the wicked. God answered that Israel will be restored once they listen to Him. God tells Isaiah to tell the people of Judah to remember the Sabbath. Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah that they will be exiled for seventy years. While exiled, a letter was sent to the Jews stating what God wants them to do. There is a promise of Jerusalem rebuilding. God gave Jeremiah warnings about Egypt, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Babylon. Because the warning was not heeded and the covenant was broken, Jerusalem fell.

Lamentations

Author: Jeremiah

Date: 587-580 BC

Summary:

The Book of Lamentations is of the wisdom literature. Jeremiah wrote these songs about the Israelites sufferings and Jerusalem's destructions. Even among all the suffering, Jeremiah sings of God's mercy and faithfulness. In the song, Jeremiah prays for forgiveness of sin and rebellion.

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel

Date: 597-570

Summary: The Book of Ezekiel is of prophetic literature, and has some apocalyptic genre. Ezekiel was living as an exile when God advised him that he would be speaking to the Israelites on behalf of Him. God made Ezekiel "watchman for the house of Israel" (3:17). Ezekiel warned Israel that they will be held accountable for their sins. His warning included the siege of Jerusalem and destruction of idols and altars. Ezekiel prophesied God's judgment on Israel's leaders and the promise of Israel returning to their land. Ezekiel records a lament for Israel's princes. The elders go to Ezekiel to inquire of the Lord of the judgment of Israel. Ezekiel issues prophecies against Ammon, Moab, Edom, Tyre, and Egypt. Ezekiel records his laments regarding Tyre, Egypt, and Pharaoh. Ezekiel is given a vision of the restoration of the Temple, division of the land and "the gates of the city will be named after the tribes of Israel" (48:31). The Temple is described in such a way that it is meant to be taken prophetically, and not as a literal Temple.

Daniel

Author: Daniel

Date: 600-530

Summary: The Book of Daniel is prophetic literature. In Babylon, God gave Daniel knowledge and understanding so that he could understand all kinds of dreams and visions. After praising God, Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's, king of Judah, dream. This interpretation saves Daniel and his three friends' lives. The king makes a gold idol to worship. When he heard of three Jews who would not worship the idol, he had them thrown into a hot fire. They were unharmed and King Nebuchadnezzar praised God. While King Belshazzar was having a banquet and praising gods of gold and silver, writing on the wall appeared from fingers of a human hand. Only Daniel was able to read it. Daniel has an apocalyptic dream in which God interprets for him. The dream includes messages about Media, Persia and Greece. Daniel prays for all of Israel. Daniel is given a message of the end days.

Hosea

Author: Hosea

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Hosea is prophetic literature. The book opens with God telling Hosea to marry an adulterous wife, which he does. God tells Hosea what to name his children. Both the adulterous wife and naming the children is symbolic of the nation of Israel. The Lord issues a declaration about Israel's punishment and restoration. God tells Hosea to love his wife again which represents when God will favor Israel again. God then brings charges against Israelites, which includes unrepentance. God then talks about Israel's punishment for these charges. Even though God loves Israel, He is angry with them. God then tells Israel if they repent, blessings will follow.

Joel

Author: Joel

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Joel is of prophetic literature. Joel gives warning of an invasion of foreign armies. The warning includes a cry to repent before the mighty army comes. God warns about returning back to Him. If the people of Judah return to God, He will bless them by sending "grain, new wine and oil" (2:19). The day will come when the Lord will pass His judgment. He will restore Judah and Jerusalem and prepare them for war.

Amos

Author: Amos

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Amos is prophetic literature. Amos was a shepherd from Tekoa. God passes judgment on the nations surrounding Israel. God then judges and punishes Israel for its sins. Starvation, drought, and plagues are just a few punishments mentioned because Israel turned from God. God says a lament that includes the need for repentance. The day of the Lord is regarding God's judgment. Complacency is not an excuse and will not be tolerated by God. God declares that He abhors the pride of Israel. Amos is showed by God judgments against Jacob. Amos pleaded for Him to forgive and stop. God stopped the first two judgments. Israel is to be destroyed because of their sin. The book ends with a declaration of restoration for Israel.

Obadiah

Author: Obadiah

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Obadiah is a prophetic literature. Obadiah's vision is of Edom. God tells Obadiah that the nation of Edom will be despised. Friends of Edom will deceive and overpower them. God declares that all will be slaughtered. God declares that the people of Edom will have their deeds repaid to them. There will be no survivors. The people of Mount Zion and Israel will take over and it will be God's kingdom again.

