

Concise chronology of the Bible

2000 - 1185 B.C. The Hebrew Patriarchs - The Nomadic Era.

1500 B.C. Hebrews in Egypt

1250 - 1220 B.C. Exodus of Hebrews from Egypt

1185 - 1000 B.C. Hebrews in Palestine

600 - 580 B.C. Jewish Exile

539 - 332 B.C. Return to Palestine.

300 - 200 B.C. The Septuagint (LXX). The first translation of Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Written at Alexandria, Egypt from circa 286 - 280 B.C. The oldest known copy of this work (the *Codex Alexandrinus*, owned by the British Museum) is on vellum and dates from the Fifth Century.

200 B.C. The Dead Sea Scrolls (aka Qumram Manuscripts), the oldest dating from 200 B.C., are the fragmentary remains of the Jewish sect of Essenes. Discovered in 1947, over a hundred of the scrolls comprise the Old Testament, except for the Book of Esther. There are also thousands of other fragments, and all were discovered in a cave of the Qumram Valley near the Dead Sea.

63 B.C. - 70 A.D. Roman occupation of Palestine

4 B.C. Birth of Jesus

30 A.D. Crucifixion of Jesus.

50 - 150 A.D. Formulation and completion of New Testament, in Greek; earliest known manuscripts date from the 3rd & 4th Century A.D.

70 A.D. Destruction of Jerusalem and the temple;

300 - 500 A.D. Early codices: papyri, parchments, lectionaries, etc. (codex - manuscript book).

331 A.D. Emperor Constantine orders fifty Bibles for his churches in Constantinople from Eusebius of Caesarea.

382 A.D. Translation began of the *Vulgate*, (the Old and New Testaments in Latin) by St. Jerome at the request of Pope Damasus.

405 A.D. St Jerome issues a Latin Old Testament, translated from the Hebrew.

600 A.D. Jewish scholars begin work on the Masoretic text of the Old Testament.

801 A.D. Charlemagne is presented with a revised *Vulgate* by Alcuin on Christmas Day. This *Charlemagne's Bible* is now in the British Museum.

1000 A.D. Masoretic text completed in the 10th century, and has remained the Hebrew canon.

1250 The Illuminated Paris Bible; edited by scholars and theologians of the University of Paris.

1255 The monumental three-volume [Copenhagen, Kongelige Bibliotek, MS G. K. S.] *Hamburg Bible* (in folio) is completed.

1380 - 1388 (c) Wyclif Bible (sometimes *Wycliffe*) produced by the followers of John Wyclif, an English theologian and reformer. The Wyclif becomes the first complete, word-for-word translation of the *Vulgate* into English, into a Midland dialect. The *complete* Wyclif Bible remained unprinted until 1850. Also known as the *Lollard Bible*, extant in 170 copies.

1409 The Synod of Canterbury at St. Paul's, London, issues a decree forbidding the translation of the Scripture from one language to another, and the reading of a translation later than that of John Wyclif under penalty of greater excommunication, unless special license be obtained.