

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE FROM ADAM TO MODERN TIMES

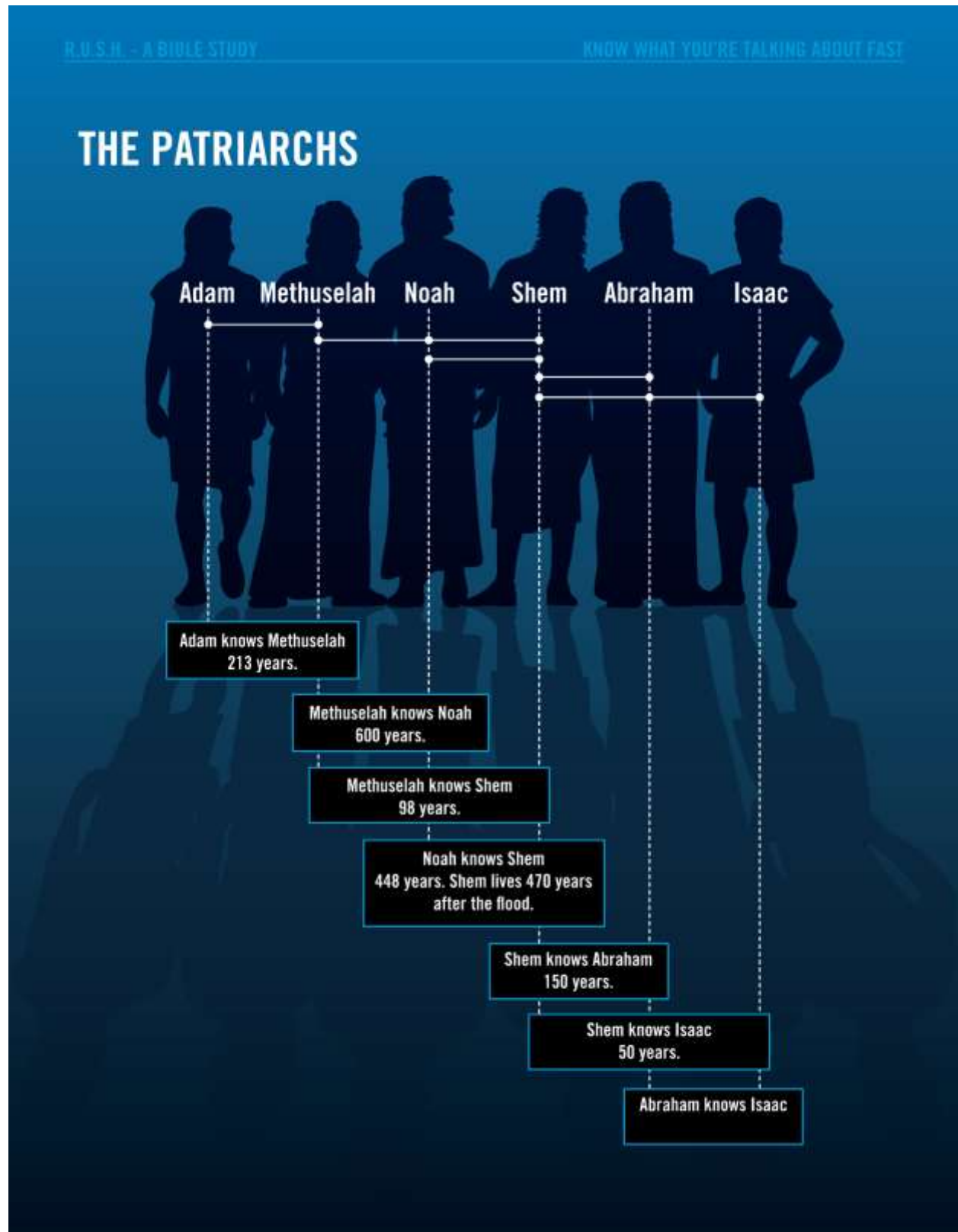
A BIBLE STUDY
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION V. 23

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*“A Very special thank you to Stacey Hobrath, Stacey Scott, Ray and Julie Espinoza
for their contributions to the final result of this project.”*



1559 years of dialogue between 6 people in Genesis to get it perfect.

A (*not so*) Brief History of the Bible's Formation from Adam to Today

As you know from our studies in the R.U.S.H. Bible Study God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden until the fall of man in Genesis Chapter 3. We have no idea how many years this was going on, (it could have been a hundred years or more for all we know), but it must have been awhile as they recognized His voice and the sound of His feet. We must suspect that however long it was, that The Lord answered many questions and told them of how He created everything including them. I imagine something similar to the nature walks I took with my children when they were young. These memories would then be passed down through the generations both orally and written, over and over again until they were written down and compiled by Moses.

Tangent #1

Slightly off topic, I would like to share a possible insight to a phenomenon found throughout scripture that explains some of the dynamic expressed in the scene from Genesis 3. This is not doctrinal, just a possibility. It is thought, and has been taught sparingly over the millennia that our skin is created to glow in the presence of God. We see this in Exodus 34:35, that when Moses was with God his skin continued to glow for days after, also on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2-3, and in Luke 9:28-36.

(Exodus 34:30, So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.)

(Luke 9:29 TPT, As he prayed, his face began to glow until a blinding glory streamed from him. A radiant glory illuminated his entire body.)

Possibly also in the account of Stephen's trial in Acts 6:15.

(Acts 6:15, Then all those who were sitting in the Council, stared [intently] at him, and they saw that Stephen's face was like the face of an angel.)

