



## What is the Bible?

The Bible is in itself a small library of books, all of which emerged from the history of the people of ancient Israel. It is the most influential book in the history of Western and much of Eastern civilization. People have a lot of opinions regarding what it means, but let's just start with what it is.

# Ta NaK

<b>TORAH</b> "LAW"	<b>NEVI'IM</b> "PROPHETS"	<b>KETUVIM</b> "WRITINGS"
GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY	JOSHUA SAMUEL KINGS ISAIAH JEREMIAH ETC.	PSALMS PROVERBS JOB RUTH CHRONICLES ETC.

### Old Testament

Written in ancient Hebrew and Aramaic over the span of more than 1000 years, the TaNaK contains 24 books (39 in the Christian count\*). The books emerge from the history of ancient Israel. They tell of their birth as a nation, their history in the land (called Israel-Palestine today), exile from it, return, and their eventual rebuilding around the city of Jerusalem. Furthermore, it is the story of Israel's origin as Abraham's family, how God promised to bless all nations through him via a messianic king—who one day would come.

## New Testament

27 books emerged out of the movement started by Jesus of Nazareth. All of them were written in Greek by Jewish authors who had become Jesus' disciples.

### GOSPELS

MATTHEW  
MARK  
LUKE  
JOHN

Four tell the story of his life, death, and resurrection.

### EPISTLES

PAUL	13 Letters
PETER	2 Letters
JOHN	3 Letters
JAMES/JACOB	1 Letter
JUDE	1 Letter
ANONYMOUS	Hebrews

Twenty-one early letters are from the team of leaders Jesus appointed (apostles). They were addressed to communities all over the ancient Roman world, guiding them in their discipleship to Jesus.

### ACTS

One recounts the first couple decades of the movement he started.

### REVELATION

One is an apocalypse addressed to 7 churches.

Source:

