



What Is The **BIBLE?**

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE?

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



FOUNDATIONS - MODULE 13A



"If you were to ask people to name the best-selling book of all time, some might say any of the "Harry Potter" series or "The DaVinci Code". But, even though only 11% of North Americans admitted to reading the Bible in 2022, over 5 billion copies have been sold and distributed worldwide!

So why is the Bible still a best seller? What makes the Bible so special?

In this module you will learn how the Bible was compiled, why the Bible was written, and why the Bible should matter to you!"

Rick Carroll

Key Topics



01
WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

02

HOW WAS THE BIBLE COMPILED?



03

WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

04

WHY SHOULD THE BIBLE MATTER TO YOU?



*All Scripture is inspired
by God and is useful to
teach us what is true and
to make us realize what is
wrong in our lives. It
corrects us when we are
wrong and teaches us to do
what is right.*



2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NLT)

01

What is the Bible?

Since PORTICO Community Church is affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, let's begin with the Pentecostal theological position on what the Bible is...

HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings.

The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.


The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures, but God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.



Reflection #1

Is there something about your understanding of the Bible that needs to shift to align with why God gave us the Bible?



*God promised this Good
News long ago through his
prophets in the holy
Scriptures.*

ROMANS 1:2 (NLT)

02

How Was The Bible Compiled?

HISTORY

- Creation - 2000 B.C. - Originally, the earliest Scriptures are handed down from generation to generation orally.
- 2000-1500 B.C. - The book of Job, perhaps the oldest book of the Bible, is written.
- 1500-1400 B.C. - The stone tablets of the Ten Commandments are given to Moses at Mount Sinai and later stored in the Ark of the Covenant.
- 1400-400 B.C. - The manuscripts comprising the original Hebrew Bible (39 Old Testament books) are completed. The Book of the Law is kept in the tabernacle and later in the Temple beside the Ark of the Covenant.
- 300 B.C. - All of the original Old Testament Hebrew books have been written, collected, and recognized as official, canonical books.
- 250-200 B.C. - The Septuagint, a popular Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (39 Old Testament books), is produced. The 14 books of the Apocrypha are also included.
- 45-100 A.D. - Original 27 books of the Greek New Testament are written.
- 397 A.D. - Council of Carthage 397 AD, finalized Canon, 66 books



Reflection #2

How does knowing how the Bible was created help you understand it better?

*You search the Scriptures
because you think they
give you eternal life. But
the Scriptures point to me!
Yet you refuse to come to
me to receive this life.*

JOHN 5:39-40 (NLT)

03

Why Was The Bible Written?

All theological books claim to have divine inspiration and divine roots.

- Vedas - Hindu philosophy passed down orally.
- Tripitaka & Sutras - The teachings of Buddha.
- Quran - The sacred scripture of Islam that was revealed to Mohammed, the Prophet.
- The Book of Mormon - Engravings on golden plates discovered by Joseph Smith.

The Bible is different, in that God has a desire to reveal Himself to His creation, allowing His revelation to take place over thousands of years with dozens of writers. The Bible is about God's life, not ours!

Self-revelation:

“The Bible is the revelation of the character and will of God - who we are? How can we live in relationship with Him?” William D. Mounce, New Testament Greek scholar.

“The Bible is a grand narrative that brings us back into fellowship with God and brings us into harmonious fellowship with one another where we live together, reflecting His character, and ultimately, a redeemed humanity in a new heaven and a new earth.” Gareth Cockerill, Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Theology, Wesleyan Seminary.

**If you don't know the entire story of the Bible,
you will struggle to understand pieces.**

God chose to reveal Himself to us through different types of writings in the Bible.



Divine Revelation - Genesis



History - Exodus to 2 Chronicles



Prophecy - Major & Minor Prophets



Songs of Worship - Psalms



Wisdom - Proverbs & Ecclesiastes



Poetry - Song of Songs



Lament - Lamentations



Teaching Letters - Paul's letters to the Galatians, Romans, Ephesians, Corinthians, Philemon, Philippians, Thessalonians



Revelation - The End Times

The New Testament is a fulfillment of what we understand in the Old Testament.



Reflection #3

What type of writing in the Bible helps you understand God more?

Which type of writing in the Bible do you find the hardest to understand God?

*Such things were written in
the Scriptures long ago to
teach us. And the Scriptures
give us hope and
encouragement as we wait
patiently for God's promises
to be fulfilled.*



ROMANS 15:4 (NLT)

04

Why Should The Bible Matter To You?

- **The Bible is the basis of truth for all who believe.**

When we are considering how to respond to the largest debates of our day, the Bible must be our measuring stick that we use to guide our thoughts and words.

Many believers today form an opinion based on personal experience, cultural norms, or Church practises. We know words of songs, quotes from motivational speakers, but not lines of Scripture.

- **It is the only reliable source to understand God.**

Pastors will share ideas, messages and reflections on the Bible, but their opinions are not a substitution for the Bible.

Learning from Pastors is an easy way for us to digest Scripture, but it's not enough to simply rely on Pastors to feed you Biblical truths - you should deep dive the Scriptures on your own, to understand God.

- **It's God's gift to us.**

Consider the amount of care God invested in the creation of the Bible.

The Bible is His Story - It's God's Story!



Reflection #4

Do you believe that the Bible is the source of all truth?



Bible Reading Plan

At PORTICO we believe that it's necessary to read your Bible daily to grow in your spiritual journey of faith. That's why we've designed a Bible Reading Plan with Scripture verses for each day, to help you learn more about God.

[PORTICO.CC/DAILYDEVO](https://portico.cc/dailydevo)



*For the word
of God will
never fail.*

LUKE 1:37 (NLT)

*Jesus replied, “But even
more blessed are all
who hear the word of
God and put it into
practice.”*

LUKE 11:28 (NLT)

*Remember your leaders who
taught you the word of God.
Think of all the good that
has come from their lives, and
follow the example of their
faith.*

HEBREWS 13:7 (NLT)

*For the word of God is alive and
powerful. It is sharper than the
sharpest two-edged sword,
cutting between soul and spirit,
between joint and marrow. It
exposes our innermost thoughts
and desires.*

HEBREWS 4:12 (NLT)

*In the beginning the
Word already existed.
The Word was with
God, and the Word
was God.*

JOHN 1:1 (NLT)