Is it possible that Adam and Eve didn't "feel" naked because their skin glowed? And that when they sinned, they lost that glow and saw themselves as they were? That without the "glow" from God's presence they felt exposed? Just a thought, I was taught this by a wonderful Christian gentleman I deeply respected the late Willard Cantelon. R.I.P.

End of Tangent #1

Now back to where we were with Adam to Moses. It shouldn't be a surprise that the patriarchs got the story right, seeing that they lived for a long time in those days. Adam, for instance, knows Methuselah for 213 years! Methuselah knows Noah 600 years and dies just 1 month before the flood. Noah enters the Ark with his 3 sons and their families. Once the flood abates the sons live another 470 years. Shem knows Abraham for 150 years before he dies. Just between those 5 men (Adam –Abraham) you have 1,433 years of continuous communication directly from the source that walked with God in the Garden of Eden. They got the story right.

Starting with Adam in the Garden of Eden we have possibly 10 authors of the book of Genesis. There are likely 10 authors to the book of Genesis, and then Moses compiled their records. This is not a matter of salvation of course, but certainly makes sense to this author. They are most logically divided in the book by the phrase "*Generations of...*". This phrase is repeated 10 times in Genesis. Don't punch anyone in the nose over this, I was taught this and it makes sense to me. We know Genesis is inspired because Jesus treated it as such when He used it in Luke chapter 27 to support His own ministry. He cites Moses, and according to this theory, Moses compiled it.

The divisions would fall as follows:

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1. | The Generations of Heaven and Earth. | 1:1-2:4 | (Authored or dictated by God to Adam). |
| 2. | The book of Generations of Adam. | 2:4-5:1 | (Authored by Adam). |
| 3. | The Generations of Noah. | 5:1-6:9 | (Authored by Noah). |
| 4. | The Generations of The Sons of Noah. | 6:9-10:1 | (Authored by Ham, Shem, and Japeth). |
| 5. | The Generations of Shem. | 10:1-11:10 | (Authored by Shem). |
| 6. | The Generations of Terah. | 11:10-11:27 | (Authored by Terah). |
| 7. | The Generations of Isaac. | 11:27-25:11 | (Authored by Isaac). |
| 8. | The Generations of Ishmael. | 25:12-25:18 | (Authored by Ishmael). |
| 9. | The Generations of Jacob | 25:19-37:1 | (authored by Jacob). |
| 10. | The Generations of the Sons of Jacob | 37:2-Exodus 1:1 | (Authored by Jacob's sons). |

Moses writes the Torah. Recording what had been passed down which completes the Book of Genesis, and adds what God is doing currently as The Lord is doing something new on the earth. This would be the remaining 4 books of the Torah. Once God separates a people for Himself, the practice Moses started (*recording the moves of God for posterity*) continues until and through the years in captivity and beyond.

All these earliest surviving manuscripts and fragments are in consonantal Hebrew and are divided into three categories of the most ancient documents. The J document, the E document, and the P document.

The J document refers to the name of God as YHWH (translated Jehovah). The E document refers to God as Elohim. The P document refers to the title "The Priestly Document," (this is a reconciliation of the J and E documents compiled by Ezra). Both J and E documents use Elohim and YHWH interchangeably but the E document uses Elohim more often and the J document uses YHWH more often.

One example of this is in Genesis 1:26 where it states "*Then God said, Let us make man in Our Image.*" The word for God in both J and E documents in Genesis 1 is Elohim, the plural for God. The Trinity speaking amongst themselves. Jesus on the cross uses the singular in Mark 15:34 "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani*" Eloi being the singular form of Elohim. The Son talking to the Father. Ezra would take the E document and the J document and compile them into the P document. Another example of the original in both documents is in Exodus 20 "*then Elohim spoke these words: I am Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.*"

When God brings His people home He uses Ezra to lead His people back into relationship with Him. The 1st thing Ezra does is gather all the documents regarding the Law and subsequent writings, adding much that he and others have recently been writing, and compiles the body of scripture we today call the Old Testament and the Jews call Tanakh often spelled TaNaK. (*The title refers to the 1st letter of the 3 divisions, Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim*). He didn't do this monumental task by himself. He formed a body of dedicated scribes, prophets and teachers called "The Great Assembly" to take on the task.

At this point Old Testament scripture was written in Consonantal Hebrew. Hebrew with no vowels. Consonantal Hebrew would remain in use until the late 6th century when the Masoretic texts were compiled using Aramaic letters as opposed to the Hebrew letters, and more importantly added the vowels. The church however used the Septuagint's Greek text as the authority for the Old Testament for good reasons explained later in this lesson.

The mission of The Great Assembly was 3-fold. *Be deliberate in judgement. Develop many disciples. Make a fence around the Torah.* This they did very well. So well in fact, after Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire the Greeks had the entire Old Testament, along with the supporting documents, translated into Greek and produced for public consumption. This translation is called The Septuagint. Simon the Righteous, one of the last surviving members of the Great Assembly said "*on 3 things the world depends- on Torah (Bible) study, on the service of God, and on bestowing loving-kindness.*"

The Great Assembly lasted only for a single generation - the generation of Ezra. It appears from all the passages in traditional literature that the idea of the Great Assembly was based on the narrative in Nehemiah 8–10, and that its members were the leaders of Israel who had returned from exile and reestablished the Jewish community in Israel.

According to the rabbinic chronology, the period of Persian rule lasted just 34 years, at the beginning of the period of the Second Temple, therefore Abba bar Kahana speaks of a single "generation of the men of the Great Assembly".

