

the Bible

The bible is the biggest best seller of all times, translated into more languages and read by more people than any other single book. Despite its popularity, many people today are completely unfamiliar with it. Where did the bible come from? How do we know if the events recorded in the bible really happened? How is the bible relevant to my life today? This pamphlet is designed to answer some basic questions and hopefully help you better understand and benefit from the bible.

how to get started reading the bible

It is essential that as a Christian, you regularly read the bible. This is one of the major ways to grow spiritually and to hear from God. Here are a few practical suggestions to get you started:

- 1 Get yourself an easy to read translation of the bible. We recommend the New International Version (NIV) which is both easy to read and accurately translated.
- 2 Begin by reading the gospels, which tell the story of the life of Jesus.
- 3 Start out reading just a chapter or two; 2-3 times a week, don't feel pressured into reading every single day to start out.
- 4 Eventually work your way to reading the bible more and more.
- 5 Consider investing in a "study" bible which includes helpful background information that will increase your understanding of what you read.

Please feel free to contact the church if you have any other questions or concerns about what Morning Star believes about the Bible.

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What does Morning Star believe about the
B I B L E



facts about the bible

- 1** The bible is a collection of **66** books. The word bible comes from the Greek word for “books.” Scripture, another word used for the bible, means “the writings.”
- 2** The bible was written by more than **40** different authors over a period of about **1600** years. Some well-known bible authors include **Moses, David, Solomon, and the apostles Peter, Paul, and John.**
- 3** The bible is divided into the **Old and New Testaments.** Testament is another word for “covenant” which is like a contract. The **Old Testament** is about **God’s special covenant** with the Jewish people and the **New Testament** is about **God’s new covenant** based on the person and work of **Jesus Christ.**
- 4** The **Old Testament** books were written between **1400 BC** and **430 BC.** These books were compiled into a collection called the “cannon” about **300** years before the birth of Christ.
- 5** The **New Testament** was written between **40 AD** and **90 AD.** The early church recognized these writings as “scripture” but they were not collected into an official canon until the **4th** century.
- 6** The bible is not in chronological order, which can make reading through it confusing. The various books are grouped instead by the type of writing they are-law or history or poetry for example.

Morning Star believes the bible was written by men but **inspired by God**

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “all scripture is inspired by God.” By saying “inspired,” he didn’t mean that the bible is inspiring to read, or that the authors were “inspired” in the same way a composer is inspired to write a piece of music. The word in Greek literally means “out-breathed” and conveys the idea that the writing of the bible was intimately directed by the Holy Spirit. This is why Christians often call the bible the **Word of God.**

At the same time, real historical figures at specific times in history wrote the various books of the bible. The bible did not just fall out of the sky but it is both natural and supernatural– the product of both human and divine activity. God guided the human writers to write what He wanted us to know concerning Christian beliefs and practices.

Morning Star believes the bible is **revelation**

God has made himself known to us through revelation such as the wonder and beauty of creation, the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the pages of the bible. What this means is that the truth contained in the bible did not happen by chance. God had to reveal it, show it, or disclose it to the bible authors. Without revelation, it would be impossible to truly know God.

Morning Star believes that the bible is **trustworthy**

Everything Christians are required to believe is based on the bible. It is, therefore, of tremendous importance to determine whether or not the bible is reliable. It would be impossible, however, to thoroughly deal with all the issues surrounding this subject in a pamphlet. Suffice it to say that there is overwhelming evidence supporting the bible’s reliability and trustworthiness, particularly when it’s compared with other ancient documents. We can as Christians have confidence that what was originally written down was preserved and accurately passed on over the centuries. Advances in archeology have repeatedly corroborated the bible’s record of history, further pointing to its reliability.

Most criticisms against the bible’s reliability have little to do with actual text problems and more to do with anti-supernatural biases. Some critics dismiss any references in the biblical accounts to the supernatural as myth, legend, or folklore.

Morning Star believes that the bible is **authoritative**

The bible is more than just a book of good ideas and helpful hints. The words contained rest on the authority of God Himself. Therefore, they are the only divinely authorized record of the beliefs which we are bound as Christians to follow. Scripture is authoritative in teaching, rebuke, correction, and training in the way we should live.

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