

**Process of canonization:**

- 1) Composition and editing of oral and written material
- 2) Ceremonial practice of material within community/ies
- 3) Collection and circulation of material
- 4) Choice and conflict over collected material
- 5) Confirmation and canonization of material

# The English Bible

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+/- = includes/excludes apocrypha or other writings

**Criteria for recognizing canonical writings:**

- Apostolicity – authored by or in substantial relation with an apostle
- Catholicity – used widely in the churches throughout Christendom
- Orthodoxy – be theologically consistent with the rule of faith

NT

**Disputed Writings**

- + Apocalypse Peter
- + Barnabas
- + Didache
- + Shepherd
- + 1 Clement
- Revelation
- Jude
- James
- 1&2 Peter

## Hebrew

**Canon**  
Est. 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE-2<sup>nd</sup> century CE.  
Same as OT but different order

## Manuscripts

Masoretic Text (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries CE)

**Diplomatic text** – uses Masoretic Text base plus earlier Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. E.g., *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and *Biblia Hebraica Quinta*

## Greek

Septuagint(s) (+)  
+ Apocrypha

## Greek

NT (+/-)

## Latin

Latin Vulgate (+)  
384 CE

Latin, Boharic, Ethiopic, Coptic, Armenian, Syriac... (+/-)

**Apocryphal NT writings:** Different groups compose and adopt idiosyncratic writings rejected by most

## Manuscripts

8000+ Vulgate manuscripts (6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century)  
2000+ pre-Vulgate Latin manuscripts

**Canon** – Vulgate represents the canon functionally in orthodox Christianity: 39 OT, 27 NT books. The Apocrypha includes Jerome's notation distinguishing these books from the Hebrew Bible but still of value for Christian life and learning.

## Manuscripts

5800+ Greek manuscripts  
+ citations, translations, etc.  
Divide into 3 "families":

### Byzantine

"Majority text"  
earliest dated 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century but mostly later. Base of **Erasmus** 1516  
Greek Testament, using 6 manuscripts  
10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries

### Western

Loose association of manuscripts marked by paraphrase and scribal freedom.  
Earliest from 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries

### Alexandrian

Fewest but earliest manuscripts marked by high-quality copying.  
Earliest 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries; most discovered in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries

## English

Wycliffe Bible (+)  
1382

**German**  
+ Apocrypha as appendix with notation  
- removes **Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation** to appendix with notation

Luther Bible (+/-)  
1522 (NT)

1534 (OT)

Tyndale Bible (+/-) Follows Luther with Apocrypha and Hebrews etc. as appendix  
1526

**Canon – Roman Catholic**  
Council of Trent (1546). Affirms OT, NT, and Apocrypha (Deuterocanonical)

Bishop's Bible (+)  
1568

Douay-Rheims  
1582 (NT)  
1610 (OT)

Geneva Bible (+)  
1560

**Canon – Anglican**  
39 Articles (1563). Canon is OT and NT; distinguishes Apocrypha as per Jerome

King James Bible (+)  
1611

**Canon – Presbyterian**  
Westminster Confession (1647). Canon is OT and NT; no apocrypha

1826-1967 British and Foreign Bible Society stops publishing **apocrypha**

Revised Standard Version (+)  
1885; 1952

American Standard Version (+)  
1901

Jewish Publication Society Bible  
1917

First Roman Catholic Bible translated from Hebrew and Greek, not Latin

## French

La Bible de Jérusalem (+)  
1956

Jerusalem Bible (+)  
1966

New American Standard  
1971; 1995; 2020

J.B. Philips New Testament  
1972

**Canon – Evangelical**  
Lausanne Covenant (1974). Gathering of evangelical world leaders jointly affirm OT and NT

**Canon – Greek Orthodox**  
Synod of Jerusalem (1672). NT (Byzantine), OT (Septuagint), Apocrypha, additional apocrypha in different Orthodox groups

**Ecclectic text** – compares witnesses from all families (e.g., *United Bible Societies*)

New King James Bible (+)  
1982

New Revised Standard Version (+)  
1990

Jewish Publication Society TaNaKh  
1996

New Living Translation  
1996

The Message  
2002

Modern English Version  
2014

Christian Standard Bible  
2004; 2010; 2017

New International Version  
1978; 1984; 2011