

Bible 101

What is the Bible?

- Collection of 66 books that constitute the Scripture of the Christian churches. Jews accept only the first part of the Bible, the OT. Roman Catholics add apocryphal books to those adopted by other Christian bodies. The word “Bible” derives from the Greek *biblia* (“books”), which, though plural, came to be used as a singular noun and to stand for the collection which Christians regard as the Word of God.
- Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Bible,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 295.

The Origin of the word Bible

- *Biblos*, a Greek word meaning originally the inner bark of the *papyrus plant, came to refer first to the paper made from the bark and then to the *scroll and the *codex and eventually to the whole collection of *OT and *NT books. *Biblion* (pl. *biblia*) was the diminutive, meaning a scroll. In the *lxx both singular and plural were used to denote any kind of written document, but Christianity from the beginning retained the plural to denote the Hebrew Scriptures plus the books which went to make up the NT, thus creating a closed and fixed list of books (or *canon) with authority for faith, and usually referred to as 'Scriptures'. *Chrysostom appears to have been the first to use the word *biblia* of the OT and NT together in this way.
- Alec Gilmore, ["Bible,"](#) A Concise Dictionary of Bible Origins and Interpretation (London; New York: T&T Clark, 2006), 22.

Biblical Structure

- The Bible is divided into OT and NT. Of course there were no OT and NT before the coming of Christ, only one collection of sacred writings. But after the apostles and their associates produced another body of sacred literature, the church began to refer to the OT and NT. Actually “testament” is the translation of a Greek word that might better be rendered “covenant.”
- Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Bible,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 295.

Law

Poetry/Wisdom

Minor Prophets

History

Major Prophets

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Gospels

History

Letters of Paul

General Letters

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Acts

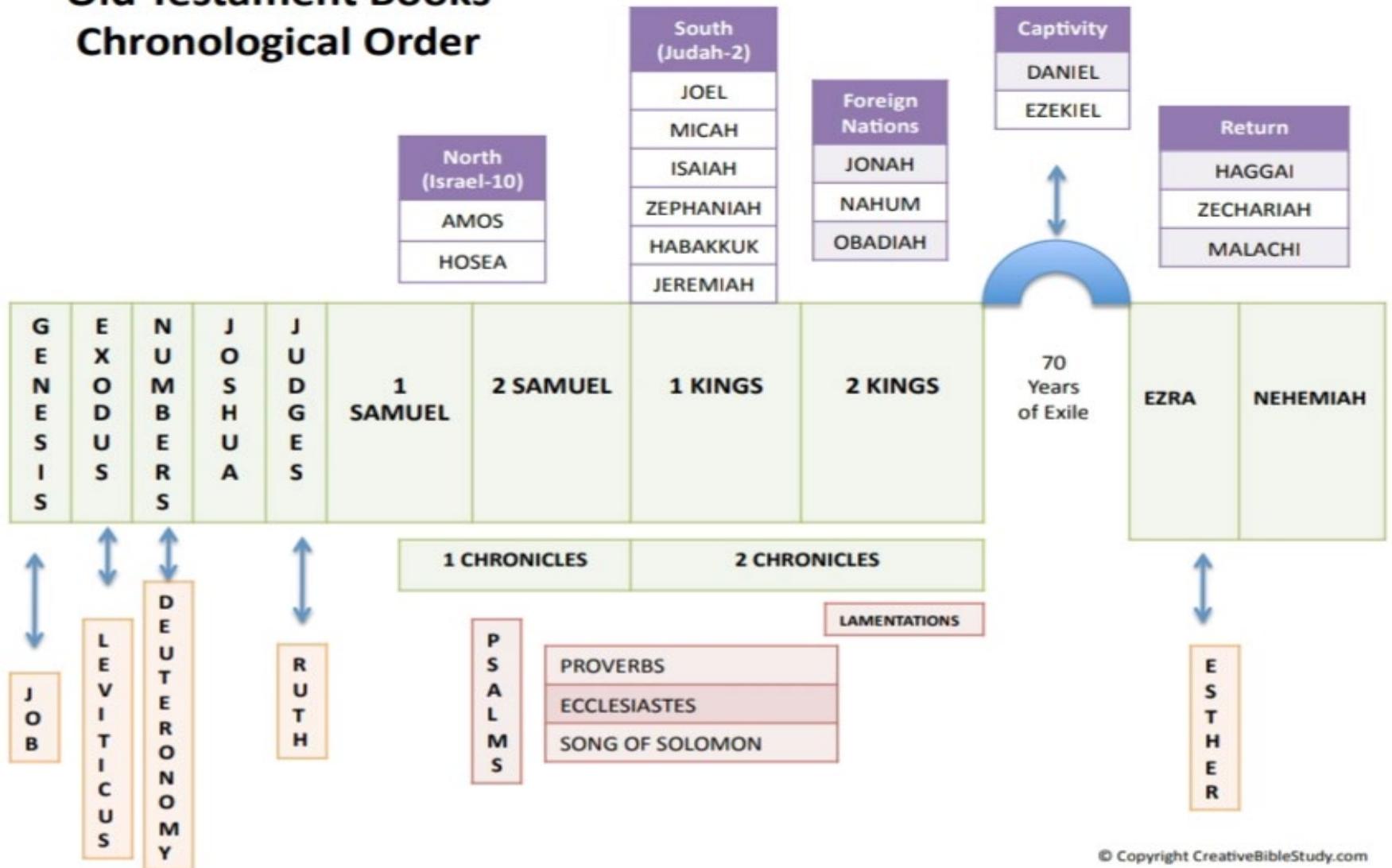
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

