CANON REFERENCE / SOURCE-MAPPED INVENTORY

The Ethiopian Bible: understanding 81 books

A printable companion to the annotated inventory at ethiopianbiblebooks.com/ethiopian-bible-books-list.

The inventory follows the **Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church website's numbered list**: 46 Old Testament entries and 35 New Testament entries. It preserves that source's order and grouped entries. It is not a universal inventory of every historical manuscript or printed edition.

Arrangement	Old Testament	New Testament	Total
Church-webpage / broader arrangement	46	35	81
Narrower arrangement discussed by scholars	54	27	81

Why the counting matters

Different arrangements change both grouping and scope. The source combines 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Ezra and Nehemiah, and 2 and 3 Meqabyan. It gives Proverbs and Tegsats separate entries. Subtracting 66 from 81 does not produce a reliable list of 15 additional works.

Four names to check

Meqabyan: Ethiopian works, distinct from Greek Maccabees.
Clement: Ethiopic Qalementos, not the works normally called 1 and 2 Clement.
Didascalia: identify the Ethiopian work; similar titles can designate different textual forms.
Ezra / Esdras: numbering varies. Identify the actual text, not only its number.

What this reference establishes

Use it to understand a source's enumeration and ask better questions about an edition. A matching book count does not certify translation accuracy, church authorization, completeness of passages, or printing quality. The web reference and CSV/JSON include original labels, normalization notes, provenance, and checked dates.

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THE CHURCH-WEBPAGE ENUMERATION / 46 ENTRIES

Old Testament

Read down the left column, then the right. Names are normalized; grouping and order follow the cited church-hosted list. A combined row remains one numbered source entry.

1	Genesis	24	Proverbs (Messale)
2	Exodus	25	Tegsats / Tegsas (Reproof)
3	Leviticus	26	Wisdom of Solomon (Metsihafe Tibeb)
4	Numbers	27	Ecclesiastes
5	Deuteronomy	28	Song of Songs
6	Joshua	29	Isaiah
7	Judges	30	Jeremiah
8	Ruth	31	Ezekiel
9	1 and 2 Samuel	32	Daniel
10	1 and 2 Kings	33	Hosea
11	1 Chronicles	34	Amos
12	2 Chronicles	35	Micah
13	Jubilees	36	Joel
14	Enoch (1 Enoch)	37	Obadiah
15	Ezra and Nehemiah	38	Jonah
16	Second Ezra and Ezra Sutuel	39	Nahum
17	Tobit	40	Habakkuk
18	Judith	41	Zephaniah
19	Esther	42	Haggai
20	1 Meqabyan	43	Zechariah
21	2 and 3 Meqabyan	44	Malachi
22	Job	45	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
23	Psalms	46	Joseph ben Gorion (Josippon / Zena Ayhud)

Identification notes

Proverbs / Messale and Tegsats divide familiar Proverbs material. The Ezra names are intentionally preserved without forcing one tradition's numbering onto another. Jeremiah and Daniel headings do not reveal every associated text or addition. Joseph ben Gorion / Josippon is not a label for the complete collected works of Flavius Josephus.

Baseline: ethiopianorthodox.org/english/canonical/books.html. Full original labels and individual caveats: EthiopianBibleBooks.com/ethiopian-bible-books-list.

New Testament

Read down the left column, then the right. Entries 28-35 are the four Sinodos sections, two Covenant books, Ethiopic Clement, and Ethiopian Didascalia.

1	Matthew	19	Hebrews
2	Mark	20	1 Peter
3	Luke	21	2 Peter
4	John	22	1 John
5	Acts	23	2 John
6	Romans	24	3 John
7	1 Corinthians	25	James
8	2 Corinthians	26	Jude
9	Galatians	27	Revelation
10	Ephesians	28	Sirate Tsion (Sinodos section)
11	Philippians	29	Tizaz (Sinodos section)
12	Colossians	30	Gitsew (Sinodos section)
13	1 Thessalonians	31	Abtilis (Sinodos section)
14	2 Thessalonians	32	First Book of the Covenant
15	1 Timothy	33	Second Book of the Covenant
16	2 Timothy	34	Ethiopic Clement (Qalementos)
17	Titus	35	Ethiopian Didascalia
18	Philemon		

Sources and scope

Primary list: Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church website, The Bible, citing Holy Synod and mission publications. ethiopianorthodox.org/english/canonical/books.html

Interpretation: R. W. Cowley, The Biblical Canon of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Today, Ostkirchliche Studien 23 (1974), 318-323; G.-A. Mikre-Sellassie, The Bible and its Canon in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, The Bible Translator 44.1 (1993), 111-123. Full links and methodological notes are on the web reference.

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