

Introduction to the Holy Bible

The New Testament

Introduction

- When we study the Holy Bible, we must remember that it is not an ordinary book.
- It is God's written revelation written by God Himself
- "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Inspiration of God = "God-Breathed"

- Θεόπνευστος (Theopneustos)
- Exactly what God wants to say
- Exactly how God wants to say it (e.g., "virgin")
- Completely accurate
- Nothing lacking
- It is from God and contains Him

Inspiration of God

- "is profitable": yields good results
- "for doctrine": to teach God's laws
- "for reproof": for judgement, criticism, or rebuke
- "for correction": for restoration
- "for instruction": to make right
- "in righteousness": acting in agreement with God's law

New Testament

- i.e., "New Covenant" between God and man after Christ's incarnation.
- **Promised in Jeremiah:** "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 31:31-32).
- **Referred to by Christ:** "Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20).



Some Facts About the Holy Bible

How Many Books

- 39 Old Testament Books
 - {O, L, D}=3
 - {T, E, S, T, A, M, E, N, T}=9
- 27 New Testament Books
 - {N, E, W}=3
 - {T, E, S, T, A, M, E, N, T}=9
 - $3 \times 9 = 27$
- 7 Deuterocanonical Books
 - Tobit, Judith, 1+2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch (and additions to Esther and Daniel)

More Bible Facts

- 1189 Chapters (929 OT, 260 NT)
- 31,102 Verses (23,145 OT, 7957 NT)
- Shortest Chapter: Psalm 117
- Longest Chapter: Psalm 119
- Middle Chapter: Psalm 118
- Middle Verse: Psalms 118:8 (NKJV) "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

NT Book Categories

- **Law** (4) - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- **Historical** (1) - Acts
- **Pauline Letters** (14) - Romans, 1/2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1/2 Thessalonians, 1/2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews.
- **Catholic Letters** (7) - James, 1/2 Peter, 1/2/3 John, Jude
- **Prophetic** - Revelation

NT Book Authors

- **St. Matthew**
- **St. Mark**
- **St. Luke**
- **St. John**
- **St. Paul**
- **St. James**
- **St. Peter**
- **St. Jude**

Relationship b/w Old and New Testaments

- Seed and the tree
- Foundation and the House
- "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17).
- The New is in the Old **concealed**. The Old is in the New **revealed**. The New is in the Old **contained**. The Old is in the New **explained**. The New is in the Old **enfolded**. The Old is in the New **unfolded**.
- St. Augustine.



History of the Holy Bible

Old Testament

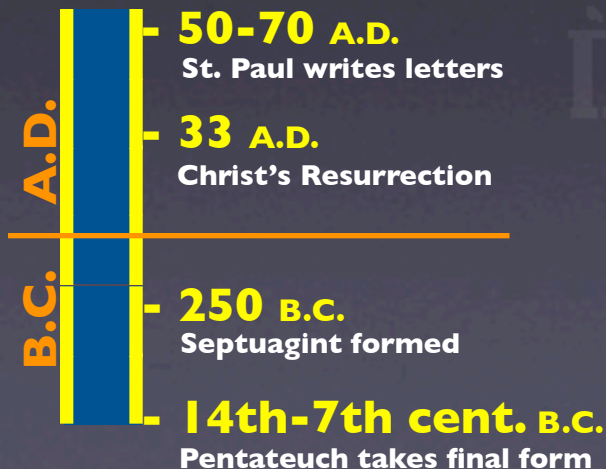
- Between the 14th and 7th cent. B.C., the Pentateuch (1st five books written by Moses the Prophet) takes final form
- Hebrew canon (Old Testament) established around 4th cent. B.C.
- In 250 B.C., Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures (i.e., OT), is compiled in Alexandria, Egypt by 6 elders from each (12) tribe.

250 B.C.
Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.
Pentateuch takes final form

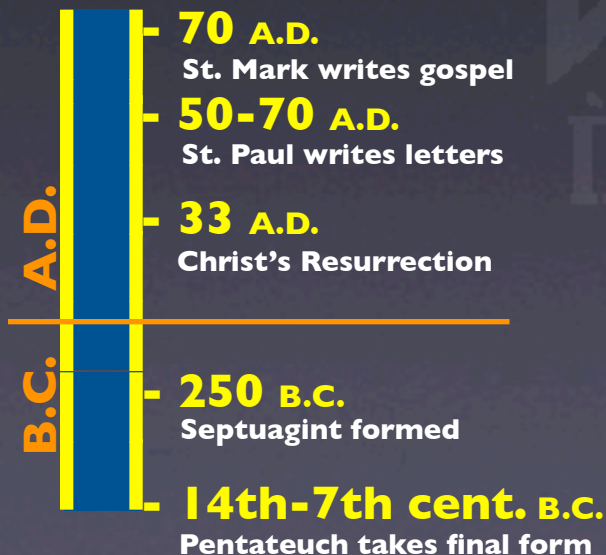
St. Paul's Letters

- Paul wrote 14 letters between 50 and 70 A.D.
- Wrote letters in the Greek language (the world knew Greek at this time)
- Quoted the Septuagint (which was Greek)



