

The Structure of the Bible:

The Catholic Christian Bible contains **73*** "Books (as opposed to 66 in the Christian Bible)."

*There are 7 books that are in the Old Testament that have always been part of the Canon of Scripture. Protestant reformers removed these books but the Council of Trent in 1546 declared that they are indeed part of our scriptures. These books contain stories of God's working in the lives of heroic individuals.

- The Books of the Bible are divided into Chapters.
- The Chapters are divided into Verses.

So, if you wanted to locate John 3:16, you would open the Bible to the Book of John, then turn to Chapter 3, and then look for Verse 16. And there you would find one of the most popular Bible passages:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16 (from the New International Version (NIV) English translation)

An introduction to the Bible:

- Christians believe the Bible is the inspired word of God.
- The Christian Bible is divided into two parts - the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- The books of the Bible were written by about 40 different people, including prophets, poets and historians.
- The **Old Testament books** of the Bible were composed during a period of time that lasted about 1000 years. That period of time began with Moses and ended during the time the prophet Malachi lived.
- The **New Testament books** of the Bible were written sometime from about 50 AD to about 95 AD. Jesus was crucified by the Romans in about 30 AD.
 - The **New Testament** contains the "four Gospels," which refers to the books of **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. Early church history is contained in **The Acts of the Apostles**. Also in the New Testament are "epistles" or "letters" that were written by Peter, Paul, James and other followers of Jesus. It also contains the book of Revelation.

The Old Testament:

The Pentateuch or Torah.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

These 5 books were written perhaps as long ago as 3400 years ago, traditionally they are attributed to Moses. These five books are sometimes called the **Law Books** and contain stories of humanity's origins, the patriarchs, Israel's escape from slavery and their journey to the promised land. It contains the social, moral, and religious guidelines for living in response to God's love.

The History Books

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester.

These include the stories of Israel's conquest of the Promised Land, their growth as a nation, their exile in a foreign land, and their return from exile to a land occupied by a foreign government

The Poetry and Wisdom Books

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.

These books are sometimes called the books of Writings, or the books of Poetry, or the books of Wisdom. These books contain ancient hymns of personal struggles and national pride as well as lessons about suffering, finding meaning in everyday life, and love.

The Prophetic Books

Jeremiah, Lamentations, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. Prophets reveal God's message calling us back to hope, forgiveness and justice. These books teach us how to treat one another and remain faithful to God. The references of *major* and *minor* prophets refer to the length of the respective compositions not any prophetic distinction among the writers.

Deuterocanonical Books (Second Canon)

Baruch, Sirach (Ecclesiastes), Judith, Tobit, Wisdom, 1 Macabees, 2 Macabees.

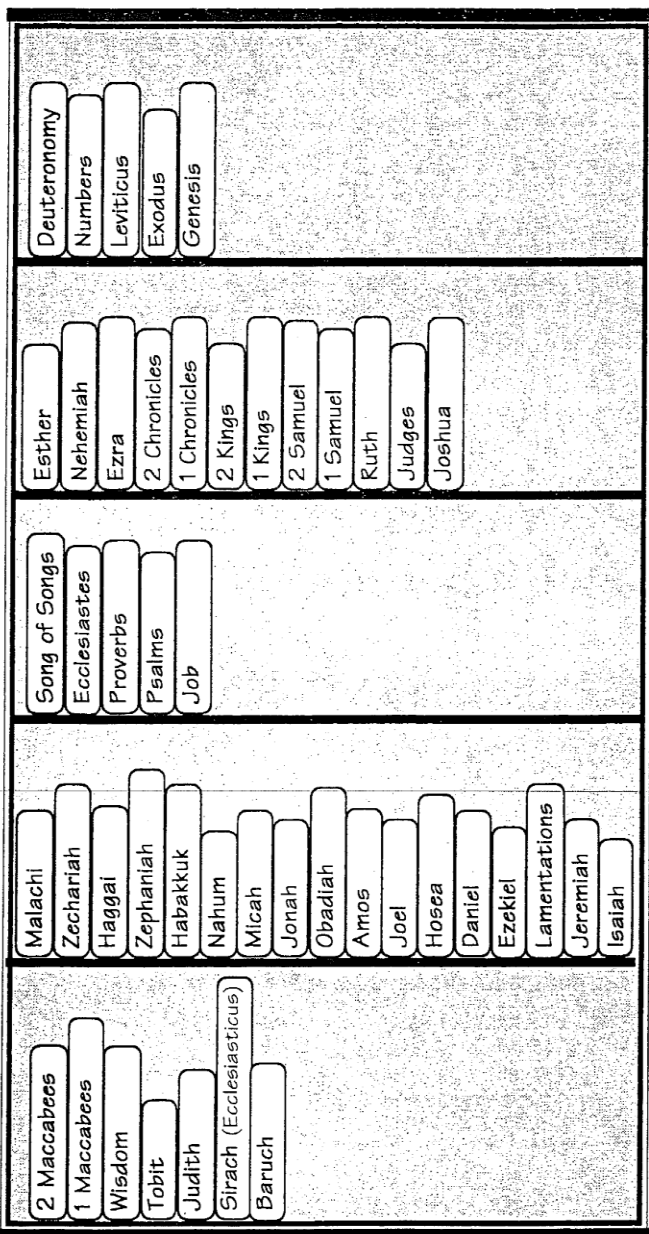
These texts are all contained in Catholic Bibles but not Jewish or Protestant.