Jonah

Author: Unknown, tradition says its Jonah

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Jonah is of prophetic literature. God tells Jonah to go preach to the people of Nineveh. Jonah did not want to follow the Lord's command and ran away by boarding a ship. The sailors knew that the great storm was because Jonah did no listen to God and threw him into the sea. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish. Jonah prayed to God while inside the fish. Three days later the fish threw-up Jonah onto dry land. Jonah listens to God and goes to Nineveh. On the first day, Jonah made a proclamation that Nineveh will be overturned in forty days. The people of Nineveh and the king believed Jonah and fasted. God saw their faith and showed the people compassion by not destroying them. Jonah became angry at God. God showed Jonah that he has no reason to be angry.

Micah

Author: Micah

Date: 700s BC

Summary: The Book of Micah is a prophetic literature. Micah's vision concerns Samaria and Jerusalem. The book alternates between judgment and deliverance. Samaria and Jerusalem will be destroyed. A lament is given about the weeping and mourning. God's plan of disaster includes a promise of deliverance. God reprimands leaders and prophets. In the last days, God will judge the people. God has a plan to redeem the people. A prophecy is given for a ruler of Israel to come from Bethlehem. This ruler will be Israel's peace. Micah tells the people God's accusations against them. God will destroy Israel as punishment for their sins. Israel then prays and praises God.

Nahum

Author: Nahum

Date: 600s BC

Summary: Nahum is of prophetic literature Nahum's vision concerns Nineveh. God is angry and will take vengeance against His enemies. God is good and will take care of those who trust in Him. God will destroy Nineveh. The book ends with a lament of the destruction.

Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk

Date: 600s BC

Summary: The Book of Habakkuk is a prophetic literature. Habakkuk complains to God about injustice, destruction and violence. God replies that the Babylonians will rise up and exterminate the injustice. Habakkuk complains again. His second complaint is how God can allow the Babylonians to be the ones to pass judgment. God replies that the Babylonians will be judged for their actions. Habakkuk prays. In this prayer, Habakkuk expresses that he may not understand why God does what He does, but he rejoices in God as his savior.

Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah

Date: 600s BC

Summary: The Book of Zephaniah is of prophetic literature. Zephaniah gives his genealogy. God gives Zephaniah a warning of destruction that is to come. The destruction will be against all who live in Jerusalem. Judgment day is near. This will be a day of terrible distress. There is still time to seek righteousness before the Lord. The warnings are also for Moab, Ammon, Cush, and Assyria. After judgment day, God hopes that the people will again worship Him. The book ends with God will restore Israel's covenant.

Haggai

Author: Haggai

Date: 520-475 BC

Summary: The Book of Haggai is of prophetic literature. God tells Haggai that it is time to build the House of the Lord. God reminds His people to be strong while rebuilding the Temple. God also reminds the people that He is with them as that is the covenant He made to them. God blesses His people even though they were defiled. God tells Haggai that these people are His chosen people.

Zechariah

Author: Zechariah

Date: 520-475 BC

Summary: The Book of Zechariah is prophetic literature. God tells Zechariah that He is angry with Jews' forefathers. God declares that they must return to Him. Zechariah has a vision of a man among the myrtle trees. In this vision, an angel tells Zechariah to proclaim that God was jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. But, God will return with mercy and have his house rebuilt. They again will be prosperous. Zechariah had a vision of a man with a measuring line. In this vision God tells Zechariah that He will be the wall of fire around Jerusalem, and its glory within. God takes away Joshua's, the high priest, filthy clothes. This is symbolically taking away Joshua's sins. God promises to bless Jerusalem and care for Judah. God will judge Israel's enemies and destroy them. Prophesied is the mourning of the Messiah, the one that is pierced. Judgment Day is described in detail.

Malachi

Author: Malachi

Date: 400s BC

Summary: The Book of Malachi is prophetic literature. God tells Malachi that He loved Jacob and hated Esau. God will destroy Edom if they rebuild. God talks to the priests in their contempt for Him. If they do not listen to God, He will curse them. Judah has been unfaithful by breaking the covenant. Judgment day will be upon the people of Israel. God advises them to return to Him and to stop robbing Him. God reminds His people to remember the law of Moses.

