

The Historical Development of The Bible

Historical Maps

1200's B.C.E. – Biblical Minimalists vs. Biblical Maximalists

Politics: Exodus, wander in Sinai wilderness 40 years, conquest of Promised Land of Canaan (Joshua), tribes ruled by Judges, Prophets, Priests

Religion: Two early religious centers:
(1) Shiloh in the North - Tabernacle, Ark of the Covenant containing Tablets/10 Commandments, Levites - Priestly family of Moses
(2) Hebron in the South - Early Capital of Judah, Zadokites - Priestly family of Aaron

Bible: None written - Ballads, folk tales, victory songs passed down as oral traditions

1000 B.C.E. Establishment of the Monarchy--King David

Politics: Priest/Prophet Samuel anoints Saul as King; Saul oversteps bounds of royal authority, infringes on priestly prerogatives, breaks with Samuel who designates David as new King; Shiloh priests support David; Saul massacres all Shiloh priests; only Abiathar escapes; David becomes King of Israel, unites the 12 tribes of Israel into one Kingdom, moves the Capital of Judah from Hebron to Jerusalem

Religion: David makes Jerusalem his religious center; moves the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh and appoints two chief priests in Jerusalem:
(1) Abiathar of Shiloh (descendant of Moses)
(2) Zadok of Hebron (descendant of Aaron)

Bible: Still none written; Oral traditions continue

960 B.C.E. King Solomon

- Politics:** David dies, David's sons Solomon and Adonijah vie for the throne; Zadok supports Solomon; Abiathar supports Adonijah; Solomon made King
- Religion:** Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem, moves the Ark of the Covenant to the Holy of Holies and recognizes Zadok/Aaronid Priests as the official priesthood of the Temple; Solomon expels Abiathar and the Shiloh Priests from Jerusalem
- Bible:** Court History of David (2nd Samuel/1st Kings)

920 B.C.E. Civil War in Israel

- Politics:** Solomon dies; Israel splits into North/South; Prophet Ahijah of Shiloh (connected to the disenfranchised Shiloh priests) incites 10 Northern tribes to secede and establish the Kingdom of Israel; Ahijah designates Jeroboam King of Israel; two southern tribes Judah & Benjamin form Kingdom of Judah under Rehoboam
- Religion:** Jeroboam establishes two religious centers in Israel: Dan at the top and Beth-El at the bottom; Places two Golden Calves in these shrines and identifies Yahweh with the Canaanite deity El whose symbol was a Golden Calf; Jeroboam, like Solomon, betrays Ahijah/Shiloh priests excludes them from both of his new shrines

"Since the Shiloh priests were excluded from Israel's new religious structure, they condemned the Golden Calves of Jeroboam as heresy. Ahijah, the prophet of Shiloh who had originally designated Jeroboam as King, later prophesied the fall of the house of Jeroboam for this heresy. "Since the tribe of Levi had no territory of its own as the other tribes had, the Levites of Shiloh and elsewhere in Israel had only two choices: they could move to Judah and try to find a place in the priestly hierarchy there, or they could remain in Israel and make whatever living they could, perhaps performing various religious services outside of the two major religious centers, perhaps depending on others' generosity. If the priests of Shiloh were indeed descendents of Moses, their present status, or lack of status, in both kingdoms must have been bitter for them. They had fallen from leadership of the nation to poor, landless, dependency." (Who Wrote the Bible, by R.E. Friedman)

722 B.C.E. Assyria destroys the Northern Kingdom of Israel

- Politics:** After 200 years of rivalry between Northern Kingdom/Israel and Southern Kingdom/Judah, Assyrians destroy Israel, kill or deport the population; 10 tribes disappear forever; some refugees migrate south, mingle with Judah; Northern Kingdom repopulated with pagans who became the Samaritans; rejected by the Jews
- Religion:** Judah and Israel at odds over worship of God; Judah thought Israel too close to Canaanite worship of bull-El, would be punished by God
- Bible:** J source written within royal court in Judah; E written by anti-Aaron Shiloh Mushite priest (Golden Calf story in Exodus 32:1--33:11)

