

far from being the horror movie it's portrayed as in the popular media, its message is one of great hope for those who love God.



*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us
from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
(Romans 8:38-39)

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow,
nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away.”*
(Revelation 21:4)

*Blessed are they that do His commandments,
that they may have right to the tree of life and may
enter in through the gates into the city.*
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May the good LORD richly bless your reading of His word

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A Quick Bible Study on the Whole Bible

Q. What is the Bible?



A. The Bible is unique. It is different from any other book that has ever been composed. It's a book of 66 smaller documents written over a period of fifteen hundred years by over forty different authors. These authors came from all walks of life and include fishermen, shepherds, a doctor, and a tax collector. The biblical authors lived on three different continents - Africa, Asia, and Europe. They also wrote under a number of different circumstances - including persecution and prison. Scripture was written in three different languages - Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek and in a number of different literary forms such as narrative, poetry, and law. The writers of the various books cover many different topics such as the existence of God, creation and the purpose of humankind, the explanation for the origin of evil and the coming of the Saviour and although most of the writers did not personally know the other writers, they all speak on these topics with complete harmony and continuity. This marvellous feature of Scripture is a testimony to it being the Word of God - exactly what it claims to be.

The first five books of the Bible are called the Torah (the Pentateuch in Greek), also called the Book of Moses or the Book of the Law. These books are the foundation of the whole Bible and include the major themes that are necessary to understand what was God's original plan, what went wrong and how He will bring us back to His original plan.

In the first book, Genesis, we learn of Creation and how God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. The world in the beginning was very different to the world we live in now, everything God made was very good. So, what happened? The change came about when the first humans, Adam and Eve, being tempted by the devil in the Garden of Eden, chose to disobey God which resulted in the curse of sin and death. This is called the 'Fall of man'.

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After Adam and Eve sinned they felt guilt and embarrassment over their nakedness. They made aprons out of fig leaves to try cover themselves, but their efforts were futile and God had to make them coats of skins—this signified that something or someone, an innocent creature, one without blame, had to die in their place because the penalty for sin is death. This was an illustration of God's plan to eventually save His children from the curse of sin.

Thereafter things got progressively worse as Adam and Eve, who were expelled from the beautiful garden, went on to have children and their oldest son Cain killed his brother Abel. More children followed and the world begun to be populated, but eventually things got very bad and the world became so full of violence that God had to intervene.

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"
(Genesis 6:5)

The Bible then tells us of Noah, who was the only godly man left in the world. He obeyed God when instructed to build an ark (ship) for his family and all kinds of animals. Noah warned the people what would happen if they didn't repent of their sinful ways, but the world chose to ignore him, so when the rains came, Noah and his family and the animals were preserved through the flood, but everything else perished.



After the flood God made a covenant (a binding promise) with Noah, that never again would He send a flood to destroy all living things, and He set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that covenant.

Unfortunately it didn't take long before things started to go bad again and we learn of the tower of Babel which explains why there are so many different languages in the world today.

The Bible then introduces us to Abraham and his wife Sarah. Abraham was a very godly man and God entered into a covenant with him and promised him a son, Isaac, through whom Abraham would become the father of many nations. These descendants of Abraham would be God's chosen people—chosen to be a blessing to all the nations of the world because out of them would come the Messiah, Jesus Christ. They were God's covenant people and would agree to follow His Moral Law (the Ten Commandments) and not follow the evil ways

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And now we have arrived at the Book of Revelation...

What kind of book is this? It is unique and special. There is no other book in the Bible like the Book of Revelation, which is 100 per cent prophecy, telling us what is to come. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him and it brings everything in the Bible: the Torah, the Historical Books, Poetry, the Prophets, Gospels, the Book of Acts, the Pauline Epistles and the general Epistles together into one Book.



The Book of Revelation is for our time. It's the final chapter: the conclusion. It reveals that we are living in the very last days of this earth's history. It is **THAT** important. In order for anyone to understand the Book of Revelation, to study it and to unlock its message, one has to study the entire Bible. It requires the study of all 65 Books to understand that one Book, the Book of Revelation. However, rest assured that it can be understood and a blessing is pronounced upon the reader of it:

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."
(Revelation 1:3)

Unfortunately though, a lot of people don't want to study the Book of Revelation. Many feel or are told that it was only written for the scholars or, believing themselves to be saved, they therefore think that the warnings and admonitions don't apply to them, they're just for the wicked people, the unrighteous ones. Others believe the Book of Revelation is too scary, talking about beasts, a dragon, 666, the mark of the beast, hell fire, brimstone, plagues, disease, destruction, death, etc.

