

The TANAKH

Torah

(450 BCE)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Nevi'im

(250 BCE)

Joshua

Judges

1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Kings

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Ketuvim

(90 CE)

Psalms

Job

Proverbs

Ruth

Song of Solomon

Ecclesiastes

Lamentations

Esther

Daniel

Ezra

Nehemiah

1st Chronicles

2nd Chronicles

The Tanakh, Jewish Scriptures, is the oldest section of the Christian Bible (Old Testament). It contains three sections that became "Scriptures" at different times. **TaNaKh** reflects the names of those sections. The first section is called the **TORAH**, which is the transliteration of a Hebrew word that may be translated as either "**Law**" or "**Instruction**." The **Torah** was canonized about **450 BCE** by Jews living in Babylon, under the leadership of Ezra the Scribe. He carried it to Judea under the authority of the Persian king.

The second section of the Tanakh was canonized about **250 BCE**. It is called **Nevi'im (Prophets)**. Later, the Sadducees would reject it, but others, including the Pharisees and Jesus Movement accepted it as part of the canon. The books at been written long before they were canonized

Around **250 BCE** two other related events occurred. First, the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek at Alexandria, Egypt. It is called the **Septuagint**. About the same time, a Jewish sect living by the Dead Sea at Qumran began making copies scrolls of books in the Tanakh and other writings. The scrolls were put in caves before the Romans destroyed the Jerusalem Temple in **70 CE**. They would not be discovered until **1947** and they are now called the **Dead Sea Scrolls**.

The third section is called **Ketuvim (Writings)**. It is generally agreed upon that most of these scrolls were treated as Scripture before **90 CE**, when they officially became part of the Jewish canon. Even after 90 CE disagreements continued, but the Jewish canon was finally closed at **Usha** in **140 CE** with the exclusion of the book of **Ben Sirach** and the inclusion of the book of **Esther**.

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