715 B.C.E. Hezekiah is King of Judah – Historical Maps

- Politics:** Judah is a small, weak, vassal of Assyria, King's power, stature diminished; forced to honor pagan idols, criticized by his people
- Religion:** Hezekiah's reform--Centralize the Temple Cult
Eliminate religious practice outside of the officially sanctioned Jerusalem Temple cult;
Destroy idols and "high places" where Yahweh was worshipped outside the Jerusalem Temple;
Sacrifice became a "sacred act" performed in a prescribed manner by an appointed "priest" at an officially recognized altar; the priest receives a portion (tithe) of the sacrifice
- Bible:** J and E are combined into a single narrative

"The centralization of religion meant that if you wanted to eat lamb you could not sacrifice your sheep at home or at a local sanctuary. You had to bring the sheep to the priest at the Temple altar in Jerusalem, which was now the only sanctioned location where they could conduct the sacrifices and receive their tithes." (Richard Elliott Friedman, Who Wrote the Bible, p.92)

600's B.C.E. Hezekiah's son Manasseh and grandson Amon under Assyrian and Babylonian domination; Manasseh/Amon reverse Hezekiah's reforms: reintroduce pagan worship in Judah & the Temple; rebuild "high places"

640 B.C.E. Hezekiah's great-grandson Josiah becomes King

Politics: Josiah takes advantage of Assyrian weakness & rise of Babylon, gains independence and expands Judean territory at Assyria's expense; Egypt allies with Assyria, invades Judah; Josiah killed

Religion: Josiah renews Hezekiah's religious reforms; destroys idols, "high places," centralizes the Cult of the Jerusalem Temple; brings all priests to Jerusalem to work as secondary to the official Temple priests; people forced to bring all sacrifices to the Jerusalem altar; After Josiah's death reforms again reversed

Bible: 622 B.C.E. Hilkiah the priest finds a "scroll of the Torah" in the Temple of Yahweh; Deuteronomy written by a Shiloh priest (Jeremiah?); purpose was to justify Josiah's reform and to secure the prerogatives of the Levitical priesthood

587 B.C.E. Babylon destroys Judah; Babylonian Captivity

Politics: Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroys Jerusalem & the Temple; population taken as captives to Babylon or flee to Egypt (Jeremiah); Ark of the Covenant lost; House of David dethroned; Obscure period, little evidence, few sources; 50 yrs. Sadness, bitterness, guilt, nostalgia

Religion: No Temple, cult, sacrifice; Rival Priesthoods powerless--nothing to fight over; Forced to reevaluate relationship to their homeland/God

Bible: JE, D already exist; P being written in Babylon

538 B.C.E. Persian Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon

- Politics:** Cyrus allows exiles to return to homeland and rebuild Temple; Zerubbabel leads exiles back from Babylon but disappears from the sources; Ark of the Covenant and Royal House of David cease to be mentioned; Prophecy diminishes
- Religion:** Second Temple completed in 516 B.C.E. (No Ark) High Priest and entire Temple Priesthood are Zadokite Aaronids; Mushite Levites demoted to secondary position as assistants of Aaronids
- Bible:** JE, D, P being put together in Babylon

458 B.C.E. Ezra, an Aaronid priest/scribe returns to Judah

- Politics:** Ezra has authority from Persian Emperor Artaxerxes to teach/enforce the law of God in Judah; Ezra shares power with Nehemiah, a political governor appointed by Artaxerxes; Judah now a province of the Persian empire ruled by Ezra-Nehemiah instead of Kings
- Religion:** Centralization of the Temple Cult finally achieved; One God/One Temple, No other religious centers Ezra enforces observance of the Sabbath, forces intermarriages with non-Jews to be dissolved
- Bible:** Ezra brings “the Torah of Moses” with him from Babylon---The Pentateuch as we know it today

“Ezra called a public assembly at the water gate of Jerusalem. He held it on the fall holiday, when the people would come from all over Judah to Jerusalem. On that occasion he brought out the scroll of the Torah and read it to the assembled mass. This was followed by a covenant ceremony in which the people renewed their commitment to their God and to their pact with him as written in this Torah.

The period of restoration, the age of the second Temple, appears. . . to have been a time of dedication to the book as never before. Why? Presumably because political authority was now in the hands of the priests who had more of an interest in it than the Kings had had. . .”
(Who Wrote the Bible, p. 160, by Richard E. Friedman)

The Persian Period

538-330 B.C.E.

