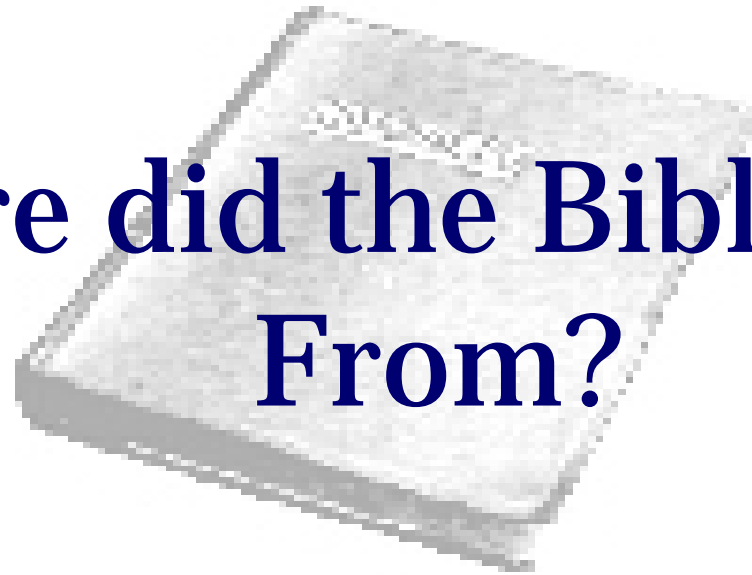




# Inspiration of the Bible

# Where did the Bible Come From?





# Introduction

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The Bible is:

- A unique book: It does not contain the word of God—it **IS** the word of God.
- Its one key message, its central theme from the beginning to the end: **JESUS CHRIST**.
- God's truth.
- A revelation of God to man.
- In it, God speaks to us from His perspective.
- It will stand forever—"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8 NIV)



# Authorship

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- The real author is God who, through the Holy Spirit, inspired men to write.
- It was written by at least 36 human authors: kings, farmers, lawyers, generals, fishermen, scholars, priests, a tax collector, and a doctor.
- It was written over a period of 1,600 years.
- Written in different geographic areas: Asia, Europe and Africa.
- Its original languages: Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek.



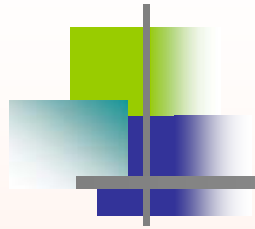
# Books of the Bible

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- The Bible is divided into two parts: the old testament (OT) and the new testatment (NT)
- The OT looks forward to Christ and the NT looks back to Christ.
- Both look forward to the future return of Christ.
- There are 66 books in the Bible
  - 39 in the OT
  - 27 in the NT
  - 22 are mainly historical
  - 21 are prophetic
  - 21 are letters
  - 2 are poetic.

**Is the Bible Really From God?  
Is it the Absolute Truth?**





If we seek a mystical experience or we want God to audibly speak to us, we must remember that He already has spoken to us in the Bible.

A man once asked why God does not reveal Himself to us, so that we would all know that God is real. Well, the truth is He already has! He did so long ago, so that everyone would know Him.



# Is the Bible Inspired by God?

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- The word “inspired” comes from a Greek word that means “God breathed.”
- Hebrews 1:1 (NIV): “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.”
- Bible is without error or mistake in the original documents. It is truthful, accurate and trustworthy.
- Numbers 23:19 (NIV): "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"



# How much of the Bible is inspired by God?

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- God says that the words written in the Bible are His words.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV): "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."



# Testimony to the Inspiration of the Bible:

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God claims to be able to reveal the future. He says, "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." (Isaiah 42:9).

God is able to declare "the end from the beginning." (Isaiah 46:9, 10)

Therefore, fulfilled prophecy becomes a mighty testimony to the inspiration of the Bible.



# Bible Prophecies

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## *Who gave these prophecies?*

- 2 Peter 1:21 (NIV): "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."

## *Who revealed the future to these prophets?*

- Amos 3:7 (NIV): "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."



# Fulfilled Prophecies<sup>1</sup>

(Click on links for additional information)

- God's prediction concerning [ancient Babylon](#)
  - **Isaiah 13:19, 20 (NIV):** "Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians, pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there."
  - **Jeremiah 51: 26, 37 (NIV):** "No rock will be taken from you for a cornerstone, nor any stone for a foundation, for you will be desolate forever," declares the LORD. Babylon will be a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals, an object of horror and scorn, a place where no one lives."
- God's prediction concerning the city of [Nineveh](#)
  - **Zephaniah 2:13, 15 (NIV):** "He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert. This is the carefree city that lived in safety. She said to herself, "I am, and there is none besides me." What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists."

