

Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph with his coat of many colours. Then recall the Prince of Egypt, Moses, and Joshua at the walls of Jericho, or Samson, or David and Goliath, and Solomon and his wisdom. I love the prophets, Jonah, Isaiah and Jeremiah telling us about the coming Saviour. Writing 700 years before Jesus, Isaiah said, 'All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, but the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.' In the New Testament towering above all others is Jesus, but we have Mary and Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Peter and John as well as Paul and Timothy. All of them

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point to God and His great plan to come into our world to make a way for men and women to be reconciled to God, coming to know Him in life, death and eternity.

Jesus believed the Old Testament, quoting from it 70 times. The Bible tells us the origin of sin and how it separates us from God. It tells us how impossible it is for us to save ourselves, but there is the promise of the Saviour who would come to seek and to save the lost. The Old Testament is preparing the way for His coming, and as the New Testament describes Jesus' death and resurrection it looks forward to the time when Jesus will return as the Lord of all to rule and reign in righteousness. We read how the world will end, and about heaven and hell. Bible history takes us back into the past and

its prophecies take us into the future. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, is about beginnings, and the last book, Revelation is about endings, and throughout it all God is working out His plan.

John tells us why he wrote John's Gospel: '...these are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.' That same purpose is true of all the Bible. Will you read the Bible and let God speak to you through His word? Will you ask Jesus to become your Lord and Saviour, thanking Him for dying for you and trusting the risen Christ to make you His? Jesus said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but have passed from death into life.'

Much of this information has been taken from Henrietta Mears's book *What The Bible Is All About* and can be purchased from 10ofthose.com



To find out more about
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What the BIBLE is all about

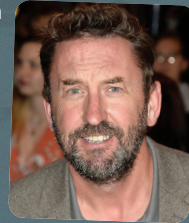


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We all know of it. It is the world's best seller. It is banned in some countries, and been burned in ours, yet it is loved by millions of people. It changes the lives of those who read it. Parts of it are read at most funerals and weddings, public ceremonies and some school assemblies.



When the comedian Lee Mack was interviewed on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* he, like all other guests on the programme, was offered the Bible to take on his 'desert island'. He replied:



'I'm glad you get the Bible, because I would read the Bible. I think it's quite odd that people like myself, in their forties, are quite happy to dismiss the Bible, but I've never read it. I always think that if an alien came down and you were the only person they met, and they said, "What's life about? What's earth about? Tell us everything," and you said, "Well, there's a book here that purports to tell you everything. Some people believe it to be true; some people [do] not believe it [to be] true." "Wow, what's it like?" and you go, "I don't know, I've never read it." It would be an odd thing wouldn't it? So, at the very least, read it.'

Why should people who have never read the Bible be so opposed to it? It's a big book (though it takes less than 80 hours to read at normal speed), but what is its theme? What is the message of the Bible?

Though it contains 66 books, it is one volume focusing on one central theme. It was written by 40 different authors from differing cultures and backgrounds, over a period of 1600 years, and in three languages (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic). We have thousands of ancient documents testifying to the accuracy of the Bible. The authors were kings and princes, poets and historians, prophets and statesmen. Some were fishermen whilst others were leaders of their nation.

There are two main sections: the Old Testament, written before the birth of Jesus, and the New Testament, written after His birth. The Old Testament commences what the New Testament completes. In the Bible there are books of history, poetry, prophecy, law, letters

and philosophy. The authors wrote in their own style, but God was working through them to write His word to men and women of all ages. The Bible is divine and human, 'for holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit'. It is one book, one history, one story which is God's story.

There are maps and places, genealogy and dates underscoring the accuracy of the unfolding drama. The Old Testament begins with God, the New Testament begins with Jesus. But the Bible is all one book. The Old Testament is looking forward to the coming of Jesus the Saviour. He is pictured, prophesied, portrayed and pined for. The New Testament tells of Jesus' coming to earth, of His life, His teaching, His miracles, His suffering and death as He carried our sins on Himself, His rising from the dead,

His ascension back to heaven, and God's continuing work on earth.

The Bible tells us about God who knows all things, can do all things, is everywhere and unchanging. It tells us He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is loving, just, holy, patient and kind.

It reveals to us what is right, but shows us that we are

so often wrong. But it

then explains how

we can be made

right with God, and

live as He created

us to live. It is God's

written revelation to

humanity. If we want to

know what God is like, how we

can know Him, what His will is for our

lives, and how we can know we will be

with Him in heaven after we die, rather

than being lost in hell, the Bible tells us.

There are fascinating characters and events in the Bible: think of Adam and

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