Some people even feel they're not smart enough to study this Book, but this is God's message for His end time people and He has made it possible for everyone to understand it. It takes time - there is no denying that - and much prayer, but the rewards to be had are priceless and not to be missed.

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once for all, and through Baptism* a believer identifies with Christ and dies to their old way of life and is born again to a new life. This doesn't mean that they are free to carry on their sinful lives and have idols, bow down to statues, take God's name in vain, break the Sabbath, dishonour their parents, murder, commit adultery (which is fornication, sexual intercourse between people not married to each other), steal, lie and lust after things that don't belong to them – God forbid! As Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery:

*"...go, and sin no more."
(John 8:11)*

The Ten Commandments are still in place and always will be. If there were any way to do away with the Law then Christ need not have died for us.

Someone who loves Jesus will not want to sin and will agree with David in the Bible when he said:

*"I delight to do thy will, O my God:
yea, thy law is within my heart."
(Psalm 40:8)*

With Christ's help all things are possible and through prayer and asking for His Spirit to dwell in us, we can overcome temptation to sin, just like He did.

*"And hereby we do know that we know him,
if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not
his commandments, is a liar,
and the truth is not in him."
(1 John 2:3-4)*

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep his
commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
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* Baptism is not the same as a Christening. Biblical baptism involves full immersion in water symbolising the death of a person's old self, the washing away of past sins and a commitment to live their new life according to how God would like them to live it. Careful Bible study is required prior to making the decision for Baptism because such a decision should not be taken lightly – a person should know what they are committing themselves to before making the decision. This is why it is totally unbiblical to baptise a baby. Babies are innocent in God's eyes (see James 4:17) and they cannot possibly understand the biblical principle of Baptism and what it involves. A Christening ceremony is not biblical and can never take the place of Baptism.

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of their neighbours. Sadly, these chosen people often failed to be faithful to God and the Historical Books which follow are a record of what happened and the consequences of their actions.



Continuing in Genesis, we learn of Abraham's brother Lot and what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah—how the cities had become so bad that God had to destroy them—and Lot's wife who looked back after leaving the city and became a pillar of salt. We also learn about Isaac, Abraham's son, and Isaac's sons Jacob (whose name God later changed to Israel) and Esau. Following on from this we have the twelve sons of Israel (Jacob), one of whom was Joseph who through much trial eventually became the second most powerful man in Egypt at the time.

This brings us on to the second book, Exodus, which means departure. Many years have passed and the Israelites (Jacob's sons and their families and descendants) were living under much persecution in Egypt and were crying out to God to help them and God, Who never ignores the prayers of His children, raised up a prophet called Moses.

Moses eventually goes on to lead his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. The Pharaoh (king of Egypt) did not want to let them go and so God had to send plagues, ten in total, to fall upon the Egyptians. Only after these plagues did the Pharaoh finally agree to let the Israelites go, but then changed his mind and, with his mighty army, chased after them. The Israelites, having reached the Red Sea by this time, were at a loss how to escape from them, but God parted the sea and they walked across on dry land. The Pharaoh and his army were not so fortunate—the men, their horses and chariots all drowned.

After they crossed the Red Sea the Israelites proceeded to Mount Sinai where God made a covenant with the nation. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments (the Law) and also many other instructions to guide the life of the people and said that He would abundantly bless and protect the Israelites if they agreed to keep His Law.



The Ten Commandments were so important that God did not trust anyone else to write them – He wrote them with His own finger on tablets of stone. There is much evidence in the Bible to suggest that the Law had already been established since the beginning, but this is the first time we learn of God writing them down for His people.

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The next book, Leviticus, is a book of laws, but it's also a book of worship. This book is filled with details on how the people of God should live, eat, sacrifice, celebrate, and more.

"Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy"
(Leviticus 19:2)

The book of Numbers which follows tells the story of Israel's wanderings through the wilderness en route to the promised land of Canaan. Numbers begins and ends with Moses counting all the people in the nation, which is how the book gets its name.

