Complete one of the following:

- a. Complete a Bible study on the topic of the Bible as the Word of God.
- b. Give a Bible study on the Bible as the Word of God.
- c. Answer the following questions:
  - 1. What is the Bible, and why is it important? What does the Bible itself say it is for?
  - 2. Who wrote the Bible? How?
  - 3. Where does the Bible get its name? What does "Testament" mean?
  - 4. Give a short history of the Bible, including important people, dates, and events that influenced the Bible that we have today.
  - 5. Is it important that we are confident about the Bible's reliability? Why?
  - 6. How do we know that the Bible is accurate? Discuss at least two ways that demonstrate that the Bible is accurate.
  - 7. Name the three major religions that use the Bible and their views of how it is to be used.
  - 8. Learn about how the Bible divided and name the books in each section.
  - 9. Memorize and recite the following Bible verses. Why is it important to be able to recite Bible texts?
    - a. John 3:16
    - b. John 14:6
    - c. Ephesians 2:8-9
    - d. Romans 8:28
    - e. Isaiah 40:30-31
    - f. Matthew 11:28-30
    - g. Jeremiah 29:11
    - h. Proverbs 3:5-6
    - i. Philippians 4:13
    - j. Galatians 5:22-23
  - 10. Get to know your Bible by answering the following:
    - a. How many books are in the Bible? Chapters? Verses?
    - b. Name the longest and shortest chapters in the Bible
    - c. Name the longest and shortest verses in the Bible.
    - d. What verse(s) are in the middle of the Bible?
    - e. What chapter is in the middle of the Bible?
    - f. Who wrote the most in the Old Testament? New Testament? Over all?
    - g. Name the only book in the Bible that doesn't directly mention God.
  - 11. Do the following:
    - a. Memorize the books of the Bible in order, recite them from memory, and demonstrate that you are able to look up any book of the Bible.
    - b. Learn the principles of giving a simple Bible study and/or earn the Bible Marking honor.
    - c. Spend some time studying your Bible every day for a month. Keep a journal of what you have learned.
  - 12. Learn how to use a Bible concordance and the SDA Bible Commentary. How can they help you study the Bible?



Upper Columbia Conference Honor Pilot

The Bible is the most important Book ever created. With an estimated 5 trillion copies sold since it was first compiled, it is the most widely distributed Book in history, printed in over 600 languages. Besides being a collection of some of the oldest recorded writings, accurately noting historical events, and famously being the first book ever printed, it tells the story of Jesus and His plan to save us from our sins.

Still, many people question the Bible. Is it really accurate? Did everything in it happen just like it says it did? Hasn't it changed over the years? And even if it is as important as we say it is, what difference does it make?

Let's explore the history of the Bible



#### and what makes it so powerful to us as Christians!

NOTE: This honor is based on the Pathfinder edition of the NKJV Bible.

What makes the Bible important to you?<sup>1</sup>

Background: https://images.pexels.com/photos/15203125/pexels-photo-15203125/free-photo-of-open-bible-on-green-grass.jpeg (1) https://cdn.radical.net/images/20220627124604/Where-Should-I-Start-Reading-the-Bible-1.jpg

# What is the Bible?

The Bible is a Book that contains a number of smaller books written hundreds or thousands of years ago and handed down from generation to generation. Much of the Old Testament was collected and published by the ancient Israelites and passed down to those of the modern-day Jewish faith. The New Testament narrates the life of Jesus, His death and resurrection, and records what happened to the early Christian church after He returned to heaven. Here's some Bible facts:

The Old Testament is about 75% of the Bible!

The Old Testament contains 39 books, and the New Testament contains 27 books for a total of 66 books.

There are 1189



# chapters total in the Bible.

The Bible contains an incredible 31,102 verses!

