

THE BIBLE

What is The Bible?

The Bible is the most important book in the world. Written in it are things we know about God. The Bible tells us how much God loves us. It is the true, inspired Holy Word of God. Through the words of Sacred Scripture, God directly speaks to us. The apostle Paul described the Bible as "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). God breathed through the human beings who wrote the Bible. This is what makes The Bible different from all other books.



The Bible is the living word of God! When you read The Bible, you get to know God better. This is because God is actually speaking to us through The Bible.

When you pick up a Bible, you are holding more than one book. You are actually holding a whole library. This is because The Bible contains 73 books, written by lots of different people, over a period of about two thousand years. The books contain true events, stories, poems, songs, prayers, letters and even predictions about the future (known as prophecies). Best of all, it includes the real, true-life story of Jesus, whom God sent to earth to save the world.

How did we get The Bible?

In ancient times, many people didn't know how to write or read. They didn't even have books. They didn't even have paper and pens! Instead, they told stories. The Bible begins with the oldest stories about how God created the universe, earth, plants, animals and the first human beings. It includes stories of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark and The Tower of Babel. These very early stories in The Bible were originally passed down orally from generation to generation. The word orally means by mouth.

Since God's stories were so important, people made a special effort to write them down. But in ancient times, the only people able to read and write were called scribes. The word scribe comes from a Latin word which means 'to write'. Most books of The Bible were copied down by scribes on papyrus scrolls (Jeremiah 36:2). Later, they were written on parchment. Thanks to the scribes' hard work, the message of God's love spread all over the ancient world (Psalm 45:1).

In the early church, people who loved God had special meetings called councils to decide which books would be included in the final versions of the Bible. Before each council, they prayed for The Holy Spirit to help them choose just the right books.

46 books of the Old Testament

73 books in

27 books of the New Testament.

Old Testament

Pentateuch
Historical Books
Biblical Novellas
Wisdom Books
Prophetic Books



New Testament

Gospels
New Testament
Letters
Catholic Letters

This is different to the Christian Bible which has 66 books in total!

Old Testament

Pentateuch

Historical Books

Biblical Novellas

Wisdom Books

Prophetic Books

PENTATEUCH

The first 5 books of the Old Testament – shared with the Torah

HISTORICAL BOOKS

Cover the life of the Jewish people from the time they entered the Promised Land to the time of the Maccabees. In particular, the books of Joshua and Judges cover the earliest period in the history of the Jewish people, when the Jewish tribes that populated the Promised Land had not yet been united into one state, but were separate from each other to a lesser or greater extent.

BIBLICAL NOVELLAS

Short books of The Bible - providing moral or intellectual instruction.

WISDOM BOOKS

Statements by sages and wise men that offer teachings about divinity and virtue

PROPHETIC BOOKS

Prophecies of the Birth of Christ and what was to come for mankind

“The Bible is a love letter from God to Humanity. We need His word so that we can hear, amid the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that one word that speaks to us not about things, but about life.”

– Pope Francis January 26th 2020 (said at the mass for the Word of God in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican)



GOSPELS

Originally meant the Christian message itself, but in the 2nd century it came to be used for the books in which the message was set out. The four gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — were written between AD 70 and 100, and are the main source of information on the life of Jesus

New Testament

Gospels

New Testament Letters

Catholic Letters

NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Attributed to Paul – he was spreading the word of God

CATHOLIC LETTERS

The reason for the term “catholic,” which means “universal,” was the perception that these letters, unlike those of Paul, which were directed to a particular local church, were apparently addressed more generally to the universal church.

The Acts of the Apostles is the second book written by St. Luke and serves as a sequel to his Gospel

The Book of Revelation, often called the Revelation to John, the Apocalypse of John, The Revelation, or simply Revelation, the Revelation of Jesus Christ (from its opening words) or the Apocalypse (and often misquoted as Revelations), is the final book of the New Testament, and therefore also the final book of the Christian Bible.