



The ORIGINAL Arrangements of the Books of the Bible Before Roman Catholic Jerome (March 27, 347 – September 30, 420)

All Scripture References are from the King James Version (Authorized Version) of the Bible

As we live in the age of apostasy, the falling away (1 Timothy 4:1 – 3, 2 Timothy 3:13, 2 Timothy 4:3 – 4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3) and many antichrists are already here, (1 John 2:18) there has been such an attack on the Preserved Word of God even going all the way back to “Yea, hath God said” in Genesis 3:1 the truth has to come out about the Original Arrangement of both the Old and New Testaments, what is there today in all versions that I am familiar with, even the King James Version, which I believe is the Preserved Word of God in English based on the underlining Greek Textus Receptus and the Hebrew Masoretic Text, going back to the Old Latin Vulgate of 157 A.D. sorry to say is not in the Original Arrangement!

I believe that we have the complete, entire Word of God, but as you will see in this presentation, the Original Arrangements were not as they are now and I beseech you and appeal to you all to consider what I am about to present here! I will try here to make this simple enough for the common person to read and understand, keep in mind the eternal destiny of mankind is at stake!

There have been those who wondered about the original order of the books found in the Bible; like me.

I believe God providentially protected the Word of God and made sure the rearrangement of the books did not result in books being removed; I cannot rationally explain how God did it, we will have to wait until glory to see!

The books of the Bible today have been rearranged and here is the presentation.

I believe all the inspired books are in the Word of God that God has ordained, that God wants us to have, none are missing, however, I believe the current arrangement is not what was intended.

Roman Catholic priest, confessor, theologian, historian and Doctor of the Roman Catholic Church Jerome (Born Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus: March 27, 347 AD – Died: September 30, 420 AD; Age 73) rearranged them to please Rome & the Vatican for the Latin Vulgate (382-405 A. D.), not to be confused the “Old Latin Vulgate” of 157 A. D. which I believe is God’s preserved word in Latin!

Jerome seems to have been influenced by the order from the Septuagint (a Greek, not Hebrew, language Bible and BTW the current order of books found in our modern Old Testaments originated in Egypt in the second and third centuries A.D.).

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Most Bibles use Jerome's order. Let's take a look at what was stated:

Jerome's Influence

The man most responsible for what became our traditional Bible of sixty-six books with his "new" arrangement of the books for both the Old and New Testaments became the standard for Protestant scholars and translators. Of a truth once a tradition becomes established, it is difficult to change, however the Bible Believers in the Body of Christ NEEDS to know the TRUTH about this! Jerome knew better! Jerome had a rationale (a set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or a particular belief.), a wrong rationale, for making these changes! In my opinion for the benefit of the Roman Catholic Church and NOT the Real Bible Believers! But the Tradition lives on today.

Remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said about tradition.

- Matthew 15:3 But He answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?
- Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.
- Mark 7:9 And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.
- Mark 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles had this to say

- Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Peter, the Apostle of Israel said this:

- 1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

In A.D. 391 Jerome said the following from his work: Preface to Samuel and Kings:

"As, then, there are twenty-two (22) elementary characters by means of which WE write in Hebrew all we say, and the compass of the human voice is contained within their limits, so we reckon twenty-two books, by which, as by the alphabet of the doctrine of God, a righteous man is instructed in tender infancy, and, as it were, while still at the breast."

Jerome fully understood that the ORIGINAL Arrangement of the Hebrew Old Testament contained 22 books coinciding with the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, not 39! And to this day the Jewish translations contain 22 Old Testament books. The books and arrangement or order of the books has never been lost. Those who claim to believe in the Gospel, the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS! Paul said they were committed to the Oracles of God (Romans 3:1 – 2).

Even Flavius Josephus (37 AD to 100 AD), Jewish Historian, in Book 1, Section 8 of his famous work, Antiquities of the Jews, recognized "only 22 books."

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Jerome in my opinion FLAGRANTLY disobeyed God's Word with the rearranging of the Original Canon of the Old Testament AND the New Testament who in MY opinion and subject for another article, the canon WAS DONE BY John, Peter and Paul BEFORE 70 A.D. before General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and the Jews were scattered!

God is not going to allow some heretic or uninspired church council in the post Apostolic Era to decide the contents of the Word of God. There is no way that heretical, uninspired men, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or otherwise, did the canon after the First Century. When you read about the scholars saying about the canon being done in those early centuries you are saying the canon was not completed in the last half of the First Century and the books were not arranged by the time Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles and the Apostles of Israel passed away and went home to be with the Lord. That is blasphemy!

The term "Scriptures" in the Scriptures refers to inspired writings, as we see in

- 2 Timothy 3:16 all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

Paul wrote many other letters (Colossians 4:16), as did the Apostles of Israel and prophets, however NONE of them (the other letters the apostles wrote that is not in Scripture!) were God-breathed, as they were not included in the canon. Paul did write 3 letters to Corinth! (1 Corinthians 5:9)

Let's read on here: Concerning the New Testament, E.W. Bullinger (Ethelbert William Bullinger; December 15, 1837 – June 6, 1913) was an Anglican clergyman, Biblical scholar, and theologian.) In his Companion Bible made this bold statement:

“Our English Bibles follow the order as given in the Latin Vulgate. This order, therefore, depends on the arbitrary judgment of one man, Jerome. All theories based on this order rest on human authority, and are thus without any true foundation.” (E.W. Bullinger, The Companion Bible (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1974), page 139 (Appendix).) Dr. Bullinger has hit the nail on the head! (Patton JW. The Inspired Order of the Bible. <http://jpatton.bellevue.edu/inspired.html> accessed 05/19/16)

Now, mainly because of Jerome's involvement and production of his Latin Vulgate Bible, the Church of Rome often declares "the Church gave the world the Bible" (e.g. The Role of The Church According to the Bible. © Catholicbible101 2008 - 2010 AD.

<http://www.catholicbible101.com/theroleofthechurch.htm>). Certain Roman Catholics also teach that since they believe their church gave Christianity the Bible all other 'Christian' churches need to come back to it (it should be noted that the Bible itself does discuss a false mother church and her daughters, Revelation 17:1 – 6).

So what the Church of Rome did here is deny that God preserved His Word from the Apostles until Jerome and that John, Peter and Paul did not do the canon. This is blasphemy to say that no one had the scriptures from the Apostles until Jerome did the Vulgate!

Those who praise and point to Jerome and the Roman Catholic Church many times overlooks this; WHERE did Jerome got his information? Based on records in Latin and other languages! Remember, there was the Old Latin Vulgate of 157 A.D., the Syrian Peshitta of 150 A.D. amongst others!

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They are the Preserved Word of God in Latin and the Peshitta was in Syriac, also known as Syriac Aramaic or Classical Syriac, a dialect of Middle Aramaic. Anyone wishing to read more on this can start here from Wikipedia then continue the research;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_language.

BTW: Starting with Jerome's Latin Vulgate, the divine Name JE-HO-VAH began to be eliminated from all Bible translations. The Vatican began a ruthless purge lasting over 1000 years of any translation that contained the Divine Name.

The Latin Vulgate of Jerome was copied from the Old Latin or Italia Version made in 150 AD. That Latin masterpiece was butchered by Jerome, and the last person to translate from that noble version was John Wycliffe. For translating the Bible from the Old Latin Version, and exposing the filthy habits of the monks and nuns, Saint John's bones were dug up and burned 44 years after his death!!

John Wycliffe—the Morning Star of the Reformation—was a professor at Oxford University.

While at the university he discovered a copy of the Old Latin Version.

Remember, the Roman Catholic Church is responsible for killing real bible believers, including the Waldensians of the 2nd Century and Anabaptists! The Eastern Orthodox Churches, “Protestant Reformers” Martin Luther, John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli were no angels either! All 3; Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox and Protestants tortured and killed anyone who opposed them, especially REAL Bible believers!

Check these out!

