

THE HOLY BIBLE

Understanding the Bible in a nutshell

The Bible is a fascinating work, not only for its spiritual content but also for its historical and literary complexity.

1. Period in which the books were written

The Bible was not written all at once, but over a period of approximately 1,500 to 1,600 years.

- **Old Testament:** Writing began around 1440 B.C. (with Moses and the Pentateuch) and was completed around 400 B.C. (Prophet Malachi).
- **New Testament:** It was written in a shorter period, between 45 A.D. and 95 A.D., covering less than a century.

2. Number of authors

The Bible was written by about 40 different authors. What makes this impressive is the diversity of these people. Among them, we find:

- Kings (David, Solomon);
- Fishermen (Peter, John);
- A doctor (Luke);
- A tax collector (Matthew);
- Military leaders and prophets.

They wrote on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe) and in three original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).

3. Coherence between the books

There is an extraordinary coherence. Despite the vast distance in time, culture, and profession among the authors, the Bible maintains a thematic and doctrinal unity.

Unlike an encyclopedia, which is a collection of facts, the Bible functions as a living organism: the Old Testament reveals promises that are fulfilled in

the New Testament. There are no central theological contradictions; instead, there is a progressive development of God's revelation to man.

In the Old Testament, we find 39 books. Interestingly, $3 \times 9 = 27$, which is the number of books in the New Testament, totaling 66 books.

4. The Central Message

The central message of the Bible can be summarized in one word: **Redemption**. The "common thread" that unites all 66 books is God's plan to save humanity through Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul expresses this clearly in 1 Timothy 2:3-4: ***"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."***

- **In the Old Testament**, Christ is prophesied and typified (He is the "Lamb who is to come").
- **In the Gospels**, Christ is revealed and performs the work of salvation.
- **In the Epistles**, this work is explained.
- **In Revelation**, Christ is glorified as the returning King.

Summary: It is the story of God's love seeking out the human being who turned away from Him, culminating in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus to restore this relationship.

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