

**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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2022.11

+/- = 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*

## 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)

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

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

+ Apocrypha as appendix with notation on its non-canonicity; complete NT. Introduces Stephanus's verse system  
Geneva Bible (+)  
1560

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

King James Bible (+)  
1611  
Revised Standard Version (+)  
1885; 1952  
American Standard Version (+)  
1901  
Jewish Publication Society Bible  
1917

## Greek

Septuagint(s) (+)  
+ Apocrypha

## Latin

Latin Vulgate (+)  
384 CE

### 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.

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

## French

La Bible de Jérusalem (+)  
1956

Jerusalem Bible (+)  
1966  
1985 *New Jerusalem Bible*

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

## Greek

NT (+/-)

### 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

**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 (+)  
1978; 1984; 2011

New Revised Standard Version (+)  
1982  
1990

Jewish Publication Society TaNaKh  
1996  
New Living Translation  
1996

The Message  
2002

Modern English Version  
2014  
Christian Standard Bible  
2004; 2010; 2017