

## Lesson #1A

## NAMES OF THE BIBLE

**Bible:** comes from the Greek *biblion* which means *books*.

In the 1st century, Christians called their Old & New Testament *biblion hagion*, meaning *holy books*.

**Scripture:** when they began speaking Latin, they called it *sancta scriptura* meaning *sacred writings*.

## AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE

**Divine Author:** 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The concepts & thoughts came from God. The Holy Spirit is the divine author.

The Holy Spirit is also the “explainer” of the Bible 1 Corinthians 2:11-14

All religions claim to have writings from a divine or sacred source.

We claim the Bible is sacred because it comes from the God we worship.

One evidence that points to divine authorship of the Bible:

books by 40 authors, written in 3 languages over 1500 years, when combined, have unity & one theme.

**Human Authors:** God used more than 40 human authors to write down His message.

Each author had freedom to write in his own style; the Holy Spirit made sure the words they chose were accurate.

## LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE

**Hebrew:** the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language of the Jews, between 1400 & 400 BC.

**Aramaic:** a few O. T. chapters in Ezra & Daniel were written in Aramaic, the language of Syria between 500 & 400 BC.

**Greek:** the New Testament was written in simplified, koiné Greek in the 1st century AD

## DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

**Divided in 2 parts:** the Old & New Testaments **Testament** means *declaration*.

God is declaring how He revealed Himself to the world, including what He is like, what He wants to do & what He expects in return.

**Old/First Declaration:** God revealed Himself thru the Jewish people & nation.

It covers the time before Jesus’ life here on earth - the time of history called BC

**New/Second Declaration:** God revealed Himself thru others,

first thru His Son Jesus; then thru the Church.

It started after Jesus came to this earth - the time of history called AD.

**Divided by topic** The Bible is like a library that is put together by topics.

## Old Testament

**Law** ..... Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

**History** ..... Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings,  
1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther  
Tobit, Judith, 1-2 Maccabees (deutero-canonical books)

**Poetry (Wisdom)** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon, Canticles)  
Book of Wisdom, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) (deutero-canonical)

**Major Prophets** . Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel  
longer books Baruch (deutero-canonical)

**Minor Prophets** . Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,  
shorter books Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

## New Testament

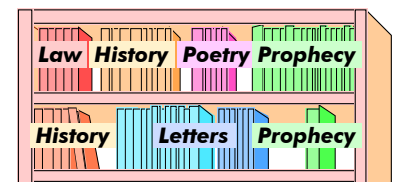
**Gospels** ..... Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**History** ..... Acts

**Paul’s letters** .... Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians,  
1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

**General letters** . Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-2-3 John, Jude

**Prophecy** ..... Revelation



### VIEWS ABOUT THE BIBLE

**Historical View:** is a conservative & literal view that the events really happened; the authors really wrote the books.  
However this view never takes picture language, symbols or allegories as literal

**Allegorical View:** sometimes called the liberal view or higher criticism  
The events did not necessarily happen; the authors did not write the books connected with their name.

### HOW WE LEARN & UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

We learn the most when dates & geography are included.

We need to know **when** things happened, **where** they happened & what happened 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (chronology).

### DEUTERO-CANONICAL BOOKS (APOCRYPHA) **WHAT** they are: Jewish literature

**Tobit** ..... Jewish novel: a young man is led by an angel to Persia to marry a virgin-widow.

**Judith** ..... Jewish novel: a Jewish widow kills the army general of the enemy & saves her people & city.

**1-2 Maccabees** ..... historical accounts of the Jews' struggle against Hellenization, led by Mattathias & his 5 sons from 175 to 135 BC.

**Wisdom** ..... Jewish poetry like Proverbs that describes the value of wisdom.

**Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)** . Jewish poetry like Proverbs giving rules on how to live the everyday life.

**Baruch** ..... describes the prayers & repentance of the Jews when they were in exile.

There are extra chapters in the book of **Esther**, giving the prayers & praise offered by Esther & Mordecai.

There are extra verses in **Daniel** giving the prayers & praise of the 3 men in the fiery furnace & 2 extra chapters about Daniel & how he used his wisdom.

### DEUTERO-CANONICAL BOOKS (APOCRYPHA) **WHERE** they came from

**400 BC** **Ezra** separated the equivalent of 39 books of Jewish literature & said they were unique because they were God-inspired. They formed the sacred text of the **Old Testament**, written in **Hebrew & Aramaic**.

