

## Question:

Names Of Prophets That Wrote Both The New And Old Testament Of The Holy Bible And The Books Each Wrote

## Answer:

It is possible to answer this question about many books with a high degree of certainty, but some books aren't so easy to place. I'm going to list the books in order of appearance and give a name and or a note number. The note numbers will refer to paragraphs after the list.

Genesis:

Exodus:

Leviticus:

Numbers:

Deuteronomy: Moses 1

Joshua: Joshua son of Nun 2

Judges: Uncertain 2

Ruth: Uncertain 2

1, 2 Samuel: Uncertain 3

1, 2 Kings: Uncertain 3

1, 2 Chronicles: Ezra or Nehemiah 4

Ezra: Ezra the priest

Nehemiah: Nehemiah

Esther: Uncertain 5

Job: Traditionally Moses 6

Psalms: Multiple authors including David

Proverbs: Solomon

Ecclesiastes: Solomon

Song of Songs: Solomon

Isaiah: Isaiah the prophet

Jeremiah:

Lamentations: Jeremiah

Ezekiel: Ezekiel the prophet

Daniel: Multiple authors including Daniel 7

Hosea:

Joel:

Amos:

Obadiah:

Jonah:

Micah:

Nahum:

Habakkuk:  
Zephaniah:  
Haggai:  
Zechariah:  
Malachi: Named after their authors with the possible exception of Jonah.

Matthew:  
Mark:  
Luke:  
John: Named after their authors, though Mark's primary source seems to have been Peter.  
Acts: Luke  
Romans:  
1, 2 Corinthians:  
Galatians:  
Ephesians:  
Philippians:  
Colossians:  
1, 2 Thessalonians:  
1, 2 Timothy:  
Titus:  
Philemon: Paul the apostle.  
Hebrews: Traditionally Paul  
James: James the brother of Jesus.  
1, 2 Peter: Peter the apostle.  
1, 2, 3 John: John the apostle.  
Jude: Possibly another brother of Jesus.  
Revelation: John the apostle.

## NOTES:

1. Moses is the author by Jewish tradition. However, part of Deuteronomy describes the death of Moses so it's highly unlikely he wrote that part.

2. Joshua is so named because it's the story of the time Joshua served as Moses' successor. He may have written some of it but we can't be certain. Judges probably had several authors. The ones who wrote the last few chapters must have been among the group that wanted a king to rule Israel in the days when Samuel was growing old. The love story of Ruth, important to the background for David, has no internal evidence for who wrote it.

3. These four books belong together and form a single narrative of the history of Israel from the days of Samuel to the Babylonian captivity. Samuel couldn't have written even all of 1 Samuel, because he's already dead in the closing chapters which describe the demise of Saul. In some languages these books are given a single name (such as German, where they are 1-4 Köenig).

These books are clearly written from the viewpoint of the prophets. The story of Hezekiah in these books matches almost word for word the story of Hezekiah in the book of Isaiah, while the account given in the books of Chronicles is quite different. These books include the stories of Elijah and Elisha in a level of detail not included in Chronicles.

4. These books do a lot more moralizing than do the earlier books written from the viewpoint of the prophets. This reflects the culture of Israel after the Babylonian captivity (as detailed in the book of Nehemiah). The last two verses of 2 Chronicles match the first two plus verses of Ezra word for word, leading us to believe that whoever wrote Ezra also wrote Chronicles.

It does seem that Nehemiah wrote at least parts of the book that bears his name because of the prayers included in the later chapters which are not introduced.

5. The book of Esther is rather enigmatic in that it does not mention God or prayer directly. Maybe Esther's uncle Mordecai wrote the book after the events, but the text does not identify its author.

6. Jews believe Moses wrote this book, and there's no internal or external evidence to suggest otherwise. Some scholars believe Job may have been the king of Edom mentioned in Genesis 36:33, Jobab. That makes some rather disturbing suggestions about the state of Jacob's descendants at this same time. But I won't get into that.

7. This book is the story of Daniel, and includes his descriptions of some of his dreams. But chapter four was clearly written by Nebuchadnezzar himself. The early, historical chapters could well have been written by one of Daniel's friends.

8. The question of who wrote Hebrews can become a heated one at times. Some seem certain that Paul wrote the book, but others note that it has none of the hallmarks associated with Paul's other books, which were really letters. Paul clearly identifies himself as the author in all his other books, making us wonder why he would write something and not identify himself. I even heard someone speculate once that maybe Priscilla wrote this book.

Now a few items not included as "notes."

The psalms are a collection of poetry from many parts of Israel's history. Some of them are clearly identified as being written by David, but Moses is named as the author of at least one, and one was probably written in the early days of the Babylonian captivity. Solomon is also named as an author in the book.

Most of Proverbs is clearly by Solomon, including a section put together by Hezekiah's men many years later. The last two chapters include sections from Agur and King Lemuel, or at least the sayings king Lemuel's mother taught him. Maybe she was the author of the somewhat familiar "virtuous wife" passage at the end of chapter 31.

Some Jewish scholars say the books of the "major" prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) may have included the writings of some lesser prophets active at the same time as the prophets who contributed their names to these books.

The Bible was written by humans at the direction of God. But God did not dictate to them. Each book carries the stamp of its author's character, outlook, and understanding of God. But the prophets wrote at the prompting of the spirit, not of their own accord. Nor did any of the authors have influence on whether their work would be considered part of scripture. So we are to read seeking the message God wanted to communicate. The author becomes a pipeline through which the message is communicated, not the origin of the message.

May God bless you as you study his word and may its message reach your heart and mind and change you to better reflect the image of its true author.

Elkanah