

How we got the Bible

History of the Old Testament Canon

Timeline of National Events	Probable Date for Writing of Canonical Books	Suggested History of the Manuscripts and Copies

1500 BC		
=====		
1450 BC Exodus from Egypt	Original Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Old Testament; <i>Genesis through Deuteronomy</i>)	Original scrolls of Moses stored beside Ark
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1400 BC Conquest of Canaan	<i>Job</i> (?)	
=====		
1350 BC Ark kept at Shiloh	<i>Joshua</i>	Copy of Law available to Joshua
=====		
1300 BC		
1200 BC		
1100 BC		
=====		
1050 BC Shiloh destroyed by Philistines and Tabernacle moved		Original scrolls dispersed and new copies made (?)
Israel's Kingdom established	<i>Judges and Ruth</i>	Samuel, David and Levites distribute copies within Israel
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1000 BC	David captures Jerusalem	Davidic <i>Psalms</i> <i>1st</i> and <i>2nd</i> <i>Samuel</i> <i>Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon</i>	Apology for David's reign and his court annals
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950 BC	Division of Kingdom		
=====			
900 BC			
=====			
850 BC	Samaria made capital of Northern Kingdom	<i>Obadiah</i> <i>Joel</i> (?)	Copies brought to Northern Kingdom during Elijah's reform (?)
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800 BC			
=====			
750 BC	Assyrians capture Samaria	<i>Jonah</i> <i>Amos, Hosea</i> <i>Micah</i>	<i>Kings</i> written by a succession of prophets; collected and edited by Jeremiah (?)
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700 BC	Revival under Hezekiah	<i>Isaiah</i>	Copies obtained for Samaritans by Israelite priest at order of Sargon II (<i>2nd Kings</i> 17:27-28) ?
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650 BC	Revival under Josiah	<i>Nahum</i> <i>Zephaniah</i> <i>Habakkuk</i>	Copy of Book of the Law was recovered during Temple repair; and copies distributed to the people during Josiah's reform (<i>2nd Chronicles</i> 34:6-9, 21) ?
	Daniel taken hostage to Babylon	<i>Jeremiah, Lamentations</i>	Copies taken to Babylon
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600 BC	Ezekiel <i>et al.</i> taken captive		
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587 BC	Jerusalem destroyed	<i>1st and 2nd Kings, Ezekiel</i>	
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550 BC	Cyrus captures Babylon	<i>Daniel</i>	
	Jewish returnees rebuild Temple	<i>Haggai, Zechariah</i>	
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500 BC			
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450 BC	Ezra returns to Jerusalem	<i>Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther</i>	Copies brought back from Babylon
	Nehemiah rebuilds walls	<i>Malachi, 1st and 2nd Chronicles</i>	Copies taken to Samaria at time of Nehemiah's exclusion (<i>Nehemiah 13:28-30</i>) ?
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400 BC			
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