The Bible is more than a book. It's a map from God that helps lead us into a closer walk with Him!<sup>1</sup>

 $(1) \ https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/647f7309ed3f245e70cc87f2/12f7626d-6117-4e21-8c53-597f9b65ee64/aaron-burden-4uX_r8OhJ_o-unsplash+HERO.jpeg$ 

### The Purpose of the Bible

The Bible actually talks about itself and its own purpose. Here's a couple of verses that talk about what the Bible is meant for:

> "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

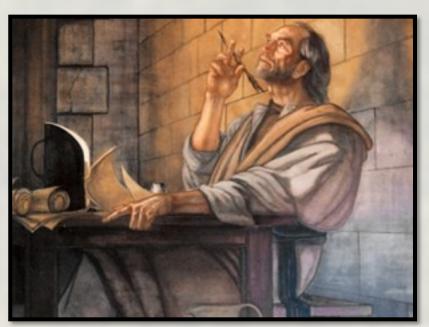
"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." (John 5:39)

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

God's Word, the Bible, is true. It is given to us to help train us to be the people that God would want us to be. It is made to point us to Jesus, since it is all about Him, and finally, it lasts forever and never changes!

(1) https://media.istockphoto.com/id/185090197/photo/blank-scroll-isolated-onwhite.jpg?s=612x612&w=0&k=20&c=sJNd5jws0maScPIxsgwlDyH\_wqgpiLM16MvcD6kBoP4=

## Authors of the Bible



The Bible was inspired by God. This means that He impressed them about what to write, but He often didn't tell them the exact words to say!<sup>1</sup>

The Bible was written by over 40 people who were inspired by God to record events, prophesies, and poetry for God's people to benefit from. However, we don't know for sure who all these people are!

The authors of some books seem easy to guess, such as the book of Matthew, Joshua, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, and religious history suggests that the first 5 books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch, were written by Moses. However, the authors of some books such as Job and the Chronicles aren't as easy to identify! Some books even have several authors, and many seem to have been written by a scribe or servant, who

sometimes seemed to add notes or extra information after the author died. We can compare and contrast their writing to make educated guesses, but we may never know until we get to heaven!

(1) https://wp-media.patheos.com/blogs/exploringourmatrix/files/2012/09/Paul-prison2-300x224.jpg

# **Bible Terminology**

The Bible never calls itself the "Bible". It refers to itself as the Scriptures or the Word of God. The word "Bible", which comes from the Latin root "biblia", which literally means "the book".



"Testament" can mean "a person's will, especially the part relating to personal property." You could consider it like someone's

5

last will and testament, a plan for what will be given and provided to the family of the author of the will. In a Biblical sense, the Old and New Testaments are like God's plan or "will" for everything that belongs to Him, including His creation, and those who choose to follow

Him. "Testament" can also mean a sign or evidence, just like the Bible is a sign from God to us!



(1) https://www.wgslawfirm.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/WGS-BLOG-Feature-Image-Poster-1280x720-A-Last-Will-and-Testament-1.jpg (2) https://i0.wp.com/pastorsoul.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/bethany-laird-407583-unsplash.jpg?fit=966%2C768&ssl=1



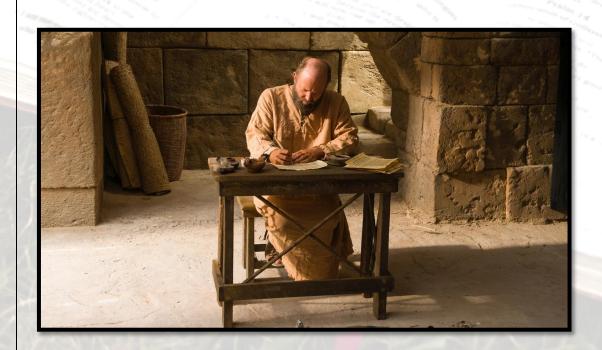


believe he also wrote the book of Job!<sup>1</sup>

If the tradition regarding Moses writing the first five books of the Bible is true, then the first books of the Bible were written in the

early 1600s and or the late 1500s BC. Books were added over time, but were collected as sacred material, not necessarily a book. The whole Old Testament was collected and compiled by the time Jesus was born. After that, the New Testament was written, being completed by the time of the death of the last in the generation that had seen Jesus in person.