These books were in the Jewish scriptures at the time of Jesus and He taught His disciples from them. The Jewish scholars took them out about 250 years after Jesus Passion because the followers of Jesus, Christians, looked to them to give evidence of the existence of heaven, life after death. The Protestant reformers removed them from the Christian scriptures in the 16th century because the Jews didn't use them any longer.

Handout 1

The Hebrew Scriptures Library

Directions: Study the information below, which describes the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures.



Law Books: The Torah (Law) or Pentateuch (five books) contains stories of humanity's origins, the patriarchs, Israel's escape from slavery and their journey to the promised land. It contains the social, moral, and religious guidelines for living in response to God's love.

History Books: These include the stories of Israel's conquest of the promised land, their growth as a nation, their exile in a foreign land, and their return from exile to a land occupied by a foreign government.

Poetry & Wisdom Books: These books contain ancient hymns of personal struggles and national pride as well as lessons about suffering, finding meaning in everyday life, and love.

Prophetic Books: Prophets reveal God's message calling us back to hope, forgiveness, and justice. These books teach us how to treat one another and remain faithful to God. (plus additions to Daniel and Esther)

Additional Books: The Deuterocanonical (Second Canon) books are texts contained in all Catholic Bibles, but not in Jewish or Protestant Bibles. These books contain stories of God's working in the lives of heroic individuals.

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The New Testament

The New Testament was originally written in Greek because it was the most commonly spoken language of the Mediterranean world. It contains the four Gospels, Act of the Apostles, Epistles, and Book of Revelation.

The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The Gospels were written about 2000 years ago by the followers of Jesus. Each Gospel is an account of the life, teachings, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ written for different audiences. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke together are referred to as the synoptic gospels. "Synoptic" is derived from a Greek word meaning "one eye," since these gospels look alike in structure and content.

The Gospel of John differs in structure and contains some stories and sayings of Jesus that are not found the synoptic gospels

Acts of the Apostles is the book immediately following the Gospel of John. It is written by Luke as a sequel to his gospel account it describes the faith, growth and way of life of early Christianity. The story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church at Pentecost, the martyrdom of St. Stephen and the conversion of St. Paul can all be found in this book.

The Epistles

The Epistles or Letters make up the largest part of the New Testament. They are divided into two categories: the Pauline Letters and other Apostolic Letters. All the letters follow the format of letter writing in the ancient world. Each letter usually begins with a greeting and an identification of the sender and the recipients. This is followed by a prayer, usually in the form of a thanksgiving. The body of the letter is an exposition of Christian teaching, usually responding to the circumstances of the recipients. It may be followed by a discussion of the author's future travel plans and conclude with practical advice and a farewell.

The Pauline Letters

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

These were written by St. Paul or one of his disciples; not long after the death and resurrection of Jesus, between 54 A.D. and 80 A.D. They indicate early developments of Christian theology and practice.

Apostolic Letters

James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

The Apostolic Letters are thought to be addressed, not so much to a particular community or individual, but to a more universal audience. They were written by various authors between 65 A.D. and 95 A.D.

John's letters and the Book of Revelation

1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation.

This book was written by John about 1900 years ago. He was shown visions of the future by Jesus. This book contains many prophecies about the End Times, or the Apocalypse. Biblical scholars have concluded that the Gospel of John and the Letters of John were written by the same author. The letters were probably composed at the end of the first century.

The last book contained in Christian scripture, **Revelation** is perhaps the most misinterpreted and problematic. The book is an example of apocalyptic literature popular from 200 B.C. to 200 A.D. This literary form included use of symbolic numbers, colors, animals and cosmic images. All of these devices and their meaning would have been familiar to the original audience, but have proven a puzzlement to succeeding generations.

THE NEW TESTAMENT		
GOSPELS Matthew Mark Luke John	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews	GENERAL EPISTLES James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude
HISTORY Acts		APOCALYPTIC Revelation

ABBREVIATIONS 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	3 Jn	3 John
Am	Amos	Gn	Genesis	Jon	Jonah
Bar	Baruch	Hb	Habakkuk	Jos	Joshua
1 Chr	1 Chronicles	Heb	Hebrews	Jude	Jude
2 Chr	2 Chronicles	Hg	Haggai	1 Kgs	1 Kings
Col	Colossians	Hos	Hosea	2 Kgs	2 Kings
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	Is	Isaiah	Lam	Lamentations
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	Jas	James	Lk	Luke
Dn	Daniel	Jb	Job	Lv	Leviticus
Dt	Deuteronomy	Jdt	Judith	Mal	Malachi
Eccl	Ecclesiastes	Jer	Jeremiah	1 Mc	1 Maccabees
Eph	Ephesians	Jgs	Judges	2 Mc	2 Maccabees
Est	Esther	Jl	Joel	Mi	Micah
Ex	Exodus	Jn	John	Mk	Mark
Ez	Ezekiel	1 Jn	1 John	Mt	Matthew
Ezr	Ezra	2 Jn	2 John	Na	Nahum
				Neh	Nehemiah
				Nm	Numbers
				Ob	Obadiah
				Phil	Philippians
				Phlm	Philemon
				Prv	Proverbs
				Ps(s)	Psalms
				1 Pt	1 Peter
				2 Pt	2 Peter
				Rom	Romans
				Ru	Ruth
				Rv	Revelation
				Sir	Sirach
				1 Sm	1 Samuel
				2 Sm	2 Samuel
				Song	Song of Songs
				Tb	Tobit
				1 Thes	1 Thessalonians
				2 Thes	2 Thessalonians
				Ti	Titus
				1 Tm	1 Timothy
				2 Tm	2 Timothy
				Wis	Wisdom
				Zec	Zechariah
				Zep	Zephaniah



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

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