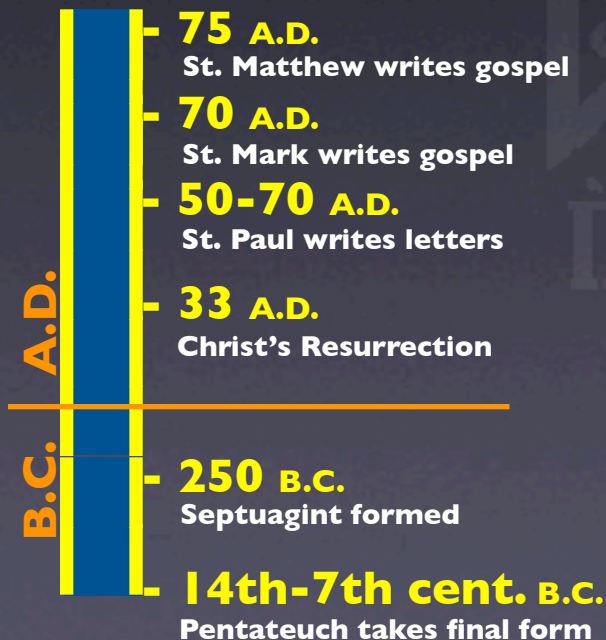
Gospel According to St. Mark

- Written around 70 A.D. to the Christians in Rome who were being persecuted.
- The 1st of the four gospels written
- Written in the Greek language
- **Topics:** the suffering Messiah, discipleship



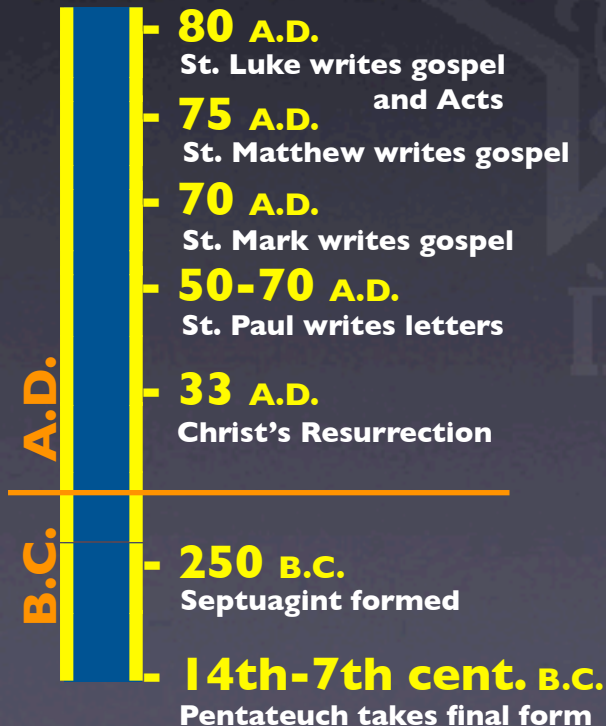
Gospel According to St. Matthew

- One of the twelve disciples of Jesus
- Written around 75 A.D. to the Jews after the fall of Jerusalem
- Written in Aramaic (Christ's words) and Greek (the rest)
- **Topics:** fulfillment of OT, revelation of Kingdom of God, discipleship