The apostle Paul is credited with writing the most individual books of the Bible, writing 12 epistles most of which he wrote during his time in prison.<sup>2</sup>





Revelation, the last book of the Bible is also the latest book that was written. The disciple John wrote the book while exiled to the island of Patmos, about 50 years after Jesus' death.<sup>3</sup>

(1) https://lisarobinsonsportfolio.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/moses.jpg?w=636
(2) https://content.churchofjesuschrist.org/acp/bc/cp/Canada/images2023/The%20Pauline%20Epistles/1200x675/1-terry3.jpeg
(3) https://i.pinimg.com/236x/7c/53/bb/7c53bb53fdfe802ceb3db45e32c166a4.jpg

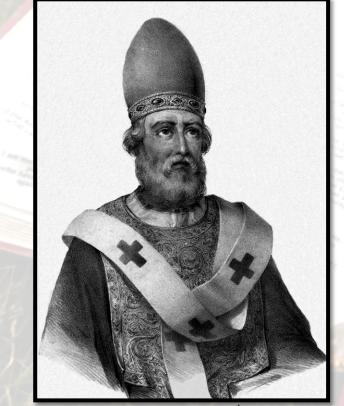


Both the Old and New Testaments as we know them today were approved by the early Christian church (which would become the Catholic church later in history) in the late 300s or early 400s AD. Not everyone



The Council of Rome in 382 was one of the first attempts to sort books that belonged in the Bible with books that should be excluded.<sup>1</sup>

agreed which of the books to include in the officially accepted version of the Bible. In fact, there were several other manuscripts that were



considered, especially for the New Testament, but these were excluded for various reasons, such as being written too late to have interacted with any of the original apostles, or making claims that contradicted the rest of the Bible.

Pope Damasus I was the 37<sup>th</sup> Catholic Pope. He commissioned the creation of the important Vulgate Bible translation, and helped set up the system by which books were selected or excluded, creating the Bible we know today.<sup>2</sup>

(1) https://cdn.catholic.com/wp-content/uploads/Nicea-2-900x900.jpg
(2) https://cdn.britannica.com/89/146089-050-829132B5/Damasus-I-lithograph-1840.jpg



Monks were some of the most important early Bible preservers and translators, copying the Bible by hand for months at a time!<sup>1</sup>



For years, it would be written in Greek, the language that most of the Old Testament had been translated to, and the one that the New Testament had been authored in. It was later translated into Latin, and during the Dark Ages, no one was allowed to read the Bible unless given permission by the ruling governments of the day. Since most people couldn't read Latin, few could learn about God's Word. Reading, sharing, and especially translating the Bible could cost a person his or her life, and many people died trying to share God's truth in a language that people could understand. In

England, William Tyndale and John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English, an act that Tyndale later paid with his life, but the Bible spread.

William Tyndale was executed in 1536 for his translation of the Bible into English.<sup>2</sup>



8

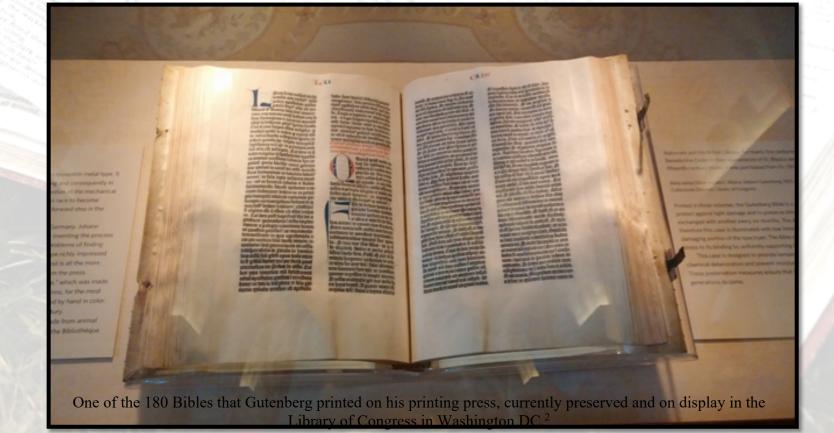
(1) https://cdn.theatlantic.com/media/mt/culture\_test/MMONK1.jpg (2) https://banneroftruth.org/us/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2013/05/TYNDALE-William1.jpg





Johan Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press.<sup>1</sup> Johan Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press created the first printed book, a Bible, and after that invention, Bibles became more plentiful. When the English King James I took

the throne, a professed Christian himself, he ordered that an official translation of the Bible be made, and the King James Bible was created. Robert Estienne divided the New Testament into chapters and verses in 1551, and the Old Testament in 1571. The King James Bible was updated to use modern language in 1979-80, creating the New King James Bible we use today.



(1) https://hips.hearstapps.com/hmg-prod/images/johannes-gutenberg-portrait-cap-and-long-royalty-free-illustration-1701193801.jpg
(2) https://thecompletepilgrim.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/LOC-15.jpg

### **Bible** Accuracy

Many people have a hard time explaining how they know the Bible is accurate. Some might say "because the Bible says so."



