



THE GARDEN COLLECTION

BEFORE WE MEET THE WOMEN

How We Got the Bible

STUDENT BOOK

Roots, Rebels, Queens & Redemption
The Women Woven Through His Story

Study • Create • Reflect • Grow



Before We Meet the Women

Before we begin with Eve, we need to understand the book that tells her story. The Bible did not arrive as one bound book. Its writings were produced, preserved, copied, collected, and translated across many centuries.

Our goal is not to memorize a long list of dates. It is to understand the roots of the Bible in our hands and to see how one great story runs through it.

THE BIG STORY

Creation → Fall → Covenant → Redemption → Restoration

Fill in as we study:

The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is primarily written in _____ with some _____.

The New Testament is written in _____ Greek.



The Hebrew Scriptures - TaNaKh

The Jewish Scriptures are traditionally arranged in three major sections. The first letters of their Hebrew names give us the word TaNaKh.

1. TORAH - Teaching / Law

Christians also call these five books the Pentateuch.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

2. NEVI'IM - The Prophets

Three groupings to remember:

- _____ Prophets
- _____ Prophets
- The _____

3. KETUVIM - The Writings

This varied collection includes books of poetry, wisdom, history, prophecy, and the Five Scrolls. In the traditional Jewish count, Ketuvim contains _____ books.

T + N + K = _____



Why 24 Books and 39 Books?

The traditional Jewish Bible counts 24 books. The Protestant Old Testament counts 39 books. Much of the underlying material corresponds, but books are divided and arranged differently.

For example, books Christians divide into 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles are counted differently in the Jewish arrangement. The Twelve Minor Prophets are counted together as one book in the traditional Jewish count.

WRITE IT DOWN

Jewish Scriptures: _____ books

Protestant Old Testament: _____ books

What surprises you about the way the Bible is arranged?



Greek, Manuscripts & the Septuagint

As Greek became widely used in the ancient Mediterranean world, Jewish Scriptures were translated into Greek. This collection is commonly called the Septuagint, often abbreviated LXX. The Torah was translated first; other books followed over time.

Before the printing press, biblical texts were copied by hand. Manuscripts from different times and places can be compared by scholars as they study the history of the text.

DIGGING UP OUR ROOTS - THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Beginning in 1947, ancient Jewish manuscripts were discovered in caves near the Dead Sea. Among them were biblical manuscripts and other Jewish writings. They were not a lost Bible; they gave scholars much older manuscript evidence to examine.

Fill in: Septuagint = _____ translation of Jewish Scriptures.



The New Testament & the Early Church

The New Testament writings were composed in the first century and circulated among early Christian communities. Our New Testament contains 27 books.

Fill in the groups:

The four _____

The book of _____

The _____ / Epistles

The book of _____

BEYOND THE BIBLICAL PAGE - THE DIDACHE

The Didache, or Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, is an early Christian writing usually dated to the late first or early second century. It gives us a window into early Christian moral instruction, baptism, fasting, prayer, Eucharistic practice, traveling teachers, and church life.

Important: The Didache is historically valuable, but it is not part of the New Testament canon.



How Did We Get an English Bible?

For centuries, Scripture was copied and translated in many languages. The story of the English Bible includes important milestones.

Wycliffe tradition - late 1300s

English translations associated with John Wycliffe and his followers, made from the Latin Vulgate.

William Tyndale - 1520s-1530s

Translated the New Testament from Greek and portions of the Old Testament from Hebrew. His wording strongly influenced later English Bibles.

Then came:

Coverdale Bible • Great Bible • Geneva Bible • Bishops' Bible • King James Version (1611)

OUR VISUAL TIMELINE

Oral Tradition → Scrolls & Manuscripts → Hebrew Scriptures → Septuagint → New Testament Writings → Early Church → Manuscript Copies → Printing Press → English Bible → The Bible in Our Hands



Follow the Scarlet Thread

The Bible contains many books, voices, genres, generations, and historical settings, yet Christians read Scripture as one unfolding redemptive story.

The scarlet thread in our Garden Collection will remind us to watch for moments of promise, preservation, covenant, sacrifice, deliverance, family lineage, and redemption.

The Garden → The Promise → The Generations → The Covenant → The Cross → Redemption

REFLECT

What changes when you remember that the Bible in your hands has been copied, preserved, translated, studied, and passed from generation to generation?

Next: We enter the Garden and meet Eve.