

What books were in Codex Sinaiticus

The [Codex Sinaiticus](#), a 4th-century manuscript, originally contained the entire Christian Bible in Greek (the Septuagint version of the Old Testament and the full New Testament), along with two additional early Christian works not typically found in modern Bibles.

Old Testament / Septuagint Books

While portions of the Old Testament are missing from the surviving manuscript, scholars believe it originally contained the full Septuagint canon. The surviving fragments and complete books include:

- Portions of the [Pentateuch](#) ([Genesis](#), [Exodus](#), [Leviticus](#), [Numbers](#), [Deuteronomy](#))
- Books from the **historical and poetic literature**, including [Judges](#), [1 Chronicles](#), [Psalms](#), [Proverbs](#), [Ecclesiastes](#), [Song of Songs](#), and [Job](#)
- The **Prophetic books**, including [Isaiah](#), [Jeremiah](#), [Lamentations](#), and the [Minor Prophets](#)
- **Deuterocanonical** (or Apocryphal) books:
 - [2 Esdras](#)
 - [Tobit](#)
 - [Judith](#)
 - 1 & 4 Maccabees
 - Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon)
 - [Sirach \(Ecclesiasticus\)](#)

New Testament Books

The Codex Sinaiticus contains the complete [New Testament](#) as it is known today, though the order of the books differs from modern Bibles. The order is:

- The four Gospels ([Matthew](#), [Mark](#), Luke, John)
- The [Pauline Epistles](#) (Romans, 1 & [2 Corinthians](#), [Galatians](#), [Ephesians](#), Philippians, [Colossians](#), 1 & [2 Thessalonians](#)), followed by the [Letter to the Hebrews](#)
- The [Acts of the Apostles](#)
- The General Epistles ([James](#), 1 & [2 Peter](#), 1, 2 & [3 John](#), [Jude](#))
- The [Book of Revelation](#)

Other Early Christian Writings

In addition to the canonical books, the codex includes two other important early Christian texts, appended after the New Testament:

- The [Epistle of Barnabas](#)
- Most of [The Shepherd of Hermas](#)

The digitized manuscript can be viewed online via the [Codex Sinaiticus Project website](#), a collaboration between the four institutions that house the various parts of the codex.

Books in Codex Vaticanus

The [Codex Vaticanus](#), a 4th-century Greek manuscript of the Bible, contains the majority of the Old and New Testaments, with some notable exceptions. It has been housed in the Vatican Library since at least the 15th century.

Old Testament / Septuagint Books

The Codex Vaticanus originally contained almost the entire Greek Old Testament ([Septuagint](#)). The order of the books in the codex is unique and includes deuterocanonical (Apocryphal) books.

Extant and Missing Portions:

- **Missing from the beginning:** The first part of [Genesis](#) (up to Genesis 46:28).
- **Missing due to a tear:** A portion of [2 Kings](#) (2 Kings 2:5–7, 10–13).
- **Missing books:** The [Books of Maccabees](#) and the [Prayer of Manasseh](#) were likely not included originally and are missing from the codex.
- **Contained books:** The rest of the Old Testament books are included in the codex, such as the Pentateuch (after the missing [Genesis](#) portion), historical books ([Judges](#), 1 & [2 Chronicles](#)), poetic books ([Psalms](#), [Proverbs](#), [Ecclesiastes](#), [Song of Songs](#), [Job](#)), and prophetic books ([Isaiah](#), [Jeremiah](#), [Baruch](#), [Lamentations](#), [Epistle of Jeremiah](#), [Ezekiel](#), [Daniel](#), the Minor Prophets).

New Testament Books

The [New Testament](#) portion is mostly complete but lacks a few specific books.

Extant and Missing Portions:

- **Extant books:**
 - The four Gospels ([Matthew](#), [Mark](#), Luke, John). The [Gospel of Mark](#) ends at verse 16:8, with the rest of the traditional longer ending missing from the original manuscript.
 - [Acts of the Apostles](#)
 - The General Epistles ([James](#), 1 & [2 Peter](#), 1, 2 & [3 John](#), [Jude](#)).
 - The [Pauline Epistles](#) ([Romans](#), 1 & [2 Corinthians](#), [Galatians](#), [Ephesians](#), Philippians, [Colossians](#), 1 & [2 Thessalonians](#)).
 - The [Epistle to the Hebrews](#) (up to [Hebrews](#) 9:14).
- **Missing books:**
 - 1 & 2 Timothy, [Titus](#), and [Philemon](#) (Pastoral Epistles).
 - The Book of [Revelation](#).

The missing parts of [Hebrews](#) and [Revelation](#) were added later by a different scribe in the 15th century.

Spacing, new lines, blank pages, and margins

Both the [Codex Sinaiticus](#) and [Codex Vaticanus](#) were meticulously prepared but followed different conventions regarding layout elements like spacing, new lines, blank pages, and margins, largely influenced by cost considerations and the intended use of the manuscript.

Spacing and New Lines

- **Scriptio Continua:** Both codices were written in *scriptio continua* (continuous script), meaning words were generally not separated by spaces.
- **Textual Divisions:**
 - **Codex Sinaiticus** often used a slight extension of the initial letter into the left margin (a *paragraphos* mark) to indicate a new section or paragraph. The scribes might also start a new section on a fresh line, especially in the four-column format where space was more readily available. In the poetic books (two columns), the text was broken into "sense lines," with each new phrase beginning on a new line, sometimes with indentation, to emphasize the verse structure.
 - **Codex Vaticanus** typically used mid-line spacing accompanied by a middle dot or *paragraphos* for divisions. The first letter of a new chapter sometimes protruded slightly from the column.

Blank Pages

- **Cost and Efficiency:** The scribes aimed to maximize the use of expensive parchment, so completely blank pages were rare within the main body of a book.
- **Transitional Blank Spaces:** Blank spaces were strategically used at the end of a book or section:
 - In **Codex Vaticanus**, a significant blank space follows the end of the Gospel of Mark (Mark 16:8), which scholars argue was an intentional choice by the scribe, indicating awareness of the verses 9-20 but a decision not to include them in the primary text. Other blank spaces in Vaticanus occur between major sections to accommodate changes in column format or book transitions.
 - **Codex Sinaiticus** also used blank spaces at the end of sections, sometimes to emphasize a final word or phrase, such as "farewell" at the end of embedded epistles in Acts.

Margins

- **Generous Margins:** Both codices feature generous margins around the text block, a common feature in high-quality, expensive manuscripts.
- **Purpose:** These wide margins were crucial for:
 - **Aesthetics and design:** Creating a neat and visually appealing page.

- **Corrections and Annotations:** The large margins provided ample space for the extensive corrections and marginal additions (*marginalia*) made by numerous correctors over centuries.
- **Eusebian Canons:** In Vaticanus, notes relating to the Eusebian Canons (a cross-referencing system for the Gospels) were placed in the margins.
- **Quire Numbers:** The quires (folded sheets forming sections of the book) were numbered in the margins in both codices to guide assembly.
-

**** End of Page**