It is true that the Bible says that the Bible is accurate, true, and consistent, and believing it because God said so would be faith.

However, saying that to somebody who doesn't know or trust God would be like trying to explain the theory of evolution *with* evolution. It's circular reasoning and doesn't work! Let's talk about other ways we can explain it to someone who doesn't believe like we do.

(1) https://media.licdn.com/dms/image/C5612AQHM7gNsvWZatA/article-cover\_image-shrink\_600\_2000/0/1552932135694?e=2147483647&v=beta&t=wCfG-6f8cMg0gs5fdyze4Tkxtj7B-ToYBztkKVcf3yo





The stature in Daniel 2 that Kengebuchachezzar saw in his dream was an accurate portrayal of the kingdoms that would follow his. Looking back, we can see that this was an accurate Bible prediction!<sup>1</sup> We could say that we know it's true because of its historical accuracy. The prophet Daniel, through visions sent from God, foretold of the rise and fall of nations, kingdoms, and even churches thousands of years

before they came! The Bible contains prophecies about natural events that occurred hundreds or thousands of years later, and Jesus Himself predicted some of these! The Bible, even before

it was the Bible, was always



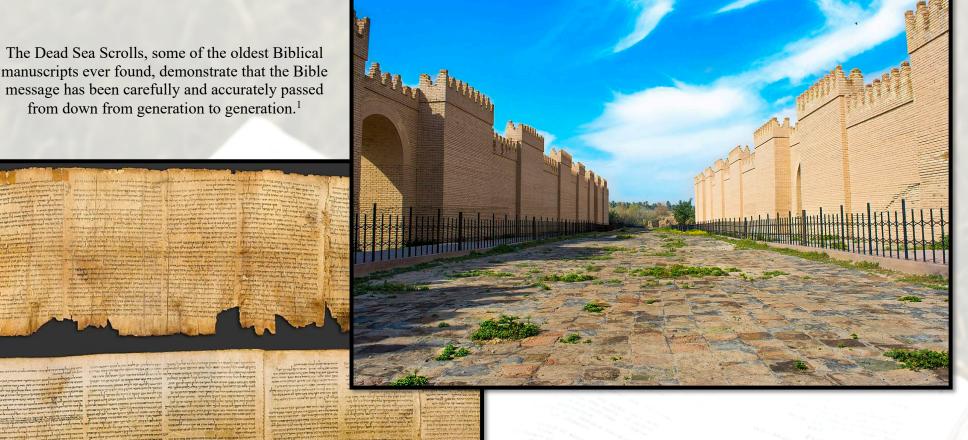
#### spot-on!

Jesus Himself predicted a number of astronomical events that would occur before He returned, many of which we have already seen!<sup>2</sup>

(1) https://i.redd.it/7rh5scnyzj851.jpg
(2) https://lightbearersforjesuschrist.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/bf75581697bf26f79e3d2da44187d0c3.jpg

#### **Bible Accuracy** Original Manuscripts and Archeology

Another way that we know the Bible is true is by comparing it to ancient documents. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1946, it was shown that, even though the Bible had been around for thousands of years, it was still the same as the ancient manuscripts that the Jews and early Christians had used around Jesus' time.



Archeological excavations of the ancient Babylon, a city often referred to in the Bible, and the site of many prophecies (now in modern-day Iraq)<sup>2</sup>

Third, we can use archeological evidence to show that the Bible is accurate. Archeologists have been able to find ancient cities mentioned in the Bible long thought to have been fables. They have found buildings that the Bible accurately

https://th-thumbnailer.cdn-si-edu.com/PMhimS-uYZaCYt--X7zxqeVxqcI=/1072x720/filters:no\_upscale():focal(403x320:404x321)/https://tf-cmsv2-smithsonianmag-media.s3.amazonaws.com/filer/75/22/7522fc10-6bc1-4e73-a9d7-815dcaf67b09/untitled-1d.png
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/43/Street\_in\_Babylon.jpg/1200px-Street\_in\_Babylon.jpg

# describes, and have even found mention of certain Bible characters!

(1) https://th-thumbnailer.cdn-si-edu.com/PMhimS-uYZaCYt--X7zxqeVxqcI=/1072x720/filters:no\_upscale():focal(403x320:404x321)/https://tf-cmsv2-smithsonianmag-media.s3.amazonaws.com/filer/75/22/7522fc10-6bc1-4e73-a9d7-815dcaf67b09/untitled-1d.png
(2) https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/43/Street\_in\_Babylon.jpg/1200px-Street\_in\_Babylon.jpg

**Bible** Accuracy

14

**Consistency** 

A fourth way that we can demonstrate the Bible's accuracy is through how consistent it is. Even though it had dozens of writers across thousands of years, the message was the same. It was always pointing to Jesus, and never contradicted itself!



