

scruccure of the BIBLE

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets. ~ Hebrews 1:1

HE BIBLE is actually a small library of books. It is divided into two parts, the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament relates the whole history of God's saving interaction with humankind until the coming of Jesus of Nazareth. The New Testament records God's personal encounter with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, was crucified, died, and rose again for our salvation. These accounts are contained in what are called the Gospels, which form the very heart of the Bible. They are deeply reverenced by the Church because they are the principal source for her life and teaching about our Savior Jesus Christ. The New Testament also includes other books and letters that give an account of the Church in her infancy.

Because of the existence of other writings that were not inspired by God, the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit determined which writings were authentic and inspired, drawing up a complete list called the canon of Scripture. There are 46 books in the canon of the Old Testament (or 45 if *Jeremiah* and *Lamentations* are counted as one). There is a tradition that Moses was the author of the first five books of the Old Testament; these five books are called, collectively, the Pentateuch (derived from Greek word that means "five cases," perhaps referring to the boxes in which the scrolls were kept). By 100 BC, this list was complete (an asterisk indicates that the book is deuterocanonical; the handout entitled Deuterocanonical Books of the Old Testament

explains the reason for labeling some books this way).

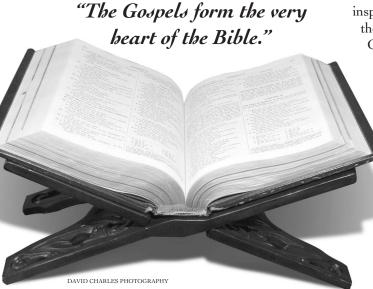
There are 27 books in the New Testament canon. The letters of St. Paul were the first ones written, beginning between 50 and 55 AD and ending with his death about 67 AD. The four Gospels followed soon

after, beginning with either the Gospel of Matthew or the Gospel of Mark and concluding with the Gospel of John. All the Gospels were written by the end of the 1st century. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are very similar and, for this reason, are called the "synoptic" (from a Greek word that means a similar view) Gospels. By tradition, St. Matthew is the Matthew identified as one of Jesus' apostles. St. Mark is named in the Acts of the Apostles and his Gospel is regarded as the substance of St. Peter's preaching. St. Luke is also named in the Acts of the Apostles and acted as St. Paul's traveling companion for a while. By his own description, he carefully researched his Gospel from eyewitnesses. The Acts of the Apostles, also written by St. Luke, was probably written before St. Paul's death and is at least in part history that St. Luke himself witnessed. The Gospel of St. John, by tradition, is written by the John identified as another of Jesus' apostles and also, by tradition, as the apostle "whom Jesus loved" (Jn 13:23; 19:25).

The remainder of the New Testament consists of letters written by St. Peter, St. James, St. Jude, and St. John, all apostles; the Letter to the Hebrews, whose authorship is not certain although it had traditionally been attributed to St. Paul; and the final book, Revelation, attributed as well to St. John the Evangelist.

We must understand that, although the Bible consists of 73 books written over a period of more than a millennium, by perhaps 40 human authors, its principal

author is the Holy Spirit who inspired each human author to write only what God wanted written for the sake of our salvation. In essence, therefore, Sacred Scripture is one book, and the one book is Jesus Christ, the Word of God, about whom all of Sacred Scripture writes and in whom all Scripture is fulfilled.



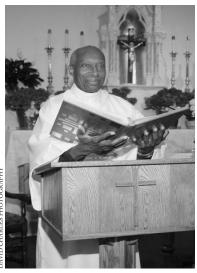




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OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy



A deacon proclaims the Gospel reading during Mass

Historical	Wisdom	Prophetic
Joshua	Job	Isaiah
Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah
Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations
1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Baruch*
2 Samuel	Song of Songs	Ezekiel
1 Kings	Wisdom*	Daniel
2 Kings	Sirach*	Hosea
1 Chronicles		Joel
2 Chronicles		Amos
Ezra		Obadiah
Nehemiah		Jonah
Tobit*		Micah
Judith*		Nahum

Habakkuk Zephaniah

Haggai Zechariah Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Esther

1 Maccabees*
2 Maccabees*

Gospels Matthew	Pauline Letters (Epistles)	Other Letters	Other Writings
Mark	Romans	(Epistles)	Acts
Luke	1 Corinthians	Hebrews	1 John
John	2 Corinthians	James	Revelation
	Galatians	1 Peter	
	Ephesians	2 Peter	
	Philippians	2 John	
	Colossians	3 John	
	1 Thessalonians	Jude	
	2 Thessalonians		
	1 Timothy		
	2 Timothy		
	Titus		
	Philemon		

 $[\]ensuremath{^{*}}$ These books are excluded from the Protestant canon, or collection, of Scripture.





ABBREVIACIONS FOR BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Following, in alphabetical order, are the abbreviations used in the handouts for the books of Sacred Scripture:

Acts	Acts of the Apostles	Gal	Galatians
Am	Amos	Gn	Genesis
Bar	Baruch	Hb	Habakkuk
1 Chr	1 Chronicles	Heb	Hebrews
$2 \mathrm{Chr}$	2 Chronicles	Hg	Haggai
Col	Colossians	Hos	Hosea
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	Is	Isaiah
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	Jas	James
Dn	Daniel	Jb	Job
Dt	Deuteronomy	Jdt	Judith
Eccl	Ecclesiastes	Jer	Jeremiah
Eph	Ephesians	Jgs	Judges
Est	Esther	Jl	Joel
Ex	Exodus	Jn	John
Ez	Ezekiel	1 Jn	1 John
Ezr	Ezra	2 Jn	2 John



Chi-Rho symbol, formed from the first two letters from the word 'Christ' in the Greek language, 4th century Spanish tombstone

3 Jn 3 John Jon Jonah Joshua Jos Jude Jude 1 Kgs 1 Kings 2 Kgs 2 Kings Lam Lamentations Luke Lk L_{V} Leviticus Mal Malachi 1 Maccabees 1 Mc $2 \, \mathrm{Mc}$ 2 Maccabees Mi Micah Mark Mk Matthew Mt Na Nahum Neh Nehemiah Numbers Nm Obadiah Ob Phil Philippians Philemon Phlm Prv Proverbs Psalms Ps(s)1 Pt 1 Peter 2 Pt 2 Peter Romans Rom Ru Ruth Rv Revelation Sirach Sir 1 Sm 1 Samuel 2 Sm2 Samuel Song of Songs Song Tobit Tb 1 Thes 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 2 Thes Ti Titus 1 Tm 1 Timothy 2 Tm2 Timothy Wis Wisdom Zec Zechariah

(CCC 102, 105-106, 109-111, 120, 128-129)

Zephaniah

Zep