New Testament

The New Testament are the 22 books of the Bible beginning with Matthew and ending with Revelation that records Jesus ministry on earth and then, after Jesus' ascension, the ministry of his 12 disciples and the apostle Paul.

Matthew

Author: Matthew, Jesus' disciple

Date: Two theories. Early date is AD 42-50, late date is AD 60

Summary: Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew retells of Jesus' birth and quotes Isaiah 7:14 regarding the prophecy of the virgin birth. The Magi asks King Herod of the newborn king. King Herod orders all babies two and under in Bethlehem and vicinity to be killed. This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:15. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Later after returning to Nazareth, Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus called on his disciples and began preaching about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus came to fulfill the Law not abolish it. He reiterates the Law. In His preaching, Jesus heals many. Jesus uses parables to teach the Gospel. During His teachings, He is questioned by authority. Matthew tells of Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus gives His Great Commission by telling his disciples to "go and make disciples of all the nations" (28:19).

Mark

Author: Mark, Peter's interpreter

Date: Two theories. Early date is around AD 42, late date is AD 67

Summary: Mark begins with two quotes from the Old Testament regarding the coming of Jesus: Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 4:3. Mark tells of Jesus being baptized by John. After the baptism, Jesus is sent to the desert for 40 days and was tempted at that time by Satan. Then Jesus proclaimed the gospel. He started calling on his disciples, first was Simon and Andrew. Then He called on James and John to follow and learn from Him. Jesus healed many people. As Jesus teaches the gospel, crowds follow Him. He appoints the twelve disciples. Jesus uses many parables to teach the gospel. Jesus predicts He will be killed, and then rise three days later. In chapter nine, Mark tells of the transfiguration of Jesus. Mark describes the Last Supper and Jesus predicting Peter's denial of Him. Jesus prays at Gethsemane. Jesus is arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin. There Peter denies Jesus, just as predicted. Jesus is taken before Pilate. Jesus is made to carry His cross to the site of his crucifixion after He has been beaten. Jesus dies, is buried and then resurrected.

Luke

Author: Luke, the physician

Date: AD 57-61

Summary: After a small introduction, Luke tells of how Zechariah was told of the birth of John the Baptist by the angel, Gabriel. Gabriel was sent to Nazareth to Mary and told her of Jesus' birth. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus and that He was presented in the Temple on the eighth day after His birth. John the Baptist is already preparing the way of the gospel. When Jesus was about thirty years old, He was baptized by John. Luke then lists Jesus' genealogy. Luke tells of Jesus' temptation while He was in the desert for forty days. The people of Nazareth drove Jesus out of town. Jesus heals many and calls for His first disciples. Jesus teaches many people the gospel. In His teachings He uses parables and healings. Jesus feeds five thousand people out of five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus warns His disciples, especially Peter, not to tell the people that He is The Christ. Peter, John, and James went with Jesus up onto a mountain. Jesus' transfiguration occurred there. Jesus teaches the Lord's Prayer. Jesus gives many warnings and encouragements. During the Last Supper, Jesus tells Peter that he will deny knowing Him three times. Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives and then is arrested. Peter does indeed deny Jesus three times. Jesus is taken before Pilate and Herod. Jesus is crucified, dies, is buried and then resurrected. Jesus appears to His disciples and then ascended to heaven.

John

Author: John, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 80-85

Summary: John opens with a description of the Word becoming flesh. John the Baptist denies being the Christ. John the Baptist declares it is Jesus who is the Lamb of God. Jesus calls on His first disciples. John describes Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding. Jesus teaches the kingdom of God to Nicodemus. John the Baptist gives testimony about Jesus. Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman. John tells of Jesus healing many people and feeding of the five thousand. John tells of when Jesus walks on water. Jesus went to the Feast of Tabernacles and taught there. There was discussion about Jesus as the Christ. The Jewish leaders did not believe that He was the Christ. Jesus tried to validate His testimony to the Pharisees. Lazarus dies and then is brought back to life by Jesus. Jesus predicts His Death. The Jews continue in their disbelief. Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. Jesus tells Thomas that He is the way to the Father. Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples, and for all believers. Jesus is arrested and taken to Annas. Peter's denies Jesus three times. Jesus is taken to before Pilate. Pilate sentenced Jesus to be crucified. Jesus is crucified, dies and then is buried. John tells of the empty tomb. Jesus first appears to Mary Magdalene and then to His disciples. Jesus has breakfast of fish and bread with His disciples. Peter is then told to take care and feed Jesus' sheep.

