

## **Scripture**

Collection of books (Bible) written by many over about 1200-1400 years from & for a community of faith

### ***Dating (Christian scholar use = Jewish and secular scholar use)***

BC (Before Christ, Latin: Ante Christum Natum, before Christ nativity) = BCE (Before Common Era)

AD (Latin: Anno Domine – year of our Lord) = CE (Common Era)

### ***Old Testament (OT)***

Most works were written over several hundred years by writers and editors. Reason: the Hebrew people were originally nomads (unlike other peoples whose gods were geographically located) moving from place to place and dependent upon oral Tradition almost exclusively to preserve their history. Written literature began to emerge under David (born about 1040, reigned 1010-970, died 970 BC) and Solomon (born 1011, reigned 971-932, died 932 BC). A minority of scholars thinks the first community writing started at Kadesh-Barnea (1440-1400 BC), main Israelite base during the desert wandering period (entered Palestine about 1400 BC).

### ***Four Traditions in the OT***

1. Yahwist (J) – Name for God from Exodus 3:14-15 (I AM, i.e. Hebrew consonantalization: YHWH – Yahweh, hence <sup>1</sup>hallelu<sup>2</sup>yah = <sup>1</sup>praise <sup>2</sup>Yahweh); Main sections: Creation & Fall, Fathers, Exodus, Desert Wandering; NOTE: J & E combined during the reign (co-regent with Ahaz 729, sole 716-697, co-regency with Manasseh 697-687 BC) of Judah's King Hezekiah
2. Elohist (E) – Name for God (Elohim precedes Exodus experience); Main section: Covenant of Abraham
3. Deuteronomic (D) – Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings; centered on sanctuary & moral/religious reform (Hezekiah) emphasizing covenant relationship with God.
4. Priestly (P) – 538 Restoration. Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Deuteronomy

### ***Three Parts of the OT***

Law (Torah) – First 5 books (Pentateuch): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

Prophets (includes historical books) – Former (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings) & Latter (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & Minor) Prophets

Writings (Wisdom Literature) – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth), Sirach (Ecclesiasticus),

Wisdom & the 5 Megilloth (scrolls) – Canticles (Song of Songs), Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

### ***Notes on the Prophets***

- Elijah & Elisha – 9<sup>th</sup> century BC (800s) Northern Kingdom (Israel)
- Amos & Hosea – 8<sup>th</sup> century BC (700s) Southern Kingdom (Judah); first ones to be written down
- Isaiah (742-687 in Jerusalem) & Micah (similar timeframe in Moresheth, Palestine) – disciples take notes which starts tradition of recording prophecy
- 167-164 BC 1 & 2 Maccabees, Daniel, Esther, Tobit & Judith written

### ***About the Writings***

- Linked with King Solomon, but little goes back to his time (about 1000 BC)
- Pseudonymous writing very common (writing in another's name – i.e. Abraham, David, Solomon)
- Alexander the Great conquered Syria/Palestine (333 BC) – pluralism a threat & Baal worship permitted
- Syrian ruler Antiochus VI Epiphanes tried to crush Jewish worship of Yahweh

### ***Some of the oldest writings***

Song of Miriam (Exodus 15) 1280 BC, Song of Deborah (Judges 5) 1125 BC & other Exodus Writings:

Decalogue (20:1-17), Covenant Code (20:22-23:19), Ritual Decalogue (34:11-26) between 1200 – 1000 BC

### ***OT Canons: 7 Book Difference Summary (Deuterocanon: Deutero = Second, Canon = list)***

## RCIA Sacred Scripture Overview 01/05/2010

Alexandrian canon (Catholics) – Alexandria, Egypt, translated Palestinian canon to Greek – 46 books

Palestinian canon (Protestants) – Palestine (modern-day Israel); written in Hebrew – 39 books

*Difference:* Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus (aka Sirach) & Baruch (including also 6 chapters in Esther & 3 chapters in Daniel); deuterocanonical books claimed to not be in Hebrew & so not scripture; Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran include entire deuterocanon in Hebrew

### ***New Testament (27 books)***

Gospels, Pauline Letters, Catholic Letters & Revelation written about 50-100 AD, possibly as late as 125

### ***Gospels (8 including Acts & 1-3 John)***

Mark – written 65 AD around the time Peter & Paul were martyred in Rome

Luke & Acts – written 75 AD as companion volumes by the Greek Physician for the Greek-speaking communities of the Roman Empire

Matthew – written 80 AD for Jewish Christians in Palestine & Syria

John & 1-3 John – written from 90-100 AD, most likely in Ephesus (where John was exiled with Mary, Jesus' mother); Written specifically to counter the claims of the Gnostics and seems to have been edited and reworded by his disciples (redaction very common)

### ***Pauline Letters (13 – 14 books & first unified writings)***

50-51 AD – 1 & 2 Thessalonians

54-59 AD – Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans

60-67 AD – 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus (Pastoral letters – Pauline authorship disputed)

61-63 AD – Philippians, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians (Captivity letters from Caesarea, Ephesus & Rome)

Before 97 AD – Hebrews (Tradition attributes to Paul, authorship disputed and validated if dated after 67 since Paul was beheaded in Rome; quoted in the Clement of Rome's letter to Corinthians 96 AD)

### ***Catholic (Universal) Letters (4 books addressed everyone instead of a specific community)***

James (before 62 AD), Peter 1 (64-67 AD) & 2 (probably 100-125 AD), Jude (70-80 AD)

### ***Revelation or Apocalypse (1 book)***

64-96 AD – The book may have been partially written earlier and finished later. Uses writing form popular from 200BC – 200AD called apocalyptic (crisis) literature. Similar in style to Ezekiel & Daniel, these books were written during times of persecution. Purpose: strengthen faith and give hope using symbolic language.

