

The History of the Bible

The Old Testament Bible, the Bible before Jesus, came out of three significant events and around three significant people.

Freedom - Moses

Moses is the father of the Bible. God sent Moses to set all the slaves in Egypt free. The big theme here is Freedom.

This story of Moses and Freedom and God's Law were written down and these writings have been considered sacred since the beginning. *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Book of the Law. The Pentateuch. The Torah.*

Following – David

King David was the beginning of a line of kings, that included his son Solomon, and tracing down to Jesus Christ, we find that he is referred to as “a son of David.”

This gives us the books of Joshua and Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, and 1&2 Chronicles. We also get the Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes, which are said to be written mostly by David and his son Solomon.

Failure – Nebuchadnezzar

If you look at the story of Moses, God told the people under Moses to follow Him. And they didn't. They struggled. If you look at the story of David, God told the people under David to follow Him. And they didn't. They went their own way. God warned them disaster would follow if they refused to obey His laws.

This gives us the Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. You get the Minor Prophets like Micah and Zechariah. You get the stories of Nehemiah and Esther and Daniel.

The New Testament is a collection of letters written by disciples, four accounts of the Gospel, and Revelation of John.

Jesus came on the scene. He lived, he taught, he disciplined, he died, and then... he rose again! And after he rose again, he appeared in visions to at least three disciples.

The Letters from Apostles

The Apostle Paul began writing to these new churches with advice and teaching and even with some criticisms of how they are doing church.

And these churches began to collect Paul's writings and share them with each other, and they began to be a collection that was considered more important than other writings.

These are the book of Romans, Corinthians, Timothy, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, and several more. This happened fairly quickly.

The Gospels

At about 100AD, they realized that the story of Jesus Himself had not been recorded officially. They need to write the Gospels. So Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John recount the stories they remember of Jesus, and they write them down, and these Gospels are included by the churches as important documents.

Revelation

The last thing to be included was the Book of Revelation, written by John as Jesus appeared to Him in a vision.

It was actually over the next couple hundred years that the churches continued to use these writings to teach and to encourage. It wasn't until almost 400 years after Jesus, that the churches sat down together and said, “We should make an official list of which books we consider sacred.” But these books had already been used regularly by the many churches.