Acts

Author: Luke, the physician

Date: AD 62-64

Summary: The Book of Acts is of narrative and gospel genre. The book begins with a recount of Jesus' life right before and right after His crucifixion. Through prayer, Matthias was chosen to replace Judas as a disciple. The day of the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the apostles. Peter addresses the crowd, and they devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles. Peter heals a crippled beggar and then speaks to the onlookers regarding The God of Abraham. The book follows the general pattern of Jesus' commands to reach the world. First, as seen above, the Gospel is preached in Jerusalem. Then the Gospel expands to Samaria and Judea. Then it moves to the ends of the earth. The first half of the book mostly follows the ministry of Peter. Then, after the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who would become known as Paul, it follows Paul's four missionary journeys throughout Asia Minor and Southern Europe. The book ends with Paul imprisoned in Rome and the Gospel continuing to be proclaimed.

Romans

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 57

Summary: The Book of Romans is an epistle. In Paul's introduction, he tells the people of Rome that he is not ashamed of the gospel and wants to visit Rome. Paul explains God's wrath and judgment. Paul continues his letter advising the Romans about God's righteousness, and the righteousness of all who have faith in Jesus Christ. Paul states that Abraham was blessed because of his faith in God. Paul explains death came because of Adam, and eternal life comes through Jesus Christ. Paul asserts in his letter that he is speaking "the truth in Christ" (9:1). Paul explains that righteousness does not come by works, but by faith. Paul assures the Romans that through Jesus Christ, they are given endurance and encouragement. Paul then ministers to the Gentiles. Paul ends the letter by sending his personal greetings to many.

1 Corinthians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 55

Summary: The Book of 1 Corinthians is an epistle. Paul writes this letter to the church of Corinth. He begins by telling the church he thanks God for His grace. He appeals to the church in hopes that they may stop quarrelling. Paul discusses the causes and solutions to the quarrels. Paul writes in depth about dealing with immorality, lawsuits among each other, and sexual immorality. Paul tells the church what God wants out of a marriage. Paul then states his own opinion on marriage. Paul talks about Christian freedom using the example of food sacrificed to idols. Paul gives warnings about Israel's past. Paul writes about Jesus' resurrection and what that means to believers. He tells

the people of Corinth that he will be visiting them after his visit in Macedonia. Paul ends the letter with his personal greetings.

2 Corinthians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 56

Summary: The Book of 2 Corinthians is an epistle. This letter is written a few months after the first letter. Paul affirms that when troubled, God will comfort. Paul advises the people of Corinth that his plans have changed. Paul stresses the need for forgiveness. Paul talks about the new covenant with the living God. Paul discusses our heavenly dwelling after death, and Christ came to reconcile man's sins to Him. Paul writes about his hardships and his joy in Corinth's repentance. Paul encourages the people of Corinth to sincerely give to the people of Macedonia. Paul lets them know that Titus will be visiting Corinth. Paul defends his ministry. He ends his letter with some final warnings about believing him followed by his final greetings.

Galatians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 48

Summary: The Book of Galatians is an epistle. Paul writes this letter to the churches of Galatia. Paul reprimands the churches for deserting Christ. Paul asserts he has been called by God to preach the gospel. Paul retells how the Apostles accepted him. Paul retells how he opposed Peter in forcing the Gentiles in following the Jewish customs. Paul uses Abraham to prove his point that faith is more important than the observance of the Law. When you have faith in Jesus Christ that: "you are all sons of God." (3:26) Paul writes about his concerns for the Galatians. He tells them that in Christ they have freedom. When the Spirit is in living inside of you, you must try to treat others with good intentions. Paul advises the Galatians that it does not matter if you are circumcised or not, what matters is that Jesus Christ.

