

The Bible consists of two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books and provides the story of God's work within history before Christ's coming. The New Testament has 27 books and gives testimony to Christ and his work.

Books of the Old Testament

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	

Books of the New Testament

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

Acts The next New Testament section is made up of a single book. The book "Acts" contains the events that occurred after Jesus returned to heaven. While the Gospel writers describe the person and work of Jesus during His life, death, and resurrection, the book of Acts tells us about the affects that Jesus had on his followers and their work of telling other about Jesus. The book is filled with amazing miraculous stories and like the Gospels, these miracles were performed to point His people to the truth of the message.

Author: Luke
Recommended Reading: The entire book!

The Old Testament

Genesis - Deuteronomy The first section of the Bible

contains five books. These five books are foundational for the Bible as they introduce the key purposes behind the story line of the Bible. At the center of these five books are God and His people. Along with creating all things, God performs wondrous acts within history, which is to create, save, and keep a people for Himself. God's actions within history are very much needed as man has sinned against God and is unable to deliver himself without the Lord's intervening work. What God promises (the book of Genesis), He is faithful to carry out (the book of Exodus) so that His people might be a holy nation like their God (the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

Author: Moses, the first great prophet of Israel, is the author of all the five books.
Recommended Reading: Genesis

Joshua - Esther The next section consists of twelve history books. Though these books are historical, they are not arranged in terms of chronology, or the passing of time, since some earlier books are arranged after later books. Continuing with the same purpose as the first section, these twelve books trace the history of God's saving work in and among His people. The story follows the people of God as they enter, conquer, and settle in the land promised by God. It further develops the idea of God's act of salvation and shows that despite man's continual sin, God is faithful to his promise. Major human characters within this section are Joshua, Samuel, and David.

Author: These books were written by various authors and prophets.
Recommended Reading: I & II Samuel

Job - Song of Solomon This section is a grouping of what is called "wisdom books". The term "wisdom books" is used to make clear the purpose of the books. Rather than focusing on the history of an event, each book is designed to record the lesson, or lessons, gained from an event in history. These lessons or instructions are then passed on to the later generations in the form of proverbs (short teachings), psalms (songs), or poetry. Often the chapters and paragraphs within these books are hard to connect and only relate to the other chapters and paragraphs through knowing the history surrounding the lesson.

Author: These books were written by many different authors, but authors, such as David and Solomon (David's son), wrote a lot of material within the section.
Recommended Reading: Psalms

Isaiah - Malachi The last major section contains the prophetic books of the Bible. These books are writings of prophets and teachers who through God's Spirit proclaimed a message unto God's people. These prophets were used by God to speak his words to the people. These books are often hard to read for two reasons. First, they are difficult because the authors usually speak in long metaphors (examples of things that are used to represent something else; an example of this is how God calls His people "sheep"). Second, they are hard to read because of the discouraging tone of the author. The author is often speaking this way because, even though God has shown such love and care for His people, His people continue to stray away from God like sheep away from their shepherd. As a result of man's ongoing straying, God becomes angry and must punish man for his sin. On the other hand, these books are filled with great joy because God is faithful and He promises to remove man's sin. One day, He promises He will send One who will deal with man's sin once and for all and permanently save and keep a people for the Lord.

Authors: The title of the book generally provides the name of the author (an example is Ezekiel was written by the prophet Ezekiel).
Recommended Reading: Jonah and then Isaiah

The New Testament

Matthew - Mark The first four books of the New Testament are the Gospels. The Gospels (meaning "good news") are books that focus on the life and meaning of Jesus Christ. As the authors of the Old Testament looked for God to deliver His people from their sin, the New Testament authors saw Jesus as the fulfillment (meaning answer) to God's promise in removing man's sin. With great excitement and specific detail, the authors of the Gospels each provide an orderly account of His life, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection. Although each writer presents a type of biography of Jesus, the author is more interested in the significance (or meaning) behind the person and work of Jesus. Jesus' miraculous deeds in Gospel were not performed to overwhelm and awe the crowds, but were designed to show that he was the Son of God.

Authors: Each book title provides the name of the author.
Recommended Reading: John

Romans - Jude The third section of the New Testament is a grouping of epistles (or letters). These letters were written by the Apostles to God's people (or now, the early Christian Church). These Apostles played a similar role to the prophets of the Old Testament. They were God's mouthpieces proclaiming the words of God to His people. The Apostles' letters also acted in a role similar as the Old Testament "Wisdom Books" in how they explained the importance of Jesus' person and His work and instructed a believer how to live now that Jesus has come. Each letter was written to a particular church or individual and was written to accomplish a specific purpose. The title of each book is either the city where the church was located or the Apostle who wrote the letter.

Author: Major authors in this section are Paul and John.
Recommended Reading: Romans & Galatians

Revelation This book is the last section and book of the New Testament. It is in many ways a very challenging book to understand. Like the Old Testament prophetic books, Revelation is written with metaphors expressing a deep, spiritual future reality. The book is set in the early 1st Century during the days of great persecution (or abuse or mistreatment) of God's people. The entire book is a vision (or dream) the Apostle John had while he was exiled on an island in the Mediterranean Sea called Patmos. This dream is full of vivid and colorful images which are at most times difficult to even write down. But John has recorded this dream and the record serves for God's people today as a great sense of encouragement. The encouragement comes from seeing God once more entering into history for the greatest fulfillment (or answering) of His promise. On this day, Jesus will not only remove sin from His people, but destroy the enemies of God's people and eternally secure a people unto Himself.

Author: The Apostle John
Recommended Reading: The entire book!