



# OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE

The word testament means Covenant or contract and speaks of a contract or promise between God and Man. Books written before the time of Jesus are collected in the Old Testament while books that were written after Jesus' life and ministry are collected in the New Testament. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.

The second division is based on genres of literature. Within the Old and New Testaments: the books are organized such that all of the histories are together, all of the gospels are together, and so on. Chronology, Author, and Length. The final division occurs within the literary genres, which are grouped by chronology, author, and length. For example, the Historical Books of the Old Testament follow a chronological history of the Jewish people from the time of Abraham (Genesis) to Moses (Exodus) to David (1 and 2 Samuel) and beyond. The Wisdom Literature also follows a chronological pattern. Other genres are grouped by size, such as the Prophets. The first books of this genre (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Ezekiel) are much longer than the others, but are "major" because they deal more with prophecies of Christ. Therefore, these books are referred to as the "major prophets," while the 12 smaller books are known as the "minor prophets." Finally, some of the Bible's books are sub-grouped by author. This is why Paul's epistles are all grouped together in the New Testament. It's also why Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are grouped together within the Wisdom Literature—because these books were written by Solomon. Divisions according to genres of the Old Testament include:

## THE BOOKS OF THE LAW (5 books)

Written by Moses and they contain the Law. These books contain history as well as speeches and songs, these are more than purely legal documents. We learn about creation, the flood, Babel, the patriarchs, the Exodus from Egypt, Sinai, and the 40 year wilderness wandering. Called the LAW, the Torah, the *Pentateuch* meaning, "The five books." These books were written about 1,500 BC ("BC" indicates the period before Christ.)

<b>GENESIS</b>	"Generations" or "Beginnings", history of earth, man, and Israel including: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph
<b>EXODUS</b>	"Exit" from Egypt, Moses
<b>LEVITICUS</b>	Laws given to the Levites, the priest tribe to carry out
<b>NUMBERS</b>	"Census", numbering from beginning through 40 years of Sinai
<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>	"2nd giving of the Law" Review, warnings before Jordan

## THE BOOKS OF HISTORY (12 books)

Describing the conquest of the Promised Land, the period of the Judges, the United Kingdom, the Divided Kingdom, the Babylonian captivity and the Restoration of the Israel to their homeland. At this point that Old Testament history comes to a close.

JOSHUA	1400 BC Conquest of Canaan
JUDGES	God rules as King
RUTH	Gentile in the lineage of Jesus
1 SAMUEL	Samuel, Saul, introduction of David
2 SAMUEL	David the King
1 KINGS	King Solomon; Divided Kingdom (Civil War)
2 KINGS	Decline & captivity of the kingdoms
1 CHRONICLES	Genealogy from Adam to 2nd Samuel
2 CHRONICLES	Temple records of 1st & 2nd Kings
EZRA	530 BC – Rebuilding the Temple
NEHEMIAH	518 BC – Rebuilding Jerusalem
ESTHER	Jewish Queen who saved her people, 500 BC

## THE BOOKS OF POETRY (4 books)

These are distinctly Hebrew poetry (or devotion) and consist of wisdom literature, songs, and narratives.

JOB	The oldest book. An Ancient drama describing his faithfulness in suffering, and “ <i>Comforted</i> ” by 3 friends.
PSALMS	Hebrew songbook mostly by David. Five parts.
PROVERBS	A book of “Wisdom” by Solomon to his son. “Fear of God is beginning of knowledge.”
ECCLESIASTES	The “ <i>Preacher</i> ” teaching on the vanity of things “ <i>under the sun.</i> ” “ <i>Fear God</i> ”
SONG OF SOLOMON	(“ <i>Canticles</i> ”) Love song – Shulamite and her shepherd love.

## THE MAJOR PROPHETS (4 books)

ISAIAH	721 BC – “Messianic Prophet” Assyrians carrying away ten northern tribes of Israel.
JEREMIAH	600 BC – To Jews in Canaan. Conquest by Babylonian.
LAMENTATIONS	600 BC – Hebrew poetry mourning Jerusalem’s destruction
EZEKIEL	600 BC – To Jews in Babylon. Theme: “ <b>They Shall Know I am Jehovah.</b> ”
DANIEL	600 BC – In a class by itself. It deals with anti-christ, the Tribulation and the end times. Prophet to the nations & Babylon during 70 years captivity and later to Persian royalty.

## THE MINOR PROPHETS (12 books)

The smaller prophetic books are referred to as the Minor Prophets.

