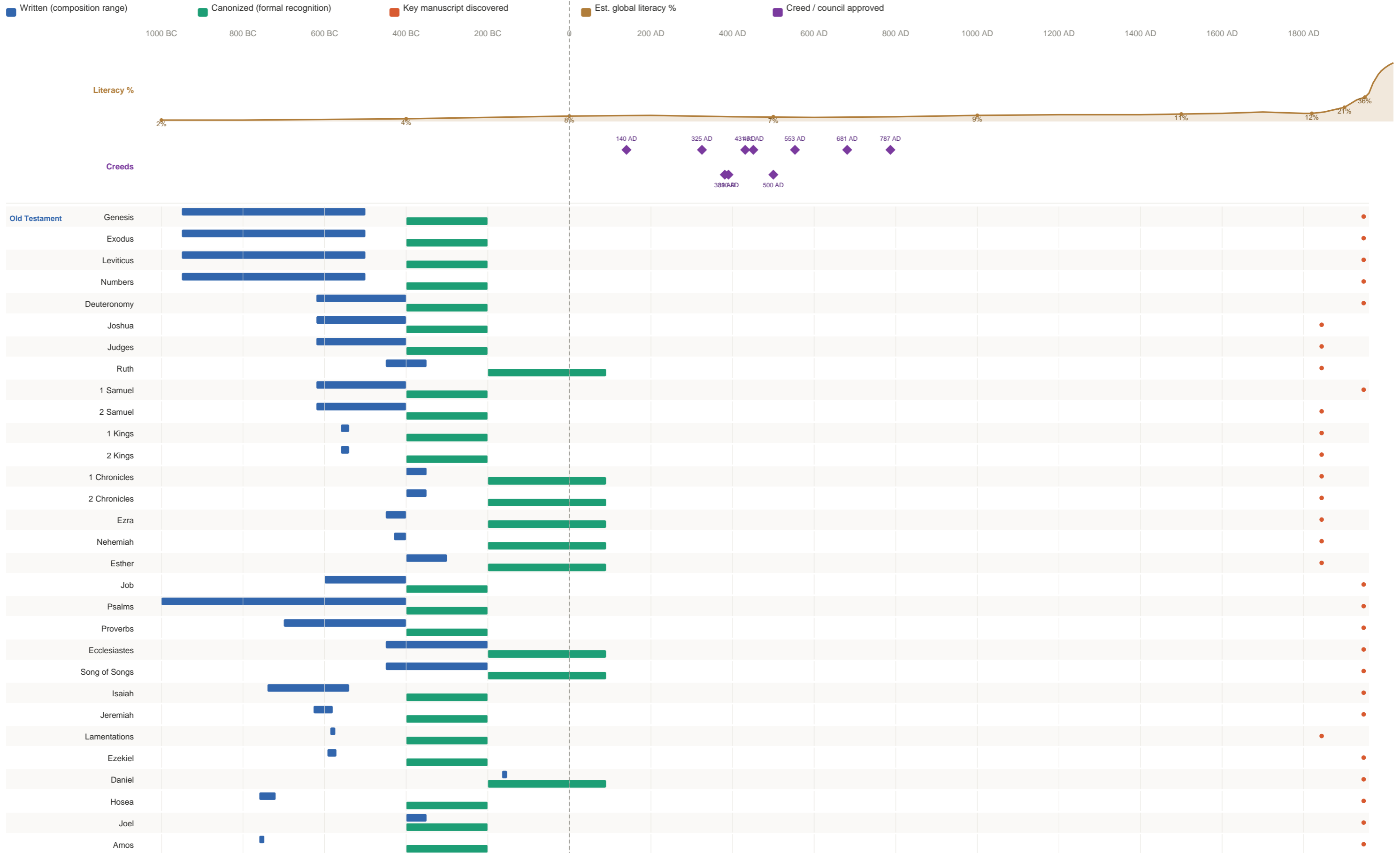


# Bible Books — Composition, Canonization & Manuscript Discovery

With estimated global literacy rate and key creed approvals • All dates approximate • Scholarly consensus varies



## Bible Books — Complete Reference Tables

All dates approximate • Scholarly consensus varies by tradition and source

### Old Testament (39 books)

Book	Written (approx.)	Canonized (approx.)	Literacy when written	Key Manuscript	Disc. Year
Genesis	~950 BC to ~500 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Exodus	~950 BC to ~500 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Leviticus	~950 BC to ~500 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Numbers	~950 BC to ~500 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Deuteronomy	~620 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Joshua	~620 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Judges	~620 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Ruth	~450 BC to ~350 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Samuel	~620 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
2 Samuel	~620 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Kings	~560 BC to ~540 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Kings	~560 BC to ~540 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Chronicles	~400 BC to ~350 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Chronicles	~400 BC to ~350 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Ezra	~450 BC to ~400 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Nehemiah	~430 BC to ~400 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Esther	~400 BC to ~300 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~4%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Job	~600 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~4%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Psalms	~1000 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Proverbs	~700 BC to ~400 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Ecclesiastes	~450 BC to ~200 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~5%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Song of Songs	~450 BC to ~200 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~5%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Isaiah	~740 BC to ~540 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Great Isaiah Scroll, DSS	1947
Jeremiah	~627 BC to ~580 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Lamentations	~586 BC to ~580 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Ezekiel	~593 BC to ~571 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Daniel	~165 BC to ~164 BC	~200 BC to ~90 AD	~6%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Hosea	~760 BC to ~720 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Joel	~400 BC to ~350 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~4%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Amos	~760 BC to ~750 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Obadiah	~586 BC to ~500 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Jonah	~400 BC to ~300 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~4%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Micah	~737 BC to ~690 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~2%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Nahum	~650 BC to ~612 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Habakkuk	~612 BC to ~598 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Zephaniah	~640 BC to ~620 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Haggai	~520 BC to ~518 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~3%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Zechariah	~520 BC to ~475 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~4%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Malachi	~450 BC to ~430 BC	~400 BC to ~200 BC	~4%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947