According to Jewish tradition the Great Assembly, (*also translated as Great Synagogue or Synod*) was an assembly of 120 scribes, sages, and prophets, which existed from the early Second Temple period (around 516 BC) to the early Hellenistic period (which began with Alexander's conquests of 333–332 BC), roughly coinciding with the Persian Empire's reign over the nation of Israel. The assembly's members, known as *Anshei Knesset HaGedolah* ("The Men of the Great Assembly"), traditionally included such figures as Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Mordechai and Zerubbabel among others.

As we covered in The R.U.S.H. Bible Study, in 586 B.C. Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians. The Temple was looted and then destroyed by fire. The 2 Jewish kingdoms were exiled.

About 70 years later, the Jewish captives returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. According to the Bible, Ezra recovered a copy of the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) and read it aloud to the whole nation.

From then on, the Jewish scribes of The Great Assembly solidified the following process for creating copies of the Torah and eventually other books in the Old Testament well into the new millennium.

It typically would take 1 scribe 15 months to transcribe 1 copy of the Old Testament.

1. They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and even to bind manuscripts.
2. Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.
3. The ink must be black, and of a special recipe.
4. They must verbalize each word aloud while they were writing.
5. They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.
6. There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.
7. The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other. The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.
8. The documents could be stored only in sacred places such as synagogues.
9. As no document containing God's Word could be destroyed, they were stored, or buried, in a genizah – a Hebrew term meaning "hiding place." These were usually kept in a synagogue or sometimes in a Jewish cemetery.

The Septuagint would be the 1st time the Bible would be translated into another language. Somewhere around 300 BC it was given its name because Aristeeas reported that it had 72 translators. It was the result of a letter from King Ptolemy II commissioning Demetrius of Phaleron, to collect all the books in the world. Demetrius then wrote a letter to the High Priest Eleazar in Jerusalem requesting 6 elders from each tribe to translate it into Greek.

6 elders x 12 tribes = 72, hence the number that gives the Septuagint its title. According to tradition it was completed in 72 days as well, and when read to the Alexandrian Jewish community that was assembled to hear it, it received lavish praises and a curse was pronounced on anyone who should alter the text. Demetrius was so impressed that he rewarded the translators handsomely and the High Priest as well.

The Septuagint is still in use today, as it was the official Old Testament of the early church.

One of the earliest Christian documents was called the Didache, also called "The Teaching of the Twelve".

It is a statement on proper Christian behavior in a pagan world. Here is a snippet from Didache 2:2 which states:

"You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not corrupt children, you shall not fornicate. You shall not steal. You shall not practice magic. You shall not mix poison. You shall not murder a child, whether by abortion or by killing it once it is born"

Tangent #2

The author of the Didache no doubt mentions abortion and the killing of infants because of the prevalence of abortion in the ancient world. The medical risks associated with aborting a child in the womb were great, yet, there was still a willingness to commit such a dangerous and horrific act. Killing a newborn through abandonment and exposure was much more common. Many studies have been undertaken to document these horrors, both in the Roman Empire and throughout the ancient world generally. Abortion was everywhere, and is nothing new. People have been conjuring up evil things to do for a long time. The world will never stop needing Jesus, and man's inhumanity to man is testimony to that need.

End tangent #2

The first church council was held in Jerusalem in 48-50 AD and has come to be known as The Jerusalem Council, or Apostolic Council. It is recorded in Acts chapter 15. It was held by James the Just, Peter and John. James the Just was Jesus ½ brother and the Pastor of the Jerusalem church until he was martyred around 62 AD. He was thrown off the church rooftop to kill him, but when he didn't die, he was stoned to death by the Pharisees on the order of High Priest Ananus ben Ananus according to Hegesippus. He was not yet 50 years old. He is called an Apostle by Paul in Galatians 1:19, Peter feared him in Galatians 2:11-12, and Paul obeyed him in Acts 21:18-26. James mattered to the early church and authored the New Testament book that bears his name. The result of the 1st Council was the acceptance of the Gentiles into the church, and that the Gentiles did not need to observe the Levitical Law including circumcision. There would follow seven major church councils recognized by Christian scholars globally. Here is a list for further study if you desire. Google them, some are a hoot. They are:

The 1st Council of Nicaea in 325.

The 1st Council of Constantinople in 381.

The Council of Ephesus in 431.

The Council of Chalcedon in 451.

The Second Council of Constantinople in 553.

The Third Council of Constantinople in 680.

The Second Council of Nicaea in 787.

Tangent # 3

The result of the 1st two councils on the list are the Nicene Creed. It was established in the 1st council, and clarified in the 2nd council as illustrated in the chart below.

Nicene Creed A.D. 325

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father, Light of light, Very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, from there He shall come to judge both the quick and the dead; and in the Holy Spirit.

Nicene Creed A.D. 381

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father *before all worlds*, light from light, Very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down *from heaven*, and *was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary*, and was made man; He *was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate*; and suffered and *was buried*; and the third day he rose again, *according to the Scriptures*, and ascended into heaven, and *sitteth at the right hand of the Father*; and he shall come again, *with glory*, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

End Tangent #3

O.K. back to the history of the Bible and its journey to us today.

Early translators translated into Syriac, Ge'ez, Gothic and Slovonian languages, but the next real jump would be Jerome's translation into Latin in the late 300's AD. This Bible covered the world. He was a rich Slovak kid who was a very well educated, and a dedicated Christian. He was a big deal. His version of scripture is

"The Latin Vulgate."

Almost all translations for the next 1,000 years would use the Vulgate, eventually under the death penalty from the Roman Catholic Church, even though Latin was not one of the original languages of scripture. A big mistake.

Then came John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and Martin Luther. Rebels.



John Wycliffe

(1st English Bibles, 1380's hand written)



William Tyndale

(1st ever printed English N.T. 1525)



Martin Luther

(1st ever printed German N.T. 1521)

John Hus was a student of Wycliffe. John was burned at the stake and died singing to the Lord on July 6th 1415.

His famous quote,

***"Seek the truth, listen to the truth, teach the truth,
love the truth, abide by the truth,
and defend the truth."***

John Hus

Technically tangent #4



Before we get too far ahead of ourselves I need to make a few very honorable mentions.

The 1st honorable mention is Stephen Langton.
The Archbishop of Canterbury.
He put the chapter divisions into place around 1227 AD. Revolutionizing scriptural literacy so much that the Wycliffe Bible used it in its 1382 edition and since then all translations have adopted the format.

Even the Jewish Rabbinical authorities incorporated the Chapters that Langton used into the Masoretic Text.

The Hebrew Old Testament was the first to divide the Text further into numbered verses in 1448.
The Rabbi responsible was Mordecai Nathan.
(*unfortunately no pictures survive.*)



Stephen Langton

Robert Stephanus Estienne, The wealthy son of a famous printer was the 1st to divide the New Testament into numbered verses in 1555.
He used Nathan's verse divisions for the Old Testament, and from then on beginning with the Geneva Bible nearly all translations have accepted their work.

End tangent #4



Robert Stephanus Estienne

The Bible has been translated from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts into over 724 languages. The New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,617 languages, and smaller portions into an additional 1,248 languages according to the Wycliffe Global Alliance.

Johannes Gutenberg to the right is the genius who invented movable type printing. In order to accomplish this monumental task he had to invent a new metal alloy that could melt quickly and easily, and cool quickly to make the reusable type, and a new style of ink that was thick enough to adhere to the metal type face, transfer well to vellum and paper, and a new press. Gutenberg's invention ushered in the Information Revolution of his age. Invented in 1440.

The 1st complete book printed? The Bible.



Johannes Gutenberg

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The Geneva Bible is no doubt the 1st great English language Bible. It is the Bible of Shakespeare, John Bunyan, John Donne, the Pilgrims, the puritans, the early colonists, the Mayflower and Oliver Cromwell. Translated by protestant scholars in Geneva Switzerland fleeing the brutal reign of Queen Mary Tudor. You guessed it, Bloody Mary. It was better than any translation of scripture in English on the planet. It used Wycliffe's work heavily.



John Bunyan
(Author/reformer. *Pilgrim's progress*)



John Donne
(Reformer/Poet/educator)



Oliver Cromwell
(Lt. General/Reformer/Parliamentarian)

Bibles were expensive and heavy. The early Bibles weigh in at 66 lbs. Yikes. They were also hard to read, being written in Old English gothic print. To the contrary you could get The Geneva Bible in Roman typeface in a pocket version for \$100 (*about 1 week's average wage*). Still expensive but it sold fast. It was the 1st Bible to use italics and verse numbers, and it also had notes and cross references. It was a study Bible.

This Geneva Bible would be the Bible of the American Revolution.

The Old Testament includes the books of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) or protocanon. Martin Luther, holding to concurrent Jewish and some ancient precedent, excluded all deuterocanonical books from the Old Testament of his translation of the Bible, placing them in a section he labeled "The Apocrypha" or "hidden".

The Westminster Confession of Faith, published in 1647, was one of the first Reformed confessions in the English language to exclude the Apocrypha from the Bible, leading to the removal of these books in later Nonconformist Protestant Bible publications in the English-speaking world, though Lutherans and Anglicans retained these books as an intertestamental section that are regarded as non-canonical but useful for instruction. To counter the growing influence of the Reformers, the fourth session of the Catholic Council of Trent in 1546 confirmed (incorrectly) that listed deuterocanonical books were equally authoritative as the protocanonical in the Canon of Trent, in the year Luther died. The decision concurred with the inclusion of listed deuterocanonical books made almost a century earlier at the Council of Florence. It based its refutation of Martin Luther's depiction of the apocryphal texts on the first published Christian canon which drew from the Septuagint texts used by the authors of the 27 books of the New Testament.

The R.U.S.H. Bible Study officially sides with Luther on this (*you probably knew that*).

In compiling his index of the Old Testament, Luther drew from the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible, which was still an open canon as late as 200AD and probably even after the universal canon was set in 382. Following Jerome's *Veritas Hebraica* (truth of the Hebrew) principle, the Protestant Old Testament consists of the same books as the Hebrew Bible, but the order and division of the books are different. Protestants number the Old Testament books at 39, while the Hebrew Bible numbers the same books as 24. The Hebrew Bible counts Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles as one book each, the 12 minor prophets are one book, and also Ezra and Nehemiah form a single book.

The Early Christian Church used the Greek texts since Greek was a universally used language (primarily for education and commerce) of the Roman Empire at the time, and the language of the Greco-Roman Church. The Greek churches established by Paul's disciple Timothy. Aramaic was the language of Syriac Christianity.

The Septuagint seems to have been a major source for the Apostles, but it is not the only one. The New Testament writers, when citing the Jewish scriptures, or when quoting Jesus doing so, freely used the Greek translation, implying that Jesus, his Apostles, and their followers considered it reliable, Luke quotes the Septuagint (LXX) the most.

In the Early Christian Church, the presumption that the Septuagint was translated by Jewish scholars before the era of Christ, and that the Septuagint at certain places gives itself more to an unbiased pro-Christological interpretation than 2nd-century Hebrew texts was taken as evidence that Jewish scholars had changed the Hebrew text in a way that made for a less-than Christological Masoretic text. It was biased.

