The Bible – Greatest Love Story Ever

A Brief Summary:

The Bible is the greatest love story ever. A love so great that the loving creator God would present himself to atone for our sins, so we might be free from darkness and walk in light with Him.

Old Testament

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything within it. God created man intricately, breathed the breath of life in man and put him in charge of many things. The desire for humans to be like God, instigated by the devil, led people into disobedience and a sinful rebellion against God. Sin caused separation between God and man as light could not be with darkness. However, the loving and merciful God would not be angry with His people forever (for they are His creation) and set a plan of restore humanity.

As part of God's redemptive plan, God raised various leaders, prophets, kings and judges to govern, warn and correct His people who went back to their sinful ways after brief moments of repentance. These were the birth pains for the Messiah to be born - the redeemer and saviour, who would restore the creation to its former glory and perfection.

However – there was a steep price to pay, a sacrifice was required to pay the penalty – the price of blood, not of a man or an animal, but the blood price of a 'Perfect Lamb' (God himself).

The New Testament

The New Testament fulfills God's plan to redeem His people from the bondage and penalty of sins with the birth of 'Jesus' (God in human flesh), the promised Christ and Messiah (Saviour). Jesus lived a perfect life and lay down His life as a blameless sacrificial lamb to atone for our sins. He was crucified on a cross. However, He conquered death and rose again (for death has no grip on Him) that we might have a hope of resurrection with Him in eternity. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Structure of the Bible:

The Bible has 2 parts namely, the Old Testament (comprising of 39 books) and the New Testament (comprising of 27 books).

- The Old Testament consists of accounts of creation, sin leading to separation from God, God's redemptive plan and the prophesy and promise of a Saviour who would redeem mankind.
- The New Testament fulfills the prophesies from the Old Testament with the arrival of the Messiah 'Jesus', His life, death and resurrection, the early church and the efforts of the disciples to share the Gospel 'Good news of Salvation' to the nations.

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The Authors:

The Bible is the authentic, unadulterated and authoritative 'Word of God' written over 1,500 years by more than 40 different authors, comprising of prophets, tax collectors, fishermen, shepherds, physicians and even kings.

The central theme of the Bible is cohesive and consistent across time, places and authors. This cohesiveness is not surprising given the supreme Author of the Bible is just One 'God Himself'.

"*All Scripture is God-breathed"* (2 Timothy 3:17)

A pictorial view of the Biblical books and contents

THE BIBLE - 66 BOOKS

Section	Content	Book Name
OLD TESTAMENT	CREATION AND LAW	Genesis
		Exodus
		Leviticus
		Numbers
		Deuteronomy
	MESSENGERS OF GOD	Joshua
		Judges
		Ruth
		1 Samuel
		2 Samuel
		1 Kings
		2 Kings
		1 Chronicles
		2 Chronicles
		Ezra
		Nehemiah
		Esther
	POETRY	Job
		Psalm
		Proverbs
		Ecclesiastes
		Song of Solomon
	MAJOR PROPHETS	Isaiah
		Jeremiah
		Lamentations
		Ezekiel
		Daniel
	MINOR PROPHETS	Hosea
		Joel
		Amos
		Obadiah
		Jonah
		Micah
		Nahum
		Habakkuk
		Zephaniah
		Haggai
		Zechariah
		Malachi

Section	Content	Book Name
NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPELS - LIFE, CRUCIFIXION, BURIAL AND RESSURECTION OF JESUS	Matthew
		Mark
		Luke
		John
	CHURCH FOUNDATION	Acts
	LETTERS FROM DISCIPLES / FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TO EARLY CHURCH AND NON BELIEVERS ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS OF LOVE, FAITH, FORGIVENESS AND SOUL SALVATION AVAILABLE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST	Romans
		1 Corinthians
		2 Corinthians
		Galatians
		Ephesians
		Philippians
		Colossians
		1 Thessalonians
		2 Thessalonians
		1 Timothy
		2 Timothy
		Titus
		Philemon
		Hebrews
		James
		1 Peter
		2 Peter
		1 John
		2 John
		3 John
		Jude
	PROPHESY - END TIME AND JUDGEMENT	Revelation

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How to Start Reading the Bible?

As you open your Bible, consider praying and asking God to open up your heart that He may help you understand what you read.

Each of the 66 books in the Bible is organised into various chapters. You could start by reading and meditating on one chapter each day. Consider reading Psalm Chapter 1 in the morning and meditating on Matthew Chapter 1 at night, and progress to the next Chapter the next day.

- Matthew – Covers the genealogy, birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus
- Psalms and Proverbs – Provides daily encouragement, guidance and spiritual food for your soul

After completing Matthew, you could progress your reading into Mark, Luke, John that provide complimenting perspectives and eyewitness testimony about Jesus. The book of Acts would help you to understand how the early Church was set up and how the believers were strengthened even amidst persecution for their faith in Jesus. The book of Romans provides wonderful encouragement and nourishment to build intimacy with Jesus Christ.

The Central Theme:

The Central Theme of the Bible is summarised in one beautiful verse "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" *(John 3:16)*

BIBLE VOYAGE

Finally, consider this:

Would you be willing to put your hope and faith in Jesus? He has demonstrated His divinity and His love by shedding His priceless blood on the cross to atone for our sins. He doesn't just love, He is Love. He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is the way to heaven.

Jesus loves us like no other, and has the power and authority to destroy the darkness surrounding our life – be it loneliness, brokenness, depression, lack of hope, rejection, curses, bondage, addiction, grief, trauma and sickness.

We have a choice to make – Are we willing to open up our hearts, put our faith in Jesus, and receive the peace, forgiveness of sins and love He brings. Consider reading the Bible to know the living God. Pray and consider attending a local church regularly that you may grow in your faith and be encouraged and strengthened over time.

If you:

- have any questions or still unsure where to start
- would like a prayer
- would like to know more about Jesus

Please feel free to call on 0405 160 522 or contact us at reach@biblevoyage.org.au

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