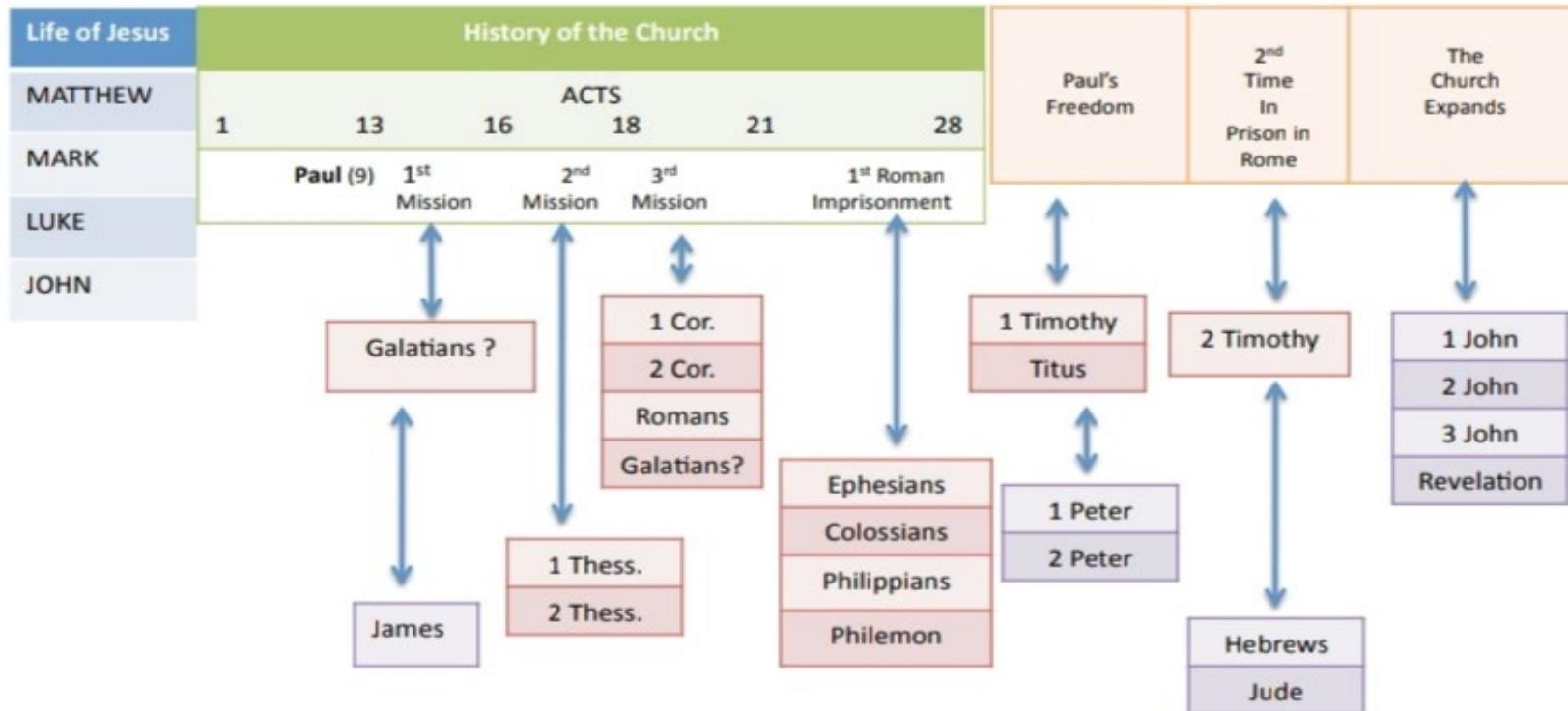
Revelation

OT Order

Old Testament Books Chronological Order

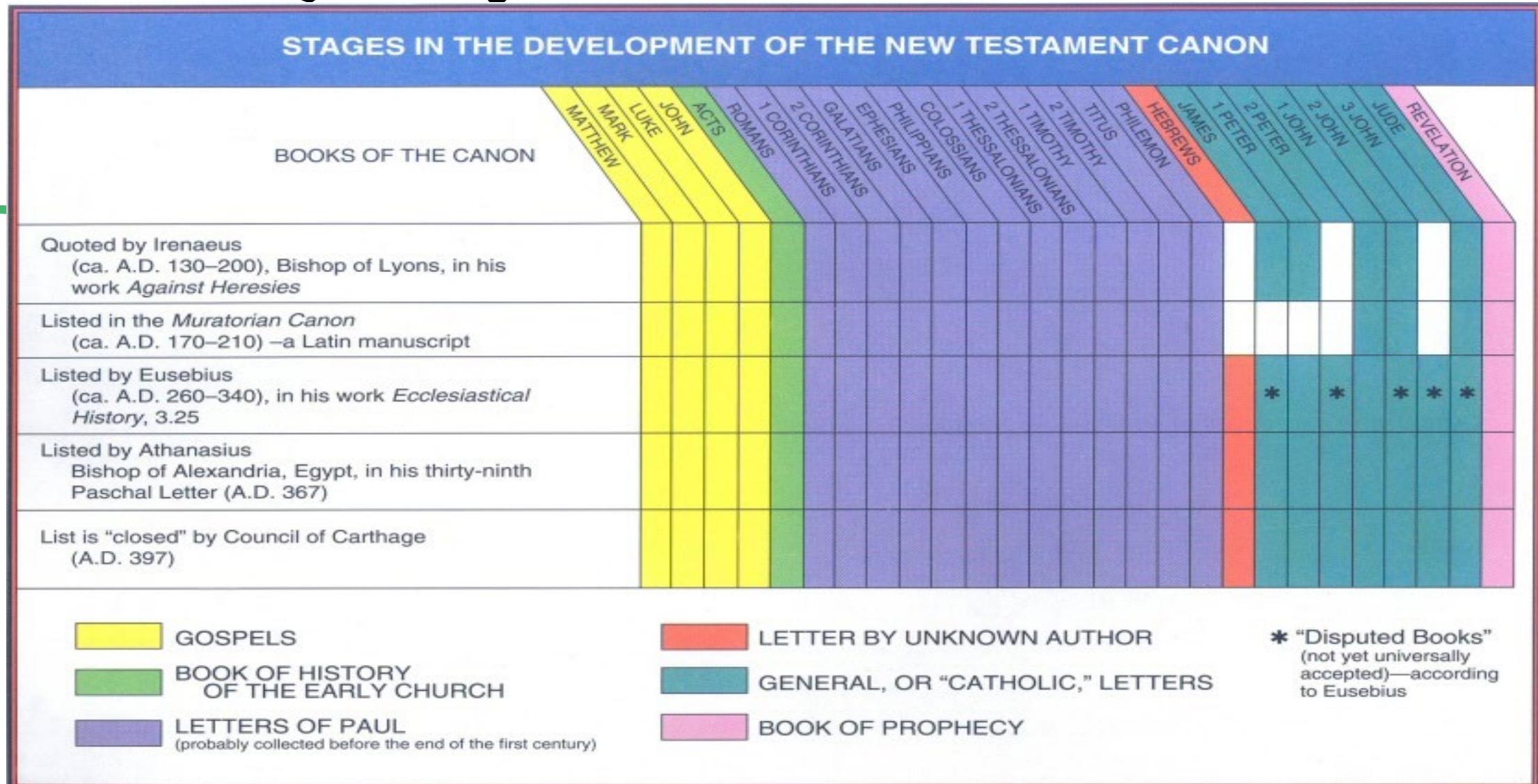


New Testament Books Chronological Order

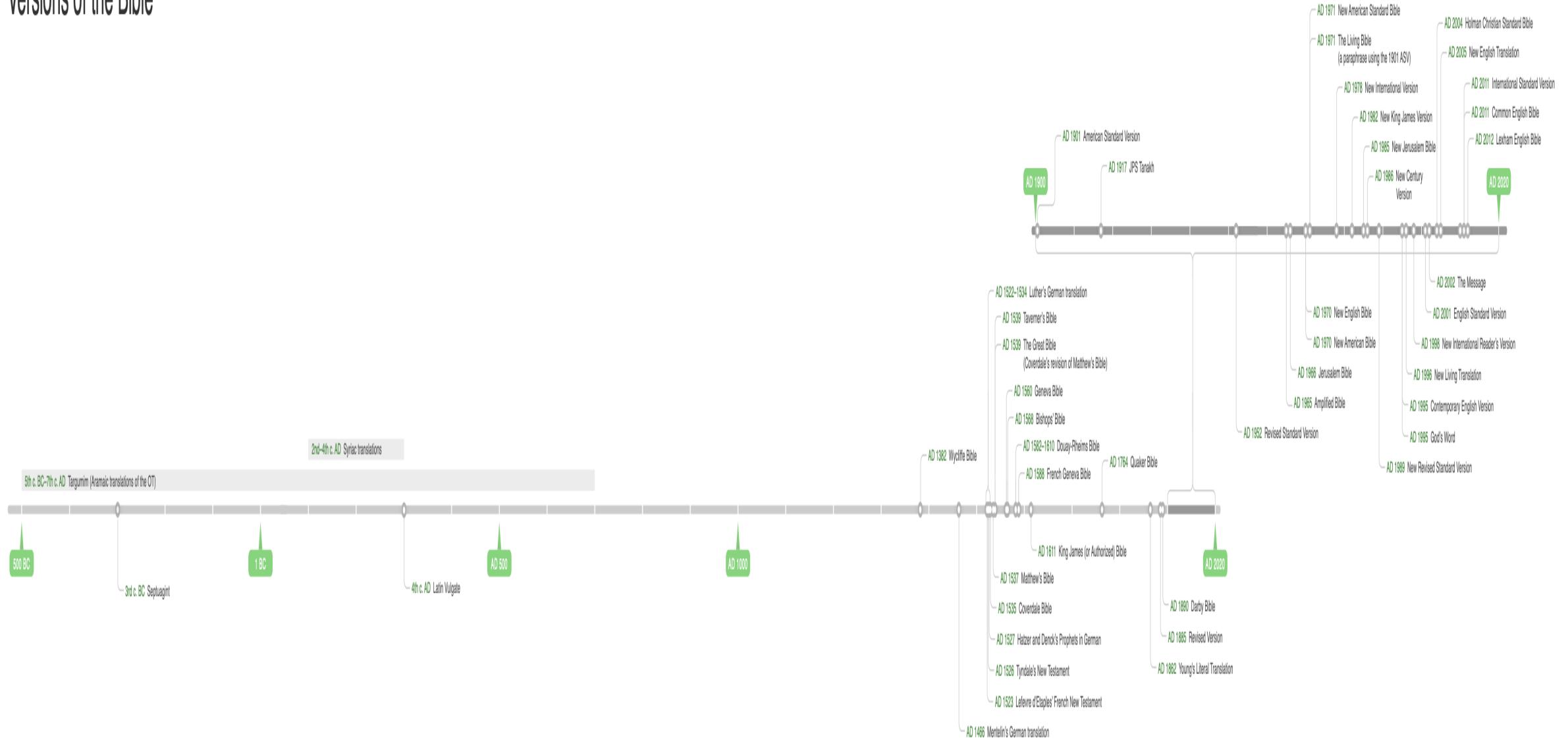


NT
Order

NT Stages of Development



Versions of the Bible



Is the Bible Fact or Fiction?

- The Bible is a combination of historical events, Myth and parable.
- A **historical event** can be defined as any occurrence from the past regardless of significance, with the term "history" an umbrella term relating to past events and any associated memories, discoveries, collections, organizations, presentations, and/or interpretations of them.
- **Myth** is a folklore genre consisting of narratives that play a fundamental role in a society, such as foundational tales or origin myths. Since "myth" is widely used to imply that a story is not objectively true, the identification of a narrative as a myth can be highly controversial.
- A **parable** is a succinct, didactic story, in prose or verse, that illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles.

Example of History, Myth and parable in Bible

History Jeremiah 39:1-2

Myth Genesis 1:1-29

Parable Mark 4:1-9

Importance of Reading the Bible

Psalms 119:130

Job 23:6

Matt 5:17-19

1 Tim 4:13

Heb 4:12-13