

THE BIBLE

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the holy scriptures of God, a message from Him for the human race. Because of sin, God cannot be with us in person. If we were in His presence and looked at His face, we would die. He gave the Bible to people so that they could get to know Him without seeing Him.

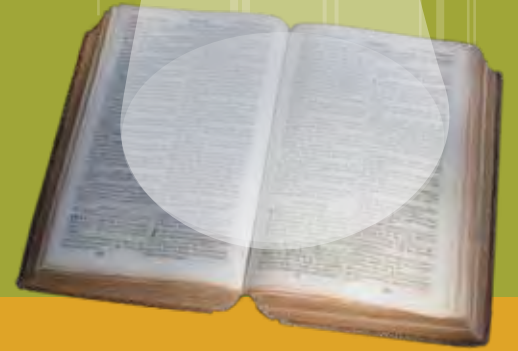
Names:

- The Holy Bible
- The Word of God
- The Holy Scriptures
- The Book of Books
- The Oracles of God

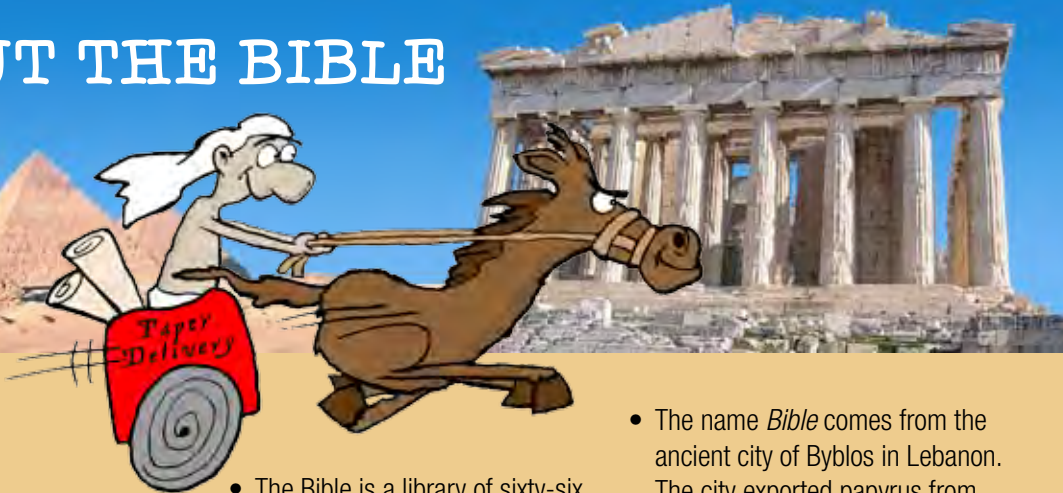
The Bible is:

- God's holy book
- A written picture of God
- The absolute truth about God
- The story of the rescue of human beings
- The only book with authority above all other books
- God's instructions to be obeyed by all people

Old Testament
+ New Testament
= The Bible



ABOUT THE BIBLE



• *Testament* means an agreement or contract between two people or groups. The Old and New Testaments are an agreement between God and people that He can and will save them from eternal death if they will accept Him as their God.

• The Bible is a library of sixty-six books. The Bible books were written over a period of about 1,500 years, from roughly 1450 BC to AD 90. The first author was Moses, and the last author was Jesus' disciple John. About forty different authors wrote the books of the Bible.

• The name *Bible* comes from the ancient city of Byblos in Lebanon. The city exported papyrus from Egypt to Greece. In Greek, the word Byblos became the name for paper in business and trade. Later the word came to mean "book." The plural word *Biblia* means books and ended up as the name for the collection of books we call the Bible.



The Bible is NOT

- A science textbook
- A guide to politics
- A joke book
- An ordinary book
- A book you can ignore

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Billions of copies have been sold or given away free.

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S TRUTH

King David said, "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal" (Psalm 119:160).

The stories in the Bible really happened. Jesus accepted them as true. He said that Adam and Eve were the first people (Matthew 19:2–4); He told the Pharisees to remember Jonah in the big fish (Matthew 12:38–41); and He spoke about Noah and the Flood as a historical fact (Matthew 24:37–39).

Jesus Himself was written about by many people who saw Him in person. His life, death, and resurrection are undeniable historical facts.



HOW IT WAS WRITTEN

God did not write the Bible Himself. He did not dictate the exact words that His prophets and followers should say. Instead, He guided the thoughts and ideas of the men who wrote the books.

VISIONS AND DREAMS. Some Bible writers saw a vision or had a dream. For example, "The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel" (Amos 1:1). Seeing a vision is like having a dream when you're awake. Daniel heard God speak in a dream while he was asleep, after he asked to know the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

INSPIRED THOUGHTS. The Holy Spirit put thoughts into the minds of some writers. Samuel heard the Spirit tell him something "in his ear" (1 Samuel 9:15). King David said, "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me" (2 Samuel 23:2). Nehemiah said, "By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets" (Nehemiah 9:30). The prophets used their own words to write down the message from the Holy Spirit. The disciple John wrote the prophecies of Revelation when he was "in the Spirit" (Revelation 1:10).

THE BIBLE EXPLAINS

THE PROBLEM: sin

THE ENEMY: Satan

OUR RESCUER: Jesus

OUR MESSED-UP HOME: planet earth

OUR FUTURE, PERFECT HOME: the new earth

The Bible is the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

WHAT THE BIBLE IS FOR

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15–16).

