

Unlocking the Mystery: Introduction to Bible Study History of the Bible

Creation of the Canon

What does "canon" mean?

Rod of straightness

Old Testament Canon

Torah, Nevi'im (Prophets), Ketuvim (Writings)

Septuagint

Synod of Jamnia

New Testament Canon

Criteria: authorship, local church acceptance, recognition by church fathers, subject matter, personal edification

When was the canon complete?

When were chapters and verse numbers added?

1,189 chapters; 31,173 verses.

First: Genesis 1:1

Last: Revelation 22:21

Middle: Psalm 118:8

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Reliability of the Canon

Do we have any "original" manuscripts?

How reliable are the "copies" that we have?

See chart on the back.

Jewish preservation methods (for the Old Testament.)

What about advances in linguistics and archeology?

Recommended video series, *"Jesus: Legend or Lord"*

1 Corinthians 15:16-17

2 Corinthians 13:1

Matthew 24:35

COMPARISON OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Author & Work	Author's Lifespan	Dates of Events	Date of Writing	Earliest Extant MS	Lapse: Event to Writing	Lapse: Event to MS	Number of MSS
New Testament	6 B.C.-100 A.D.	0-70 A.D.	50-100 A.D.	114 A.D. (frag) 200 A.D. (bks) 325 A.D. (all NT)	< 50 years	< 200 years	5,366 Greek 10,000 Latin 9,000 other
Tacitus <i>Annals</i>	ca. 56-120 A.D.	14-68 A.D.	100-120 A.D.	ca. 850 A.D.	30-100	800-850	20
Thucydides <i>History</i>	ca. 460-400 B.C.	431-411 B.C.	410-400 B.C.	ca. 900 A.D.	0-30	1300-1350	8
Pliny <i>Letters</i>	ca. 60-115 A.D.	97-112 A.D.	100-112 A.D.	ca. 850 A.D.	0-3	725-750	7
Suetonius <i>Lives</i>	ca. 60-130 A.D.	50 B.C. - 95 A.D.	ca. 120 A.D.	ca. 850 A.D.	25-170	750-900	8
Herodotus <i>History</i>	ca. 485-425 B.C.	546-478 B.C.	430-425 B.C.	ca. 900 A.D.	50-125	1400-1450	8
Plato <i>Dialogues, Laws, Apology, etc.</i>	428-348 B.C.	400-348 B.C.	400 B.C.	ca. 900 A.D.	0-10	1300	7
Caesar <i>Gallic Wars</i>	100-44 B.C.	58-50 B.C.	52-51 B.C.	ca. 900 A.D.	0-5	1000	10

Adapted from *The Mind Games Notebook* (Richardson, TX: Probe Ministries, 1995), "History of the Bible," p.319