"And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD..."
(Numbers 11:1)

The fifth and final book in the Torah is Deuteronomy. Israel is about to (finally) enter the promised land of Canaan, but before they do, Moses rallies the people to remind them of God's law—and why they should obey Him. This is how the book of Deuteronomy gets its name: it's the "second giving" of God's law.

After the Torah we have what is known as the Historical Books which start from Joshua and go all the way to the Book of Esther. These Historical Books are really about the Israelites and what happened to them when they obeyed the Commandments of God and what happened when they disobeyed the Commandments of God.

The first historical book is about Joshua and how he leads the 12 tribes of Israel in the conquest of the land of Canaan (Palestine) which was the land that God promised them.

*"...Be strong and of good courage;
be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest"*
(Joshua 1:9)

The Book of Judges is a record of the leaders (Judges) God raised up over the next generations following the death of Joshua. Judges contains the stories of Gideon and Samson and Delilah among others.



The next book, the Book of Ruth is a bright story of hope during a very dark period in Israel's spiritual and political history and takes place during the time of the Judges.

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The fourth and last Gospel was written by John and it proves conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

After the Gospels comes the Book of Acts, which is the New Testament version of the Historical Books of the Old Testament. The Book of Acts was also written by Luke and it tells us about Jesus' Ascension (His departure from this world into the presence of God) and what happened to His followers afterwards. It gives an accurate account of the birth and growth of the Christian church beginning with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We are also introduced to the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts.

We then have the New Testament version of Prophets which are letters from the Apostles, mainly Paul, to the people of that time. We call these the Pauline Epistles and General Epistles and they are all basically expounding again on the Law as taught by Jesus. Although these letters were written to the people of that time, they are all still very relevant to us now and they help us to live our lives how God wants us to.



A common theme throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament is the Law. Mainstream Christianity nowadays teaches that we are no longer under the Law and this is true in some ways. In the old covenant (agreement) the Law was written on tablets of stone, but in the new covenant God has written His Law on our hearts. In Christ's strength a Christian can keep the Commandments and therefore will not be under the condemnation of the Law. Only Law breakers, those who don't keep the Ten Commandments, will be under the condemnation of the Law.

*"For not the hearers of the law are just before God,
but the doers of the law shall be justified."*
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Other false prophets teach that we are under grace and that Christ keeps the law for us so we don't have to. This is only partly true. Those who believe in and love Jesus Christ (genuine Christians, that is) are indeed under grace because through His death on the cross Christ paid the ransom to set the captives of sin (us) free. Sin is breaking the Law (the Ten Commandments) and the penalty for sin is death. Jesus, our Saviour, paid the price,

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So now this brings us on to the New Testament. The first four books – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – are called the Gospels. These books introduce us to Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, who was sent by the Father to reveal God's love for us. Each Gospel is a witness statement of Jesus' life and ministry through the eyes of those who knew Him and throughout the Gospels we learn the teachings of Jesus and how He expounded on the Law of God, dividing it in two—the first four Commandments being about our love for God and the other six Commandments being about our love for others. Jesus explained the deeper meaning of the Law and told parables (short stories) to help us understand them in practical terms.



*"Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets:
I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."
(Matthew 5:17)*

Jesus' life was an example for all of us to aspire to. He never sinned, despite being tempted by the devil on numerous occasions, and His whole life was a testament to God's incredible love for us, even though we are all sinners.

In the Gospels Jesus also teaches us how to pray and explained that the only way to get to heaven was through Him. He is the way, the truth and the life.

The first Gospel was written by Matthew who was a tax collector before becoming a disciple. It is a first-hand account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, focusing on Jesus' role as the true King of the Jews. It's main purpose is to prove that Jesus was the Messiah, the eternal King.



The second Gospel, Mark, is a brief account of Jesus' earthly ministry which highlights His authority and servanthood.

The next Gospel, written by Luke who was a Gentile (non-Jew) is the most thorough account of Jesus' life and presents Christ (which means the anointed one) as the perfect human and Saviour.

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1 Samuel and 2 Samuel mark a great turning point in Israel's history: Israel transitions from theocracy (being under God's supreme rule) to monarchy (being under the rule of an earthly king). Israel demanded that Samuel, the prophet, appoint a king so they could be like other nations – in truth they were rejecting God and His leadership, but God granted their wishes. At first they were saddled with the ungodly Saul, but then God raised up another—David—to deliver and lead His people. In 1 Samuel we can read about David and Goliath. In 2 Samuel we learn more of David and his reign, his life and his family.



*"...Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..."
(1 Samuel 15:22)*

The books of Kings (1 and 2) show us how faithful God is to His people. The first book details the history of Israel over a period of about 126 years. King David dies and his son, Solomon, becomes king. Solomon builds a magnificent temple and royal palace, but his downfall comes about through his many wives (over 700) and their idolatry which he becomes involved in. After Solomon's death the nation is divided with only two tribes, the southern division, remaining loyal to the family of David and Solomon—these people were named Judah after the tribe that David belonged to. The other ten tribes, the northern division, retained the name Israel and what follows is a record of God's dealings, through various prophets, with the divided kingdom and their kings.

The second book is a chronological recounting of the political and military exploits of kings and prophets in the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, over many generations, evaluating each according to their level of obedience to the Lord, until the northern kingdom of Israel, with its capital in the city of Samaria, is overthrown by the Assyrians and the people are taken into exile in Assyria. Through the faith of King Hezekiah and the support of the prophet Isaiah, Jerusalem (capital of Judah) managed to escape the same thing happening although, 125 years later, despite there being a brief period of religious reform under Hezekiah's great-grandson Josiah, his successors faced an invasion from the Babylonians and suffered the same fate – exile – as had come to their northern kinsmen. 2 Kings ends with the account of the fall of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon.

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1 and 2 Chronicles, are official histories of the kingdom of Judah, compiled after the Babylonian exile, probably for the purpose of helping those resettling in the land upon their return from Babylon to know their roots.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; Then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, And will heal their land."

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah which follow were one book in the Hebrew Bible and, with the Book of Esther, comprise the post-captivity historical books. The first book is about a scribe (Ezra) who helped re-establish the presence of the people of Judah (who came to be called Jews) in Jerusalem, seventy years after the destruction of the city and the temple. It was his task to oversee the rebuilding of the Temple. The book also recounts Ezra's role as a spiritual leader and how he teaches the people to once again obey God's laws. The second book is also about the return to Jerusalem after exile and records how Nehemiah, a man who held a responsible position in the Persian government, left his job to do what God wanted. He motivated the Jews to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem.



The next book, Esther, is a drama about how two Jews risked everything to save their people and includes courage, faith, betrayal, politics and plots of genocide.

After the Historical Books we have the Books of Poetry: starting from the Book of Job all the way to the Song of Solomon.

The first book, Job, is one of the oldest books in the Bible. It's the story about a righteous man, Job, who was tested and endured because of his faith in God.

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him..."

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Psalms, which follows, is a collection of 150 poems written over hundreds of years, many of which were put to music and used in the Jewish temples to praise God. The majority of the Psalms were written by David.

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We then have the book of Proverbs which is a collection of mainly Solomon's wise sayings which urge the reader to make decisions based on wisdom, justice and righteousness. Some of his sayings are direct instructions and others are general observations.

The main purpose of the next book, Ecclesiastes, is to spare future generations the bitterness of learning through their own experience that life is meaningless apart from God.

Song of Solomon, the last poetical book, is a song (or collection of songs) celebrating love between a bridegroom (Solomon) and his bride. It affirms the sanctity of marriage and is a picture of God's love for His people.

Then we have the books of the Prophets, Major and Minor, which go all the way from Isaiah to Malachi. These books all basically have one message: they are all crying out to mostly the Israelites, sometimes other nations, telling them to go back to the Ten Commandments, the Law. This is the basic message, it always goes back to the Commandments. Many of the writings of the prophets contain visions for the future and one in particular, the Book of Daniel, is mentioned by Jesus:

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)"

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains...

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be."

(Matthew 24:15, 16, 21)

The Book of Daniel also tells us the stories of Daniel's three friends being put into the fiery furnace for refusing to bow down to an idol and of Daniel himself being thrown into a den of Lions because he continued to pray to God after a decree had been issued by the king saying that no prayers should be offered to any god or man except the king himself. On both occasions God miraculously spared the lives of His people, proving that no one is a match for the One true God.



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