



HOLY BIBLE

Quick-Start Guide

QUICK-START GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

The Holy Bible is the most important book ever written. It contains instructions from your Creator, the one who knows you inside out and wants what is best for you. It provides God's guidance on how to avoid painful regrets and live an abundant life. Most importantly, it reveals how to have your slate wiped clean and be reconciled to God, saving you from eternal ruin.

Admittedly, it's a long book. Eventually, you may want to read it front-to-back. **But if this is your first time with a Bible, we have some recommendations that will help you get off to a good start:**

START READING AT THE BEGINNING, BUT THEN JUMP AHEAD

1. **Adam, Eve and the Fall:** It all goes back to this.
Genesis, chapters 1-3
2. **The 10 Commandments:** How many of these have you broken?
*Exodus 20: 1-17**
3. **Sneak Preview:** Prophecies about what Jesus would be and do when he arrived on earth. *Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 42:1-4, Isaiah 61:1-3*
4. **The Most Extraordinary Life:** Learn about Jesus through the eyes of his closest friend. *Gospel of John, all 21 chapters*
5. **The Beginning of the Christian Church:** How a rag-tag group of disciples began turning the world upside down after Jesus returned to heaven. *Acts 1-2*
6. **The Romans Road:** This steps you through the basics of salvation. *Romans 3:23, 3:9-10, 2:4, 6:23, 5:6-8, 10:9-10, 5:1, 8:1*
7. **A Better Way:** When Jesus transforms people, they live differently. *Titus 2:11-14*

A BOOK OF BOOKS

The Bible isn't a typical book. It is a compilation of 66 books, written by over 40 people from different countries, cultures, backgrounds, occupations and levels of education, over a span of 1,600 years. Taken together, it tells of God's love for humankind, how people have sometimes rebelled and sometimes followed him, and how we can all be restored to full fellowship with our Creator-God. Despite the wide variety of contributors to the Bible, it ultimately has one true author: Christians believe the text was divinely inspired. The Bible is God's word, delivered through men.

GETTING THE LAY OF THE LAND

The books of the Bible can be divided into the following main sections:

Old Testament

1. **History and Law.** (starting at creation, then mainly following the development of God's chosen people, including a detailed listing of their ceremonial and moral laws). *Genesis through Job*
2. **Poetry.** (songs, actually). *Psalms*
3. **Advice from wise men.** *Proverbs through Song of Solomon*
4. **Prophetic messages to a rebellious nation.** *Isaiah through Malachi*

New Testament

5. **Accounts of Jesus' life.** (known as the Gospels) *Matthew through John*
6. **History of the early church.** *Acts*
7. **Instructions to believers, then and now.** *Romans through Jude*
8. **Prophecy about the end of the world and what comes next.** *Revelation*

ALL-TIME FAVORITES

Here are some of the most popular stories in the Bible. Millions of people have benefited from these examples, good and bad.

1. **Joseph:** Family strife, overcoming temptations, false accusations and a rise to glory. *Genesis 37, 39-46*
2. **Moses:** The making of a leader and deliverance of an enslaved people. *Exodus 2 – 14*
3. **David and Bathsheba:** A king, who knew better, lets his passions get him into trouble. *2 Samuel 11-12*
4. **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal:** One against 450. A stand-off to determine who really is God. *1 Kings 18*
5. **Daniel and the Lion's Den:** A high-ranking government official does not bow to political pressure, at risk of death. *Daniel 6*
6. **Job:** A man who had it all, lost it all, but kept his faith. *Job 1-2, 38-42*
7. **The Good Samaritan:** Find out what it really means to love your neighbor. *Luke 10:25-37*
8. **The Prodigal Son:** A rebellious child hits rock bottom and is, surprisingly, welcomed back home. *Luke 15:11-32*

There are many, many more inspiring, sobering, horrifying, mysterious, uplifting, and convicting stories in the Bible. It doesn't sugarcoat human depravity, but does explain the remedy for it. Spend time reading the Bible each day. Do it with an open mind, asking God to teach you. He will!

Do you have questions about the Bible? Please contact:

About the language: If the Bible given to you was a King James Version, you may find portions of it difficult to understand. This is because it was originally translated in 1611 and uses a form of English that can be challenging for modern readers. However, this version continues to be one of the most popular due to its majestic language and reputation for accuracy. For those instances where the meaning is not clear, consulting a reputable modern Bible translation may be helpful.

Ten Commandments for Israel
20 And God spake all these words, saying,
21 On the LORD thy God, thou shalt have
no other gods:
22 Thou shalt not make unto thee
any graven image, or the likeness of
any thing that is in heaven above,
or that is in the earth beneath,
or that is in the waters below:
23 Thou shalt not bow down
thyself to them, nor serve them:
for I the LORD thy God am a jealous
God, visiting the iniquity of the
fathers upon the children, upon them
that hate me, saying,
24 Thou shalt not take the name of
the LORD thy God in vain: for
whosoever shall take the name of
the LORD his God, that will I
visit, and cut him off.

CHAPTER

Exodus 20: 1-17

BOOK

VERSE(S)

***Understanding Bible references.**

As an example, Exodus 20: 1-17, the first word is the book of the Bible (oftentimes abbreviated) followed by the chapter, then verse (or range of verses.) So this reference is for the book of Exodus, 20th chapter, verses 1 through 17.

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