

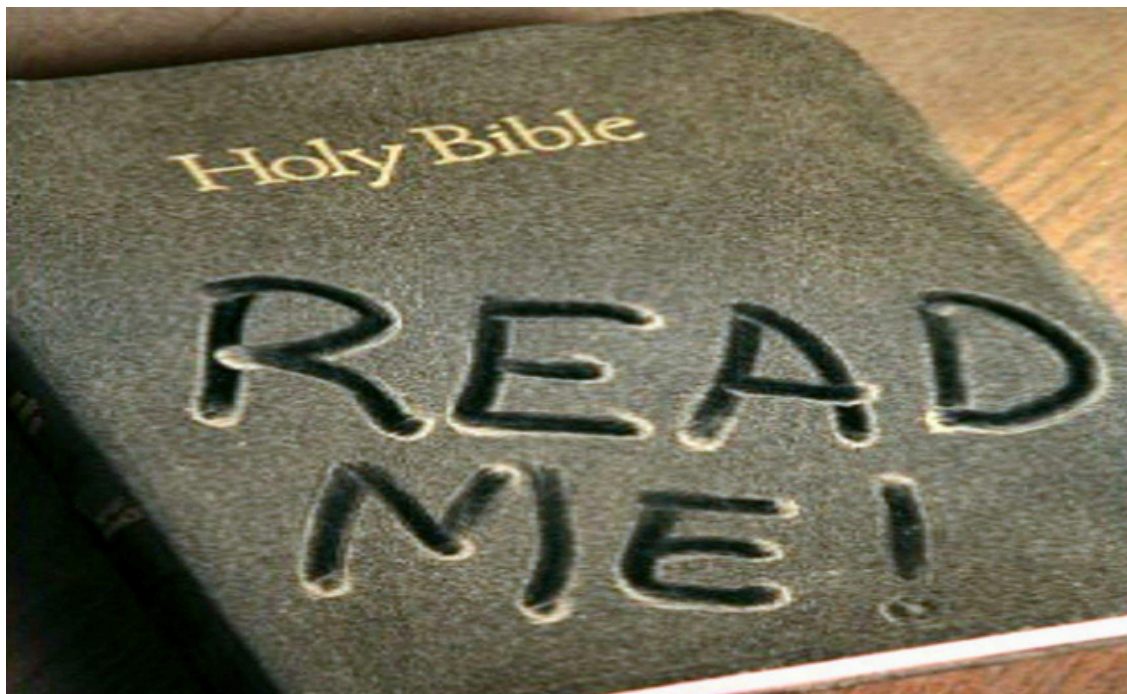


WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

What do you already know about the Bible?

What question(s) do you have about the Bible that you hope will be answered by this study?

All page numbers refer to the New International Version of The Bible as published by Zondervan Publishing as their Thinline Bible. You'll find it on Amazon: <http://amzn.to/1JWkWzf>



A. Its Origin

The word "bible" comes from the word "biblio" meaning "library."

Actually it is a library of 66 books written by 44 different people over a period of more than 2000 years.

Nevertheless. . . it reads like it had only one author. That's the miracle explained by the following verses:

"Understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (II Peter 1:20,21, pg. 1113)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and instructing in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16, pg. 1089)

What do the above verses say to you about God's involvement in writing the Bible?

B. Its Organization

1. The Old Testament (The Nation Of Israel)

- a. THE LAW (Genesis through Deuteronomy)
- b. HISTORY (Joshua through Job)
- c. POETRY (Psalms through Song of Solomon)
- d. THE PROPHETS (Isaiah through Malachi)

2. The New Testament (The Church)

- a. THE GOSPELS / JESUS' LIFE (Matthew through John)

- b. THE EARLY CHURCH (Acts)
- c. THE LETTERS TO CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS (Romans through Jude)
- d. THE END TIMES (Revelation)

C. Its Interpretation

1. Its Context -- What rules do we typically apply to any piece of literature regarding the use of a statement's context in properly understanding what's being said?

It's the same with the Bible.

2. Literal or Figurative? -- With the rest of literature, how do we typically determine if the author wants us to interpret something literally or if they intended it as an allegory?

It's the same with the Bible.

3. Promises. . . Promises. . . Promises -- When we read that someone was made a promise by someone else, how can we figure out whether or not the promiser meant the promise for us too?

It's the same with the Bible.

What are your three most important takeaways from this lesson?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Want more information?

<http://davearch.com/gottheBible.pdf>