HOSEA	721 BC – Israel - the unfaithful wife.
JOEL	800 BC – Judah - Locust Plague
AMOS	760 BC – Israel's idolatrous luxury
OBADIAH	585 BC – Edom doomed.
JONAH	800 BC – Nineveh repents
MICAH	721 BC – Israel & Judah warned
NAHUM	720 BC – Nineveh doomed
HABAKKUK	610 BC – Why the wicked triumph, 'I will trust in God.'
ZEPHANIAH	630 BC – The terrible day of God.
HAGGAI	520 BC – Rebuilding the Temple
ZECHARIAH	520 BC – Messianic Visions
MALACHI	430 BC – Elijah to come

## INTER-TESTAMENT PERIOD      400 Silent Years

### Divisions of the New Testament Books

The New Testament books can be grouped in different ways, but many identify three broad categories that include history, letters (also called epistles), and prophecy. The historical books include the four Gospels and the Book of Acts. The letters are generally grouped by Paul's letters and the "General" letters (all the others). The only book labeled as "prophecy" is the Book of Revelation, but just as with Old Testament prophecy, Revelation is not entirely about the future. Books of the New Testament Library (picture) (arrangement)

### THE GOSPELS

The four Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus. They include Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each Gospel is written from a different perspective with different purposes; each giving us different accounts, (even though they contain overlapping stories). A biography of the Life of Christ

MATTHEW	(Synoptic) Jesus the Messiah, Jewish view
MARK	(Synoptic) Jesus the power of God, Roman view
LUKE	(Synoptic) Jesus the wisdom of God, Greek view
JOHN	"Jesus the Son of God" Emphasizes his Divinity, the <b>love</b> of God and <b>knowledge</b> God.

### NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY (written by Luke)

**The Book of Acts** (1 book) – The Book of Acts tells us about the birth and early years of the Church. It helps us understand how the church went from being an exclusively Jewish group of people to

being largely Gentile. Primarily Peter's apostleship to the Jews and Paul's apostleship to Gentiles.

## **PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES (14 books)**

Paul spent much of his life planting churches on several missionary journeys. He later wrote letters to many of the churches and many of these letters have been preserved in the New Testament.

<b>ROMANS</b>	Salvation through faith by imputed righteousness of Christ.
<b>1 CORINTHIANS</b>	A divided church
<b>2 CORINTHIANS</b>	Paul's right as an apostle to speak to them
<b>GALATIANS</b>	A fickle church – the influence of Jews teaching the Law.
<b>EPHESIANS</b>	The glorious church (much like Colossians).
<b>PHILIPPIANS</b>	" <i>Rejoice.</i> " Paul's thanks for their help.
<b>COLOSSIANS</b>	Supremacy of Christ (Much like Ephesians).
<b>1 THESSALONIANS</b>	Jesus is coming again.
<b>2 THESSALONIANS</b>	Jesus not coming soon & great apostasy will come first.
<b>1 TIMOTHY</b>	(Pastoral Epistle) How to lead the church at Ephesus.
<b>2 TIMOTHY</b>	(Pastoral Epistle) Paul's final letter. Be faithful.
<b>TITUS</b>	(Pastoral Epistle) How to lead churches on Crete.
<b>PHILEMON</b>	Church letter about Onesimus: Runaway slave returned.
<b>HEBREWS</b>	Better things in Christ. To Christian Jews of Palestine.

## **GENERAL LETTERS TO THE CHURCH (7 books)**

Letters written by Peter, John, James and his brother Jude. Each letter had a specific audience in mind as well as a reason for the letter. Each are unique in flavor and lessons to be learned.

<b>JAMES</b>	" <i>Not by faith only</i> " – Justification by a living faith, doing the word.
<b>1 PETER</b>	" <i>Suffer as a Christian.</i> "
<b>2 PETER</b>	" <i>Make your election sure</i> " Warning of enemies & Earth to be purged.
<b>1 JOHN</b>	" <i>Hereby we know.</i> " Gnostics, " <i>anti-Christ.</i> "
<b>2 JOHN</b>	" <i>To the elect lady.</i> " Reject those who deny that Jesus came in flesh.
<b>3 JOHN</b>	" <i>Diotrephes loves to have the preeminence.</i> "
<b>JUDE</b>	" <i>Contend earnestly for the faith.</i> " Warning of enemies & apostates.

## **NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY**

### **REVELATION** Prophecy (1 book)

95 AD Jesus tells John to write to seven churches and reveal things to come. The Book of Revelation was a letter written and delivered to specific churches. It is prophetic in two ways (like the prophets of the Old Testament): written to the people living in that

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**MAJOR PROPHETS**

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

**MINOR PROPHETS**

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Malachi

**HISTORY**

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

**PENTATEUCH**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

**INSPIRATION**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**GENERAL EPISTLES**

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

**PAULINE EPISTLES**

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

**RIVER OF INSPIRATION**

James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John

**REVELATION**

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE