

Timeline: How we got our Bible: the Old Testament

	approx. 1350-1230 BC	approx. 1057-587 BC Israel pre and into the Babylonian Captivity	approx. 520-460 BC Israel at the end of and after the Babylonian Captivity
Books, authors, languages	<p>Moses writes the Pentatuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and Job.</p> <p>Joshua writes the end of Deuteronomy and Joshua.</p> <p>The original manuscripts were written in Hebrew.</p>	<p>Samuel writes Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel</p> <p>David writes part of Psalms, rest written by a variety of people</p> <p>Solomon writes Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, some of Proverbs</p> <p>Prophets writing during this time included Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah, constant theme: return to God, live as He commands, judgement is coming.</p> <p>Written also during the time: 2 Samuel, 1,2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (written right after the fall of Jerusalem</p>	<p>Daniel and Ezekiel wrote during the captivity in Babylon.</p> <p>Upon the return to the land Ezra and Nehemiah recorded what happened as they rebuilt.</p> <p>Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi prophesied (encouraged, exhorted) to the exiles who returned.</p> <p>Ezra wrote 1 & 2 Chronicles to retell the history of God's dealing with His people to the people who had returned to the land.</p>
Biblical / church history	<p>The children of Israel left captivity in Egypt.</p> <p>Received and recorded God's laws and their conquest of the land.</p> <p>Tabernacle chief place of Jewish worship.</p>	<p>The time of the Judges ends with Israel wanting and getting King Saul. David then became king in 1006 BC, Solomon in 965 BC</p> <p>After Solomon's death the kingdom split into the Northern and Southern kingdoms.</p> <p>The Northern Kingdom had a series of evil kings, such as Ahab. God continuously sent prophets to them, but as a nation they did not repent and the Northern Kingdom was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC.</p> <p>The Southern Kingdom had a variety of good and bad kings. God sent them prophets also, but because of continued idolatry, they went into the Babylonian Captivity in 586 BC.</p>	<p>Return of the Jews to Israel. This took several trips the primary ones led by Zerubbabal 535 BC, Ezra 458 BC and Nehemiah, 445 BC.</p> <p>The temple is rebuilt, the land resettled.</p> <p>The last of the prophets of the Old Testament write and the Old Testament canon is closed.</p>
Secular history	<p>Egypt was the world's great power; all the pyramids and monuments had been built.</p> <p>Amorites became Old Babylonian power.</p> <p>Legendary destruction of Troy in 1184 BC, time of exploits of Greek heros.</p>	<p>Rome founded in 753 PC.</p> <p>Assyrians, capitol, Ninevah, dominate power in the East. Jonah sent to preach to them, brought about revival about 40 years before they conquered the Northern Kingdom in 722.</p> <p>Assyrians conquered by the Caldeans (Nebucadnezzar) capitol, Babylon, in 612 BC.</p> <p>Babylon conquered by Persians under Cyrus in 539. As prophesied in Isa. 44:28, (written in 720 BC) Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Israel.</p>	<p>Persian Empire powerful, but declining.</p> <p>The Golden Age of Greece beginning. Plato born 427 BC.</p> <p>Rome growing, but not a world power as yet.</p>
Manuscript history	<p>We have no original manuscripts of Old Testament documents.</p> <p>However, some of our most important historical evidence for the history, compilation, and preservation of the Hebrew scriptures comes from Rabbinic Jewish tradition. This literature, tells how Ezra started the Great Synagogue, where the Jewish scriptures were preserved, commented on and taught. These writings began near the end of this period.</p> <p>Also known as the Talmud, these written opinions of the Rabbis, recorded from 400BC to 500AD, always affirmed the collection of books, listed above, as the contents of the Hebrew canon.</p> <p>The Old Testament books that we have were never disputed by this group, they very clearly distinguished between the Word of God and the commentaries of man.</p>		