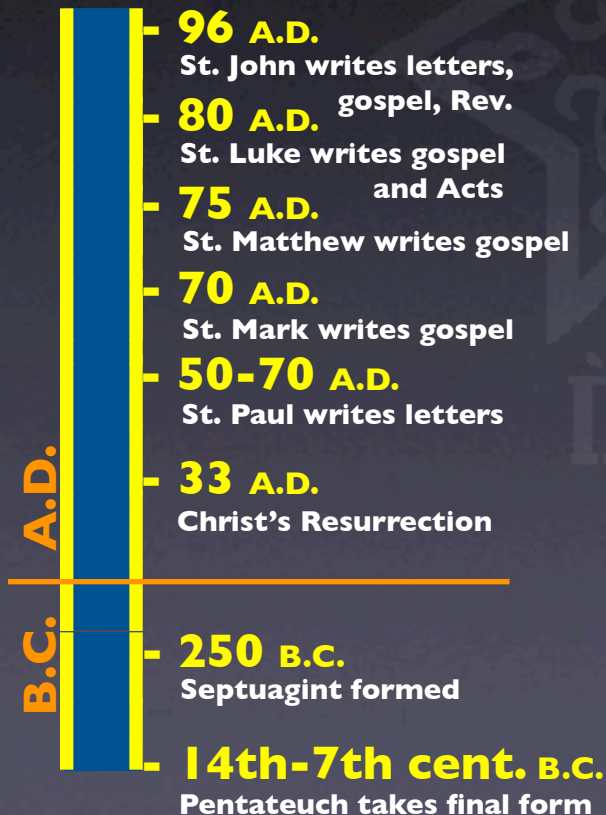
Gospel According to St. Luke and Acts

- Gospel written c. 80 A.D. to Gentiles as a universal message, Acts written shortly afterwards.
- St. Luke known as a historian (was a physician as a profession). Was a disciple of St. Paul
- Gospel stresses evangelism more than any gospel
- **Gospel Topics:** prayer, activity of the Holy Spirit, deep concern for sinners
- **Acts Topics:** recount the Christian mission and the spread of Christianity.



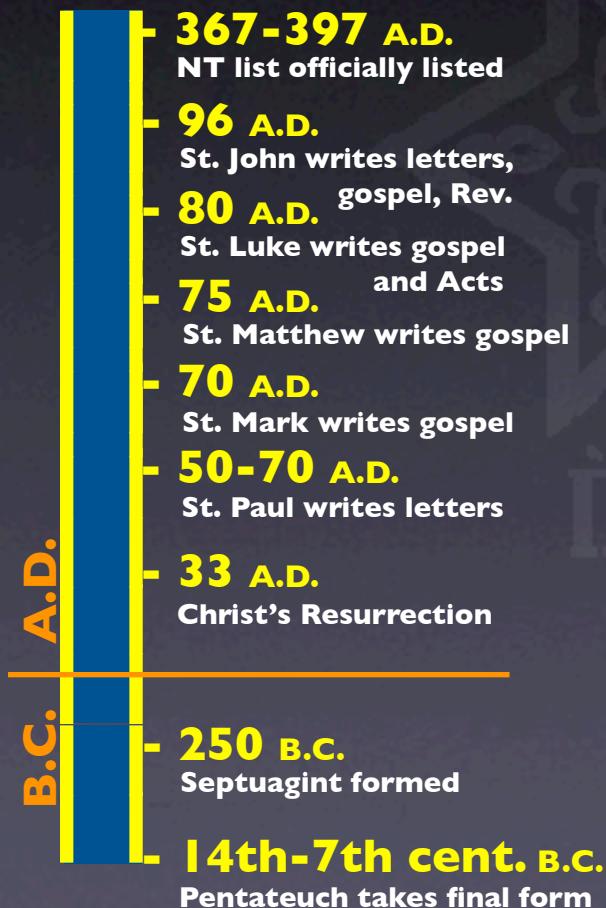
John's Letters, Revelation, Gospel According to St. John

- One of the twelve disciples of Jesus
- The “beloved” of Jesus, knew Him like a brother
- “Spiritual” gospel written after the other 3 gospels as a supplement
- **Topics:** Testament to the Trinity, Christ's Divinity, Sacraments, the Church, Pascha, and Redemption of the World