Ephesians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 61

Summary: The Book of Ephesians is an epistle. Paul opens this letter to the Ephesians with blessings from Christ. Paul lets the Ephesians know he has kept them in his prayers. Paul reminds them that from sin they were dead, but made alive through Jesus. He also reminds them that the Gentiles and the Jews are members of God's household. Paul preaches to the Gentiles. Paul advises the Ephesians what his prayer is for them. He advises them that through Christ they are of one body and one spirit. Through Christ, they are made new in their attitudes of their minds and they need to resist any bitterness, anger and malice. Paul advises them to live like God, with love. Paul gives the Ephesians advice on different relationships: husband and wife, children and parents, as well as slaves and masters. He tells them to be strong in God. The letter ends with his final greetings.

Philippians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 62

Summary: The Book of Philippians is an epistle. Paul tells the people of Philippi that he is thankful that they believe in Jesus. Paul tells them that they are in his prayers. Paul tells the Philippians that because of his imprisonment, the gospel has spread. He states that he is "in chains for Christ" (1:13). Paul advises the people of Philippi to have the same attitudes of Jesus: humility, love, compassion. Paul talks about Timothy visiting Philippi. He then talks about Epaphroditus, the messenger. Paul states the Epaphroditus was ill and almost died, but feeling better will return to Philippi. Paul gives the Philippians a warning of men who do evil. He urges them to press on towards the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul ends his letter with a thanks for the Philippians' gifts and then his final greetings.

Colossians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 62

Summary: The Book of Colossians is an epistle. Paul opens his letter to the people of Colosse with a thanksgiving and prayer. Paul emphasizes the gospel of Christ. Paul relates his labors and struggles for the gospel. Paul advises the Colossians that through a life with Christ, they are filled with strength and thankfulness. Paul warns of deceptive human traditions, false humility, and worship of angels. Paul advises the people of Colosse to not set their minds on earthly things. He also advises against sexual immorality, greed and idolatry. Paul gives some commands for husbands, wives, children, fathers, slaves and masters. Paul then advises the Colossians to pray, to be thankful and watchful. Paul ends his letter with some final greetings.

1 Thessalonians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 50-51

Summary: The Book of 1 Thessalonians is an epistle. Paul opens his letter to the people of Thessalonica by letting them know he thanks God for their faith in Jesus. He lets them know they are in his prayers. Paul writes about his visit to Thessalonica. Even though he had to leave them, he wants to visit again. Paul gives an account of Timothy's report after visiting Thessalonica. The report is good news about their faith and love. Even though they are demonstrating faith and love in Jesus, Paul urges them to do so more and more. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God will come down from heaven and those who believe in Christ will go with Him to live with Him forever. Paul instructs the people to live in peace with each other, to be joyful, pray, and avoid evil.

2 Thessalonians

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 51-52

Summary: The Book of 2 Thessalonians is an epistle. Paul opens his letter to the people of Thessalonica with thanksgiving and prayer. Paul warns the people to not be deceived of the time when God will return. He will not return until the "man of lawlessness is revealed" (2:3), and when man proclaims that he is God. Paul clarifies that lawlessness is the work of Satan who will display false miracles and signs. Paul advises the Thessalonians to stand firm and to remember the teachings of the gospel. Paul asks the people to pray for the spread of the gospel, and for deliverance from wickedness and evil. Paul warns against idleness. Paul ends the letter with his final greeting.

1 Timothy

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 65-67

Summary: The Book of 1 Timothy is an epistle. Paul opens his letter to Timothy with a warning against teachers of false doctrines. God's work is by faith. Paul tells Timothy that he is thankful for the strength from Jesus. Paul advises Timothy that prayers, intercession, requests, and thanksgiving be made for everyone. God wants everyone to be saved. Paul addresses the general order and structure of a worship service and its leadership. Paul reminds Timothy that everything God created is good. Paul instructs Timothy on being a good minister means having nothing to do with godless myths. Hold onto the promises for the present and future. Paul then gives advice about widows, elders and slaves. Paul warns of love for money that leads to temptation. Paul tells Timothy to fight for faith, command people to be rich in good deeds, and turn away from opposing ideas.

2 Timothy

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 65-67

Summary: The Book of 2 Timothy an epistle. Paul writes to Timothy to give him encouragement on being faithful. Paul encourages Timothy on his teachings and to avoid godless chatter. Paul writes about the last days being terrible. People will be out of control, conceited, disobedient and filled with evil desires. These people will have rejected Jesus and not get far. People believing in Jesus will persecuted, but must stand strong in their faith. Paul instructs Timothy to preach the Word with patience. Paul tells Timothy it is time for him to depart this life. Paul tells Timothy that even though everyone deserted him, the Lord stood by his side. Paul asks Timothy to try to visit him before winter and ends the letter with his blessing.