<sup>1</sup>See also: [Amazing Discoveries](#)



# Fulfilled Prophecies<sup>1</sup>

(Click on links for additional information)

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- God's prediction concerning the downfall of [Egypt as a world power](#)
  - **Ezekiel 29:15 (NIV):** "It will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself above the other nations. I will make it so weak that it will never again rule over the nations.,,"
  - **Ezekiel 30:4, 12, 13 (NIV):** "A sword will come against Egypt, and anguish will come upon Cush. When the slain fall in Egypt, her wealth will be carried away and her foundations torn down. I will dry up the streams of the Nile and sell the land to evil men; by the hand of foreigners I will lay waste the land and everything in it. I the LORD have spoken. 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis. No longer will there be a prince in Egypt, and I will spread fear throughout the land.'"

<sup>1</sup>See also: [Amazing Discoveries](#)



# Fulfilled Prophecies<sup>1</sup>

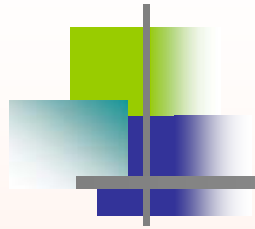
(Click on links for additional information)

- God's prediction concerning [ancient Tyre](#)
  - **Ezekiel 26:12-14 (NIV):** "They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea. I will put an end to your noisy songs, and the music of your harps will be heard no more. I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD."
- God's prediction concerning modern Europe
  - Daniel 2:43 (NIV): "And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay."

<sup>1</sup>See also: [Amazing Discoveries](#)



**Can the Bible be  
understood?**



There was a time when the Christian church did not permit the laity to read the Bible. Only the clergy had access to copies of God's Word. It was thought that only the learned and better educated could rightly understand the Bible. However, this reasoning is not in accord with the Bible.



# Guide to Understanding the Bible

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## **Rule 1: Study the Bible reverently with a sincere desire to know and practice truth.**

- **John 7:17 (NIV):** "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."
- To understand the Bible one must study the Scriptures.
- **2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV):** "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."
- Ask God for Help. E.g. Like David in Psalm 119:18: " Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. "



# Guide to Understanding the Bible

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## Rule 2: Accept the Bible as God's voice to you.

- **John 17:17 (NIV):** "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."
- **John 10:27,28 (NIV):** "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV):** "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."
- Evidence of truth is in the Bible itself. One scripture can be the key to unlock the meaning of other scriptures.



# Guide to Understanding the Bible

## Rule 2 (cont...): Accept the Bible as God's voice to you.

- **Isaiah 28:9,10 (NIV):** "Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast? For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there."
- **1 Corinthians 2:13,14 (NIV):** "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."
- When we study the scriptures, we discover various bible writers touch the same subjects. Like a puzzle—to find the Bible's full teaching on a given subject, we must gather together all that the various authors have written on a given topic.



# Guide to Understanding the Bible

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## **Rule 3: The Bible is its own best commentary.**

- **Luke 24:27,44,45 (NIV):** "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.,,"

## **Rule 4: There should be perseverance in research.**

- **Acts 17:11 (NIV):** "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."
- **John 5:39 (NIV):** "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me."



# Guide to Understanding the Bible

## **Rule 5: There is to be no adding or taking away from what the Bible says.**

- **Revelation 22:18,19 (NIV):** "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."
- **Proverbs 30:5,6 (NIV):** "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."
- **Deuteronomy 4:2 (NIV):** "Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you."
- **Matthew 5:18 (NKJV):** "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."
- These texts refer not only to cutting out or writing in material but also to making the Bible say what it does not say or denying what it truly affirms by false interpretation. Therefore we must let the total Bible speak and based on the weight of evidence found in the Bible, conclude what it teaches.

# Conclusion

**2 Peter 3:16,17 (NIV):** "He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position."



**Yes, there are some things hard to understand from the Bible.  
However essential truths CAN be understood.**

# Note:

Since Christ will return for His people it is important to be prepared. And we cannot prepare ourselves unless we hear and heed His voice. And we can do that only if we read His Word daily and apply it in our lives.

~Elena Brugnera

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