

History of the Bible



PURPOSE

To exhibit the power and majesty of God by observing and studying the way in which He guided and preserved for us the complete and inerrant gospel of salvation.

LEARNING

1. The command was that man was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The command was verbal.
2. Exodus 24:12 records God talking to Moses, telling him to climb the mountain and get the stone tablets upon which God Himself had written His law and commands.
3. Deuteronomy 27:2–3; Joshua 8:32 — They were engraved in plaster or a stone monument.
Deuteronomy 6:9; 11:20 — They were written on door-frames of houses and gates.
Exodus 13:9 — People were to share God’s commands by word of mouth.
Deuteronomy 6:6; 11:18–19 — Most of all, God wants His law secured in the hearts and minds of His people.
4. The first five books — written by Moses — are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. They are the first five books in order of appearance, and also the five oldest books, as far as we know.
 - The five collective books are typically called the Pentateuch. Jews also refer to them as the Torah.
 - They were written by a man, Moses, under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He probably wrote them on animal skins, such as sheep, deer, or cow. They were passed down that way from generation to generation.
5. The Old Testament was completely written by about 450 BC.
6. The Apocrypha were Jewish historical books. They are not generally or universally considered part of the “canon,” the inspired Word of God.

The Old Testament plus the Apocrypha is called the Septuagint.
7. They were written in Greek, completed approximately 100 AD.

They were written on papyrus, an early form of paper. They were bound or tied together in book form, similar to the books we have today, rather than being rolled up in the style of a scroll.

8. The document, written in Latin, was called the “Latin Vulgate.”

The Roman Catholic Church was the only organized and recognized church during that time. They believed that Scripture should only be in the hands of the clergy because the lay person could not understand it correctly. By keeping the written Word only in Latin, the clergy could understand it and most others could not. No one could question the church.

9. In 1382, John Wycliffe translated the Bible, including the Apocrypha, into English.

They were handwritten while being translated from the Latin Vulgate.

The church still did not want the Bible translated into common language. Although Wycliffe escaped punishment during his lifetime, in a symbolic act of punishment after his death, the church declared him a heretic and ordered his books burned. Forty-four years after Wycliffe’s death, they exhumed his remains, burned them, and threw them into the River Swift.

10. Martin Luther produced the New Testament only in the German language in 1522. Even though the printing press was invented in 1455, and the first book to be printed was the Bible, it was in Latin.

Aside from the fact that it was printed instead of handwritten, it was translated from the 1516 Greek-Latin New Testament of Erasmus instead of the Latin Vulgate.

11. The Myles Coverdale’s Bible, in 1535, was the first complete English-printed Bible. It made use of Luther’s German text and the Latin as sources.
12. Stephen Langton developed the system in about 1227. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern.
13. Robert Estienne (also known as Stephanus) used verses in his French edition of the New Testament in 1551. The first English New Testament to use the verse divisions was a 1557 translation by William Whittingham. The first Bible in English to use both chapters and verses was the Geneva Bible published in 1560 by English Puritans during their exile in Geneva under Mary Tudor.

DOING

Self-explanatory.