For example, Irenaeus concerning Isaiah 7:14: The Septuagint clearly writes of a *virgin* that shall conceive. While the new Hebrew text was, a *young woman* that shall conceive. According to Irenaeus, the Ebionites used this to claim that Joseph was the (biological) father of Jesus. From Irenaeus' point of view that was pure heresy, facilitated by (late) anti-Christian alterations of the scripture in Hebrew, as evident by the older, pre-Christian, unbiased Septuagint.

The R.U.S.H. Bible Study officially agrees with Irenaeus on the subject (*you probably knew that too*)

The oldest Bibles known to have survived through history should you desire further study on the matter are:

The Codex Bezae (*Greek and Latin parallel gospels, Acts & # John*)
The Septuagint (*Greek translation of the Old Testament*)
The Codex Sinaiticus (*Oldest complete New Testament in Greek*)
The Codex Vaticanus (*c.300's AD Greek Bible, O.T. and N.T.*)
The Ethiopian Bible (*17th century Bible including Apocrypha*)
The Targum Onkelos (*Aramaic translation of the Torah c. 35 AD*)
Targum Psalms (*Aramaic translation of the Psalms c. 35 AD*)
The Peshitta (*c. 150's AD Syriac translation*)
The Tatian Harmonies (*earliest known harmonies of the Gospels*)

The non-canonical Apocryphal books of the original King James Bible and others
(*Included in older Bibles as not part of canon, but useful for study*)

1st Esdras
(*Substantially the Book of Ezra*)
2nd Esdras
(*An Old Testament apocalyptic epic*)
Tobit
(*A story of God's providence towards His people*)
Judith
(*A story about a Jewish widow who uses her beauty to kill an enemy Assyrian general*)
Rest of Esther
(*Six added chapters to the Book of Esther*)
Wisdom
(*A 1st century book claiming to be written by Solomon*)
Ecclesiasticus
(*A book on ethics*)

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Baruch

(The theology of Babylonian exiles)

Epistle of Jeremy

(A supposed letter from Jeremiah to the Jews about to be carried into the Babylonian captivity)

Song of the Three Children

(The supposed prayer of Azariah while the three men were in the fiery furnace)

Story of Susanna

(A later edition to the book of Daniel)

The Idol Bel and the Dragon

(A supposed argument between Daniel and the King about idol worship)

Prayer of Manasseh

(A prayer of repentance attributed to Manasseh)

1st Maccabees

The history of the Maccabean revolt and the establishment of independence under the Hasmonean family)

2nd Maccabees

(The story documenting the persecution of the Jewish people under Antiochus Epiphanes IV. Scholars say a pre-type Anti-Christ)

The journey to the modern English translations. (AKA a bunch of stuff to google). *Martyrs printed in red.*

Circa 300 AD

Jerome's translation into Latin called the Vulgate.

1227

Stephen Langton (author of the Magna Carta) divided the Bible into chapters.

1380

John Wycliffe 1st handwritten complete New Testament.

1382

John Wycliffe adds Langton's chapter divisions to the N.T.

1448

Rabbi Mordechai Nathan divided the Old Testament into verses.

c. 1450

Johann Gutenberg Invented the printing press, 1st book printed was the Latin Bible.

1516

Erasmus printed 1st Latin-Greek Parallel N.T.

(1st non-latin Bible in circulation in over 1,000 years)

1521

Martin Luther 1st ever printed German N.T.

1525

William Tyndale 1st ever printed English N.T.

1535

Myles Coverdale and John Rogers printed the 1st complete Bible in English, using Tyndale's work.

1539

Thomas Crammer published "The Great Bible" 1st English Bible authorized for the public.

1555

Robert Stephanus Estienne divides N.T. into verses.

1560

The Geneva Bible published, retaining 90% of Tyndale's work and with verse/chapter divisions included.
(This would be the Bible that sparked the American Revolution and Independence).

1611

King James Version published. 1st book ever to cross 1 billion copies in print.

c. 1880's

English protestant translations begin removing "the Apocrypha."

1901

The American Standard started the explosion of modern translations we enjoy today.

Seven examples of the early translations quoting John 3:16

- **1st Ed. King James (1611): "For God so loued the world, that he gaue his only begotten Sonne: that whosoever beleeueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life."**
- **Rheims (1582): "For so God loued the vworld, that he gaue his only-begotten sonne: that euery one that beleeueth in him, perish not, but may haue life euerlasting"**
- **Geneva (1560): "For God so loueth the world, that he hath geuen his only begotten Sonne: that none that beleue in him, should peryshe, but haue euerlasting lyfe."**
- **Great Bible (1539): "For God so loued the worlde, that he gaue his only begotten sonne, that whosoever beleueth in him, shulde not perisshe, but haue euerlasting lyfe."**

- **Tyndale (1534):** “For God so loveth the worlde, that he hath geven his only sonne, that none that beleve in him, shuld perisse: but shuld have everlastinge lyfe.”
- **Wycliff (1380):** “for god loued so the world; that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that eche man that bileueth in him perisch not: but haue euerlastynge liif,”
- **Anglo-Saxon Proto-English Manuscripts (995 AD):** “God lufode middan-eard swa, dat he seade his an-cennedan sunu, dat nan ne forweorde de on hine gely ac habbe dat ece lif.”

(For a thorough comparison of modern translations the R.B.S. lesson on the Psalms uses over 20 separate translations).

