

BIBLE AND THE CHURCH

Old Testament Period

Historical context in the Old Testament: 2000 BC to the Birth of Christ.

Old Testament Composition: 900 BC to 50 BC (850 years) written in Hebrew or Aramaic.

Number of Original Books of the Old Testament: 39 Hebrew or Aramaic Books.

Translation of the Old Testament: c. 250 BC, 70-72 Jewish scholars translated the original 39 OT Books and 7 Alexandrian Books into Greek (Septuagint), 46 OT Books.

Bilingual Translations: 2 Written editions of the OT at the time of Jesus, Hebrew and Greek.

New Testament Period

Two Decades 30's - 40's: Apostles lead Oral Tradition of the Church, no complete Gospels.

Before the NT Written Tradition, Eucharist: "the Blood of the new and eternal Covenant."

Two Decades 50's - 60's: St. Paul begins NT Written Tradition with his Letters to churches.

Before the Written Tradition of the Gospels are completed, St. Paul speaks of the Eucharist.

Assumed the Gospels were written by Mark in 70's, Matt and Luke in 80's, and John in 90's.

Completion of the Written Gospels more likely by Mark, Matt and Luke in the 50's - 60's.

Three Layers in 4 Gospels: Jesus' teachings, Evangelists' view, and Community's questions.

New Testament Composition: 50-150 AD (100 years) began the Written Tradition of the NT.

Church and New Testament

Oral Tradition of the Church preceded the Written Book of the New Testament.

New Testament is the Book of the Church, written by men and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Christian Liturgy prior to 50 AD: Synagogue Liturgy of Prayer and the Word on Saturday followed by the "Breaking of the Bread" in Christian homes on Sunday.

Oral Tradition of celebrating the Eucharist preceded the Written Book of the New Testament.

Maturity of the Church: 100 AD Rabbis in Jamnia expelled Christian Jews from Synagogue.

Transition of Worship: 100 AD A combined Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharistic Liturgy as one Liturgy in Christian homes on Sundays.

Acts of Apostles: 100 AD Jews of the "New Way" known as Christians in Syrian Antioch.

Old Testament and New Testament

Constantine 325 AD: Latin becomes the common language of the Greco-Roman Empire.

St. Jerome 384 AD: The 46 Greek OT Books (Septuagint) and 27 Greek NT Books translated into Latin known as the Vulgate with 73 Books.

Bilingual Translations: 2 Written editions of the Bible by end of 4th century, Greek and Latin.

Council of Carthage 397 AD: Catholic Church fixed the NT Canon of 27 Books as is today.

Reformation 16th century: Luther accepted 39 Hebrew Books, but omitted the 7 Alexandrian Greek Books from the OT and some of the NT, such as the Letter to James.

Protestants 1700 AD: The 7 Alexandrian Books were restored to their OT Canon known as the "Apocrypha," and the Letter to James was reinserted into their NT.