With the advent of the Persian Empire on the world stage the scene is set for the appearance of the two cultures that combined to form our own civilization:

Judaism and Hellenism

- 538 B.C.E. Persian emperors permit Judeans to return from captivity in Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple of Yahweh
- 490 B.C.E. Persian Wars - Greece invaded by the same emperors; Persians defeated and expelled from Greece - Marathon

INCUBATION

480-330 B.C.E.

At the same time that the Jews were establishing their **Temple State** The Greeks were perfecting their revolutionary idea of the **City State**

Judaism/Hellenism: <http://people.uncw.edu/zervosg/PR238/Background.htm>

TEMPLE STATE VS. CITY STATE

The Temple State in Israel

Second Temple in Jerusalem;
Dwelling-place of Yahweh

Monarchy suppressed;
The Priestly Hierarchy rules the
Theocratic Judean Temple State

Torah of Ezra the Law of the land;
Purity/Holiness regulations govern
everyday life by Sacrificial System

Temple State provides Security to
people through the assurance that
their local society, the Jewish state,
and the universe was created and
maintained by their one true God

The City State in Athens

Parthenon in Athens; dedicated to
Athena, goddess of Wisdom

Kings/Tyrants ousted;
Elected officials (Archons) govern
the Democratic City State of Athens.

Civil Laws of Solon Codified; the
Individual Citizen is emancipated;
Equality of Rights for Citizens

Golden Age of Pericles; Anxiety
Humanism, Democracy, Spirit of
Individualism, Independence,
Philosophy, Scientific Method,
Classical art & literature, Holism

THE COMING OF THE GREEKS

The Greeks had defeated the Persian Superpower and stopped the spread of "barbarism." Now they counterattacked, overthrew the invader from the East, and spread Hellenic culture throughout the eastern world.

330-30 B.C.E. Phillip of Macedon conceived & his son Alexander the Great implemented the One World Idea based on Hellenic Culture; This was perpetuated by Rome and modern Euro-Americanism

323 B.C.E. Alexander's empire divided up after his death, Hellenistic Kingdoms established that dominate Middle East politics for 300 years; Judea caught between Greeks of Seleucid Syria and Ptolemaic Egypt; Judaism being progressively Hellenized

165 B.C.E. Maccabean Wars; Hellenizers vs. Judaizers; Jews struggle to preserve ethnic & religious identity against Greeks, Romans; Radical Judaizers; Qumran founded; Dead Sea Scrolls written

The Roman Empire is thoroughly Hellenized as it prevails throughout the East and West; Judea becomes a Roman Province in 63 B.C.E.; Cleopatra of Egypt is the last of the Hellenistic rulers as Egypt falls to Caesar Augustus in 30 B.C.E.; Jesus is born and lives amidst the Jewish struggles against the authority of Rome

70 C.E. - First Jewish Revolt crushed by the Romans; Jerusalem, the Temple, the Priesthood, the Sacrificial System destroyed; the idea of Yahweh as protector of Israelite Temple-State is shattered; Judaism and Christianity are homeless; thrust out into the hostile Roman Empire

70 CE: A Major Turning Point in Religious History

Judaism:

Pharisees survive; Jews regroup under Rabbis Synagogues; Bible Canon finalized at Jamnia (90 CE)

Jews do not adapt – form ghettos suffer persecution & separatism

2nd Jewish Revolt - Bar Kochba crushed Jerusalem renamed Aelia Capitolina - Temple State Idea dies until . . . ???

Christianity:

Peter and Paul killed by Nero; Priestly Hierarchy forms Church; Gospels written; NT canonized

Church adapts by transforming itself into a Hellenized Mystery Cult

325 C.E. Constantine the Great legalizes Christianity, which eventually becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire

THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON

- I. Definition of CANON (from the Greek ΚΑΝΩΝ or “measuring stick”)
 - a) a tool used to determine proper measurement
 - b) rule, model, standard, paradigm
 - c) List of Scriptural Books considered to be authoritative, inspired

2. Dead Sea Scrolls Facts
 - a) Total of 202 biblical mss found at Qumran--
Only one-fourth of the total number of mss found at Qumran
 - b) Among the other three-fourths were:
 - 1) Apocrypha--in the Greek Septuagint, not in the Hebrew (Tobit, Sirach, Letter of Jeremiah, Psalm 151)
 - 2) Pseudepigrapha--Books falsely ascribed to biblical figures (Enoch, Jubilees, Testaments of the 12 Patriarchs, and about 50 more books attributed to biblical figures like Moses, Noah, David, Jacob, Joseph, prophets)
 - 3) Sectarian Documents of the Essenes