In spite of its many authors spanning thousands of years, the Bible never contradicts itself!<sup>1</sup>

It is very important that we are confident in the Bible's reliability. How can we confidently share something we don't actually believe? And how can we trust something that is not reliable with something as important as our salvation? If we were to base our lives and our salvation on a map, we would want to be sure the map is perfectly accurate. Thankfully, our map the Bible is accurate!

(1) https://www.signupgenius.com/cms/images/bible-study-lesson-tips-small-group-leaders-600x400.jpg

# **Bible Use Around the World**

The Bible is the central book of the Christian religion. As Christians, we use both the Old and New Testaments and believe that it is the word of God and that it has direct influence on us and how we live our lives.

The Jewish faith uses a different version of the Bible, containing the Torah (the first 5 books of the Bible containing the Law of Moses), the Nevi'im (known in the Bible and even today as "The Prophets") and the Ketuvim (Poetry, records, and historical books). Though the order of the books is different, the Hebrew Bible is very similar to the Christian Old Testament.



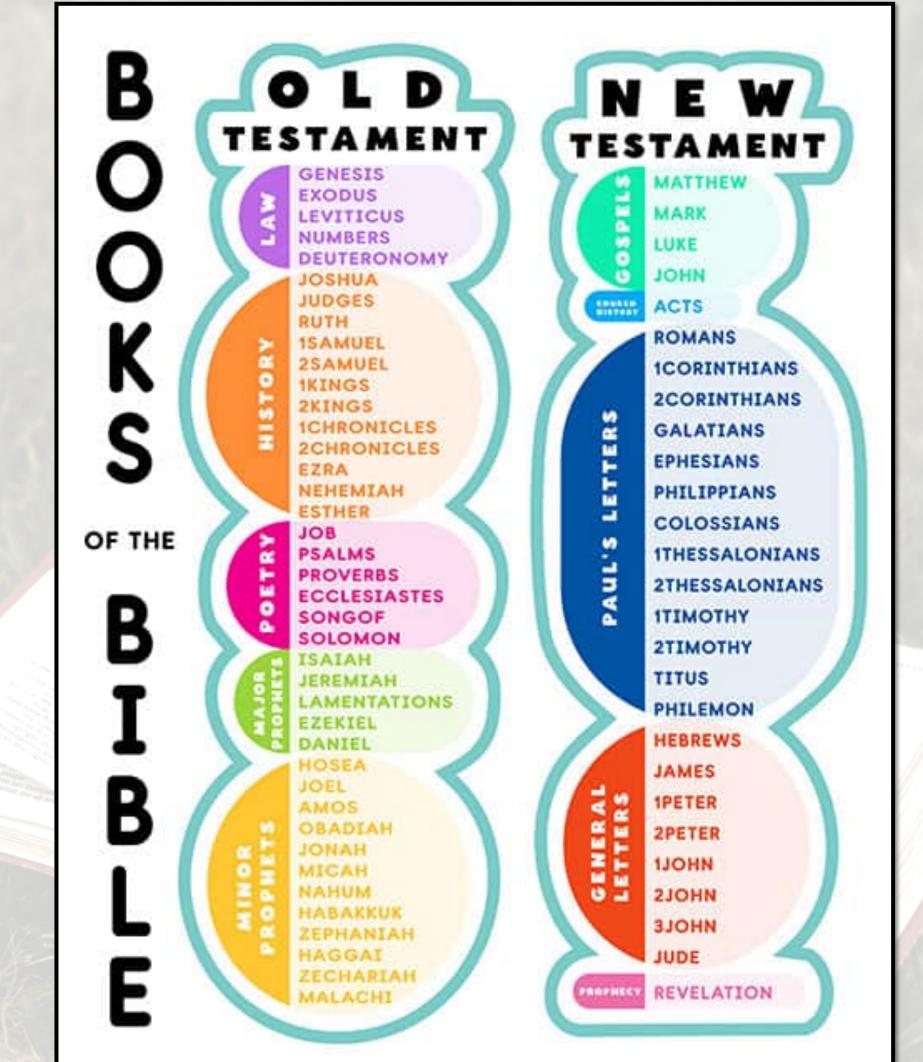
A young boy studies the Torah, the first 5 books of the Old Testament containing the Law of Moses.<sup>1</sup>