***Timeline: Important Events in Salvation History*** (<http://www.catholic-evangelism.org/h-salvhist.shtml> & additions directly from the New Jerome Biblical Commentary p1038)

Date	Historical Events	Scriptural Events
1800 BC	Abraham	Beginning of oral tradition
1290	Exodus from Egypt	Oral stories of Israel shaped
1200s - 1000s	Possibly Moses career; Traditions under Pentateuch take shape; early law codes and poetry; births of David & Solomon	Stories of conquest of Palestine; Traditions underlying Judges & 1 Samuel; Early poetry (Judges 5)
1000 - 961	Monarchy of Israel - Stories of David & "Court History"	Court historians start Yahwist (J) material*; use of Psalms in temple worship begins
922 - 800s	Israel splits into a northern kingdom (Israel capitol Samaria) and a southern kingdom (Judea capitol Jerusalem);	Elohists (E) material* written in Northern kingdom

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	Preserved royal annals of Judah/Israel	
<b>783 - 740 BC</b>	Reign of King Uzziah in Judea and King Jeroboam II in Israel	Deuteronomistic (D)* Tradition written (Deuteronomy – 2 Kings); prophets active - Amos, Hosea, 1 <sup>st</sup> Isaiah
<b>721</b>	Israel destroyed by Assyrians.	
<b>700 (approx)</b>	Hezekiah	J & E merged (under Hezekiah)
<b>720 - 586</b>	Judah has a string of kings, most not following God	Prophets active - Micah, Jeremiah
<b>586</b>	Temple in Jerusalem destroyed by Babylon & Exile begins	
<b>586 - 537</b>	The Exile of Israelites into Babylon; D edited	Priestly (P)* compiled from earlier sources (J, E & D) giving structure to Torah (Law); 2 <sup>nd</sup> Isaiah
<b>535 - about 515</b>	Israel is allowed to re-establish Israel; 2 <sup>nd</sup> temple built	Last prophets active
<b>400 - 200</b>		Chronicles written; completion of Pentateuch (about 400) ; sayings of Qoheleth (Eccl) edited by students; possibly Obadiah, Jonah, Joel, Apocalypse of Isaiah (24-27), Deutero-Zechariah (9-14), collection of Psalms
<b>332</b>	Alexander conquers Palestine	
<b>332 - 160</b>	Mid-East divided; Seleucid dynasty rules Israel – very harsh on Israelites; Maccabean revolt (166); Jewish dynasty restored - corrupt Hasmonean family rules (160)	2 <sup>nd</sup> century: Esther, Daniel, Sirach, Baruch, Tobit, Judith, Gk Esther, Gk parts of Daniel, 1 & 2 Macc, Wisdom; Jews in Alexandria translate Hebrew scriptures to Greek (Septuagint - LXX)
<b>60 BC - 100 AD</b>	Romans control Israel	Life of Jesus; NT mostly written
<b>66 - 70 AD</b>	Jewish people revolt - put down by Romans, Temple razed to dust in 70 & never rebuilt	

\* The J, E, D & P groups of writers all wrote parts of the OT, some writing the same material. J was earliest (see above for alternative explanation), written to show how God's promises to Abraham fulfilled in David's monarchy. E reflects views of the northern kingdom, after Solomon's kingdom fell apart and the North split. D writers made a reassessment of earlier stories in light of the lessening faithfulness of Israel & its kings. P writers reorganized and added new materials to reflect the needs of the exilic community.

### Table Bibliography

1. The New Jerome Biblical Commentary
2. McKenzie's Dictionary of the Bible
3. The Catholic Study Bible, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Scott Hahn
4. "Faith Facts", Catholics United for The Faith (CUF)
5. Office for Catechesis of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago Catholic Scripture School

***Practical Application – A Catholic way to read scripture: Lectio (Reading) Divinia (Divine)***

## RCIA Sacred Scripture Overview 01/05/2010

A meditative reading of Scripture consisting of four elements

1. Lectio – reading (careful repetitious recitation of short text – turning it over in your mind leading to #2)
2. Meditatio – mediation, to think about (understand meaning and apply it to one's own life leading to #3)
3. Oratio – prayer (response to text requesting grace or closer union with God leading to #4)
4. Contemplatio – contemplation (gazing at/on something for a while)

Three ways to look at the four parts:

1. Reading seeks; meditation finds (meaning); prayer demands; contemplation tastes (God)
2. Reading provides solid food; meditation chews; prayer achieves savor; contemplation refreshing sweetness
3. Reading – surface; meditation – substance; prayer demands by desire; contemplation experiences by delight

### Entire Paper Bibliography

1. New American Bible (1970) article **How the Bible Came About** by Jerome Kodell, OSB
2. New Jerome Biblical Commentary (1990, 1968) by Raymond E. Brown, SS, Joseph A. Fitzmeyer, SJ and Roland E. Murphy, OCarm
3. [www.catholic-evangelism.org](http://www.catholic-evangelism.org) with accompanying bibliography providing a timeline
4. [www.jewishencyclopedia.com](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com) for the location of Moresheth
5. Originally at <http://blog.myspace.com/jaeg> (now removed) for a summation of Lectio Divinia
6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezekiah> for the reign of Hezekiah
7. <http://www.funtrivia.com/askft/Question53773.html> for Latin of BC
8. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David> for David's years
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<http://melekali.50megs.com/Writings/Index.html>