

THE HOLY BIBLE

Introduction

The Bible is the holy book of Christianity. Christians consider the Bible to be the inerrant word of God, by which is meant that the human authors were inspired and guided by God and accurately recorded what God wanted them to say, and that the original manuscripts contained no errors. (This does not mean copies and translations of the Bible are flawless.) The Bible is also referred to as Holy Scriptures or the written Word of God.

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament (books written before the time of Jesus) and the New Testament (books written after Jesus), often abbreviated as OT and NT. Different branches of Christianity have different Old Testaments. The Protestant Old Testament is the shortest Christian OT, containing only those books accepted by today's Jews as divinely inspired and found in the Jewish Bible. Other Christian Bibles contain these books plus additional books not contained in the Jewish Bible known as the Apocrypha (to Protestants) or Deuterocanonical books (to Catholics). The New Testament is the same in all Christian Bibles.

The Testaments are divided into books. Each book is divided into chapters, and each chapter is divided into verses. A reference to a particular part of the Bible is written in this format: [book] [chapter]:[verse]. For instance, Romans 5:8 refers to the eighth verse in the fifth chapter of the book of Romans; Genesis 1:1-2:4 refers to the passage starting at the first verse of the first chapter of the book of Genesis and ending at the fourth verse of the second chapter.

Old Testament

The books in the Protestant Old Testament (OT):

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	

These books are commonly grouped into five divisions: the Torah, or books of Moses (Genesis - Deuteronomy), the historical books (Joshua - Esther), the wisdom books (Job

- Song of Solomon), major prophets (Isaiah - Daniel) and minor prophets (Hosea - Malachi).

The Catholic OT consists of the same books as the Protestant OT plus the following:

Tobit	The Letter of Jeremiah
Judith	1 Maccabees
Wisdom of Solomon	2 Maccabees
Ecclesiasticus	Additions to the books of Esther and Daniel
Baruch	

The Greek Orthodox OT consists of the Catholic OT plus the following:

1 Esdras
Prayer of Manasseh
Psalm 151
3 Maccabees

The Russian Orthodox OT consists of the Greek Orthodox OT plus 2 Esdras.

New Testament

The books in the New Testament:

Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	1 Peter
John	1 Thessalonians	2 Peter
Acts	2 Thessalonians	1 John
Romans	1 Timothy	2 John
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	3 John
2 Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation

The first four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are known as the Gospels and relate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Acts of the Apostles gives the history of the early church and Revelation is largely a prophetic book. The remaining books are letters from early Christian leaders (known as the Apostles).

Source: Rational Christianity – Christian Apologetics, an Evangelical Protestant website.