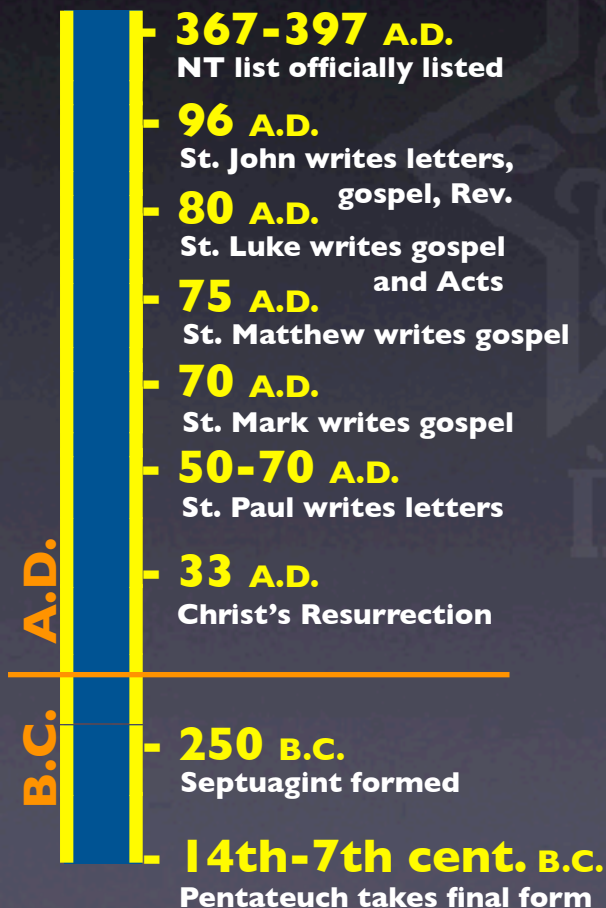
Need for a Canon

- Early church needed to know which books should be read, revered, and applied to their daily lives
- Many heretics arose
- Counterfeits
- Missions
- Persecution



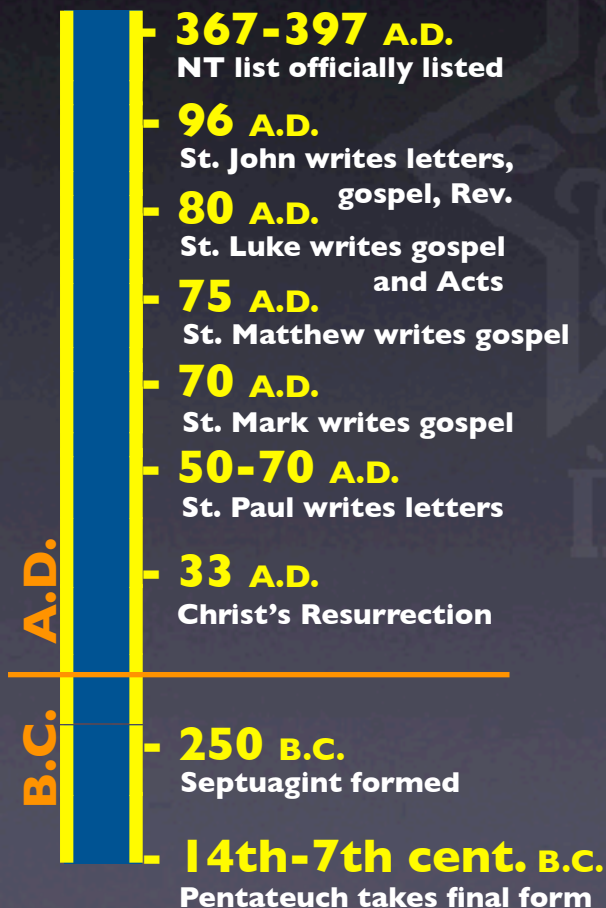
Early NT List

- 367 A.D., St. Athanasius of Alexandria writes letter to churches listing 27 books.
- Theologians Jerome and Augustine later confirmed/defined the books as canon.
- In 393 A.D., Synod of Hippo officially listed the 27 books (which was already widely accepted). Confirmed 4 years later by the Synod of Carthage
- Coptic version produced



