

THE BIBLE

PRESENTED BY AGAPESTUDENTI

▶ WHY?

WHY BOTHER READING A BOOK WRITTEN SO LONG AGO? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THE BIBLE IS GOD'S COMMUNICATION TO HUMANITY-- TO YOU AND ME-- IN ORDER THAT WE CAN KNOW HIM. IT TELLS THE STORY OF GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, INTERACTING WITH HIS CREATION THROUGHOUT HISTORY. AT THE CENTER OF THE STORY IS JESUS, GOD INCARNATE, WHO COMES TO RESCUE HIS CREATION FROM DESPAIR, BONDAGE, AND ETERNAL SUFFERING.

A **TESTAMENT** IS A WORD MEANING TESTIMONY, COVENANT, OR PROMISE. THEREFORE THIS IS GOD'S PROMISE TO US.

66
BOOKS MAKE UP THE BIBLE. THERE ARE 39 BOOKS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND 27 BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- WHAT'S INSIDE?
- CREATION
 - SEPARATION
 - REPARATION
 - RESTORATION

1542
YEARS. THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN FROM 1446 BC TO 96 AD.

HOW TO

WHERE DO I BEGIN?



READ ONE WHOLE BOOK (NOT THE WHOLE BIBLE) FIRST AS AN OVERVIEW, THEN STUDY SMALLER SECTIONS AT A TIME.



WHAT SHOULD I ASK?



HOW MUCH SHOULD I READ?

WHAT DID GOD SAY?
WHAT IS GOD SAYING?
HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO RESPOND?

WE RECOMMEND A GOSPEL, LIKE THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GOSPEL IS A WORD MEANING 'GOOD NEWS' - THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.



ISN'T THE MODERN BIBLE DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL TEXT?

THE NEW TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE IS THE BEST PRESERVED WORK OF ANCIENT LITERATURE IN HISTORY. DUE TO THE CONSISTENCY OF THE VAST NUMBER OF SURVIVING MANUSCRIPTS, SCHOLARS AGREE THAT WHAT WE HAVE TODAY IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN ALMOST 2,000 YEARS AGO.

40
AUTHORS. 35-40 AUTHORS WERE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO AUTHOR THE BIBLE.

DESPITE HAVING UP TO 40 DIFFERENT AUTHORS, THE OVERALL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE IS CONSISTENT.

! WARNING

THE BIBLE IS NO ORDINARY BOOK! THE BIBLE IS "THE WORD OF GOD."

THESE VERY WORDS CARRY GOD'S AUTHORITY AND SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS CHARACTER, ACTIONS, AND PLANS FOR THE WORLD. JESUS SAID: "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD" (MATT. 4:4). JESUS KNEW THAT NO FOOD CAN TRULY SATISFY US. OUR HEARTS AND SPIRITS ARE NOURISHED ONLY BY LISTENING TO AND KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS WORD.





"BUT THE BIBLE ISN'T MAINLY ABOUT YOU AND WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING. IT'S ABOUT GOD AND WHAT HE HAS DONE." SALLY LLOYD JONES



WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a collection of books originally written in several languages. The Old Testament covers 2500 B.C. - 400 B.C., in the area of the world known as the Ancient Near East. **It starts with God creating all things and follows his historical and prophetic interactions with the Hebrew people.** The Hebrews are God's chosen people through whom he reveals who he is to the world.

The New Testament covers 1 A.D. - 90 A.D., during the reign of the Roman Empire in the Middle East. This section chronicles the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. There are four accounts of his life from eye witnesses, his disciples, and a historian. The other 22 books tell the beginnings of the first churches through historical accounts and letters written by Jesus's followers to groups of early Christians.

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE ALREADY?
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH IT?**

IS THE BIBLE ACCURATE?



One of the keys to verifying the accuracy of any ancient manuscript is to compare and cross-check the number of copies available today. Consider this: for some of Plato's writings there are only 7 early copies remaining. Homer's epic poem, The Iliad, is one of the best with 643 portions or copies remaining. **The New Testament, however, is the best preserved ancient manuscript in history. There are an unbelievable 5,366 portions, books or complete copies surviving from antiquity.**

Furthermore, the amount of time between the writing of the original document and the copy helps determine its accuracy. With Plato, an estimated 1,300 years elapsed between his death and the oldest manuscript copy available to us today. For the New Testament, however, the oldest surviving portions were written just 50-100 years after the original manuscripts. **Modern versions of the Bible are all translated from the oldest and best preserved manuscripts and so they are not merely "translations of translations."**

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE AND RELIABLE?



HOW DO YOU READ IT?

Reading the Bible is an exciting journey. **It is likely to be the only book you ever read in which you are a part of the story.** Since the Bible wasn't originally written in our modern languages you first must choose a translation of the Bible, like the Nuova Riveduta 2006.

Choose a book of the Bible and read it all the way through as an overview. Then, break the book up into smaller pieces, like chapters or scenes. Study those more thoroughly, allowing your mind to reflect on what you are learning and ask questions about the text.

The Bible is the Word of God which means God wants to speak to you through it. Take time to pray and ask God to show you his character and care for you through his powerful words as you read.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT YOU ARE A PART OF THE STORY OF THE BIBLE?