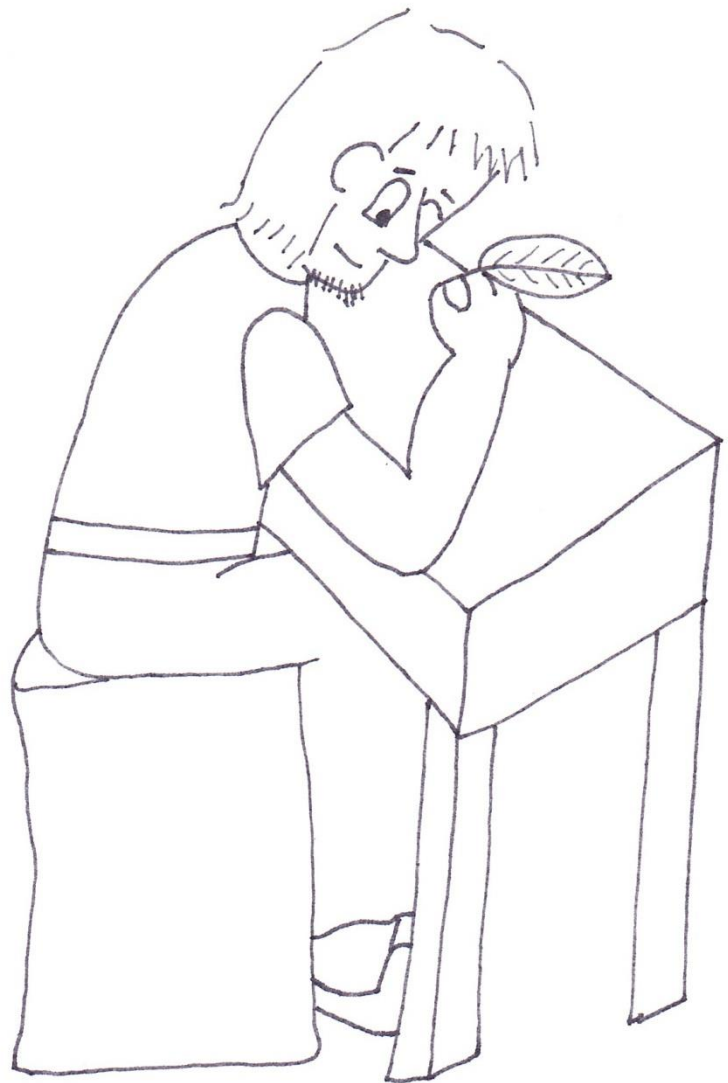


# How did we get the Bible?

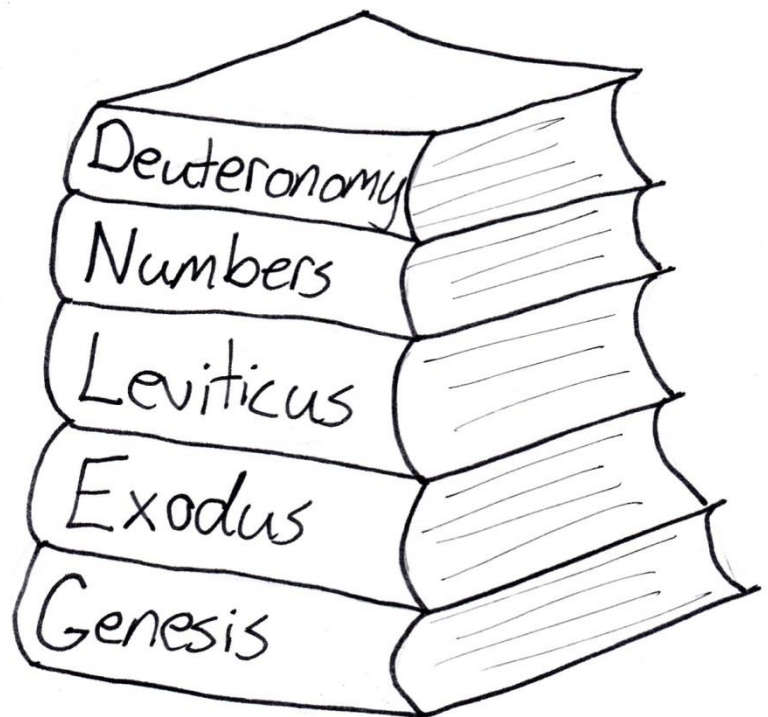
The Bible was written over a 1500 years' time by 40 different men. They had many different jobs. A shepherd wrote prophecy. An accountant wrote a historical book. A prophet wrote history. A prince wrote books of law. Everyone had their own part to play.