3. THE “BEST SELLERS” AT QUMRAN
Copies of Books considered authoritative by Qumranites
 - 1) Psalms (36)
 - 2) Deuteronomy (29)
 - 3) Isaiah (21)
 - 4) ENOCH (20)**
 - 5) Exodus (17)
 - 6) JUBILEES (15-16) - Genesis (15)**
 - 7) Leviticus (13)
 - 8) Numbers, Twelve Prophets, Daniel (8 each)
 - 9) Jeremiah & Ezekiel (6 each)
 - 10) 1-2 Samuel, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations (4)
 - 11) TEMPLE SCROLL**, Judges, Kings, Ecclesiastes (3)
 - 12) Joshua & Proverbs (2 each)
 - 13) Ezra & 1-2 Chronicles (1 each)
 - 14) Esther & Nehemiah (0)

4. The Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for the Canon of the OT
 - a) DSS a snapshot of the Hebrew Scriptures at the time of Jesus
 - b) There was NO BIBLE--assorted biblical books/lots of non-biblical
 - c) The Canon of the Bible had not been put together yet!
*The Rabbis of Jamnia finally gave us our OT in 90 AD
 - d) Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls? Qumran or Temple Library?
 - 1) Copper Scroll
 - 2) Archaeology of Qumran--De Vaux vs. Donceel
 - 3) Same kinds of Scrolls found elsewhere, Masada

THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

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II. The New Testament Canon--The Official Collection of 27 Books

- 4 Gospels--Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- 1 Acts of the Apostles
- 14 Epistles of Paul
- 7 Catholic Epistles
- 1 Revelation

Some Popular Misconceptions about the NT Canon:

- The Books of the NT represent a unified tradition;
- The NT Canon existed from apostolic times
- The Apostles collaborated with each other in writing the NT Books

So What Really Happened?

Why Were the Gospels Written? To Preserve Jesus' teachings

- Jesus himself wrote nothing;
- Earliest Followers of Jesus felt no need to write anything, thought Jesus would return soon and the world would end;
- Peter & Paul killed by Nero in the mid-60's; Eyewitnesses dying out;

When Were the Gospels Written? Between 65 and 95 C.E.

- Historical Book of Acts ends in 64 C.E. just before Nero kills Peter & Paul
- 95 C.E. Apostolic Fathers begin quoting identifiable parts of the Gospels
- 65 to 95 C.E. is the most obscure period in the history of the Church; the Gospels themselves are the only surviving sources

Where Were the Gospels Written? Various Locations

- 70 C.E. Destruction of Jerusalem--the geographical center of the faith
- Christianity dispersed to the great administrative centers of the empire: Antioch, Alexandria, Ephesus, Corinth, Caesaria, Rome

After Jerusalem destroyed, no centralized authority/unifying organization; Centers developed independently with diversity of doctrine, organization, gospels and texts. The Church struggled for hundreds of years to overcome this diversity by standardizing its doctrine, hierarchy, NT Canon, and the texts of the gospels.

THE SYNOPTIC PROBLEM

The relationship between The First Three Gospels in the New Testament :
Matthew, Mark, Luke---The Synoptic Gospels (viewed together)

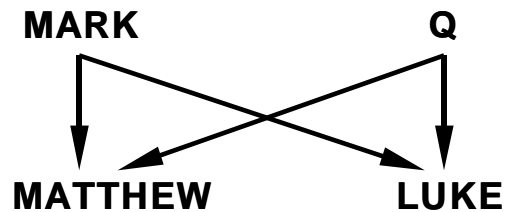
I. The Triple Tradition: Matt, Mark, and Luke
 share much common NARRATIVE material, same stories & sayings,
 often in the same order and using the same wording

II. The Double Tradition: Matt and Luke--No Mark
 Matt/Luke share 200 verses of common SAYINGS material;
 No parallel material in Mark;

	Matt	Mark	Luke
The Triple Tradition (Narrative)	Jesus went to the city and healed the people.	Jesus went to the city and healed the people.	Jesus went to the city and healed the people.
The Double Tradition (Sayings)	Jesus said pray like this: "Our Father."		Jesus said pray like this: "Our Father."

