



Part 1: Bible Basics

- *History of the Bible*
- *Theology of the Bible*
- *Overview of the Bible*
- *Christ and the Bible*



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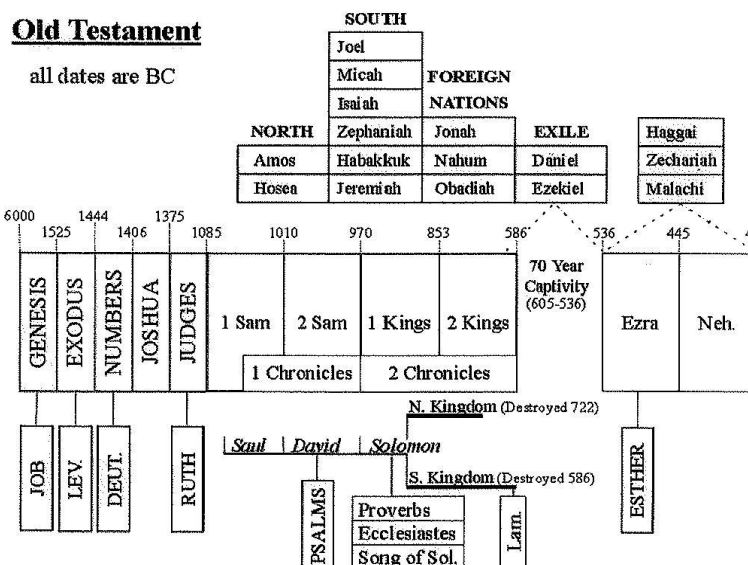
Class 1: History of the Bible

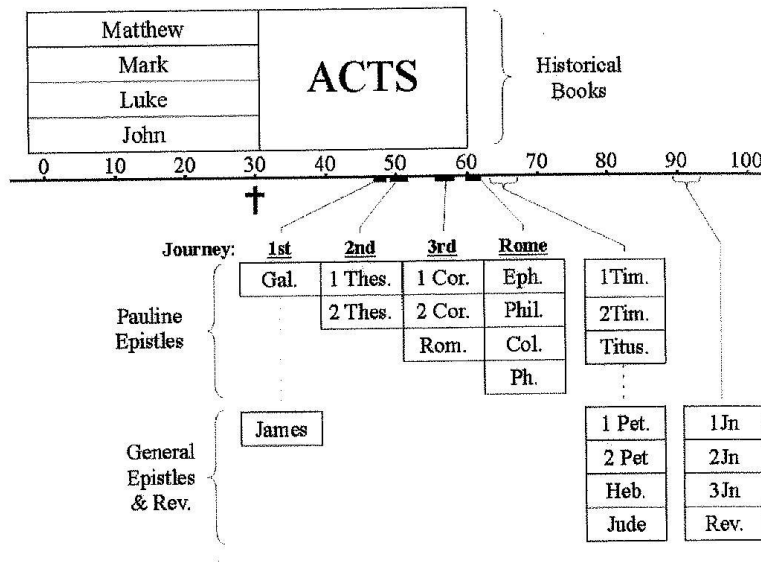
Objective: To understand a basic history of the Bible's authorship, transmission, and preservation while appreciating the Bible's impact on the world.

“... knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Peter 1:20-21 ESV)

Question 1: Who wrote the Bible and when?

- The Bible is a collection of _____ books, written by about _____ different authors from _____ different continents over a period of about _____ years
- The Bible covers at least _____ years of human history.
- The Old Testament was written in _____ and the New Testament was written in _____.
- The last book of the Bible was finished by _____ AD.





➤ _____ were typically responsible for preserving and transmitting copies of the biblical text.

◆ **Key takeaway:** *The Bible is a diverse collection of writings by a diverse collection of people, yet the overall story contains remarkable unity!*

Question 2: How did the Bible come to us in its present form?

- Originally, much of the Bible was transmitted _____ before being written down.
- Biblical content was preserved on scrolls made from _____, then _____, then eventually in a _____.