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/burned-at-the-stake-racked-and-drowned-why-did-everyone-hate-the-anabaptists/81608.htm>

<https://thoughtsofalivingchristian.wordpress.com/2010/11/21/the-persecution-of-anabaptism-16th-century-catholic-lutheran-and-calvinist-perspectives-2/>

Jerome's order does not change the fact that he nor his church actually came up with the books, though it took the Church of Rome many centuries to final their 'canons' of scripture--and when they did so, they added books in the Old Testament that Jerome opposed, but was essentially forced to put in his Latin Vulgate Bible.

Ernest Martin, a scholar who is deceased has been credited for doing a lot of research in figuring out the original order. Also Dr. Judd W. Patton had something to say about this:

Martin, who has done the most research, in the author's assessment, on the issue of Bible book order, is Earnest Martin. His 1994 book entitled, Restoring the Original Bible, is according to some the most systemic, documented, referenced and scholarly work on the Inspired Order of the Bible.

Disclaimer: I do not believe everything in their doctrines, but the historical facts are accurate!

While Jerome is the primary figure responsible for the Traditional arrangement of the books of the Bible, there is more to the historical story.

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Earnest Martin details other “players” besides Jerome. Briefly, sometime in the second or third centuries A.D., the Septuagint version of the Bible, a Greek translation of the Old Testament, was put into book form by Egyptian Christians, replacing the twenty-two separate and independent scrolls of the Hebrew Bible. Simultaneously they abandoned the Hebrew order of the books or scrolls as maintained at the Temple, and rearranged the books into a more subject-oriented or topical arrangement. (Earnest Martin, *Restoring the Original Bible* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: ASK Publications, 1994), pp. 17-18)

That is, they grouped the historical books together (Genesis through Esther). Then the poetic books were placed together (Job, Psalms and Proverbs) followed by the poetic works of Solomon (Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon). Finally, the prophetic books were grouped together (Isaiah through Malachi).

Check it out in your own Bibles. Perhaps some Bible students were unaware of this organizational three-part rationale for this Traditional Bible book order - historical, poetic and prophetic.

Jerome was well aware of both the Hebrew Bible order and the relatively new Septuagint book order in his day (For additional proof and quotes from numerous Bible scholars, see Chapter 1 of Martin’s book). He had a choice to make. What should he do for his own translation? Well, Jerome decided to use the Septuagint order in his Latin Vulgate version of the Bible. The rest is history, as the saying goes! Jerome KNEW God’s command about NOT adding or taking away from God’s Word! (Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18 – 19)

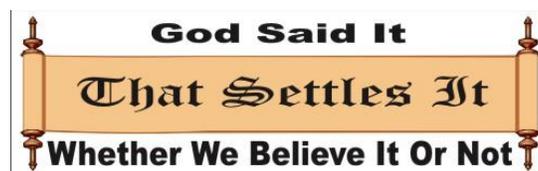
The point is that while Judaism did not lose the original Bible arrangement of twenty-two books, Christianity or a better word, Christendom did, primarily through the influence of the Roman Catholic theologian Jerome.

Again, the Protestant translators, with few exceptions, relied on the Latin Vulgate version of Jerome in their translations and thereby the Protestant world did not use the original book order. Thank Almighty God that the King James Translators from 1604 – 1611 used first the Theodore Beza 1598 Greek Textus Receptus and then the Stephens (Born Robert Estienne, known as Stephanus (1503–1559)) 1550 Greek Textus Receptus and the Hebrew Masoretic Text (Ben Chayyim) for the translation! (Patton JW. *The Inspired Order of the Bible*. <http://jpatton.bellevue.edu/inspired.html> accessed 05/19/16)

Today’s Bible contains 66 books. There are thirty-nine (39) books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven (27) in the New Testament. The commonly placed order is NOT original!

The Original Order of the Old Testament

The 22 books of the Original OT are divided into three groups: They are called The Law (Torah), The Prophets, and The (Holy) Writings; this last group is sometimes referred to as the Psalms as it is listed first.



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The divisions of the Old Testament Books BEFORE JEROME are as follows:

1. Law: The Pentateuch or Torah (Five Books of Moses) – 5 Books

Five books are in this group: (English Title then Hebrew)

1. Genesis – Bereshith
2. Exodus – Shemot
3. Leviticus – Vayyiqra
4. Numbers – Bemidbar
5. Deuteronomy – Devarim (Yes I believe Moses WROTE HIS OWN DEATH and knew Jehovah/Elohim was going to burry him!!!!)

