

If you've talked to Christians, you may have heard them say "Scripture says..." or "God's word says..." all referring to what the Bible teaches. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do they do that?!"

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 different books written by 40 different authors over 1500 years. It's a book telling the story of God's relationship with people (us). God is timeless — He has always been and always will be. He was here from the beginning (and before), and He has had interactions with many people over thousands of years. So, many different people wrote down the things God wanted as small parts of the Bible, called books. These were collected together into what we call the Bible.

The books of the Bible are divided into two big parts.

Part of the Bible	Number of Books	Description
Old Testament	39	The Old testament tells us how the world was created and how God chose a people to follow Him. The people who were chosen wrote down God's words and actions. The Old Testament tells us where we came from and how the Messiah was coming to save us.
New Testament	27	The New Testament is all about Jesus, and what He did for us. It finishes with what will happen at the end of the world—more prophesies of coming events. The New Testament tells the story of the Messiah, our savior, what He did for us, and what will happen in the future.

What Makes the Bible Different?

The Bible has been shown to be accurate historically AND in the future it predicted. Because the Bible is historically and archeologically accurate, we can trust it for telling us the truth. We know it is God's word to us.

Historical Accuracy of the Bible

The Bible is so historically accurate that archeologists have been using it for centuries to find ancient cities. The things it said happened have been shown again and again to have actually happened. That makes it a good book to trust!

Prophetical Accuracy of the Bible

The Bible is full of prophecy, letting everyone know what will happen hundreds of years in the future. For example:

700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah was told by God to write down that the Messiah would be born in a tiny town named Bethlehem. This is, of course, where Jesus was born. (Mic 5:2, Mt. 2:1)

750 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Hosea was told by God to write down that the Messiah would be called out of Egypt. This may have seemed strange because the Messiah was supposed to be born in Bethlehem, which is not very close to Egypt, but it happened!

And about 600 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah was told by God to write down that the Messiah would be “pierced for our transgressions” which He was, and that He would die with criminals, which He did, and that He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb, which also happened.

The only way that these men, living centuries before Jesus, could have known these things, was if God had told them. And that tells US something; it lets us know that God was directly involved in what was written in the Bible.

What Does the Bible Tell Us?

The Bible is, essentially, the story of God’s love and justice here on Earth. In all, it is God’s truth from the beginning of time to the end of time as God shows us His role in creating, loving, and saving us.

Why Does the Bible Matter?

It has God’s words that tell us about His love and His justice. This means it is VERY important to our lives. How so?

First, and most importantly, the Old Testament explains that all people choose to follow sin. We may try to be good, but no matter how hard we try, we end up sinning just like the Israelites did.

So, the Bible lets us know how God was going to save us; by coming to Earth and taking our punishment. He did that as Jesus. And, the Bible teaches that we have hope of spending eternity with God if we just choose to trust Him.

If you believe in Jesus, and that He died for you, then the Bible will help you know how you should live. This is the fun part. You no longer have to live in shame from those things you have done in your past; Jesus has forgiven you!

NOW WHAT?

So, you may be wondering what to do with it now. We suggest something simple.

- Start reading the book of John. It tells you of Jesus and who He is and what He did.
- After John, continue straight into the book of Acts. This will help get you going.
- From there, you will want to search out a church that will help you understand the Bible even more. Ask your mentor or advocate for suggestions.

And that is it! The Bible is there for us to learn about God’s story and how it intertwines with our own. It is a wonderfully amazing book that is both accurate and holy; something that is not true of any other book. Start reading it, start applying it, and start growing closer to God!