Important Developments in Bible Transmission History

EARLY DEVELOPMENT

- c. 1400–400 B.C. Books of the Hebrew Old Testament written
- c. 250–200 B.C. The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament, produced
- A.D. 45–85? Books of the Greek New Testament written
- 90 and 118 Councils of Jamnia give final affirmation to the OT canon (39 books)
- 140–150 Marcion’s heretical “New Testament” incites Christians to establish a NT canon
- 303–306 Diocletian’s persecution includes confiscating and destroying NT Scriptures
- c. 305–310 Lucian of Antioch’s Greek New Testament text; a foundation for later Bibles
- 367 Athanasius’s Festal Letter lists complete New Testament canon (27 books)
- 397 Council of Carthage establishes orthodox New Testament canon (27 books)
- c. 400 Jerome translates Bible into Latin; “Vulgate” becomes standard of medieval church

ENGLISH VERSIONS FROM LATIN

- c. 650 Caedmon, a monk, puts Bible books into verse
- c. 735 >Historian Bede translates the Gospels

871–899 King Alfred the Great translates the Psalms and 10 Commandments
 950 The 7th-century Lindisfarne Gospels receive English translation
 955–1020 Aelfric translates various Bible books
 c. 1300 Invention of eyeglasses aids copying
 c. 1325 Both Richard Rolle and William Shoreham translate psalms into metrical verse
 1380–1382 John Wycliffe and associates make first translation of the whole Bible into English
 1388 John Purvey revises Wycliffe Bible
 1455 Gutenberg's Latin Bible—first from press

ENGLISH VERSIONS FROM GREEK

1516 Erasmus's Greek NT, forerunner to the Textus Receptus used by KJV translators
 1525 William Tyndale makes the first translation of the NT from Greek into English
 1536 Tyndale strangled and burned
 1537 Miles Coverdale's Bible completes Tyndale's work on the Old Testament
 1538 Great Bible, by John Rogers, the first English Bible authorized for public use
 1560 Geneva Bible—William Whittingham, a Protestant English exile in Geneva
 1568 Bishop's Bible—a revision of the Great Bible
 1582 Rheims New Testament published
 1607–1611 King James Version, the "Authorized Version," is made

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *The Bible has been preserved for us through over 3,000 years of history, withstanding the tests of time and persecution!*

Question 3: How do we know what we have is accurate?

- The _____ of scripture is the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments accepted as authoritative by Christians.
- "Ten Basic Facts about the New Testament Canon Every Christian Should Know"
 - #1: "The New Testament Books are the _____ Christian Writings We Possess"
 - #2: "Apocryphal Writings are All Written in the _____ Century or Later"
 - #3: "The New Testament Books Are Unique Because They Are _____ Books"
 - #4: "Some NT Writers Quote Other NT Writers as _____"
 - #5: "The Four Gospels are Well Established by the End of the Second Century"
 - #6: "At the End of the Second Century, the Muratorian Fragment lists 22 of our 27 NT books"
 - #7: "Early Christians Often Used _____ Writings"
 - #8: "The NT Canon Was Not Decided at _____—Nor Any Other Church Council"
 - #9: "Christians Did Disagree about the Canonicity of Some NT Books"
 - #10 "Early Christians Believed that Canonical Books were _____."
- The study and science of comparing manuscripts to produce texts of the Bible is called _____.

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *We can be confident that we have the authentic words of scripture in our modern-day Bibles, in our own language!*

Question 4: What role has the Bible played throughout history?

- The Bible has been translated into _____ different languages and sells _____ million copies per year!
- The Bible’s teaching has influenced many areas of life around the world, including _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- The Bible continues to impact lives today!

Table 1. Odds Ratios of Engaging in Risk Behaviors - Adults.

	Getting Drunk	Sex Outside Marriage	Pornography	Gambling	Any Habit
Identifies as a born again Christian	↓37%	No effect	↓28%	↓30%	No effect
Attends church at least once a month	↓38%	↓31%	↓30%	↓26%	↓53%
Prays at least once a day	No effect	No effect	↓25%	No effect	No effect
Reads/listens to the Bible 4 or more days/week	↓49%	↓51%	↓51%	↓43%	↓61%
Reads/listens to the Bible 1 to 3 days/week	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect

Table 2. Odds of Engaging in Risk Behaviors - Teens.

	Smoking	Getting Drunk	Sex	Pornography	Any Habit
Identifies as a born again Christian	No effect	↓61%	No effect	No effect	No effect
Attends church at least once a month	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect
Prays at least once a day	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect
Reads/listens to the Bible 4 or more days/week	↓82%	↓80%	No effect	No effect	↓69%
Reads/listens to the Bible 1 to 3 days/week	↓55%	↓62%	No effect	No effect	No effect

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *The influence and impact of the Bible is unparalleled!*

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