

Process of canonization:

- 1) Composition and editing of oral and written material
- 2) Ceremonial practice of material within community/ies
- 3) Collection and circulation of material
- 4) Choice and conflict over collected material
- 5) Confirmation and canonization of material

The English Bible

Dr Jeromey Martini
2019.11

Criteria for recognizing canonical writings:

Apostolicity – authored by or in substantial relation with an apostle
Catholicity – used widely in the churches throughout Christendom
Orthodoxy – be theologically consistent with the rule of faith

Disputed Writings

+ Apocalypse Peter
+ Barnabas
+ Didache
+ Shepherd
+ 1 Clement
- Revelation
- Jude
- James
- 1&2 Peter

Hebrew

Canon

Est. 1st century BCE-2nd century CE.
Same as OT but different order

Manuscripts

Masoretic Text (7th-10th centuries CE)

Diplomatic text – uses Masoretic Text base plus earlier Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. Published, e.g., *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)

English

Wycliffe Bible (+)
1382

German

+ Apocrypha as appendix with notation
- removes **Hebrews**, **James**, **Jude**, and **Revelation** to appendix with notation

Luther Bible (+/-)
1522 (NT)
1534 (OT)

Tyndale Bible (+/-) Follows Luther with Apocrypha and James etc. as appendix
1526

Canon – Roman Catholic
Council of Trent (1546). Affirms OT, NT, and Apocrypha (Deuterocanonical)

Bishop's Bible (+)
1568

Douay-Rheims
1582 (NT)
1610 (OT)

Canon – Presbyterian
Westminster Confession (1647).
Canon is OT and NT; no apocrypha

Geneva Bible (+)
1560

Canon – Anglican
39 Articles (1563). Canon is OT and NT; distinguishes Apocrypha as per Jerome

King James Bible (+)
1611

Revised Standard Version (+)
1885; 1952

American Standard Version (+)
1901

Jewish Publication Society Bible
1917

Greek

Septuagint(s) (+)
+ Apocrypha

Latin

Latin Vulgate (+)
384 CE

Manuscripts

8000+ Vulgate manuscripts (6th-10th century)
2000+ pre-Vulgate Latin manuscripts

Canon – Vulgate represents the canon **functionally** in orthodox Christianity: 39 OT, 27 NT books. The Apocrypha includes Jerome's notation distinguishing these books from the Hebrew Bible but still of value for Christian life and learning.

First Roman Catholic Bible
translated from Hebrew and Greek, not Latin

French

La Bible de Jérusalem (+)
1956

Jerusalem Bible (+)
1966

1985 *New Jerusalem Bible*

New American Standard
1971; 1995; 2020

J.B. Philips New Testament
1972

Canon – Evangelical
Lausanne Covenant (1974).
Gathering of evangelical world leaders jointly affirm OT and NT

Greek

NT (+/-)

Manuscripts

5800+ Greek manuscripts
+ citations, translations, etc.
Divide into 3 "families":

Byzantine

"Majority text"
earliest dated 4th-5th century but mostly later. Base of **Erasmus'** 1516 Greek Testament, using 6 manuscripts 10th-12th centuries

Western

Loose association of manuscripts marked by paraphrase and scribal freedom. Earliest from 2nd/3rd centuries

Alexandrian

Fewest but earliest manuscripts marked by high-quality copying. Earliest 2nd/3rd centuries; most discovered in 19th-20th centuries

Canon – Greek Orthodox
Synod of Jerusalem (1672).
NT (Byzantine), OT (Septuagint), Apocrypha, additional apocrypha in different Orthodox groups

Ecclectic text – compares witnesses from all families (e.g., *United Bible Societies*)

New International Version
1978; 1984; 2011

New King James Bible (+)
1982

New Revised Standard Version (+)
1990

Jewish Publication Society TaNaKh
1996

New Living Translation
1996

The Message
2002

Modern English Version
2014

Christian Standard Bible
2004; 2010; 2017