



Bible 66 Books Summary Chart Old and New Testament

Dates below are **approximate dates of writing**, not necessarily the dates when the events took place. Ancient books can be difficult to date, and scholars disagree about some dates and authors. The author column gives the traditional or commonly attributed author; “unknown” means the text does not identify its writer with confidence. [Bible Gateway News & Knowledge](#)

Old Testament

Book	Approx. date written	Author	Main events or teaching
Genesis	Traditionally c. 1446–1406 BC; final form debated	Moses, traditionally	Creation, humanity’s fall, the flood, and God’s covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
Exodus	Traditionally c. 1446–1406 BC; final form debated	Moses, traditionally	God frees Israel from Egypt, gives the covenant at Sinai, and establishes the tabernacle.
Leviticus	Traditionally c. 1446–1406 BC; final form debated	Moses, traditionally	Laws for worship, sacrifice, priesthood, purity, and holy living.
Numbers	Traditionally c. 1446–1406 BC; final form debated	Moses, traditionally	Israel’s wilderness journey, rebellion, judgment, and preparation to enter Canaan.
Deuteronomy	Traditionally c. 1446–1406 BC; final form debated	Moses, traditionally	Moses restates the covenant and calls Israel to love and obey God before entering the land.
Joshua	Traditionally c. 1400–1370 BC; final form debated	Joshua, traditionally	Israel enters and settles Canaan; Joshua calls the people to serve the Lord.
Judges	c. 1045–1000 BC; final form debated	Unknown; traditionally associated with Samuel	Israel cycles through disobedience, oppression, cries for help, and deliverance by judges.
Ruth	c. 1011–931 BC, traditionally	Samuel, traditionally; unknown	Ruth’s loyalty, Boaz’s kindness, and the family line leading to King David.
1 Samuel	c. 930–722 BC; compilation may be later	Samuel, Nathan, and Gad, traditionally	Samuel’s ministry, Saul’s rise and fall, and David’s anointing.
2 Samuel	c. 930–722 BC; compilation may be later	Samuel, Nathan, and Gad, traditionally	David becomes king; his victories, sin with Bathsheba, and family troubles.



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1 Kings	c. 560–540 BC	Jeremiah, traditionally; unknown compiler	Solomon's reign and Temple; the kingdom divides; Elijah confronts idolatry.
2 Kings	c. 560–540 BC	Jeremiah, traditionally; unknown compiler	Israel and Judah's decline, the ministries of Elijah and Elisha, and the exiles.
1 Chronicles	c. 450–425 BC	Ezra, traditionally; postexilic compiler	Genealogies and David's reign, emphasizing worship and preparations for the Temple.
2 Chronicles	c. 450–425 BC	Ezra, traditionally; postexilic compiler	Solomon's Temple, the kings of Judah, reform, judgment, and the return from exile.
Ezra	c. 440–430 BC	Ezra, traditionally; possibly a later compiler	Exiles return, rebuild the Temple, and renew their commitment to God's law.
Nehemiah	c. 430–400 BC	Nehemiah, with possible editorial work	Jerusalem's walls are rebuilt; the people renew the covenant and reform community life.
Esther	c. 400 BC	Unknown; traditionally Mordecai and a later editor	Esther risks her life to save the Jewish people from Haman's plot.
Job	Uncertain; proposed dates range from the second millennium to the fifth century BC	Unknown; traditionally sometimes Moses	A righteous man suffers; the book explores suffering, justice, faith, and God's wisdom.
Psalms	c. 1400–500 BC, collected over time	Various; including David, Asaph, and others	Prayers and songs of praise, lament, thanksgiving, wisdom, and trust in God.
Proverbs	c. 950–700 BC	Solomon and other sages; later compilers	Wisdom for daily life, including speech, work, relationships, justice, and reverence for God.
Ecclesiastes	Traditionally c. 935 BC; date debated	Solomon, traditionally; author identifies as "the Teacher"	Reflects on life's limits and urges people to fear God and live faithfully.



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Song of Solomon	Traditionally c. 960–931 BC; date debated	Solomon, traditionally	Celebrates love, desire, commitment, and the beauty of marital affection.
Isaiah	c. 700–681 BC; material may have been compiled later	Isaiah, traditionally; some scholars see later contributors	Warns of judgment and promises comfort, restoration, the coming King, and God’s salvation.
Jeremiah	c. 626–585 BC	Jeremiah, with Baruch as scribe	Calls Judah to repent, warns of Jerusalem’s fall, and promises a new covenant.
Lamentations	c. 586 BC	Traditionally Jeremiah; author not named	Poems grieve Jerusalem’s destruction while holding on to God’s mercy and faithfulness.
Ezekiel	c. 593–571 BC	Ezekiel	Visions and messages to exiles about judgment, God’s glory, renewal, and restored hope.
Daniel	c. 530 BC in traditional dating; final form debated	Daniel, traditionally	Daniel and his friends remain faithful in exile; visions portray God’s rule over kingdoms.
Hosea	c. 750–715 BC	Hosea	Hosea’s marriage portrays Israel’s unfaithfulness and God’s enduring love.
Joel	Disputed; proposed dates include c. 835–796 or 500–450 BC	Joel	A locust plague prompts repentance; the book promises the outpouring of God’s Spirit.
Amos	c. 760–750 BC	Amos	Condemns injustice and empty worship; calls for righteousness and warns of judgment.
Obadiah	Disputed; often placed c. 580–560 BC	Obadiah	Announces judgment on Edom and the restoration of God’s people.
Jonah	c. 500s BC; story takes place earlier	Jonah, traditionally; author not named	Jonah resists God’s call, then preaches to Nineveh; God shows mercy to the repentant.
Micah	c. 735–700 BC	Micah	Condemns corruption, foretells judgment, and promises a ruler from Bethlehem.



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Nahum	c. 663–612 BC	Nahum	Foretells Nineveh's fall and declares God's justice against oppression.
Habakkuk	c. 612–589 BC	Habakkuk	The prophet questions injustice and learns to trust God while awaiting his answer.
Zephaniah	c. 640–609 BC	Zephaniah	Warns of the day of the Lord and promises purification and restoration.
Haggai	c. 520 BC	Haggai	Urges returned exiles to rebuild the Temple and put God's priorities first.
Zechariah	c. 520–480 BC	Zechariah	Visions encourage Temple rebuilding and point to Jerusalem's future hope and king.
Malachi	c. 440–430 BC	Malachi	Challenges corrupt worship and unfaithfulness; promises a coming messenger.

New Testament

Book	Approx. date written	Author	Main events or teaching
Matthew	After AD 70, according to many estimates	Matthew, traditionally	Presents Jesus as Messiah and King; includes his teachings, death, resurrection, and commission.
Mark	c. AD 64–70	Mark, traditionally	A fast-moving account of Jesus' ministry, service, suffering, death, and resurrection.
Luke	c. AD 62–90	Luke, traditionally	An orderly account of Jesus' life, emphasizing salvation, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and care for outsiders.
John	c. AD 90–110	John, traditionally	Presents Jesus as the Son of God so readers may believe and have life in him.
Acts	c. AD 62–90	Luke	The Holy Spirit empowers the church as the gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Rome.



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Romans	c. AD 56–57	Paul	Explains sin, salvation by faith, life in the Spirit, and the unity of Jewish and Gentile believers.
1 Corinthians	c. AD 53–54	Paul	Addresses divisions, moral conduct, worship, spiritual gifts, love, and resurrection.
2 Corinthians	c. AD 55–56	Paul	Paul defends his ministry and teaches about weakness, generosity, reconciliation, and God's comfort.
Galatians	c. AD 50–56	Paul	Teaches that people are made right with God through faith in Christ, not by relying on the law.
Ephesians	c. AD 60–62	Paul, traditionally	Describes salvation in Christ, the church's unity, Christian character, and spiritual armor.
Philippians	c. AD 54–62	Paul	Encourages joy, humility, perseverance, and Christlike service—even amid hardship.
Colossians	c. AD 57–62	Paul	Emphasizes Christ's supremacy and warns against teachings that diminish him.
1 Thessalonians	c. AD 50–51	Paul	Commends a young church and teaches holy living, hope, and Christ's return.
2 Thessalonians	c. AD 51–52	Paul	Corrects confusion about the day of the Lord and encourages steady work and faithfulness.
1 Timothy	c. AD 62–64; later date also proposed	Paul, traditionally	Gives Timothy guidance on church leadership, sound teaching, worship, and pastoral care.
2 Timothy	c. AD 64–67; later date also proposed	Paul, traditionally	Paul urges Timothy to remain faithful, endure hardship, and continue teaching Scripture.
Titus	c. AD 62–64; later date also proposed	Paul, traditionally	Instructs Titus to appoint church leaders and teach sound doctrine and good works.



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Philemon	c. AD 54–62	Paul	Appeals to Philemon to welcome Onesimus as a beloved brother in Christ.
Hebrews	c. AD 60–95, often placed in the late 60s	Unknown	Presents Jesus as superior and calls believers to persevere in faith.
James	c. AD 45–62	James, traditionally the brother of Jesus	Teaches that genuine faith produces action, wise speech, patience, and care for the poor.
1 Peter	c. AD 60–65; later date also proposed	Peter, traditionally	Encourages believers facing suffering to live with hope, holiness, and love.
2 Peter	c. AD 65–68; later date also proposed	Peter, traditionally	Warns against false teachers and urges growth while awaiting the Lord's return.
1 John	c. AD 85–100	John, traditionally	Assures believers of eternal life and emphasizes truth, obedience, and love.
2 John	c. AD 85–100	John, traditionally	Urges believers to walk in truth and love while rejecting deceptive teaching.
3 John	c. AD 85–100	John, traditionally	Commends hospitality toward faithful workers and criticizes domineering leadership.
Jude	c. AD 65–80	Jude, traditionally a brother of James	Warns against corrupt teachers and calls believers to hold firmly to the faith.
Revelation	c. AD 64–65 or 95–96	John of Patmos; traditionally identified with John the apostle	Visions encourage churches to remain faithful and portray Christ's victory and God's final renewal.

These dates and authorship notes reflect published overviews; some books—especially the Old Testament books—may have drawn on earlier oral or written material before reaching their final form. [Bible Gateway News & Knowledge](https://www.biblegateway.com/learn/bible-101/about-the-bible/when-was-the-bible-written) (<https://www.biblegateway.com/learn/bible-101/about-the-bible/when-was-the-bible-written>)