Titus

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: AD 65-67

Summary: The Book of Titus is an epistle. Paul begins his letter to Titus with a synopsis of the mission in Crete. Titus was to appoint elders. Paul gives the attributes the elders must possess. Paul instructs Titus on what should be taught to different groups of people, and to teach the people to be obedient and peaceful to authorities. Paul reminds Titus through Jesus, the people of faith have His grace and hope of eternal life. Paul warns Titus of foolish controversies and arguments about the law. Paul asks that Titus visit him soon.

Philemon

Author: Apostle Paul

Date: 62

Summary: The Book of Philemon an epistle. As a prisoner, Paul writes to Philemon. Paul begins the letter with prayer and thanksgiving. Paul asks Philemon to welcome Onesimus back as a brother in Christ. Paul hopes to visit Philemon soon. Paul ends the letter with greetings from fellow believers. Paul's overall point is that because of the work of Christ in our lives, there is no difference between the slave (Onisimus) and his owner (Philemon) in the eyes of God, so Philemon should treat Onisimus as a brother in Christ.

Hebrews

Author: Unknown, most early church fathers and tradition assign the Apostle Paul as its author

Date: 65-70

Summary: The Book of Hebrews is an epistle. The letter opens with a reminder of Jesus came for the purification of sins. The author gives warning to pay attention to not drift away from the gospel. Jesus brought about salvation through His suffering. Jesus' honor is greater than Moses. Jesus is the high priest of the new covenant. Christ was sacrificed to take away the sins of people. Christ's sacrifice was for all sin. The author recounts what God has done for the people of Israel because of faith. Warning is given about refusing God. The book concludes with instructions to keep loving others, marriage should be honored, and keep lives free from the love of money. More instructions follow on obeying leaders, and praising Jesus.

James

Author: James, the brother of Jesus

Date: AD 45

Summary: The Book of James is an epistle. James begins his letter by explaining that facing trials develops perseverance. Don't be deceived, God does not tempt anyone. James advises that everyone should be quick to listen, but slow to speak. James addresses his fellow brothers in Christ that favoritism is forbidden. James advises faith and good deeds go hand in hand. James instructs how important it is to watch the tongue. James tells that if you submit to God, He will come nearer to you. James warns about boasting and rich people. He encourages his brothers to be patient and to pray.

1 Peter

Author: Peter, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 64-67

Summary: The Book of 1 Peter is an epistle. Peter's letter starts with praise to God. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is a new birth of living hope. Peter tells the people to be self-controlled and set their hopes on the grace given by Christ. Because the people come to Jesus, they are the chosen people who now receive mercy. Peter talks about godliness and submission. He advises all to live in harmony with each other. If the people suffer for what is right, they will be blessed. Peter instructs the people to love each other and offer hospitality. Peter also acknowledges that there will be painful sufferings for being a Christian, but do not be ashamed and praise God. Peter then addresses the elders and the young men.

2 Peter

Author: Peter, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 64-67

Summary: The Book of 2 Peter an epistle. Peter instructs the people to make every effort to add to their faith, perseverance, and self-control. Peter reminds the recipients of his letter the prophecy of scripture. Peter then warns them of false prophets. Peter insists that the day of the Lord will come and His promise of a new heaven and a new earth will be kept. Peter advises the people to be on their guard, and to grow in their grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1 John

Author: John, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 90s

Summary: The Book of 1 John an epistle. John encourages believers with a reminder of the Word of life. The Word is the message from God how to walk in the light. John states that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. John advises against loving anything in or of the world. John warns against antichrists. John declares that all people who believe in Jesus are children of God, therefore to love one another. John advises that the spirits need to be tested to see if they are from God. John reminds the recipients of the letter that everyone who believes in Jesus is born of God, and being born of God means that you can overcome the world. John concludes by stating that anyone born of God will be safe from evil.

2 John

Author: John, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 90s

Summary: The Book of 2 John an epistle. John warns of deceivers who do not acknowledge Jesus in the flesh. John advises not to let the deceivers into your home. John kept the letter short as he was hopeful to visit soon.

