

Section A

Introduction to the Bible

The Bible is made up of 66 separate books, arranged in the order shown on page 2.

The 66 books were written by about 40 different authors of many different occupations: kings, shepherds, prophets, herdsman, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and so on. These authors lived in ten different countries and wrote over a 1,600 year time span in three different languages.

Two testaments

The Bible is divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. A testament was a covenant or an agreement. So the two parts of a Bible simply record two covenants, each between God and men.

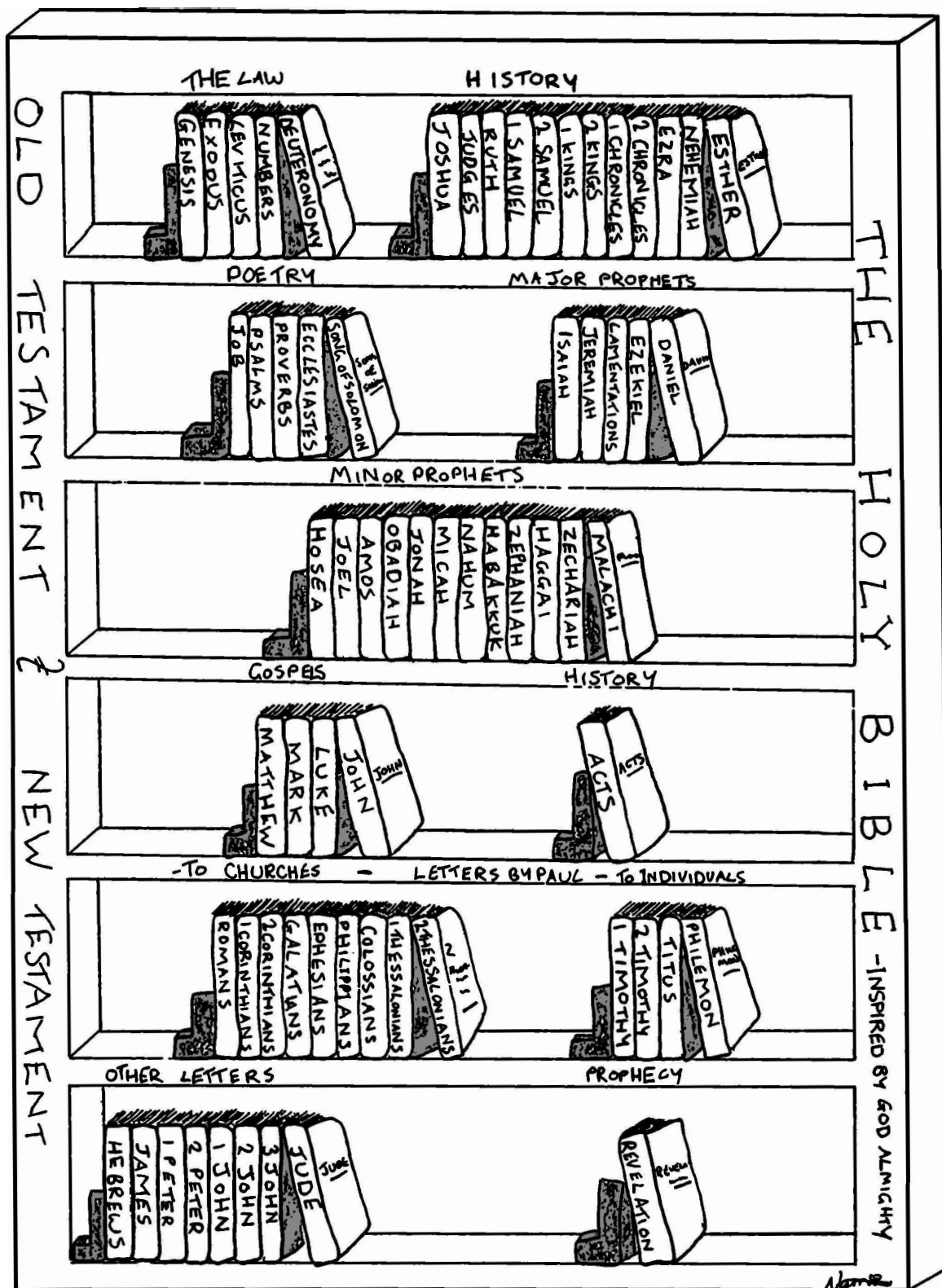
The *Old Testament* tells of events from the creation of man to about 400 years before Jesus Christ was born. It gives God's word as it related particularly to the people of Israel. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew with a few short sections in Aramaic.

The *New Testament* records God working with people through his son, Jesus Christ. In the New Testament it becomes clear that God's promises are to all people, not just to Israelites. The New Testament was originally written in Greek.

Chapters and verses

Each book of the Bible has been divided into chapters and each chapter has been further divided into verses.

When we give a Bible reference we give the book, chapter and verse. For example, **Jeremiah 30:3** refers to verse three of chapter thirty of the book of Jeremiah. Some very short books have only one chapter and so they are referred to just by verse numbers. For example, **Jude 24–25** refers to verses 24 and 25 of the book of Jude.



Book abbreviations

In references to Bible passages, abbreviations of book names are often used. Here are the most common abbreviations.

Ac, Acts	Acts of the Apostles	Jude	Jude
Am, Amos	Amos	Kgs, Kin, Ki	Kings
Chr, Chron	Chronicles	Lam	Lamentations
Col	Colossians	Lev	Leviticus
Cor	Corinthians	Lk	Luke
Dan	Daniel	Mal	Malachi
Dt, Deut	Deuteronomy	Mic	Micah
Ecc, Eccles	Ecclesiastes	Mk	Mark
Eph	Ephesians	Mt, Matt	Matthew
Est	Esther	Nah	Nahum
Ex, Exo, Exod	Exodus	Neh	Nehemiah
Eze, Ezek	Ezekiel	Num	Numbers
Ezr	Ezra	Oba, Obad	Obadiah
Gal	Galatians	Pet	Peter
Gen	Genesis	Phm, Philem	Philemon
Hab	Habbakuk	Php	Philippians
Hag	Haggai	Pr, Prov	Proverbs
Heb	Hebrews	Ps, Psa	Psalms
Hos	Hosea	Rev	Revelation
Is, Isa	Isaiah	Rom	Romans
Jam, Jms, Jas	James	Ru, Rth	Ruth
Jdg, Judg	Judges	Sam	Samuel
Jer	Jeremiah	SS, Song, Sol	Song of Solomon
Jn, Joh, Jhn	John	Th, The, Thess	Thessalonians
Job	Job	Tim	Timothy
Joel	Joel	Tit	Titus
Jon, Jnh	Jonah	Zec, Zech	Zechariah
Jos, Josh	Joshua	Zep, Zeph	Zephaniah