

How we got the Bible

Questions:

"Who, exactly, divided the Bible into 'chapters' and 'verses'...?"

"Why, and when, was this actually done...?"

Answers:

When the books of the Bible were originally written, they did not contain 'chapter' or 'verse' references. The Bible was divided up into chapters and verses to help us find Scriptures more quickly and easily. (*i.e.* It is much easier to find **John 3:16** than it is to find "for God so loved the world...") In a few places, chapter breaks are (to be honest) poorly placed, and as a result they can divide content that should flow together... Overall, though, the chapter and verse designations are very helpful.

The chapter designations commonly used today were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury. Langton put the modern chapter designations into place in around 1227 A.D. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton's chapter divisions.

The Hebrew Old Testament was divided into verses by a Jewish rabbi by the name of Nathan in 1448 A.D. Robert Estienne, who was also known as Stephanus, was the first to divide the New Testament into standard numbered verses, in 1555. Stephanus essentially used Nathan's verse divisions for the Old Testament. Since that time, beginning with the Geneva Bible, the chapter and verse designations employed by Stephanus have been accepted into nearly all of the Bible versions...

Chapter and verse designations
are not inspired by God

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Men of God created them for easier reference and study