

THE BIBLICAL CANON

Just what do I mean by the Bible? I maintain that the Biblical canon consists solely of the 39 books of the Hebrew Masoretic text of the Tenakh or Old Testament (where Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles have each been split into Books I and II) and the 27 books of the Hebraic-Greek¹ Messianic Writings or New Testament, all of which are enumerated in the table below. I believe that this canon was completed circa 65-66 AD – well prior to the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.

BOOKS OF BIBLE			
No.in Bible	No. in Categ.	Name of Book or Category	Author
<i>OLD TESTAMENT</i>			
THE LAW			
1	1	Genesis	Anonymous
2	2	Exodus	Moses
3	3	Leviticus	Moses
4	4	Numbers	Moses
5	5	Deuteronomy	Moses
THE PROPHETS			
6	1	Joshua	Anonymous
7	2	Judges	Anonymous
8	3	1st Samuel	Anonymous
9	4	2nd Samuel	Anonymous
10	5	1st Kings	Anonymous
11	6	2nd Kings	Anonymous
12	7	Isaiah	Isaiah
13	8	Jeremiah	Jeremiah
14	9	Ezekiel	Ezekiel
15	10	Hosea	Hosea
16	11	Joel	Joel
17	12	Amos	Amos
18	13	Obadiah	Obadiah
19	14	Jonah	Jonah
20	15	Micah	Micah
21	16	Nahum	Nahum

¹ Greek became a *lingua franca* in the greater Middle East during the Macedonian Supremacy (330-147 BC). It continued to be used extensively during the Roman Supremacy (147 BC to 487 BC). Consequently, the authors of the New Covenant Scriptures, who wrote during the years 33-70 AD, used a Hebraic form of Greek to reveal to the non-Hebrew speaking world of the 1st century the Gospel of the Jewish Messiah.

22	17	Habakkuk	Habakkuk
23	18	Zephaniah	Zephaniah
24	19	Haggai	Haggai
25	20	Zechariah	Zechariah
26	21	Malachi	Malachi
THE WRITINGS			
27	1	Psalms	David
28	2	Proverbs	Solomon
29	3	Job	Anonymous
30	4	Song of Songs	Solomon
31	5	Ruth	Anonymous
32	6	Lamentations	Anonymous
33	7	Ecclesiastes	Son of David
34	8	Esther	Anonymous
35	9	Daniel	Daniel
36	10	Ezra	Ezra
37	11	Nehemiah	Nehemiah
38	12	1st Chronicles	Anonymous
39	13	2nd Chronicles	Anonymous
NEW TESTAMENT			
THE GOSPELS			
40	1	Matthew	Anonymous
41	2	Mark	Anonymous
42	3	Luke	Anonymous
43	4	John	Anonymous
THE ACTS			
44	1	Acts	Anonymous
THE EPISTLES			
45	1	James	James
46	2	1st Peter	Peter
47	3	2nd Peter	Peter
48	4	1st John	Anonymous
49	5	2nd John	Anonymous
50	6	3rd John	Anonymous
51	7	Jude	Jude
52	8	Romans	Paul
53	9	1st Corinthians	Paul
54	10	2nd Corinthians	Paul

55	11	Galatians	Paul
56	12	Ephesians	Paul
57	13	Philippians	Paul
58	14	Colossians	Paul
59	15	1st Thessalonians	Paul
60	16	2nd Thessalonians	Paul
61	17	Hebrews	Anonymous
62	18	1st Timothy	Paul
63	19	2nd Timothy	Paul
64	20	Titus	Paul
65	21	Philemon	Paul
66	1	THE REVELATION Revelation	John

I hasten to add that I do not regard the *Apocryphal* writings, such as those listed below² - to say nothing of the *Pseudepigrapha* – as part of the canon, because I don't believe that they were inspired by God. Not only were these writings rejected by the early church for inclusion in the canon, but they sometimes contradict both the canonical works and one another as well.

Lastly, I regard the Bible as the most profound book ever written. You cannot plumb its depths. No matter how familiar you become with a passage, you will discover in time that it contains more. It is therefore utterly intriguing. If you begin to study it seriously, particularly with the understanding that it comes to you from God, you embark on what can be a lifetime journey of discovery, during which you will draw ever closer to Him who is its protagonist and hero – Yeshua (or Jesus) of Nazareth, the Jewish Messiah, the LORD.

² Esdras 1-2, Tobit, Judith, Daniel additions, Esther additions, Prayer of Manasseh, Prayer of Jeremiah, Book of Baruch, Ecclesiasticus, Wisdom of Solomon, and Maccabees 1-2 (and sometimes 3-4).