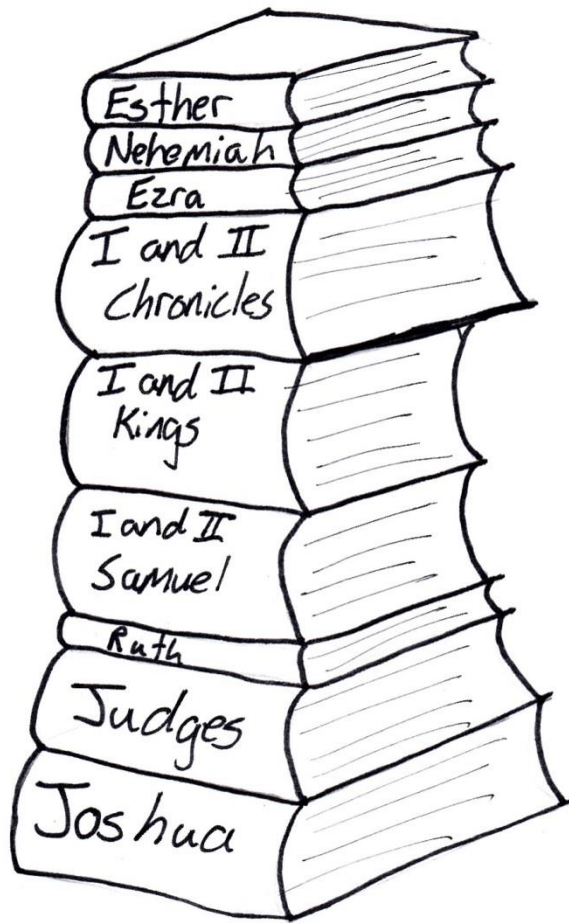
So the first answer to the question is who wrote the Bible?



The first five books were written by Moses. It says in Deuteronomy 31:9, “Moses wrote the Law and gave it to the priests.”

He probably wrote these books while the Israelites were wandering in the desert. These are called the Books of the Law, or Torah, which means Law of God. They are also called the Pentateuch.





The next section is the historical books, we are not completely sure who wrote them. They tell the history of the Israelite people.

We think Joshua and Judges was written by Samuel. The Jews treated this as one book.



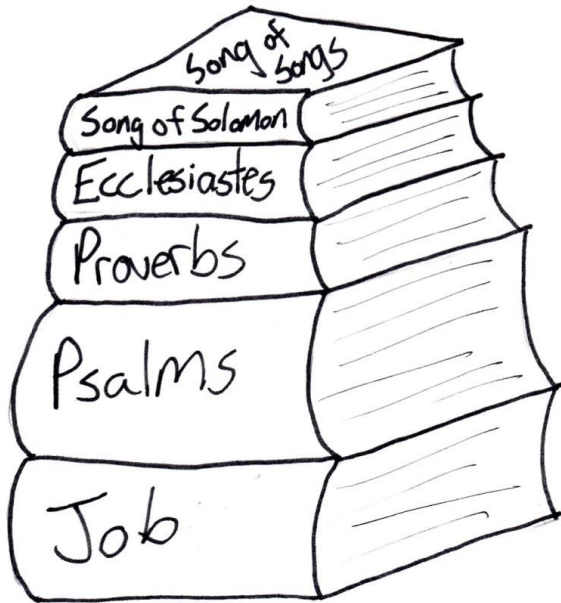


1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings was probably written by Elijah. These were also treated as one book by the Jews.

1 and 2 Chronicles, again 1 book for the Jews, was probably written by Ezra.

No one knows who wrote Ruth or Esther.

Ezra and Nehemiah were written by Ezra and Nehemiah. About this same time, all of these books were considered to be part of the Bible.



The third section is the Wisdom books, or the books of Poetry. These are books that share wisdom or are praise songs written to God.

