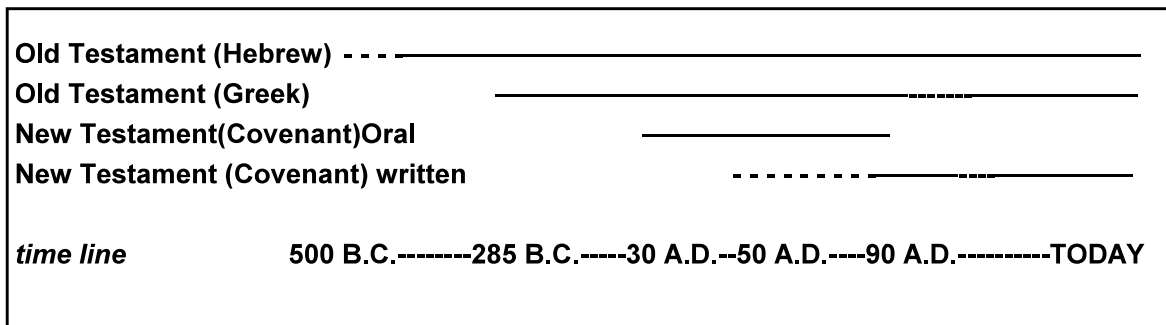


ACCESS TO THE SCRIPTURES



OLD- TESTAMENT (in Hebrew) appears to be complete by 400 B.C. (Tradition has Ezra collecting the books about 500 B.C.)

OLD TESTAMENT (Greek translation) was made in Alexandra, Egypt about 285-247 B.C. This translation was known to the people of Jesus' day, and there are quotations of the Old Testament (Greek translation) found in the New Testament (especially the book of Hebrews).

NEW TESTAMENT (oral) was spoken by the Apostles and other inspired men from the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit in A.D. 33 until near the end of the 1st Century.

NEW TESTAMENT (written) began around A.D. 50, with the last book written around A.D. 90. By the end of the 1st Century all of the books of the New Testament had been written.

The chart indicates that the Christians in the 1st Century had much of the Bible at their disposal (Old Testament and New Testament).

There is evidence that indicates the Christians in the 2nd Century had collected the books of the New Testament. In the 4th Century, when the spurious books were rejected and the canon of the New Testament became permanently established, it appears that for the most part the matter of which books were inspired and which were not inspired had long been settled.

References in the N.T. to other N.T. writings:

2Pe.3:15-16 . . . just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures . . .

Act.1:1; 1Cor 5:9; 2Cor.7:8, 10:9-10; Col.4:16; 2Pe.3:1