

BIBLE AND THE CHURCH

Old Testament

Period of History in the Old Testament: 2000 BC to the Birth of Christ.

Old Testament Composition: 900 BC to 50 BC (850 years) written in Hebrew or Aramaic.

Number of Original Books of the Old Testament: 39 Hebrew or Aramaic Books.

Translation of the Old Testament: c. 250 BC, 70-72 Jewish scholars translated the original 39 OT Books and 7 Alexandrian Books into Greek (Septuagint), 46 OT Books.

Canon of the Old Testament: 100 AD Jewish Rabbis in Jamnia standardized OT as 39 Books.

Bilingual Translations: 2 Written editions of the OT at the time of Jesus, Hebrew and Greek.

New Testament

Two Decades: 30-50 AD Oral Tradition of the Church and no written NT yet.

Two Decades: 50-60 AD St. Paul starts NT Written Tradition with his Letters to churches.

Four Decades: 30-70 AD Apostles start the Oral Tradition of the Church and no Gospels yet.

Gospels: Written Tradition of Gospels by Mark in 70's, Matt and Luke in 80's, John in 90's.

Three Layers in 4 Gospels: Jesus' teachings, Evangelists' view, and Community's questions.

New Testament Composition: 50-150 AD (100 years) began the Written Tradition of the NT.

Church and New Testament

Oral Tradition of the Church preceded the Written Tradition of the NT.

NT is the Book of the Church, written by men and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Christian Liturgy prior to 100 AD: Synagogue Liturgy of Prayer and the Word on Saturday followed by the "Breaking of the Bread" in Christian homes on Sunday.

Maturity of the Church: 100 AD Rabbis in Jamnia expelled Christian Jews from Synagogue.

Transition of Worship: 100 AD A combined Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharistic Liturgy as one Liturgy in Christian homes on Sundays.

Acts of Apostles: 100 AD Jews of the "New Way" known as Christians in Syrian Antioch.

Old Testament and New Testament

Constantine: 325 AD Latin becomes the common language of the Greco-Roman Empire.

St. Jerome: 384 AD The 46 Greek OT Books (Septuagint) and 27 Greek NT Books translated into Latin known as the Vulgate of 73 Books.

Bilingual Translations: 2 Written editions of the Bible by end of 4th century, Greek and Latin.

Council of Carthage: 397 AD Catholic Church fixed the NT Canon of 27 Books as is today.

Reformation: 16th century Luther accepted 39 Hebrew Books, but omitted the 7 Alexandrian Greek Books from the OT and some of the NT, such as the Letter to James.

Protestants: 1700 AD The 7 Alexandrian Books were restored to their OT Canon known as the "Apocrypha," and the Letter to James was reinserted into their NT.