

the Bible |

The Bible is the biggest best seller of all times, translated into more languages and read by more people than any other single book. Despite its popularity, many people today are completely unfamiliar with it. Where did the Bible come from? How do we know if the events recorded in the Bible really happened? How is the Bible relevant to my life today? This pamphlet is designed to answer some basic questions and hopefully help you better understand and benefit from the Bible.

Facts about the Bible - before you get started |

1 The Bible is a collection of 66 books. The word Bible comes from the greek word for "books." Scripture another word for the Bible, means "the writings." Logos is another word used to describe the Bible (the Word). A theological phrase which expresses the absolute, eternal, and ultimate being of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament spoke of the word of God as the divine agent in the creation of the universe: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made." In the New Testament, the Gospel of John declared, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Through the incarnation of Christ, God has come to dwell in our midst. Through the life and ministry of Jesus, a unique and final revelation of God has been given - one superior to the revelation given through the law and the prophets. In Christ, the word of God, God's plan and purpose for mankind is clearly revealed.

2 The Bible was written by more than 40 different authors over a period of about 1600 years. Some well-known bible authors include Moses, David, Solomon, and the apostles Peter, Paul and John.

3 The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments. Testament is another word for "covenant" which is like a contract. The Old Testament is about God's special covenant with the Jewish people and the new Testament is about God's new covenant based on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

4 The Old testament books were written between 1400 BC and 430 BC. These books were compiled into a collection called the "canon" about 300 years before the birth of Christ.

5 The New Testament was written between 40 AD and 90 AD. The early church recognized these writings as "scripture" but they were not collected into an official canon until the 4th century.

6 The Bible is not arranged in chronological order, which can make reading through it confusing. The various books are grouped instead by the type of writings they are - law or history or poetry for example.