Complete list of Bible Versions used in compiling The R.U.S.H. Bible Study with Abbreviations *(and my thoughts on each one of them DH)*

- 21st Century King James Version (KJ21) **1999** *(update to KJV)*
- American Standard Version (ASV) **1901** *(update to current English)*
- Amplified Bible (AMP) **1987** *(uses amplified definitions of original text)*
- Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC) **1965** *(original version of above)*
- BRG Bible (BRG) **2010** *(This is a really cool Bible. Jesus words in red letters, the Father's words in blue letters, and the Holy Spirit's words in gold letters)*
- Christian Standard Bible (CSB) **2017** *(100 scholars, 17 denominations=meticulous translation. This Bible commands respect)*
- Common English Bible (CEB) **2011** *(comfortable reading level)*
- Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) **1998** *(for Messianic Jews. Well done)*
- Contemporary English Version (CEV) **1995** *(middle of the road solid translation using a broader range of ancient transcripts)*
- Darby Translation (DARBY) **1867** *(Bible teacher New Testament for the Plymouth Bretheren)*
- Disciples' Literal New Testament (DLNT) **2002** *(yikes. Tough read. Retains sentence structure of original languages including omission of chapter verse structure)*
- Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition (DRA) **1609** *(early modern English. Similar to KJV)*
- Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) **1986** *(for those who speak English as a second language)*
- Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) **2019** *(good version from a Lutheran perspective, they translated this in a castle, with only Lutheran scholars)*
- English Standard Version (ESV) **2001** *(good bones, true to originals)*
- Expanded Bible (EXB) **2011** *(a Bible that is heavily referenced. A study Bible)*
- 1599 Geneva Bible (GNV) *(I can't read it, but I like it, the Bible of the American Revolution.)*

- GOD'S WORD Translation (GW) **1995** (*modern easy to read translation*)
- Good News Translation (GNT) **1976** (*modern English, high school level*)
- Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) **2004** (*100 scholars modern English*)
- International Children's Bible (ICB) **1995** (*beautiful Bible. For children 7-10 years old*)
- International Standard Version (ISV) **2011** (*big under-taking. This version uses the TaNaK and the Masoretic texts and attempts to reconcile them*)
- J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS) **1958** (*New Testament only. Anglican. Good version. Real old English. I mean dinosaur old.*)
- Jubilee Bible 2000 (JUB) **2010** (*reads nice, great for original word definitions*)
- King James Version (KJV) **1611** (*The Holy Grail*)
- Authorized (King James) Version (AKJV) **1611** (*I can't tell the difference*)
- Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) **2021** (*an update to the NASB*)
- Lexham English Bible (LEB) **2010** (*Modern English, easy to read*)
- Living Bible (TLB) **1971** (*not a translation, but a transliteration. Good job and has produced a lot of fruit, especially the Jesus Movement among hippies in the 70's*)
- The Message (MSG) **1993** (*a paraphrase, not exact interpretation. Beautiful though*)
- Modern English Version (MEV) **2014** (*King James update. Good job*)
- Mounce Reverse Interlinear New Testament (MOUNCE) **2006** (*New Testament only, compiled purely for study and research*)
- Names of God Bible (NOG) **2011** (*This Bible is really cool. It retains God's names throughout the text, such as in Ex 20 "Then Elohim spoke these words: I am Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt"*)
- New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE) **2011** (*modern Catholic translation*)
- New American Standard Bible (NASB) **1971 & 1995** (*solid traditional translation*)
- New Century Version (NCV) **1987** (*5th grade reading level. We used it in prison ministry. Very well done*)
- New English Translation (NET) **2005** (*61,000 translator's notes? Really? easy read though*)
- New International Reader's Version (NIRV) **1996** (*To me it's the NIV w/different cover*)
- New International Version (NIV) **1973** (*currently the #1 Bible sold in America*)
- New King James Version (NKJV) **1983** (*good read, good version*)
- New Life Version (NLV) **1969** (*good paraphrase. The 1st of many to follow*)
- New Living Translation (NLT) **1996** (*easy read. Good 1st Bible*)
- New Matthew Bible (NMB) **2020** (*update from 1537 Matthew Bible. They didn't update it enough*)
- New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) **1989** (*update*)
- Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB) **2002** (*a newer look at the messianic Bible. Good effort*)
- Revised Geneva Translation (RGT) **2019** (*New and much needed update. Near perfect*)
- Revised Standard Version (RSV) **1946** (*Great version, similar to KJV but uses new Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts as well*)
- Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE) **1965** (*Haven't read it, but glad its here*)
- Tree of Life Version (TLV) **2011** (*well done*)
- The Voice (VOICE) **2012** (*My wife Stacey loves this Bible. Reads as a script for a play*)
- World English Bible (WEB) **2020** (*On-line free reading and use, set up in response to covid 19.*)
- Wycliffe Bible (WYC) **1382** (*hand printed portions of the New Testament in English*)
- Youngs Literal Translation (YLT) **1862** (*hard read if you can find a copy*)