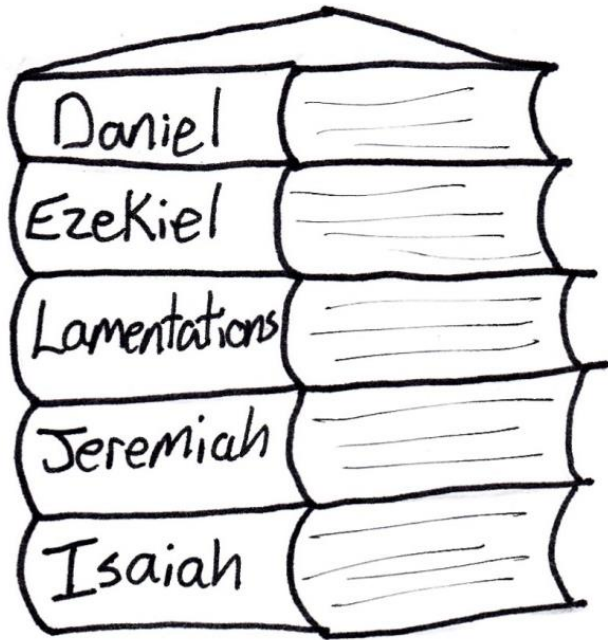
We have no clue who wrote the book of Job.

King David wrote most of the Psalms, but some were written by King Solomon, Moses, and Asaph, a priest.

King Solomon wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon which is also called Song of Songs.

These books were recognized as scripture during King Hezekiah's time.





The next big section is the Major Prophets. They are called this not because their information was so important, but because their books are so long.

All of these books are named after their author, except Lamentations that is written by Jeremiah.

These are books that tell what will happen in the future, some have already happened, some have not happened yet.

Isaiah spent a lot of time talking about Jesus, and when He would come.







The final section of the Old Testament is the Minor Prophets. These twelve books are all short, less than 10 chapters.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi are all

named after their authors.

They had all sorts of jobs, prophet, shepherd, nobleman, priests.

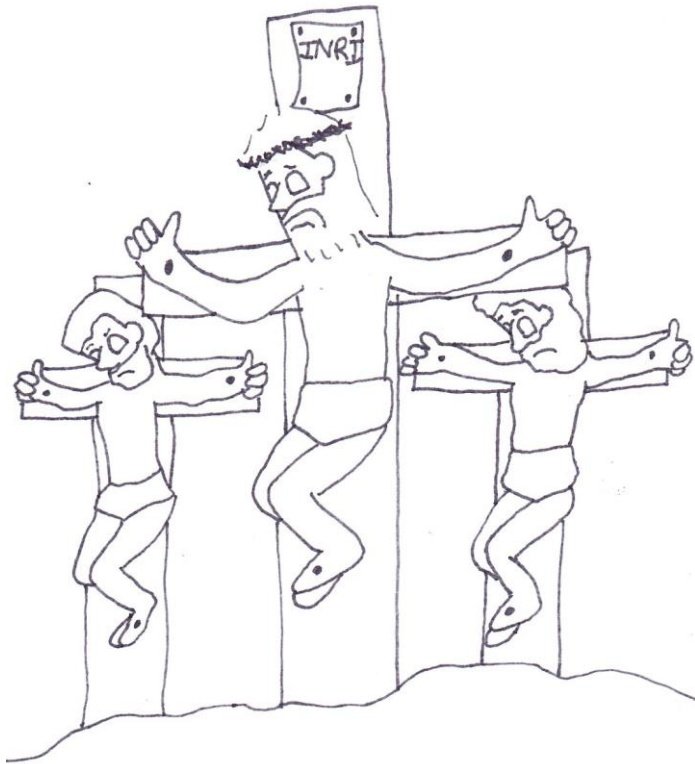
They warned Northern Israel and Southern Judah to repent and turn back to God, and warned of God's coming judgment.

There were all written before the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, and Ezra is the one who included them in the Bible.



Then God fell silent for 400 years. Many things were happening, but no more books of the Bible were written during this time.

Between these times men created their own rules and writings. It is during this time Chanukah was added to the festivals the Jews celebrated.



Then John the Baptist came and God started to move in amazing ways again. Jesus came, preached, died, and rose again.

The Holy Spirit inspired men to write again.



A few years after Jesus died some of his disciples wrote down what Jesus had taught them.

There is a lot of arguments for which gospel was written first.

