● 66 Books

● Two Sections: Old Testament (39 books) and New Testament (27 books)

● Over 40 authors contributed to the writings in the bible from all different walks of life:

farmers, shepherds, lawyers, physicians, fishermen, priests, philosophers, kings and tent-makers. All of these men inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote the words we refer to as scripture.

OLD TESTAMENT

● The Old Testament is a collection of written words from God which began with the 10 commandments and continued throughout the time of the patriarchs and the prophetic era.

● By approximately 435 BC, the cannon was closed ending with the prophecy of Malachi.

● “Septuagint” during Jewish dispersion the Old Testament was translated into Greek. This

took place in Alexandria Egypt under the leadership of Hellenistic Jews in 275-100 BC. Often abbreviated as LXX because over 70 translators were involved in the process.

OLD TESTAMENT

The Hebrew canon was assembled in three parts. The first, of course, was the Pentateuch (or the Law). Tradition holds were written by Moses (though someone else—perhaps Joshua—had to help him, since his death is included in. The second and third sections were the Prophets (or Nevi’im) and the Sacred Writings (Ketuvim)

The Jewish Council at Jamnia confirmed these 39 books a canonical and authoritative. This council met at the close of the 1st century.

The Old Testament was written on scrolls made of papyrus by scribes. Scribes dedicated their entire lives to making copies of the original texts. When one would fade they would bury or burn it to prevent error and misinterpretation.

This is why there are not very many manuscripts of the Old Testament.

However, in 1948, a young boy found the oldest known copies of these scrolls. We call these the dead sea scrolls. When compared to current translations at the time, the translation was almost word for word.

NEW TESTAMENT

The accounts of the life of Christ and the apostolic doctrine were composed between 40-50 AD and 90-100 AD. The gospel of Mark is considered to be the earliest gospel. John’s writings are said to be the latest.

Authors were either those in direct contact with Jesus himself or with His apostles.

For example, Mark bases his gospel on the testimony of Peter.

Luke was a beloved and trusted friend of the apostle Paul, he interviewed the apostles.

The New Testament was compiled by Athanasius in 367 AD and accepted by the Council of Carthage in 397.

Vulgate: Latin translation of the entire bible in 404 by Jerome, this was the version used to create the King James Version.

Apocrypha: writing that’s were not canonized written during intertestamental period between Matthew and Malachi.

Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch (The Law)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

The first five Old Testament books are known as the books of the Law, or the Pentateuch or the Torah.

***Genesis Part One***

The first 11 chapters of Genesis tell about God. Unlike the pagans of the ancient world, the Hebrew people (later known as Israelites or Jews) believed in only one true God. Through the stories of Creation, The Great Flood and The Tower of Babel we see that God created everything, and He loves and actively sustains all His creation.

***Genesis Part 2***

The remainder of Genesis tells the history of the patriarchs. The Jews trace their ancestry to a man named Abraham through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. The Muslim Arabs also trace their ancestry to Abraham, through his son Ishmael.

***Exodus and Numbers***

Tell the story of Moses, who led the Hebrews out of captivity in Egypt around 1300 B.C. They wandered for forty years in the desert before arriving at their Promised Land. During the time in the desert, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses.

***Leviticus and Deuteronomy***

Discuss the relationship between God and His chosen people, the Hebrews. They also give details of the Law that regulated almost every aspect of Hebrew life.

Moses is traditionally considered to be the author of the Pentateuch, but as with many other books of the Bible, the author and date written are not known for certain.

The Historical Books

Joshua:

Judges

Ruth

1st Samuel

2nd Samuel

1st Kings

2nd Kings

1st Chronicles

2nd Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Tobit\*

Judith\*

Esther

1st Maccabees\*

2nd Maccabees\*

The remainder of the Old Testament books are divided by the Jews into categories of ***prophets*** and ***writings***. However, Christians organize it differently into sections of ***historical books***, ***wisdom books***, and ***books of prophecy***.

The historical books tell the history of Israel from the time of Moses until several hundred years before the time of Jesus. After 40 years in the desert, the Hebrews conquered their Promised Land of Canaan. For a time, the tribes of Israel were ruled by a series of judges. Then, in the eleventh century B.C., came the monarchy with Kings Saul, David, Solomon and several other kings. Israel suffered a number of military defeats. Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 B.C. and many captives were taken away to Babylon. Eventually, the people were allowed to return and rebuild Jerusalem and their civilization.