THE SOLUTION: THE TWO DOCUMENT HYPOTHESIS

- 1) Wherever Matt, Luke, and Mark have the same verbal material, Matt and Luke each used Mark as their source
- 2) Wherever Matt and Luke have the same verbal material, and there is no corresponding text in Mark, Matt & Luke used a second written source (now lost)
 Q is the symbol for this lost written document



Factors supporting the Primacy of Mark:

- 1) The great majority of Mark's material is reproduced in Matt and Luke:
 - a) Matt contains 606 of Mark's 661 verses
 - 90% of Mark's subject matter
 - 51% of Mark's own wording
 - b) Luke contains 350 of Mark's 661 verses
 - over 50% of Mark's subject matter
 - 53% of Mark's own wording
- 2) The originality of Mark's order is supported by both Matt and Luke:
 - a) When Matt or Luke deviates from Mark's order, the other follows it
 - b) Mark is always in the majority, siding with either Matt or Luke
- 3) Mark uses a rougher, more primitive Greek grammar & style:
 - a) Matt & Luke smooth out Mark's language
 - b) Matt & Luke omit or tone down offensive phrases in Mark
- 4) The way that Matt and Luke use Mark:
 - a) Matt uses Mark's story as his narrative framework
 - b) Luke uses Mark in alternating blocks with non-Markan material

Factors Supporting a Second Written Source (Q)

- Matt & Luke use verbatim Q material in completely different contexts:
- a) Matt arranges most of Q into five major sections in his Gospel
 - b) Luke leaves the Q material spread out in its original order

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Mark: the Original Narrative Gospel; Perspective of Peter

Least valued, rarely quoted & commented on in the ancient church; No Infancy material, No Resurrection appearances (in oldest mss); Little teaching of Jesus; most of its material found in Matt and Luke; Thought to have been written after Matt: Augustine called Mark the *pedisequus et breviator* (stable boy and abbreviator) of Matthew;

Matt: a New Testament Pseudepigraphon?

Written in Antioch, for Jewish-Christians, Jewish Biblical environment; important source of later Theology, especially in the Roman Church;

Luke: Perspective of Paul the Apostle

Written in Greece for Greco-Romans, Universal outlook, Holy Spirit

So Who Wrote the Gospels?:

The Chain of Evidence

- Before 65 Only the Letters of Paul exist; Say nothing about Gospels;
- 65-95 Gospels written; No other sources; The Gospels themselves are the only sources of information available about themselves;
- 95-130 The Only Sources are the "Apostolic Fathers;" Little information
 - 1) Clement of Rome--Wrote a Letter dated 96 CE
 - a) over 100 exact quotations from Greek Old Testament text frequently introduced by formula phrases such as: "the scripture says" and "it has been written"
 - b) 2 direct invocations of the "LOGOI of Jesus," but no exact quotation from the Gospels and no formulas; "Especially remembering the LOGOI OF THE LORD JESUS"-"Remember the LOGOI OF JESUS, our Lord"
 - 2) Ignatius of Antioch--Wrote 7 Letters; Martyred in Rome 110 C.E.;
 - a) uses formula "it is written" for 3 Old Testament passages;
 - b) loose references to Matt, John, maybe Luke, Paul's Epistles but did not quote them as Scripture
 - 3) Didache--Written in Syria, 1st half of 2nd century C.E.;
 - a) refers the text of Matt; but cites only the WORDS OF JESUS;
 - b) Matt is only a convenient collection of the Words of Jesus

Papias: The earliest witness to the authorship of the Gospels

130 C.E. Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis, wrote a five-volume book:

Exegesis of the Lord's Logia- now lost but later quoted as saying:

"Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately, though not in order, as many of the things either said or done by the Lord that he remembered. For neither did he hear the Lord, nor did he follow him, but afterwards as I said (followed) Peter, who (?) made the teachings according to the needs, but not like making a composition of the LORD'S LOGIA. So that Mark made no mistake thus having written some things as he recalled; for he was concerned about one thing, to omit nothing of what he heard or to falsify anything in them. . ."

"Matthew, then, composed the LOGIA in the Hebrew dialect, and each one interpreted them as he was able."

This is the last reference in history to the LOGIA of Jesus;

From this point on the LOGIA disappear and only the Gospels are referred

What were the Logia ? Oxyrhynchus Papyrus; Gospel of Thomas