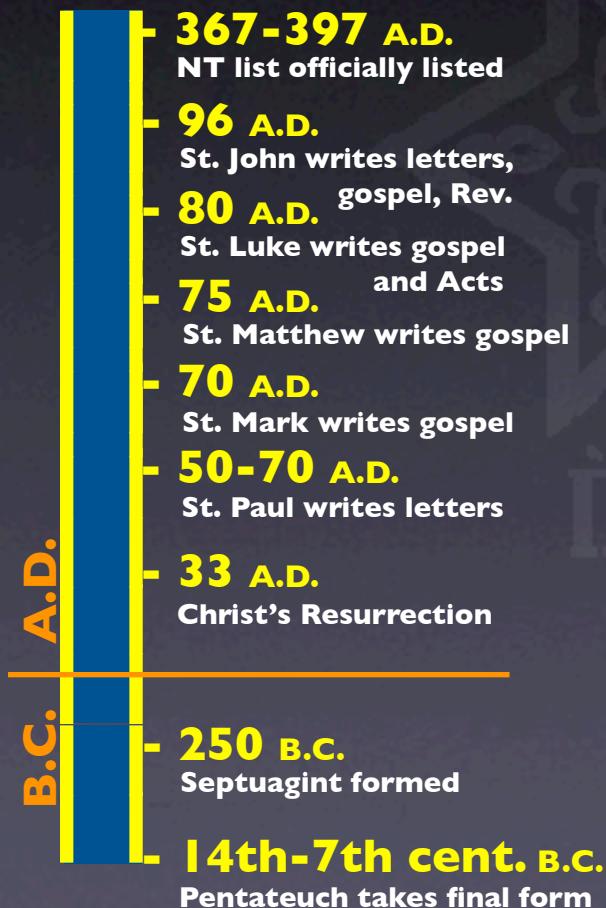
Testing Canonicity

- Chief test: **Apostolicity**. Was it written by or approved by the apostles?
- Written by a prophet of God?
- Does it tell the truth (no contradictions)?
- Accepted by the people of God?



Testing Canonicity

- Many other books considered for canonicity: Epistle of Barnabas, Epistle to the Corinthians, Second Epistle of Clement, Shepherd of Hermas, Didache, Apocalypse of Peter, Acts of Paul and Thecla, Gospel according to Hebrews, etc.
- Why rejected?
 - Temporary or local recognition
 - Contradictions with apostolic books
 - Most were appendices to other canonical books



Vulgate

- Latin was common language of Rome during 4th and 5th centuries
- In 405 A.D., Jerome, the Theologian, completed Latin translation, known as the **Vulgate**
- He used mainly Hebrew texts and parts of the Septuagint

405 A.D.
Jerome completes Vulgate

367-397 A.D.
NT list officially listed

96 A.D.
St. John writes letters,
gospel, Rev.

80 A.D.
St. Luke writes gospel
and Acts

75 A.D.
St. Matthew writes gospel

70 A.D.
St. Mark writes gospel

50-70 A.D.
St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.
Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.
Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.
Pentateuch takes final form

First English Version

- In 1382 A.D. Oxford professor, scholar and theologian, John Wycliffe, wrote first English version
- Translated from Latin Vulgate as a revolt against the Catholic Church
- In 1408 A.D. Council of Oxford declares that Bible cannot be translated into the vernacular w/o permission

1382 A.D.

Wycliffe completes 1st English vers.

405 A.D.
Jerome completes Vulgate

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St. John writes letters, gospel, Rev.

80 A.D.
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Excerpt from Wycliffe's Version

1382 A.D.

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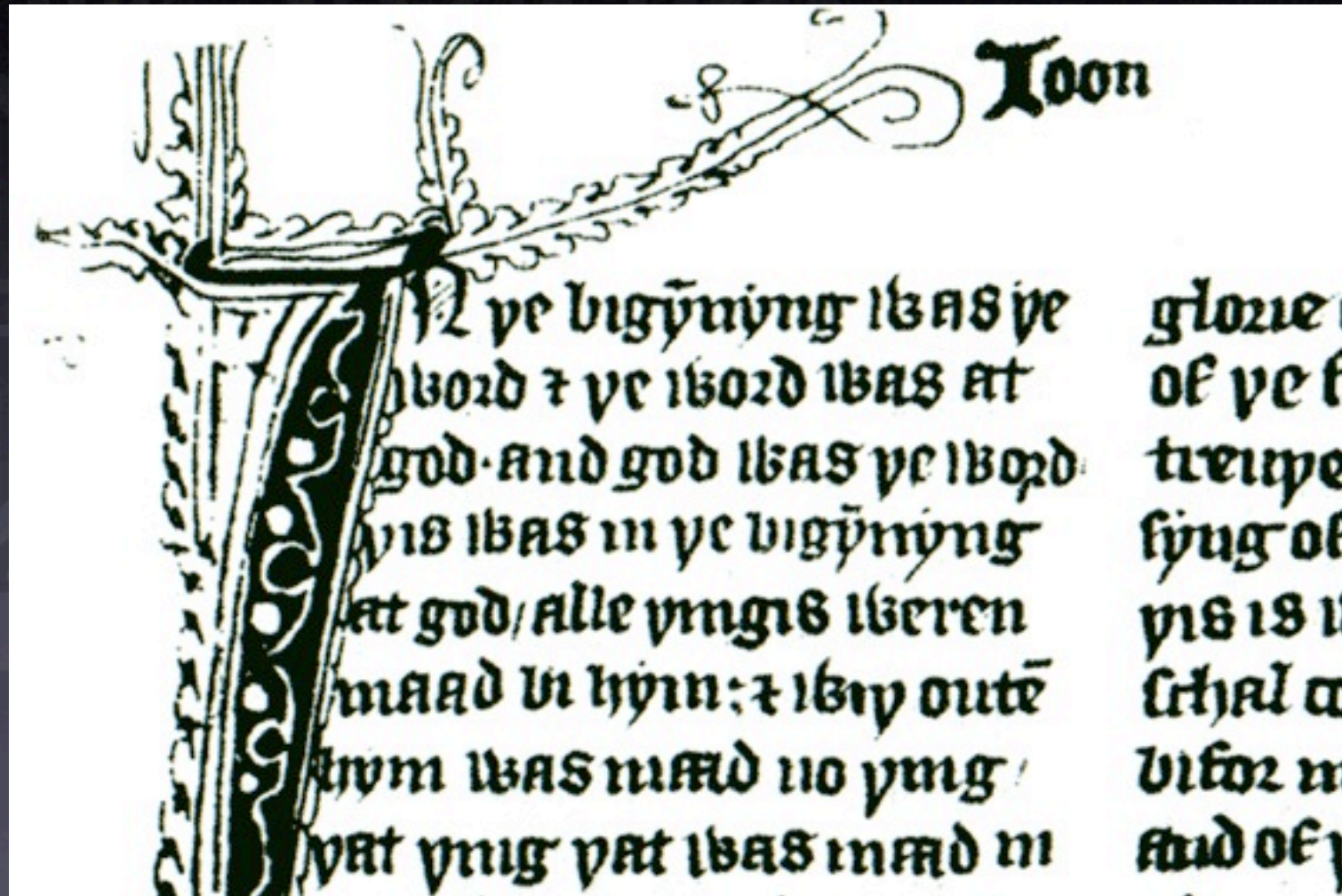
70 A.D.
St. Mark writes gospel

