

Lesson 02

DIVISION AND BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

1.8 Division and Books of the Bible

- Old Testament ⇒ **39 books**
- New Testament ⇒ **27 books**
- 40 different writers.
- 1600 year period for writing the Bible, (approx. between 1500 BC and 100 AD)

a) How were the books recognized and accepted?

- The Canon ⇒ The word canon has its root in the word '*cane*', '*reed*' (*Hebrew geneh / Greek kanon*). The reed was used as a measuring stick and came to mean 'standard'. **standard ⇒ rule of faith.**
- Tests for inclusion of a book in the canon - canonical books:
 - Does it reveal authority? Did it come from God? Did it come with the authentic '*thus says the Lord*'?
 - Is it prophetic? Was it written by a man of God?
 - Is it authentic? Did the church fathers have the practice '*if in doubt, throw it away*'?
 - Is it dynamic? Is it accompanied by divine power to transform lives?
 - Has it been accepted, saved, read and used? Was it recognized by God's people?
⇒ **II Peter 3:15~16**; Peter recognized Paul's letters.

b) The accepted canon of the Old Testament

- **The Law, the Pentateuch** (*The Hebrew Torah*) – **5 books** – all written by Moses.
 1. Genesis
 2. Exodus
 3. Leviticus
 4. Numbers
 5. Deuteronomy
- **Historical books - 12 books**
 1. Joshua - written by Joshua
 2. Judges - Samuel
 3. Ruth - Samuel
 4. I Samuel - Samuel (*Nathan and Gad*)
 5. II Samuel - Nathan and Gad
 6. I Kings – author unknown (*Jeremiah compiled the writings of Gad and Nathan*)
 7. II Kings - same
 8. I Chronicles – author unknown (*Ezra compiled the writings of Samuel, Nathan and Gad*)
 9. II Chronicles - same
 10. Ezra - Ezra (*he was the first scribe in history*)
 11. Nehemiah - Nehemiah
 12. Esther – author unknown (*Ezra or perhaps Mordecai - see 9:20 – or Ezra*)

- **Poetical books - 5 books**

1. Job - unknown (*perhaps Eliphaz*)
2. Psalms - many writers, the main ones had been David and Solomon
3. Proverbs - Solomon (*the majority*)
4. Ecclesiastes - Solomon
5. Song of Solomon (*Song of songs*) - Solomon

- **The major prophets - 5 books**

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah
3. Lamentations
4. Ezekiel
5. Daniel

- **The minor prophets - 12 books**

1. Hosea
2. Joel
3. Amos
4. Obadiah
5. Jonah
6. Micah
7. Nahum
8. Habakkuk
9. Zephaniah
10. Haggai
11. Zechariah
12. Malachi

- **Chronology of the OT books:**

1. Genesis
2. Job
3. Exodus
4. Leviticus
5. Numbers
6. Deuteronomy
7. Joshua
8. Judges
9. Ruth
10. I Samuel
11. II Samuel
12. Psalms
13. I Kings 1~4
14. Proverbs 1~3 and 25~28
15. Proverbs 4~7 and 29~31
16. Proverbs 8~11 and Ecclesiastes 1~3
17. Proverbs 12~14 and Ecclesiastes 4~6
18. Proverbs 15~18 and Ecclesiastes 7~9
19. Proverbs 19~21 and Ecclesiastes 10~12
20. Proverbs 22~24

21. Song of Solomon
22. I Kings 5~22
23. II Kings 1~14:20
24. Joel
25. II Kings 14:21~14:25
26. Jonah
27. II Kings 14:26~14:29
28. Amos
29. II Kings 15~17
30. Hosea
31. II Kings 18~19
32. Isaiah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. II Kings 20~21
36. Zephaniah
37. Habakkuk
38. II Kings 22~25
39. Obadiah
40. Jeremiah
41. Lamentations
42. I Chronicles
43. II Chronicles
44. Ezekiel
45. Daniel
46. Esther
47. Ezra 1~4
48. Haggai
49. Zechariah
50. Ezra 5~10
51. Nehemiah
52. Malachi

- Jesus' testimony about the Old Testament canon:

⇒ **Luke 24:44** and ⇒ **Luke 11:51**

It goes from Abel (*1st book*) to Zechariah (*last book of Chronicles*). The story goes from Genesis to II Chronicles. The prophets and poetic books are part of the historical books.

- - Non-canonical books; so-called '*apocryphal books*'.
 - They don't meet the test of the canon, and they teach false doctrine.
 - The main of them included in the OT: I and II Ezra, Tobiah, Judith, Additions to Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, The Song of the Three Hebrews, The Pray of Manasseh, I and II Maccabees.
 - Some of them are included in the Roman Catholic Bible.

c) The accepted canon of the New Testament

- The basic factor for determining the books of the N.T., in addition to the tests already mentioned, was divine inspiration with the test of Apostolicity, which was not restricted to the authorship of the books, but also to authority and approval.
 - The church was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets:
 - ⇒ **Ephesians 2:20**
 - ⇒ **Acts 2:42**
 - Authority given by The LORD Jesus:
 - ⇒ **Galatians 1:1**
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 14:37**
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 7:10**
 - Test of the Apostolicity: ⇒ **Revelation 2:2**
- The Gospels - **4 books**:
 - **Matthew** - It presents Jesus as the Messiah; it was written for the Jews
 - **Mark** - It presents Jesus as Conquer and Servant; it was written for the Romans
 - **Luke** - It presents Jesus as Man; it was written for the Greeks
 - **John** - it presents Jesus as God; it was written for the Church
- The historical book - **1 book**:
 - **Acts of the Apostles** - written by Lucas
- Paul's epistles - **14 books**:
 - Romans
 - I and II Corinthians
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - I and II Thessalonians
 - I and II Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon
 - Hebrews (*not accepted by all the authorship of Paul*)
- The general epistles - **7 books**:
 - James
 - I and II Peter
 - I, II and III John
 - Jude
- Prophetic book - **1 book**
 - Revelation - written by John

d) The credibility of the Bible

- The historical credibility of the Scriptures must be tested by the same criteria used to test all other historical documents.
 Today, more than 5,300 Greek manuscripts of the N.T. are known to exist. Add to that more than 10,000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate and at least 9,300 of other ancient versions, and the total today is more than 24,000 copies of portions of the N.T.
 No other document in history comes close to these numbers and this confirmation. In second place is Homer's Iliad, with 643 manuscripts that have survived to this day.

e) The most important

- God is powerful to ensure that the books we hold in our hands are His Word.
 - God watches over His Word.
 ⇒ **Jeremiah 1:12**
 - Jesus speaking his words.
 ⇒ **Matthew 24:35**
 ⇒ **Revelation 22:18~19**
- Jesus and the law ⇒ **Matthew 5:17~20**

- f)** The OT was written in Hebrew and the NT in Greek. Today, both have been translated into many of the world's languages. For a better understanding of the translations, we can turn to the originals with their word-for-word translations, called interlinear.