(Note: These titles are as found in our English Bibles, as adapted from the Greek Septuagint (LXX). The Hebrew titles used the first word of each book (actually a Scroll) as the name. For example, Genesis would be called Bereshith which means (In) Beginning (of). The Septuagint titles emphasized a perceived major subject. Most Jewish Bibles also use now the subject titles.)

2. Prophets – 6 Books

Six (combined) books are in this group:

1. Joshua & Judges
2. Samuel and Kings (Books of the Kingdom)
3. Isaiah
4. Jeremiah
5. Ezekiel
6. The Twelve (Minor Prophets) or as some say minor prophets, are as follows:
 - Hosea
 - Joel
 - Amos
 - Obadiah
 - Jonah
 - Micah
 - Nahum
 - Habakkuk
 - Zephaniah
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
 - Malachi



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3. THE (Holy) WRITINGS – 11 Books

This group contained 11 books known also as the holy writings. Some have called them the 'Royal' or 'Government' group because many of the authors are royalty or of royal lineage, or high government officials.

1. Psalms
2. Proverbs
3. Job
4. Song of Songs
5. Ruth
6. Lamentations
7. Ecclesiastes
8. Esther
9. Daniel
10. Ezra/Nehemiah
11. Chronicles (1 & 2 in the rearrangement)

There are those who inquire about the extra, the so-called deuterocanonical books that are in Roman and Eastern Orthodox Catholic Bibles (Protestants call them Apocrypha). They were NOT accepted in the Old Testament Canon, None of the Old Testament Books quote them, neither accepted by the Jewish scholars in Jerusalem in the Lord Jesus Christ's time, in fact the Lord Jesus Christ NEVER quoted from them and neither did the Apostles! They are not considered to be scripture. Even Jerome did not want to include them in his Latin Vulgate Bible <http://justforcatholics.org/a108.htm> .

The "22" books correspond to each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

The Hebrew Bible has traditionally been divided into three divisions of these 22 "books" or scrolls:

Torah (Law): Genesis through Deuteronomy;

Prophets: Joshua/Judges, Samuel/Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Twelve "Minor" Prophets; and

Writings: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles.

Here is a division that the Lord Jesus Christ used:

- Luke 24:44 And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.

16 ¶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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The divisions of the New Testament Books BEFORE JEROME

Some claim that in the oldest complete manuscripts of the New Testament, there is a (4) four-fold division:

4 Divisions

New Testament Pentateuch (Gospels & Acts)
Jewish Epistles
Gentiles/Pauline Epistles
Prophecy (World Holocaust – Prophetic)

- 1) Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; and History: Acts; (New Testament Pentateuch)
- 2) Jewish/General Letters: James, Peter, John, Jude;
- 3) Paul's Letters: Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Hebrews, Timothy, Titus, Philemon;
- 4) Revelation.

The **Slavonic Bible** is still organized in this way, but the vast majority of New Testaments follow a different order (again **due to Jerome**).

Some 'experts' have speculated that the New Testament should start with John's gospel account. So, there are various opinions on the order.

I believe there are 5 Divisions!

The divisions of the New Testament Books BEFORE JEROME are as follows:

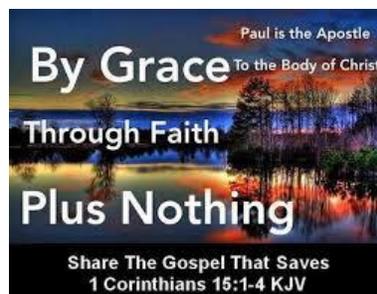
Shown below in 5 groupings.

The ORIGINAL Arrangement as I believe God Intended!