#### Muslims also believe parts of the Bible to be inspired by God, specifically the Pentateuch, the Psalms, and the Gospel of Jesus.

(1) https://free.messianicbible.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/850-Torah-reading.jpg

# **Books and Chapters**

The Bible is divided into sections roughly by topic or type. Here's the most common method of dividing the Bible into sections:



The modern Bible is divided into sections based on the content of the books (poetry,

Gospel, law, etc.) rather than the estimated order they were written in.<sup>1</sup>

(1) https://superstarworksheets.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BooksOfTheBibleList-1.jpg

### Hidden in Our Hearts

If we want to follow God, we need to know His plan for us, what He wants us to do, and who He is. We might not always have our Bibles available, and when we don't have them with us, how can we fight temptation, find comfort, and know what He would have us do? By memorizing it! Do you know these by heart?

> **DID YOU KNOW:** The most expensive Bible ever sold was a Gutenberg Bible which cost 5.4 million!

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

**DID YOU KNOW:** The world's smallest Bible was printed on a microscopic silicon disc and fits on the end of a pin!

And we know that all He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him good to those who love should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) **DID YOU KNOW:** John 3:16 is the world's most quoted Bible <sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the Lord DID YOU KNOW: The prophet Isaiah is Shall renew their strength; the most commonly quoted Bible prophet They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:30-31)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

The Bible's longest chapter is Psalm 119, with 150 verses! The shortest is Psalm 117, which is also the very middle chapter in the Bible! There are an even number of verses in the Bible, and these very middle verses can also be found in Psalms, Psalm 103:1-2 to be exact!

For God so loved the world that things work together for God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

DID YOU KNOW: Jeremiah 29:11 and Philippians 4:13 are tied as the second-most searched Bible verses in the Bible?

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

(*Proverbs* 3:5-6)

<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

DID YOU KNOW: Before the printing press was invented, it took a monk approximately 15 months of painstaking work to make one copy of the Bible.

DID YOU KNOW: The Bible's longest

verse is Esther 8:9.

The shortest is John 11:35, although in some

translations, Job 3:2 is actually shorter!

> <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over

the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He

DID YOU KNOW: The book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that doesn't mention God at all!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

> DID YOU KNOW: There are over 770,000 words in the NKJV Pathfinder Bible!

#### created them. (Genesis 1:26, 27)

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

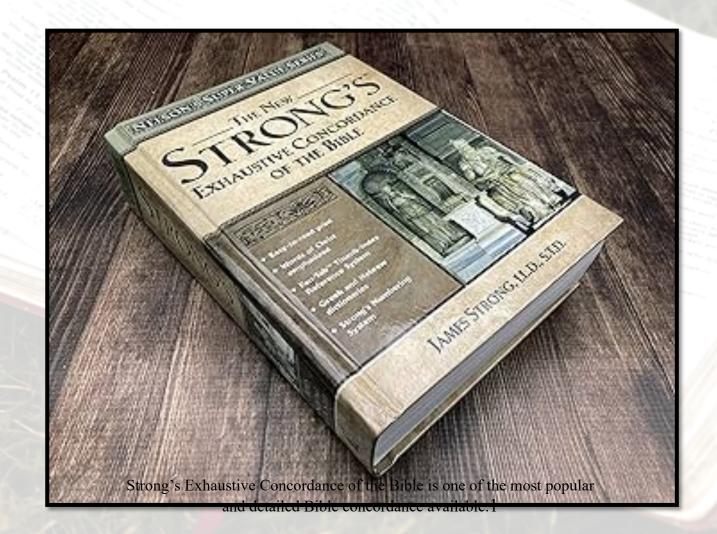
In Central and South American countries, whose members are often considered the most religiously devout Christians in the whole world, the most popular verses are Genesis 1:26 and 27!