50-70 A.D.
St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.
Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.
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Printing Press

1454 A.D.

Printing press invented

1382 A.D.

Wycliffe completes 1st

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70 A.D.

St. Mark writes gospel

50-70 A.D.

St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.

Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.

Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.

Pentateuch takes final form

- In 1454 A.D., printing press invented by Johann Gutenberg
- Latin Bible 1st book ever printed
- Allowed millions to have their own copy of the Bible

Additional English Versions

1454 A.D.

Printing press invented

1382 A.D.

Wycliffe completes 1st English vers.

405 A.D.

Jerome completes Vulgate

367-397 A.D.

NT list officially listed

96 A.D.

St. John writes letters, gospel, Rev.

80 A.D.

St. Luke writes gospel and Acts

75 A.D.

St. Matthew writes gospel

70 A.D.

St. Mark writes gospel

50-70 A.D.

St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.

Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.

Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.

Pentateuch takes final form

- 1525 A.D.: Tyndale's Bible - 1st English Bible printed - from Greek/Latin
- 1534 A.D.: Luther's Bible - 1st German Bible - excluded James, Jude, Hebrews, Revelation
- 1551 A.D.: Verse numbers added
- 1560 A.D.: Geneva Bible - 1st Bible to add verses/chapters. Also had commentary (1st "Study Bible")

King James Version

1611 A.D.

King James version

1454 A.D.

Printing press invented

1382 A.D.

Wycliffe completes 1st English vers.

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80 A.D.

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75 A.D.

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St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.

Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.

