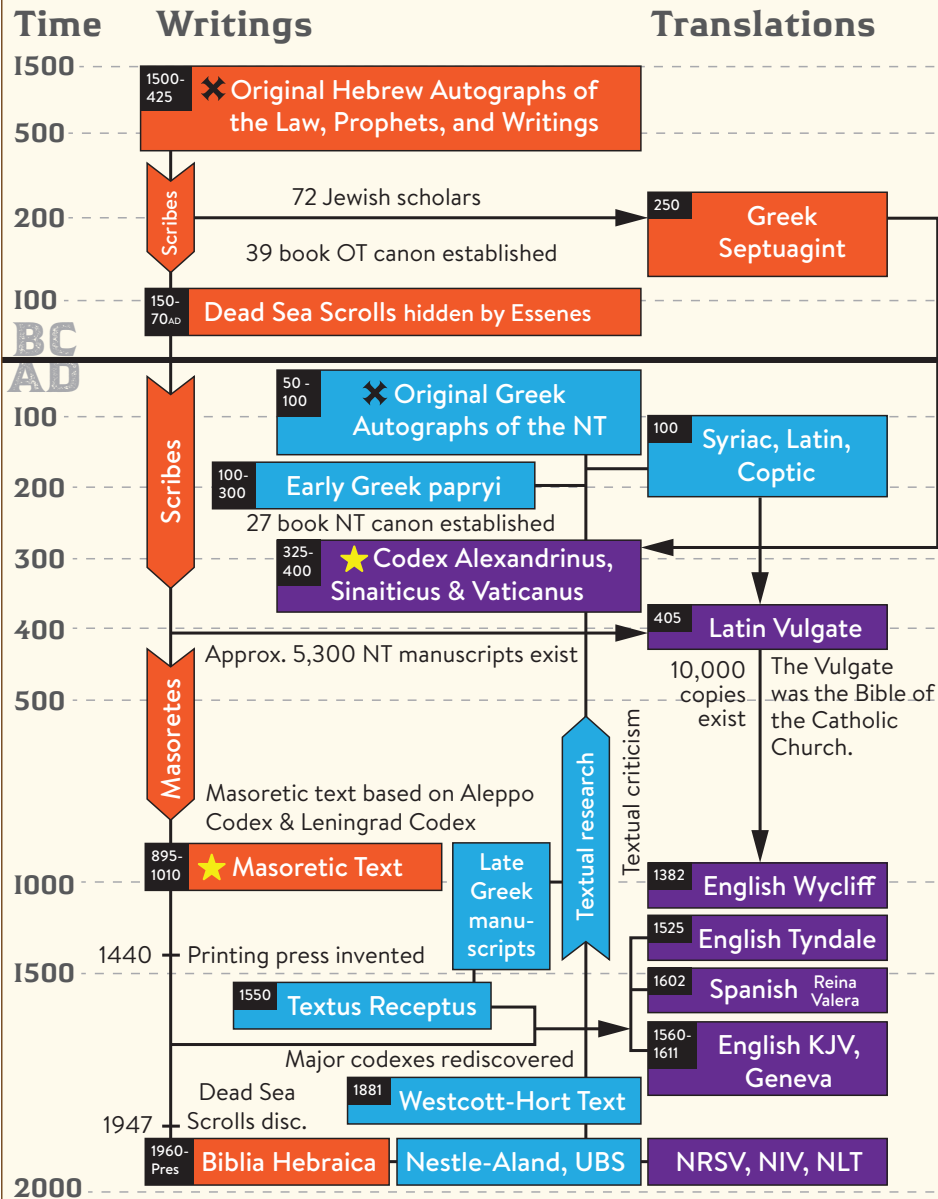


ORIGINS OF THE BIBLE

■ Old Testament
 ■ New Testament
 ■ Combined

★ Oldest complete versions still in existence
 ✕ Lost books



The story of the Bible spans millennia, involving ancient scribes, kings, archaeologists, and scholars who shaped the sacred text we know today.

1. The original books of the OT were written by Moses and the prophets. Jewish scribes meticulously copied the manuscripts over centuries.
2. The OT was commissioned by the King of Egypt to be translated into Greek around 250BC. This was called the Septuagint or “*The Seventy*.”
3. The Essenes hid hundreds of scrolls in caves near the Dead Sea from the 2nd century BC to the 1st century AD.
4. The 27 books of the New Testament were written in Greek over a period of about 50 years.
5. In the 2nd century, NT manuscripts were copied on papyrus and also translated into Syriac, Latin, and Coptic.
6. The 27 books of the New Testament canon were generally agreed upon by the 3rd century AD.
7. Complete Greek Bible manuscripts called “Codex” are created in the 4th and 5th century.
8. In 405AD, Jerome translated the Old and New Testament into Latin, called the Vulgate.
9. In medieval times, the Jewish Masoretes develop strict rules and procedures to protect and preserve the Old Testament scriptures.
10. The printing press was invented in 1440AD. The Gutenberg Bible (Latin) is the first book published.
11. The New Testament scriptures were compiled in the Textus Receptus or “*received text*” and were based on Erasmus’ textual research in 1516.
12. King James I commissioned the translation of the King James Bible in 1611. The KJV was based on the Textus Receptus Greek text.
13. By the 19th century, Codex Alexandrinus, Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are discovered. These Greek manuscripts date to the 4th century.
14. Westcott and Hort produce a highly accurate Greek NT in 1881.
15. The Dead Sea Scrolls and early Greek papyri are discovered in the 20th century.
16. Further textual research has produced accurately rebuilt Greek and Hebrew manuscripts that modern translations are based on.

Source: Lightfoot, Neil R. *How we got the Bible*. 3rd Edition, Baker Books, 2003