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It is made up of numerous works that blend a wide range of literary types such as historical events, tales, letters, and poetry to produce a cohesive whole. Many people think the Bible is one, single book, but that is not the case. How many books are in the Christian Bible, then? This blog will list down the number of books the Bible contains, and the two major sections these books are divided into. How Many Books are in the Christian Bible? There are two major parts of the Bible, The Old Testament, which has 39 books, and the New Testament, which has 27 books. The Bible is the most important source of the Christian biblical canon, and it's based mostly on the 24 books of Tanakh (the old Bible), an out-of-date classification of the Israelites' purely Hebrew literature. The New Testament, penned in common Greek, is the second section of the Christian Bible. Many distinct volumes produced by various authors over the centuries make up the Old Testament. The Pentateuch (first five books related to Jewish law) tell the back story of the Israelites, from their accomplishments in Canaan to their surrender and alienation in Babylon. The books enforce investigations about right and wrong around the globe in a different structure, and the manuscript of the biblical prophets, alerting and reminding everyone of the repercussions of rejection and the wrath of God. The books that makeup Old Testament groups and their prerequisites and names differ depending on which denomination you belong to, in Christianity. There are up to 49 books in the Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Ordinances, 46 books in the Catholic denomination, and 39 books in the most well-known and common Protestant denomination. Although Catholicism has 46 books in the old testament, they have similar 39 books to protestantism, just the order of the books is different, as well as the text in some places. The Old Testament also contains some Deuterocanonical. Deuterocanonical are the books that weren't a part of the original Canon of Hebrew but do have Jewish backgrounds and roots. Usually, Protestants do not include these scriptures in their Bible, but some denominations of the Protestants, like Lutherans and Anglicans, tend to place them in a separate section and do include them. Part 2: The New Testament/The New Testament is the Bible's newest major portion, and it spans the period following the Old Testament. It is thought to have been written between AD 50 and 100. Part 2 contains 27 books. The second section of the Christian scriptural canon is called the New Testament. It discusses Jesus' teachings and personal legends, exactly as it did in first-century Palestine. The Reformation brought about the division of the Christian Bible into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is a collection of Hebrew texts that were compiled into a final form during the late Second Temple period. While Old Testament standards are debatable according to different Christian denominations, the New Testament, comprising of 27-part canon, has been followed by all Christian denominations since the period of late Antiquity, at the least. The New Testament is made up of 27 books that are used in practically all Christian practices today, be it any denomination. Out of these 27 books, 4 are stories giving a piece of good news, that is, John, Matthew, Luke, and mark. The rest of the books include the seven letters, stories of the lives of apostles, and the revelations. There is no unanimous decision by the researchers on how recent the latest scriptures of the second section of the Bible were composed. Every book of the New Testament section was dated to be written prior to AD 70, according to multiple famous researchers like William Albright and Dan Wallace. Many scholars and researchers date some New Testament passages much later than this as well, placing the dates on which the books might have been composed, in the mid-to-late second century, about the time the core New Testament canon was published. Two of the researchers who say this are Richard Pervo and David Trobisch. According to the New Edition of the Bible published by Oxford with annotations, researchers and historians agree that the Gospels were written between 40-60 years after Jesus' death. They are not eyewitness accounts to Jesus' life and education, nor are they any records of it. Our Final ThoughtsKnowing which part of the Bible contains what books and chapters will help you understand the messages and commands in it a better way. It's also important for new learners, or people exploring the religion, to know which part of the Bible is speaking to them. The Bible is a vast library of wisdom, inspiration, and guidance. It is a treasure trove of knowledge that has shaped the lives of billions of people throughout history. Whether you're seeking answers to life's big questions, looking for comfort in times of trouble, or simply wanting to learn more about the world we live in, the Bible offers a wealth of resources. So pick up a copy today and start your journey of discovery. Scripture with love. Written with the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit by shepherds, prophets, nobility, and more, the Bible has inspired laws, influenced culture, and uplifted billions in faith over three millennia. The Bible is the most-read book of all time, surpassing favorites such as The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and even classics like The Diary of Anne Frank and To Kill a Mockingbird. Business Insider records that the Bible has sold 3.9 billion copies over the last 50 years, while the Harry Potter series has sold 400 million copies.What about the Bible has made it the book to "turn to" for the last half-century? It is a book with various translations and even different representations among the Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faiths. The Book of Hebrews states it best when explaining why the Word of God is something everyone is drawn to:For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart, (Hebrews 4:12).Let's journey through the origins of the Bible, learning how the Bible has affected countless people's lives and has become the foundational building blocks for the leading faiths in our world today.The modern Protestant Bible consists of 66 books with two distinct sections: The Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books). The two sections are arranged this way to highlight the birth of Jesus, with the Old Testament sharing the emerging prophecies of the Messiah and Jesus' actual birth, death, and resurrection taking place at the start of the New Testament with the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).The Old Testament canon of Scripture is that of the Septuagint, which was the Bible of the Apostles. Other Christian communities through the years have deviated somewhat from this apostolic canon which the Orthodox Church still uses. The canon of the New Testament was developed over the early centuries of the church, and the first known listing in its final form is the Paschal Letter of Athanasius of Alexandria in A.D. 367.Different Canons of the BibleProtestant Canon: 66 Bible BooksCatholic Canon: 81 Bible Books (See the Septuagint Bible with Apocrypha)About 50 versions of the English Bible are in circulation, with revised versions well into the hundreds. The most