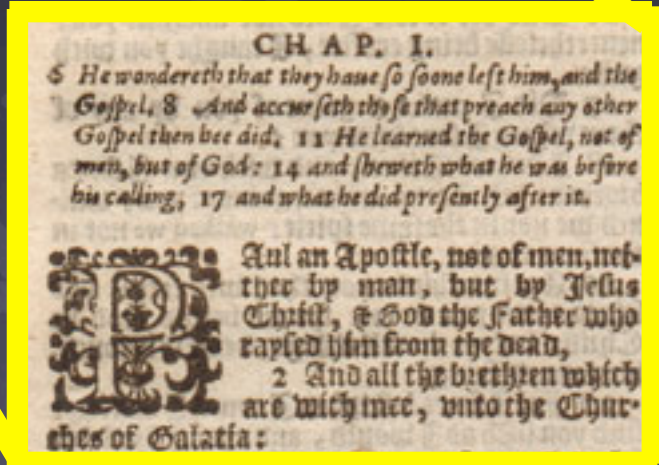
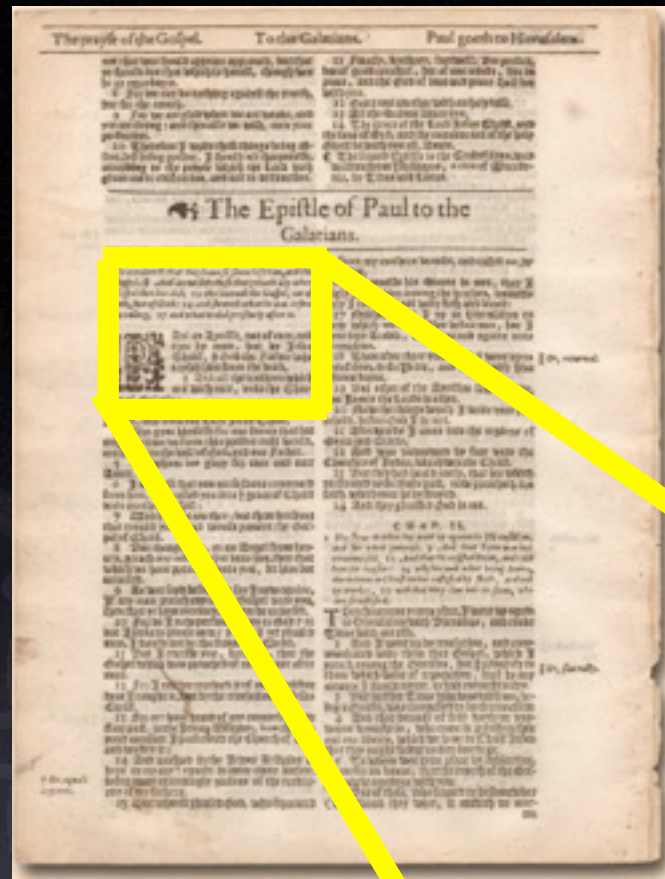
Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.

Pentateuch takes final form

- 1604 A.D.: King James I of England led movement to create the “translation to end all translations” - from English/Greek/Latin versions
- 1611 A.D.: Official King James Version printed
- First book to reach 1 billion copies
- Reigned without a rival for 250 years

Original KJV



- 1611 A.D.**
King James version
 - 1454 A.D.**
Printing press invented
 - 1382 A.D.**
Wycliffe completes 1st English vers.
 - 405 A.D.**
Jerome completes Vulgate
 - 367-397 A.D.**
NT list officially listed
 - 96 A.D.**
St. John writes letters, gospel, Rev.
 - 80 A.D.**
St. Luke writes gospel and Acts
 - 75 A.D.**
St. Matthew writes gospel
 - 70 A.D.**
St. Mark writes gospel
 - 50-70 A.D.**
St. Paul writes letters
 - 33 A.D.**
Christ's Resurrection
-
- 250 B.C.**
Septuagint formed
 - 14th-7th cent. B.C.**
Pentateuch takes final form

Even More Versions

1611 A.D.

King James version

1454 A.D.

Printing press invented

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Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.

Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.

Pentateuch takes final form

- 1901 A.D.: American Standard Version created - word for word from Greek/ Hebrew
- 1973 A.D.: New International Version created - phrase for phrase
- 1982 A.D.: New King James Version replaced all “thou, thy, thee”s to “you, your, you”s.
- 2002: A.D.: English Standard Version created - bridge gap between ASV and NIV

Dead Sea Scrolls Found

- In 1947 A.D., the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the west side of the Dead Sea
- Scrolls made up of 40,000 inscribed fragments, reconstructing 500 books, including OT text from 1st cent. B.C.
- Verified accuracy of copyists over thousands of years

1947 A.D.

Dead Sea Scrolls Found

1611 A.D.

King James version

1454 A.D.

Printing press invented

1382 A.D.

Wycliffe completes 1st

405 A.D. English vers.

Jerome completes Vulgate

367-397 A.D.

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St. John writes letters,

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St. Luke writes gospel

75 A.D. and Acts

St. Matthew writes gospel

70 A.D.

St. Mark writes gospel

50-70 A.D.

St. Paul writes letters

33 A.D.

Christ's Resurrection

250 B.C.

Septuagint formed

14th-7th cent. B.C.

Pentateuch takes final form

Verification of DSS Accuracy

1947 A.D.

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Pentateuch takes final form

- Of the 166 words in Isaiah 53, there are 17 letters in question.
- Ten of these letters are a matter of spelling
- Four more letters are stylistic changes, such as conjunction
- Remaining three letters comprise the word “light” added to verse 11, which doesn’t affect meaning.