# **Bible Study Tools**

Concordance

The Bible is a big book! Several tools have been developed to make it easier to study:

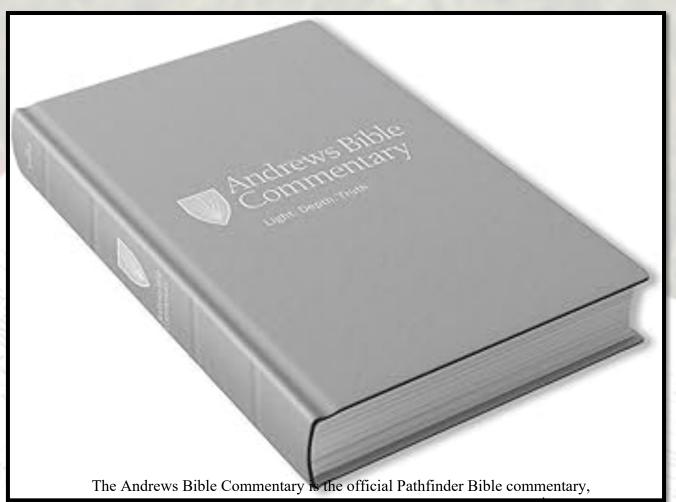
The Bible concordance sorts the Bible by word and lists where to find it in the Bible. It lists each word of the Bible and where to find it. For example, if you wanted to read about faith, you would look up "faith" and every reference for "faith" would be listed. This helps you to study by topic and find other references on the same topic. This makes it easier to find these references in context to get a better understanding of the way its use was intended!



(1) https://m.media-amazon.com/images/W/MEDIAX\_792452-T2/images/I/91sSVL413ML.\_AC\_UF350,350\_QL80\_.jpg

#### **Bible Study Tools** Bible Commentary

A Bible commentary gives insight, historical facts, background, and explains things as you read. Verse by verse, it provides additional information and cross references that give the reader a clearer understanding of what they are reading. A commentary also helps to "connect the dots" between different Biblical events, symbols, and characters.



often referenced in events such as Pathfinder Bible Experience.

For example, did you know that King David's general, Joab, was his cousin? Or that Amasa, David's enemy's general, was King David's nephew?

(1) https://m.media-amazon.com/images/W/MEDIAX\_792452-T2/images/I/71kZHTdT4wL.\_AC\_UF350,350\_QL80\_.jpg

# Keep the Morning Watch

What does the Bible mean to you? Is it a thick book full of confusing words and symbols? Is it a book of adventure stories that teach you about God's plan? Is it a book that gathers dust by your bed? The Bible can mean many things to us, but it represents something special to God. It's like a special letter from our best Friend, containing the secrets to living a happy and fulfilling life, and a treasure map that leads us to have a closer walk with Jesus forever!



The first law in the Pathfinder Law is to "Keep the morning watch," which means to dedicate time each day to learning more about God. How will you use your Bible to keep the morning watch?

> Purchase your patches here or in the UCC booth in the Central Pavilion.

(1) https://i.swncdn.com/media/800w/via/17854-gettyimages-1268696253-anastasiiastiahailo.jpg

Name(s)	):

Date:

#### Word of God

#### 1. Answer the following Bible trivia:

	The cost of the world's most expensive Bible.						
	Commissioned the Vulgate Bible translation.						
	This Bible verse is a shorter verse than John 11:35 in some Bible translations.						
	The name of the second portion of the Hebrew Bible known as "The Prophets."						
	Means "the book" in Latin.						
	Bible's longest verse.						
	The tool that made	The tool that made Bible more widely available.					
Bible study tool that sorts the Bible by word and lists where to find it.							
	Executed in 1536 for translating the Bible into English.						
Most commonly searched verse in South America.							
	Bible's center chapter						
2.	Match each book of the Bible with the section it is most often included in:						
	Song of Solomon	a.	Law				
	Hebrews	b.	History	3.	List the three major world religions that use parts of		
	Jude	c.	Poetry	the Bible as v today.	the Bible as we know it today.		
	Numbers	d.	Major Prophets				
	Isaiah	e.	Minor Prophets				
	Esther	f.	Gospels				
	Zechariah	g.	Church History				
	Revelation	h.	Paul's Letters				
	Mark	i.	General Letters				
	Titus	j.	Prophecy				

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