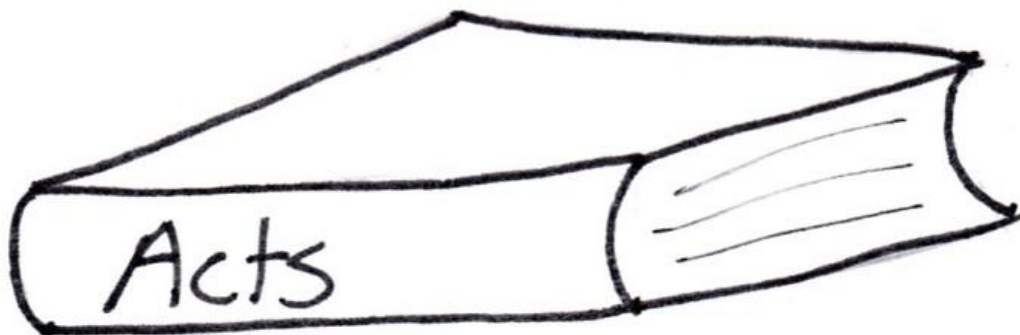
Most people believe Mark was written first because it is the shortest. It was written to Gentiles, people who are not Jewish. Mark was not one of the 12 disciples, he was a student of Peter.

Matthew was probably written next and was written for the Jews. It talks a lot about how Jesus fulfills prophecy.

Luke is written for Romans. Luke spent many years researching and interviewing witnesses before writing the book. He was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

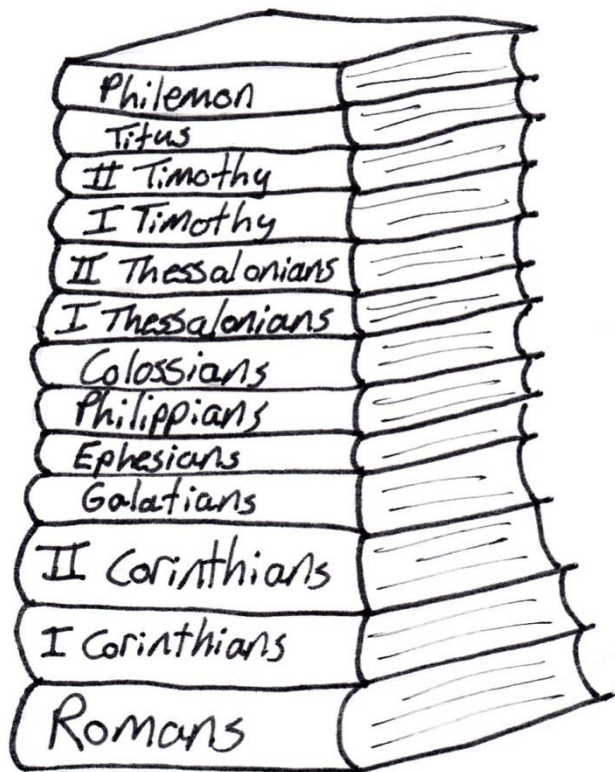
John was written last, by the last surviving disciple. He wanted to show that Jesus really lived and was a real person.

All of the gospels were written to show Jesus was a real person.



Acts is the only book of history in the New Testament. Luke wrote it as a sequel to his gospel to tell how the church started.

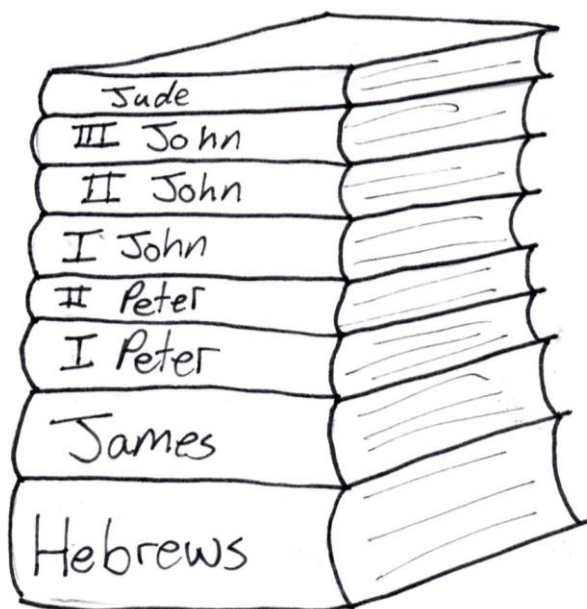
Most of the rest of the New Testament is letters written to churches or people.



Paul wrote Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. All of these were written to churches or people Paul had

trained.

We don't know who wrote Hebrews. James, Jesus' brother, wrote the book of James. Peter wrote 1 and 2 Peter. The disciple John wrote 1, 2, and 3 John. Jude, another of Jesus' brothers wrote Jude.





The last book of the Bible is Revelation. It is a book of prophecy all of which has not happened yet.

But this does not answer how the books of the Bible were chosen after they were written. There were hundreds of books written in the hundred years after Jesus died. How did they choose which books were included?