Sample of Isaiah from DSS

1947 A.D.
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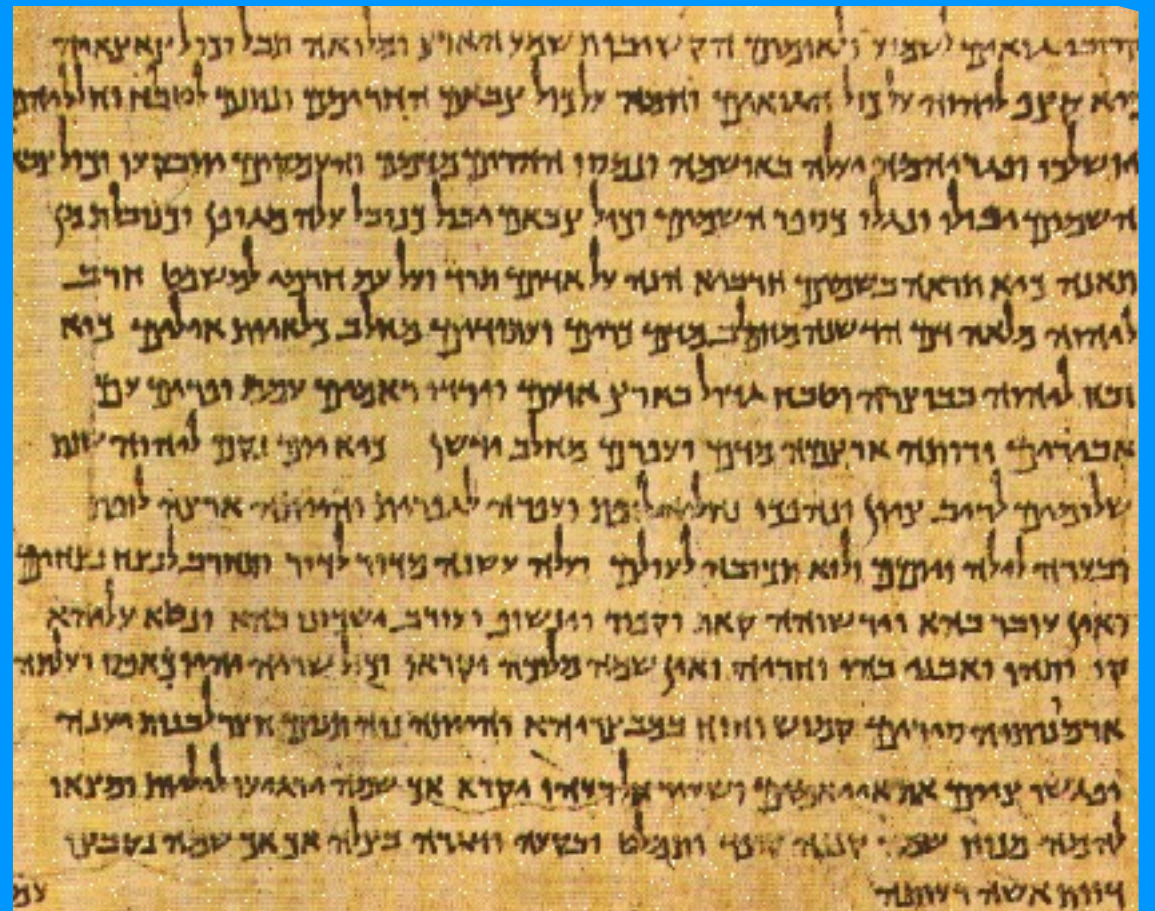
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Cave Where DSS Were Found

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New Testament Accuracy

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Pentateuch takes final form

- Number of Greek NT Manuscripts numbered over 5686 copies.
- Number of total Manuscripts collected over time = 25000 (Homer's Iliad is 2nd with 643)
- Vast number of copies allows us to reconstruct the original.

New Testament Accuracy

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Pentateuch takes final form

- Accuracy of Manuscripts Supported by Lectionaries
 - Churches adopted practice of reading passages from NT during worship
 - Lessons from Gospels and Epistles were fixed
- Accuracy of Manuscripts Supported by Early Church Fathers
 - They quoted the NT so much, the entire 27 books can be reconstructed from their sayings

Role of the Bible in your Life

- **Open Bible policy** - Read it all the time. - St. John Chrysostom
- **Let it guide your life** - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path" (Ps 119:105).
- **Let it make you rich** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col 3:16).
- **Live by it** - "I have kept your words in my heart that I may not sin against you" (Ps 119:11).
- "I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure" (Psalm 119:161).



**Glory be to God.
Amen.**