

New Testament

Matthew	<i>Matt.-John are known as the four Gospels, and they tell of the life and ministry of Christ.</i>	I, II Thessalonians
Mark		I, II Timothy
Luke		Titus
John		Philemon
Acts	<i>Church History</i>	Hebrews
Romans	<i>Romans through Philemon are "the epistles" (letters).</i>	James
I, II, Corinthians		I, II Peter
Galatians	<i>Many of these letters are from the Apostle Paul to the new Christian churches</i>	I, II, III John
Ephesians		Jude
Philippians		Revelation
Colossians		<i>The Apocalypse and a vision of the World's End</i>

Much of the New Testament was written in an ancient dialect of Greek known as *koine*, with a few short quotations in Aramaic Hebrew. The New Testament includes the life and teachings of Christ, the history of the early Church according to the Acts of the Apostles, and many letters discussing the doctrine of Christianity. The first four books, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are the **Gospels**. They detail the life of Christ. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the **Synoptic Gospels** by scholars, because they appear to originate in a single, lost source (this hypothetical source is called "Q" by textual scholars). John is the **Non-synoptic Gospel**, which appears to have originated independently, perhaps by a Greek Christian familiar with classical philosophy. John is characterized by a lack of parables and other details found in the first three gospels.

All the gospels recount similar episodes (such as the stories of the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ), but they are often told with different details and viewpoints. Some of the differences are that in **Matthew** we find the Flight into Egypt, the Baptism of Christ, the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the Transfiguration, the Entry into Jerusalem, the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, Judas' betrayal of Christ, and the Last Supper. In particular, the author of Matthew seeks to reconcile Old Testament prophecy with Christ's life. In **Mark** we find the account of Peter's Denial of Christ. **Luke** tells of Christ's presentation at the temple, and Luke seems particularly rich in parables, including the parable of the Prodigal Son, and the Rich Man and Lazarus. **John** contains Mary's Song ("The Magnificat") and an account of Christ's arrest as part of the narrative.

The Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha

The most authoritative Bible for the Middle Ages was the **Vulgate Bible**, St. Jerome's Latin translation of Old Testament and New Testament texts. The **Douay-Rheims Bible** (1609 AD) is translated from the medieval Latin into English; a version is still available in Catholic bookstores. Note that the Catholic tradition divides the two books of Samuel and the two books of Kings into I, II, III, and IV Kings. The book known to Protestants as Chronicles is called the Paralipomenon by Catholics; the Book of Nehemiah is called I and II Esdras by Catholics.

The modern Catholic and medieval Vulgate versions of the Bible include many other books not found in the **King James Bible**. In the Protestant tradition, the term "**Apocrypha**" applies to books that are included in Catholic Bibles, but not in Protestant Bibles. These books include Tobias, Judith, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, the Book of Wisdom, and I and II Maccabees. Additionally, the Vulgate also includes Daniel 3:24-9 and 13:1-14:42, and has a slightly different numbering system for the Psalms. The **Pseudepigrapha** are scriptures that enjoyed the same authoritative status as the Gospels in early Christianity, but these were cut from late both Catholic and Protestant Bibles and later considered inaccurate or false. In the Old Testament, these include the Book of Enoch (a demonological treatise that only survives complete in an Ethiopic text) and the tale of Susannah. In the New Testament, the Pseudepigrapha include the Gospel of Nicodemus (which recounts Christ's harrowing of hell), the Shepherd of Hermas, the Epistle of Barnabas, the Didache ("secret" teachings of the twelve apostles), and various "Infancy Stories" of Christ's childhood, along with legends of the Virgin Mary.