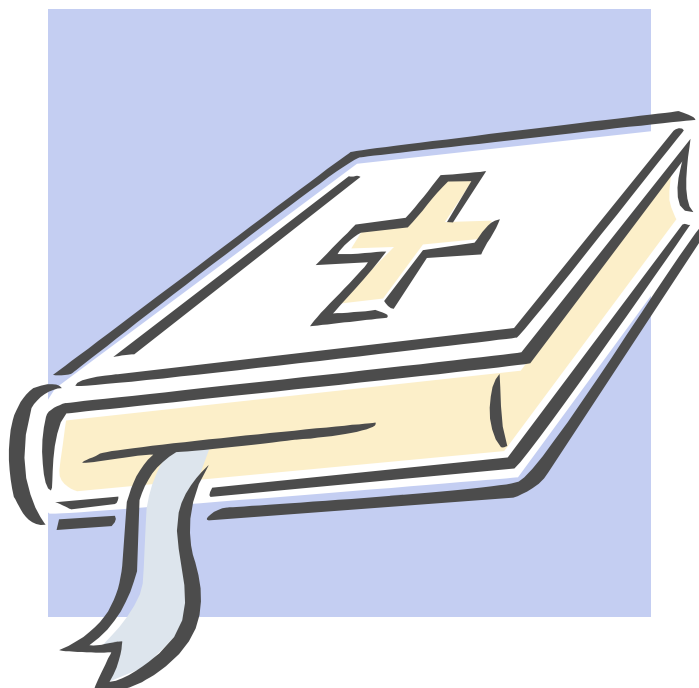
The church leaders got together and came up with criteria for deciding what books should be in the New Testament:

1. The author either knew Jesus or trained by someone who was. Matthew, Peter, James, John, Jude, and Paul all knew Jesus or had an encounter with him. Mark was trained by Peter, and might have followed Jesus. Luke interviewed and traveled with Paul and several of the disciples.
2. What did the book say? Did it agree with the rest of the Bible and what Jesus taught? There were many books that claimed to be written by disciples but disagreed with what Jesus taught.
3. Approval by the early church, did the early church agree with it?

It took many years for everyone to agree what books should be in the Bible. Many years of prayer and looking for God's will. By 200 AD most of the books were agreed on, the Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, and 1 John.

But what about Hebrews? Who wrote it? Does James disagree with Paul on works? What do we do with Revelation? Finally in 397 AD at the Council of Hippo, everyone agreed on the 27 books now in the New Testament.

And that is how we got the Bible.





# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. Are all the books of the Bible the same type?
2. What types of people wrote the Bible?
3. Did God help write the Bible?

## Middle Kids

1. Was everyone who wrote the Bible a priest or pastor? Do you have to be a pastor or priest to learn about God and teach about God?
2. How did the Christians decide what books to put in the New Testament?
3. Why is it important the authors of the New Testament knew Jesus or were trained by people who did?
4. Why do we want the books in the New Testament to agree with each other?

## Older Guys

1. What does the Bible say about itself? Read these verses and talk about what you observe:  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 19:7-11

Matthew 4:4

Joshua 1:8-9

2. Read Psalm 119, what does the author say about God's word? Why is it important to study God's word? How will it help you?

### Activities

1. Put the books of the Bible in order, suggestions in the online category
2. Organize the books of the Bible by category
3. Try playing "Bible Go Fish," try to get 3 books from the same category, the person who gets the most sets wins.

### Online

1. Books of the Bible games: [http://www.dltk-bible.com/guides/gods\\_book.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/guides/gods_book.htm)
2. Books of the Bible Flashcards: <http://www.believersresource.com/downloads/books-of-the-bible-flash-cards-and-games-39.html>

3. Books of the Bible song ideas:  
<http://abcjesuslovesme.com/bible/719-teaching-your-child-the-books-of-the-bible>
4. Books of the Bible ordering cards:  
<http://www.meetpenny.com/2013/08/free-printable-books-of-the-bible-ordering-cards/>
5. Books of the Bible lapbook:  
<http://heartofwisdom.com/blog/books-of-the-bible-lapbook/>
6. Books of the Bible pocket chart:  
<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2013/01/bible-pocket-charts-for-review.html>
7. Printable Bible games:  
<http://www.livingwaterbiblegames.com/biblebooksbingo.html>
8. Books of the Bible in order cups:  
<http://www.whenyourise.com/2011/10/gods-big-picture-lesson-3.html>

## Reference materials

<http://realtruth.org/articles/248-wahdwgtb.html>

<http://www.learnthebible.org/Prophets.htm>

<http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbible.aspx?pageid=8589952773>