3 John

Author: John, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 90s

Summary: The Book of 3 John an epistle. John writes a letter to Gaius to thank him for his faithfulness in truth. John criticizes Diotrephes for his gossip. John reminds Gaius that anyone who does what is evil has not seen God, so do not imitate evil. John then states his letter is short because he plans on visiting soon.

Jude

Author: Jude, the brother of Jesus

Date: AD 50

Summary: The Book of Jude is an epistle. Jude warns his readers of immoral men slipping secretly among the people of faith. Jude reminds the people the power of God. Jude instructs the readers to persevere by prayer and faith. Jude also advises to show mercy to those who doubt.

Revelation

Author: John, Jesus' disciple

Date: AD 90s

Summary: The Book of Revelation a prophetic book. John introduces himself and explains his vision. John addresses seven churches. John then describes the throne in heaven. John gives a description of the sealed scroll that only the Lamb could break. John watched the Lamb open the seals. After opening the sixth seal, four angels described the 144,000 that were sealed as servants of God. The Lamb opened the seventh seal and starts the seven trumpets. Each trumpet represents a catastrophe. With the seventh trumpet, John sees 144,000 sealed with the Father's name written on their forehead. He also saw three angels proclaim judgment and then reap the harvest. Seven angels have seven bowls filled with seven plagues which is God's wrath. Babylon is destroyed. The great multitude in heaven began celebrating because the salvation and glory belong to God. After a thousand years, Satan will make war, but is defeated. The dead are judged. New heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem will exist. John concludes with a warning that anyone who adds to or takes away from the prophecy will be dealt with.

Acknowledgements:

Information for the Bible Timelines was designed by Jeremy Gwaltney with the use of *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, by Gleason L. Archer; Moody Press, Chicago, 1994.

The Summaries of the books of the Bible above were taken from the website, <http://monicarobinson.hubpages.com>, then adapted, added to and edited by Jeremy Gwaltney.

Books of the Old Testament¹

Hebrew Version	Books	Author	Date Written (all dates BC)
TORAH			
TORAH	Genesis	Moses	1450-1400
	Exodus	Moses	1450-1400
	Leviticus	Moses	1450-1400
	Numbers	Moses	1450-1400
	Deuteronomy	Moses	1450-1400
PROPHETS			
Joshua (Former)	Joshua	Joshua	1406-1380
Judges (Former)	Judges	Samuel (?)	1389-1050
Samuel (Former)	1 Samuel	Unknown	1050-950
	2 Samuel	Unknown	1050-950
Kings (Former)	1 Kings	Unknown	970-587
	2 Kings	Unknown	970-587
Isaiah (Latter)	Isaiah	Isaiah	750-690
Jeremiah (Latter)	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	640-580
Ezekiel (Latter)	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	597-570
The Twelve (Latter)	Hosea	Hosea	700s
	Joel	Joel	700s (?)
	Amos	Amos	700s
	Obadiah	Obadiah	700s(?)
	Jonah	Jonah	700s
	Micah	Micah	700s
	Nahum	Nahum	600s
	Habakkuk	Habakkuk	600s
	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	600s
	Haggia	Haggia	520-519
	Zachariah	Zachariah	520-475
	Malachi	Malachi	520-435 (?)
WRITINGS			
Psalms	Psalms	David (and others)	1450-450
Job	Job	Unknown	Unknown
Proverbs	Proverbs	Solomon (and others)	970-931
Ruth	Ruth	Unknown	1389-1050
Song of Songs	Song of Songs	Unknown	970-931
Ecclesiastes	Ecclesiastes	Solomon	971-931
Lamentations	Lamentations	Jeremiah	587-580
Esther	Esther	Unknown	485-464 (?)
Daniel	Daniel	Daniel	600-530
Ezra/Nehemiah	Ezra	Ezra	475-430
	Nehemiah	Nehemiah	445-430
Chronicles	1 Chronicles	Unknown	Unknown
	2 Chronicles	Unknown	Unknown

¹ Taken from *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, by Gleason L. Archer; Moody Press, Chicago, 1994