5 Divisions!

Gospels
History – Acts

The Gospels and Acts can be grouped as “**New Testament Pentateuch**”
Jewish Epistles (NOT “Catholic” nor “General” Epistles)
Gentiles/Pauline Epistles (Hebrews Included!) – 14 Books!
Prophecy (World Holocaust – Prophetic)



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The New Testament Pentateuch (History Books) – The Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11)
Gospels – The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth (Earthly Ministry) – The Biographical History of the Lord Jesus Christ’s Earthy Ministry – Remember, until “It is Finished” – the 4 Gospels were still part of the Old Testament! (See Hebrews 9:16)

- 1) Matthew Levi
- 2) Mark (John Mark)
- 3) Luke – He was a JEW! (Romans 3:2)
- 4) John

History

Acts (of the Apostles) – Universal; from Peter (& the 11) to Paul – From Law to Grace

Acts – The Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven (Glorified & Risen!) – The History of the Transition from the Kingdom Program offered to Israel to Grace to Both Jews and Gentiles!

Jewish Epistles

- 1) James (The Lord’s Brother)
- 2) 1 Peter
- 3) 2 Peter
- 4) 1 John
- 5) 2 John
- 6) 3 John
- 7) Jude (The Lord’s Brother)

These 7 Epistles were primarily for the Jewish people, most of them scattered all over the world! Their theme is Non Doctrinal & in my opinion introductory to Paul’s Doctrinal Epistles. They are placed in the first position to fulfill the principle, which is Pauline “To the Jew first” (Romans 2:10). They are directed to **Jewish/Hebrew Messianic Believers** in general and not to specific churches. They were written by the “pillar” apostles with top rank over Paul!

Some call it this:

THE KINGDOM EPISTLES PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LAST DAYS SAINTS

This group has 14 books including the Book Hebrews which is authored by Paul. It has been said BEFORE Jerome says that Paul wrote Hebrews, but some believe here in the 21st Century that the writing style was so different that perhaps Timothy or someone else wrote it.

The 14 books are:

Gentiles (Called Pauline Epistles)

Paul’s Church Epistles

- 1) Romans
- 2) 1 Corinthians
- 3) 2 Corinthians
- 4) Galatians
- 5) Ephesians
- 6) Philippians
- 7) Colossians

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The End Times

- 8) 1 Thessalonians
- 9) 2 Thessalonians

General & Temple Symbolism

- 10) Hebrews

Paul's Pastoral/Ministerial Epistles (Letters to Individuals)

- 11) 1 Timothy
- 12) 2 Timothy
- 13) Titus
- 14) Philemon

World Holocaust – Prophetic; the Book of Sevens! (Written by John, the Apostle of Israel)

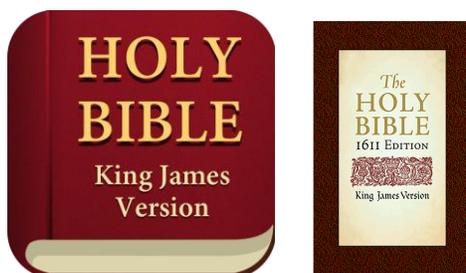
- 1) Revelation
The Voice of a Last Days Prophet (and Apostle) of Israel & A Preview of Things to Come

Jeff's (my) Commentary: Some believe the Jewish Epistles were meant for saints during the Tribulation. Consider this; those epistles do not talk about not taking the mark/666 as John wrote in Revelation. Neither in Revelation or the Jewish Epistles bring up the subject of the Temple, which was destroyed by Rome via General Titus in 70 A.D. and BTW, these books being written primarily for Jewish Believers (Revelation is Prophecy and remember, there is the Prophecy program for Israel and the Mystery for Believers in which I call the Age of Grace! Paul in Hebrews 6 says about moving on from "the Doctrine of Christ" which I believe is in these Jewish Epistles. But, A LOT of what is said here CAN BE APPLIED today in the Age of Grace! Peter, Apostle of Israel near the end of his life told his Jewish Believers in 2 Peter 3 to read Paul's Epistles, Paul as we all know list the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4 & Romans 10:9 – 13 for how to be saved! But the Jewish Saints in the Dispensation of Times of Jacob's Trouble will read the Jewish Epistles for their Doctrine!

I don't see the need to list the current arrangement of books of both the Old and New Testaments as most of Christendom knows them!

Summary

While the generally understood original order may be helpful to know, *it is more important to know what the Bible teaches and live according to it!* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17, James 1:22 – 25, Matthew 4:4)



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