**280 BC** A Greek king ruling in Egypt (Ptolemy Philadelphus) wanted a world famous library & desired to include the best of all world literature. He appointed 70 Jewish linguists, living in Egypt, to translate their sacred literature from Hebrew to **Greek**. Because the **Jews** were **Hellenized**, they accepted Greek culture & thought. They did not believe any of their books were unique or God-given. For them, it was all the same. They translated the 39 books Ezra put aside & then added favorite stories from other Jewish literature.

The translation became known as the **Septuagint (LXX)** which means "70". From 280 to 180 BC more copies were made with more Jewish books included.

**150 AD** The Bible was translated from the Greek Septuagint to **Old Latin**. The 39 books plus the additions were all translated directly from the Septuagint. (The New Testament, written in Greek, was also translated).

**400 AD** **Jerome** was commissioned by the Church to translate the Old Testament directly from Hebrew to **Latin** (as well as the New Testament from Greek to Latin). Since he worked with the original Hebrew, he translated only the original 39 books of the Old Testament. But the people of his day refused to accept it because it did not have the additional books. Eventually the Church transferred the extra books directly from the Old Latin Version to Jerome's translation, the **Latin Vulgate**. They inserted these books between the Old & New Testaments.

**1388** Wycliffe made the first translation from the Latin Vulgate to **English**. He included 39 books plus the additions since they had always been in the Bible.

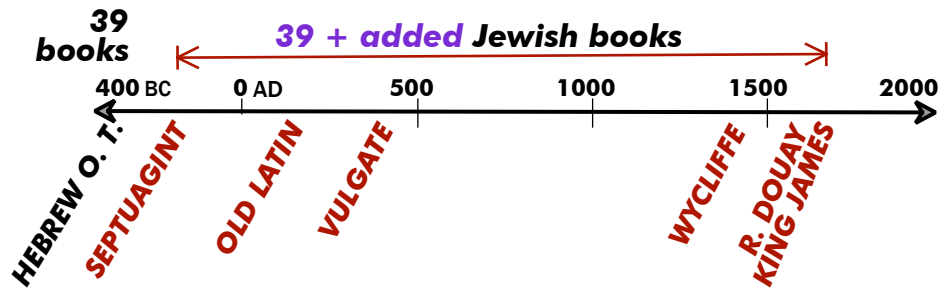
**1582** Exiled Catholics in France produced **Reims-Douay Version** from the Vulgate to **English** & included the additions.

**1611** **King James** of England ordered a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew to **English**. Since Bibles for 1000 years always had the additional books, they were added between the Old & New Testaments.

From 200 BC to 1827 AD, the majority of Bibles, including King James, contained 39 original books of the Jewish Old Testament. The additional deuterio-canonical books were placed between the Old & New Testament.



## DEUTERO-CANONICAL BOOKS (APOCRYPHA) **WHERE** they came from (continued)



## DEUTERO-CANONICAL BOOKS (APOCRYPHA) **WHY** there is a difference in Bibles today.

Josephus, Church leaders, the Church Councils, Jerome, Gregory the Great (Bishop of Rome), Pope Clement VII, Cardinal Cajeton, Martin Luther...

all explained that *39 books of the Old Testament were inspired; the others were of value, but should be considered with caution, since they were controversial.* The extra books were always called "Apocrypha" - of uncertain origin, or "deutero-canonical" - books from a second group.

In the 1500's, there was a division between the Catholics & the Protestants. The deutero-canonical books became an issue: In 1546 at the Council of Trent, the **Roman Catholic** church took the official position that 7 of the 10 additional books were equal to the other 39 & were God-given.

**Protestants** kept the former position of the Church & said only 39 were uniquely God-given.

Today, there is a difference of belief in how many books of the Old Testament are God-given.

The Roman Catholic church & Episcopalians accept 46 books.

Other Protestants in general, accept 39.

Everyone agrees there are 27 books in the New Testament.

## APPLICATION

From history we can see that: in spite of Jewish translators adding other books  
in spite of language changes  
in spite of people making their own translations  
God, the author of the Bible, is also the protector of the Bible.

He has protected His message because: 2 Timothy 3:16-17  
only the Bible can tell us what our God is really like.  
only the Bible tells us what is right & wrong from God's point of view.  
only the Bible can train us so our good works are done in a way that honors God.,  
meaning they are done with a right motive, a right attitude & in a right way.

**This is why the Bible needs to be a vital part of our life.**