Timeline and Theory of the Development of the Old Testament Canon²

Date	Event
Creation -1450 B.C.	Stories of creation, Patriarchs, early history of man, genealogies, etc. preserved by oral tradition because writing is scarce.
1450-470s BC	Israel and Judah's history is recorded and collected in parts throughout its history – from Moses, through The Twelve.
470- 430s BC	Ezra and Nehemiah return to Jerusalem to build the walls. At this time, an effort is made to “close” the sacred books of the Jewish people. Nehemiah funds the project of collating the Old Testament possibly as a part of his library. Ezra brings together the books of the Old Testament, edits them for coherence. The canon is closed.
250-150BC	Translation of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament which included all the books listed above.
250BC- AD 90	Jewish scholars from Ben Syrac, the Maccabees, Q'umran and Josephus mention a sacred text in a three-part division as listed above.
AD 90s	Believed Council of Jamnia. Rabbi's, in an attempt to redefine Judaism after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple (AD 70) by Rome, begin to question what books belong in the Jewish canon (OT). However, in the end, no changes were made.

² Taken from SEBTS Introduction to the Old Testament lecture notes by Dr. Robert Cole at SEBTS

Books of the New Testament³

Book	Author	Date Written (all dates AD)	Earliest Citation by the Early Church Fathers
Matthew	Matthew the Apostle	42-60	Ignatius AD 110
Mark	Mark – Peter’s interpreter	42-67	Papias AD 110
Luke	Luke the Physician	57-61	Paul (1 Tim). AD 64-66
John	John the Apostle	80-85	Papias/Polycarp AD 110
Acts	Luke the Physician	62-64	Irenaeus AD 200
Romans	Paul the Apostle	57	Clement I AD 95
1 Corinthians	Paul the Apostle	55	Clement I AD 95
2 Corinthians	Paul the Apostle	56	Marcion AD 140
Galatians	Paul the Apostle	48/55	Clement I AD 95
Ephesians	Paul the Apostle	61	Clement I AD 95
Philippians	Paul the Apostle	62	Polycarp AD 108
Colossians	Paul the Apostle	62	Polycarp AD 108
1 Thessalonians	Paul the Apostle	50-51	Polycarp AD 108
2 Thessalonians	Paul the Apostle	51	Polycarp AD 108
1 Timothy	Paul the Apostle	65-67	Clement I AD 95
2 Timothy	Paul the Apostle	65-67	Clement I AD 95
Titus	Paul the Apostle	65-67	Clement I AD 95
Philemon	Paul the Apostle	61	Eusebius AD 260
Hebrews	Unknown – believed to be Paul by many early church fathers	65-70	Clement I AD 95
James	James – brother of Jesus	45	Clement of Alexandria AD 180
1 Peter	Peter the Apostle	64-67	Clement I AD 95
2 Peter	Peter the Apostle	64-67	2 nd Century, Origin AD 250
1 John	John the Apostle	90s	Clement I AD 95
2 John	John the Apostle	90s	Origin AD 250
3 John	John the Apostle	90s	Origin AD 250
Jude	Jude – the brother of Jesus	50	Marutorian Canon AD 180
Revelation	John the Apostle	90	Ignatius AD 110

³ Taken from SEBTS Introduction to the New Testament lecture notes by Dr. Kellum and *An Introduction to the New Testament*; by D.A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo; Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2005

Timeline and Theory of the Development of the New Testament Canon⁴

Date (all dates AD)	Event
40s-90s	New Testament authors write various books and letters in the greater Mediterranean area. Hand written copies of these books and letters are copied and distributed all over the known world.
90s	An educated theory is that the Apostle John probably collated the Gospels (and possibly the rest of the NT) and they were circulated together.
140s	Marcion the heretic puts together a list of NT books he considered “inspired”
200	All the books but the three smallest (2&3 John and Philemon) are quoted by church fathers by this time.
300-303	Massive persecution of the church, including the burning of thousands of copies of NT writings.
325	Christianity recognized as a state religion in Rome
367	Athanasius Easter Letter includes a full list of the 27 New Testament books (Western Church).
397	Council of Carthage (Eastern Church) lists all 27 books of the New Testament
390-405	Jerome translates the Old and New Testaments from Hebrew and Greek into Latin Vulgate. Under pressure by the Catholic Church, he translates the Apocrypha, which was probably introduced to the Vulgate after his death.
1500-1600	Humanist Renaissance scholars and the Reformers while studying Hebrew question the originality of the Apocrypha. It is dropped from all Protestant Bibles.

⁴ Taken from lecture notes by Dr. Kellum, Dr. Cole and Dr. Hogg from SEBTS courses Intro to OT, Intro to NT and Church History I.