popular Bible translation is that of the King James Version, which is also public domain and doesn't require obtaining permission to reprint Scripture verses in published books. Bible Study Tools even has a list of the best-known versions and translations of the Bible for readers to peruse, with a brief explanation of each version.Old and New Testament Books of the BibleBrowse and read the Books of the BibleOld Testament BooksGenesisExodusLeviticusNumbersDeuteronomyJoshuaJudgesRuth1 Samuel2 Samuel1 Kings2 Kings1 Chronicles2 ChroniclesEzraNehemiahEstherJobPsalmsProverbsEcclesiastesSong of SolomonIsaiahJeremiahLamentationsEzekielDanielHoseaJoelAmosObadiahJonahMicahNahumHabakkukZephaniahHaggaiZechariahMalachiNew Testament BooksMatthewMarkLukeJohnActsRomans1 Corinthians2 CorinthiansGalatiansEphesiansPhilippiansColossians1 Thessalonians2 Thessalonians1 Timothy2 TimothyTitusPhilemonHebrewsJames1 Peter2 Peter1 John2 John3 JohnJudeRevelationDifference Between the Hebrew and Protestant BiblesHow the Bible was established to include what it does of stories and parables is part of the canonization process, which is, initially, a Christian communion performed by the Roman Catholic Church (as well as the Eastern Orthodox Church) to appoint selected deceased members of the church into the determined canon, or list, to be considered a saint in the church. The same process was applied to determine what books of the Bible would be included, whether the Spirit inspired them or not, to be the authorized Word of God. It comes from the Greek word "kanon," which means read or measured. It comes from the Greek word "kanon," which means read or measured. The Hebrew Bible consists of 24 books, believed to be determined by the councils of Jamnia in AD 90 and 118 as the list of books to be part of the Bible. There is still debate over what all the council selected to be canonized as the Bible, as this council has only been mentioned in ancient Hebrew writings. No confirmation has been found that this council existed or what they canonized. It is believed the Hebrew Bible was written between 1200 and 100 BC and has been in its current form since the second century BC.The believed criteria used to determine what books were canonized as the Word of God may have included prophetic authorship (text written by an apostle or prophet), inner witnesses of the Holy Spirit, eyewitness testimonies, and the final acceptance of the book by the people. Since Jesus' disciples were eyewitnesses to Jesus' actions and words, they were the ones to give authorization for the New Testament and whether something was divinely inspired.The Hebrew Bible and the Protestant Bible have the same content in the Old Testament, but the organization is different. For example, the Hebrew Bible has one book of Samuel, while the Protestant Bible has two. Primarily for those of Jewish faith, especially Messianic Jews, the first five books of the Bible are the Torah (or Pentateuch) and the main asset of the Bible, detailing how God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations and established the Law (Ten Commandments) as the way to live for God.Difference Between the Protestant and Catholic BibleThe Protestant Bible comprises much of the Hebrew Bible but organizes the stories into a larger collection than his Jewish predecessor. While the Hebrew Bible was formed entirely from ancient scrolls (24 for each book), the Protestant Bible combines the Hebrew Bible with the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible written in the third and second century BC.The Eastern/Greek Orthodox Church may use the New King James Version or other translations that allow more of the Greek translation to be used, coupled with their belief that the Bible's New Testament, with the story of Jesus, is precedent over the Old Testament. The Catholic Bible consists of 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament (which is the same NT as the Protestant Bible).The additional Old Testament sections in the Catholic Bible are Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), Baruch (includes Letters of Jeremiah), I and II Maccabees, and additional sections for the books of Daniel and Esther. Those of the Catholic faith believe what is in their Bible was canonized by the Synod of Rome council and the early church in AD 382.It was decided several years later, during the Reformation, by Protestants to follow more of the Greek translations of the Bible instead of the entire Hebrew Bible, which had been canonized and accepted in the original King James Bible by the Catholic Church.Thus, the Apocrypha is present in the Catholic Bible as a collection of books not found in the Protestant Bible. They can be found in the original 1611 King James Bible but were pulled from the Bible in 1885 and named "deuterocanonical books."Other Bible Translations for Other FaithsJehovah's Witnesses use their own version of the Bible, the New World Translation of Holy Scriptures, which they believe is more accurate, clearer, and has God's name listed as they believe it should in the text. Before this version, Jehovah's Witnesses heavily consorted to the King James Bible.For Mormons, there are four books they hold as the Word of God: The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ (which has believed records of how God interacted with people of America from 2000 BC to 400 AD), the King James Bible, the Doctrine and Covenants (collection of declarations about the formation and regulation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the last days), and The Pearl of Great Price (writings from Mormon church founder Joseph Smith).What Does This Mean?The debate over using canonized Scripture or more Greek translation-infused Scripture will continue as more people gravitate to reading and studying the Bible and the truth of the Holy Trinity.What is hoped is readers find a translation that allows their relationship with God to bloom and strengthen their awareness that Jesus lived and died for us so that we would be united with God for eternity.Here are 15 Bible Verses Every Christian Should Know By Heart for you to download and share with loved ones/Photo Credit: © Unsplash/dsmcoBlair Parke is a freelance writer for BibleStudyTools.com and freelance book editor who wrote her first book, "Empty Hands Made Full," in 2021 about her journey through infertility with her husband. She previously worked for eight years with Xulon Press as an editor. A graduate of Stetson University with a bachelor's in communications, Blair previously worked as a writer/editor for several local magazines in the Central Florida area, including Celebration Independent and Lake Magazine and currently writes for the Southwest Orlando Bulletin. She's usually found with a book in her hand or enjoying quality time with her husband Jeremy and dog Molly. You can order her book at Christian Author Bookstore - Xulon Press Publishing and visit her website at Parkplacediting. Written with the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit by shepherds, prophets, nobility, and more, the Bible has inspired laws, influenced culture, and uplifted billions in faith over three millennia.The Bible is the most-read book of all time, surpassing favorites such as The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and even classics like The Diary of Anne Frank and To Kill a Mockingbird. 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