## Bible Books — Complete Reference Tables

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### Deuterocanon / Apocrypha (7 books — Catholic & Orthodox canon)

Book	Written (approx.)	Canonized (approx.)	Literacy when written	Key Manuscript	Disc. Year
Tobit	~225 BC to ~175 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~6%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Judith	~150 BC to ~100 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~7%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Maccabees	~100 BC to ~63 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~7%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Maccabees	~124 BC to ~63 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~7%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Wisdom of Solomon	~100 BC to ~50 AD	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Sirach / Ben Sira	~190 BC to ~180 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~6%	Dead Sea Scrolls	1947
Baruch	~200 BC to ~100 BC	~397 AD to ~400 AD	~6%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844

### New Testament (27 books)

Book	Written (approx.)	Canonized (approx.)	Literacy when written	Key Manuscript	Disc. Year
Matthew	~70 AD to ~85 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Mark	~65 AD to ~75 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Luke	~80 AD to ~90 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
John	~90 AD to ~100 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Rylands Papyrus P52	1920
Acts	~80 AD to ~90 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Romans	~56 AD to ~58 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Corinthians	~53 AD to ~55 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Corinthians	~55 AD to ~57 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Galatians	~48 AD to ~55 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Ephesians	~60 AD to ~62 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Philippians	~60 AD to ~62 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Colossians	~60 AD to ~62 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Thessalonians	~50 AD to ~51 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Thessalonians	~50 AD to ~52 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Timothy	~62 AD to ~67 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Timothy	~64 AD to ~67 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Titus	~62 AD to ~66 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Philemon	~60 AD to ~62 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Hebrews	~60 AD to ~90 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
James	~45 AD to ~65 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 Peter	~60 AD to ~65 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 Peter	~60 AD to ~100 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
1 John	~85 AD to ~100 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
2 John	~85 AD to ~100 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
3 John	~85 AD to ~100 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Jude	~65 AD to ~80 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844
Revelation	~95 AD to ~96 AD	~367 AD to ~397 AD	~8%	Codex Sinaiticus	1844

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### Key Creeds & Councils

Year	Creed / Council	Convening Body	Significance
140 AD	Old Roman Creed	Early church use	Earliest ancestor of the Apostles' Creed; used in baptismal instruction in Rome.
325 AD	Nicene Creed (original)	First Council of Nicaea, 325 AD	Affirmed Christ as 'of the same substance' as the Father; refuted Arianism.
381 AD	Nicene Creed (revised)	First Council of Constantinople, 381 AD	Expanded 325 creed with fuller language on the Holy Spirit; version recited today.
390 AD	Apostles' Creed	Western Church, ~390 AD	Short form first documented ~390 AD; full form by ~700 AD. Used in baptism and worship.
431 AD	Council of Ephesus	Third Ecumenical Council, 431 AD	Confirmed Nicene Creed; declared Mary as Theotokos; condemned Nestorianism.
451 AD	Chalcedonian Creed	Council of Chalcedon, 451 AD	Defined Christ as one person with two complete natures - fully divine and fully human.
500 AD	Athanasian Creed	Western Church, ~500 AD	Detailed Trinitarian formula countering lingering Arianism in Gaul and Iberia.
553 AD	2nd Council of Constantinople	Fifth Ecumenical Council, 553 AD	Reaffirmed Chalcedon; condemned the 'Three Chapters'; attempted reconciliation.
681 AD	3rd Council of Constantinople	Sixth Ecumenical Council, 680-681 AD	Condemned Monothelitism; affirmed Christ has two wills, divine and human.
787 AD	Second Council of Nicaea	Seventh Ecumenical Council, 787 AD	Restored veneration of icons; last council recognized by both Catholic and Orthodox.

### Estimated Global Literacy Rate — Key Data Points

Year	Est. Literacy %	Historical Context
1000 BC	2%	Ancient Near East - scribal elite only
400 BC	4%	Classical period - wider but still elite
0 AD	8%	Roman Empire peak - urban areas higher
500 AD	7%	Early Medieval - post-Roman decline
1000 AD	9%	Medieval - clergy and nobility only
1500 AD	11%	Pre-print - slight growth in Europe
1820 AD	12%	Pre-industrial global estimate (OECD)
1900 AD	21%	Early 20th century - slow growth
1950 AD	36%	Post-WWII - education expansion begins
1983 AD	70%	UNESCO data - rapid growth era
2020 AD	87%	Current global estimate (UNESCO)