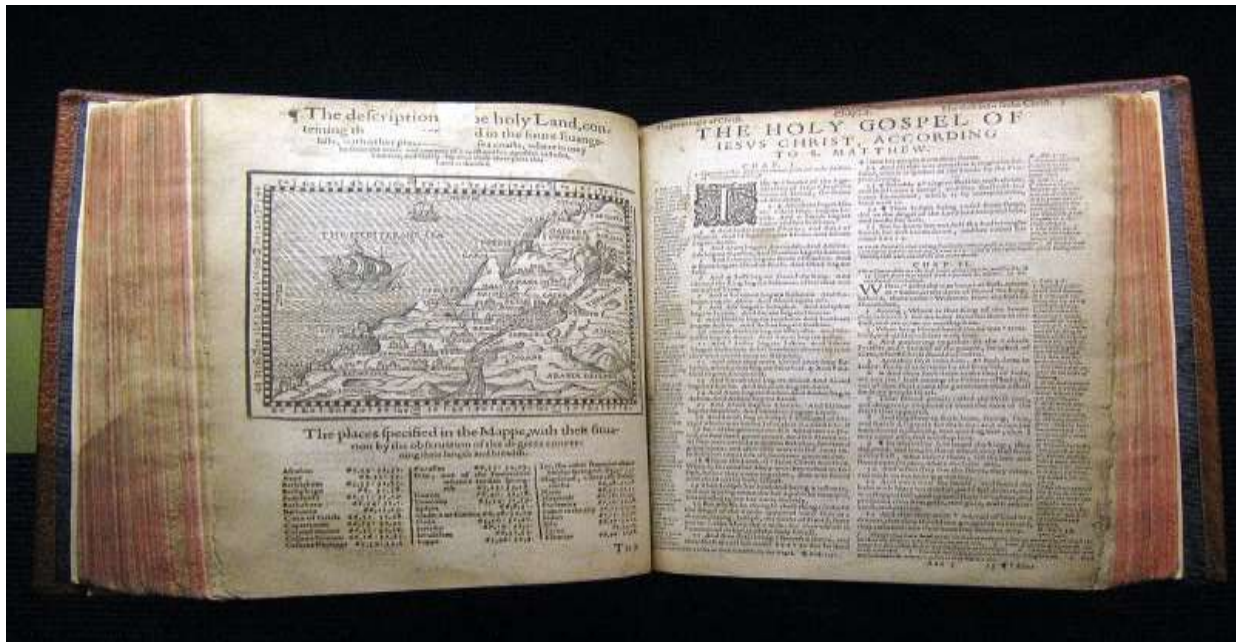


The 10 oldest surviving Bibles on the Planet

The Bishops Bible c. 1568



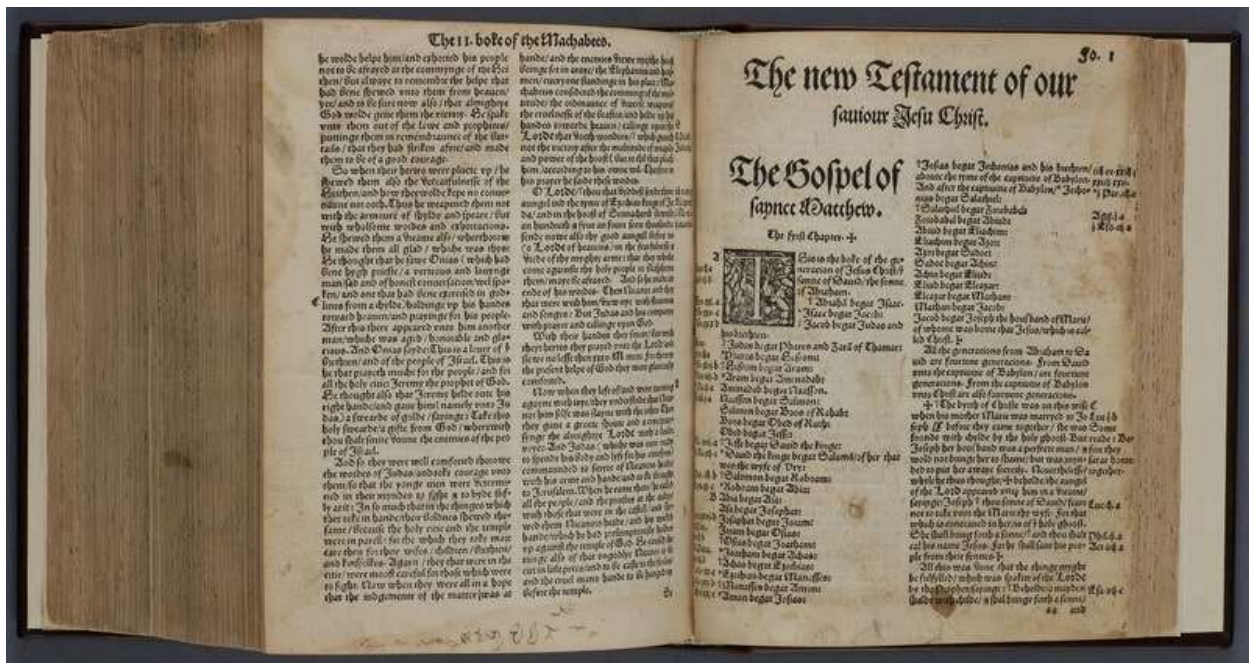
The Geneva Bible 1560



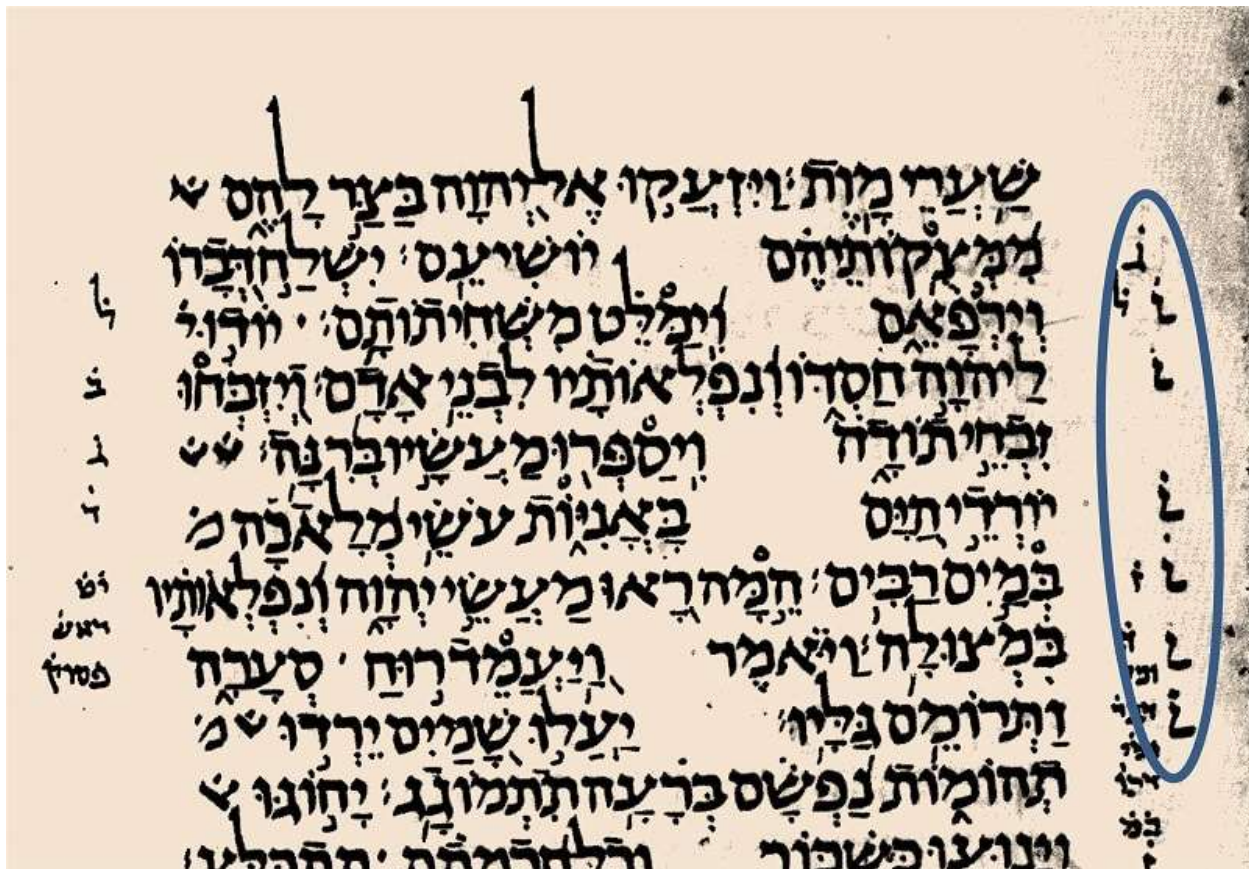
The Great Bible 1539



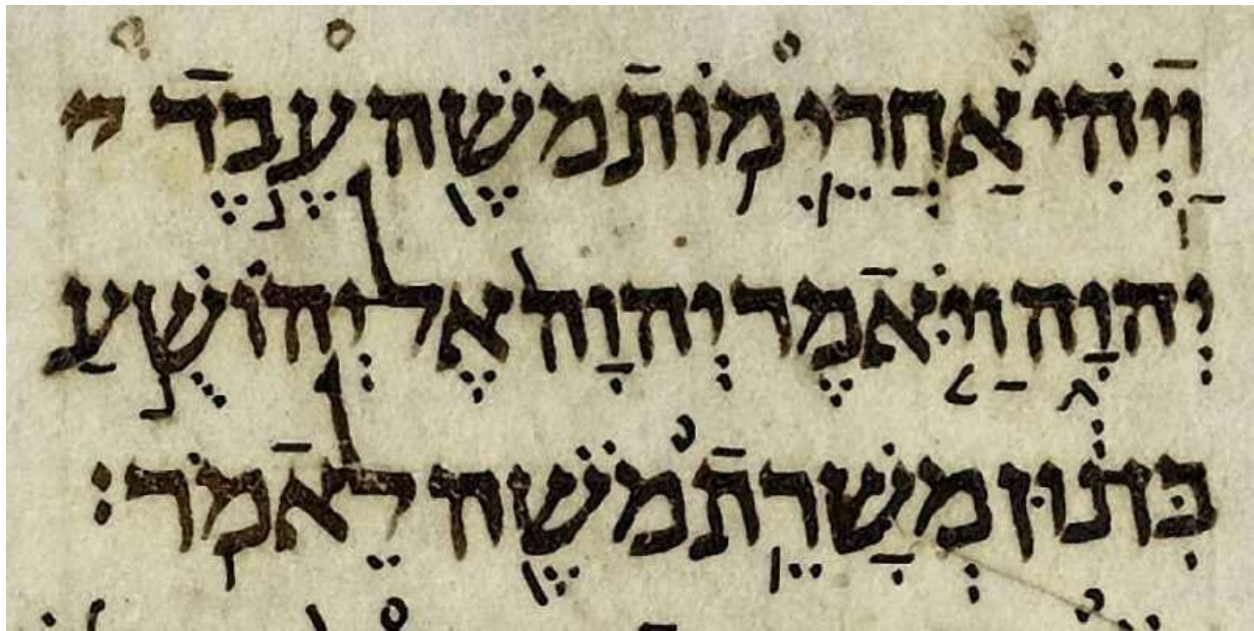
R.U.S.H. Bible Study
Read Understand Spread Harvest
The Coverdale Bible 1535



The Leningrad Codex 1008 AD



The Aleppo Codex 930 AD



Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus 460AD



R.U.S.H. Bible Study
Read Understand Spread Harvest
Codex Alexandrinus c. 400's AD



Codex Sinaiticus 330-360 AD



R.U.S.H. Bible Study
Read Understand Spread Harvest
Codex Vaticanus c. 300's AD



