

LET'S TALK ABOUT
THE BIBLE

TALK TO YOUR
KIDS

A CHRISTIAN
PARENTS GUIDE
TO HELP
YOU NAVIGATE
TOUGH SUBJECTS
WITH YOUR KIDS



Let's Talk About The Bible

A Message from Watersprings Family Ministries

Have you ever wondered why people should hold the Bible in such high regard? Even people who do not necessarily consider themselves active Christians seem to hold the Bible in some higher level of esteem. Perhaps you have seen on television or a movie where someone is taking the witness stand in court, and they place their hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth. Why does placing one's hand on the Bible have anything to do with whether or not their testimony can be trusted? What is the Bible? Where did it come from? Is it really from God? Should we trust it? How important is it that we read the Bible? What should we do with what we read in the Bible? What about others who do not see it like we do?



What Is The Bible?

Before we tackle our response to the Bible, let's answer the question, "What is the Bible?" The Bible, as we have it in written form today, is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is a collection of 66 books (or letters).

OLD TESTAMENT

39 BOOKS **Genesis - Malachi**

Begins at the beginning of time, when God created everything.

Ends with God's chosen people doubting His love for them, but God finishes with the promise of a new beginning... Someday.

NEW TESTAMENT

27 BOOKS **Matthew - Revelation**

Begins at the beginning of the life of Jesus, when God promised to make everyone who trusts in Him a new creation.

Ends with the ultimate consummation of all things and promised new beginning on the way.

Between the Old and New Testaments, there is a period of 400 silent years. But they are only “silent” until we realize that God had already spoken about them through the prophet Daniel in a sort of pre-history. We will cover that soon, but for now, understand that what is really important about the history of the world, from God’s perspective, is found in the Bible.

From God’s creation of a perfect world – beautiful and full of life – to the cause of suffering and death (Adam’s rebellion), to God’s great plan to redeem man and reconcile mankind to Himself, it is all in the Bible. In fact, it runs throughout the Bible. God’s plan was that a son would be born to a virgin (Genesis 3:15), and that son of the virgin would crush the serpent who had deceived man into rebellion. That serpent, of course, is the devil, and that Son of the virgin is Jesus, the Son of God. That is what the New Testament is all about (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8,12; Romans 3:23; Romans 10:9-10).

There is a beautiful connection and a wonderful flow between the Old and the New Testaments. They are not two different stories about two different Gods. The entire Bible – Old and New Testament – is one book with one message about one God who loves His creation so much, He even became one of us, dying on the cross to pay our debt (Colossians 2:13-14) and reconcile us to Himself. That is what the Bible is all about.

What Does The Bible Say About Itself?

It is important to know what the Bible claims about itself so we may understand why we believe what we believe about the Bible. Can we trust the Bible? Is it really from God? Well, here is what the Bible says about itself...

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”

(2 Timothy 3:16)

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

(2 Peter 1:20-21)

In the book of Isaiah, God even claims that He speaks of future events as if they had already happened and even challenges other gods and prophets to do the same:



*“Show the things that are to come hereafter,
That we may know that you are gods...”*

(Isaiah 41:23)

*“And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him
declare it and set it in order for Me, since I
appointed the ancient people. And the things
that are coming and shall come, let them show
these to them.”*

(Isaiah 44:7)

We do not mean to be flippant, but this seems like God is throwing down the gauntlet of prophecy. It almost sounds like a little trash talk, so-to-speak. He is actually challenging false prophets to prove that they are true and that their gods are true by saying, “Okay, if you are true, do what I do. Speak about the future with absolute accuracy.” Today, we call that a “mic drop.” Boom!

In fact, remember we talked about those 400 silent years between the Testaments? And remember we said that the prophet Daniel wrote a pre-history regarding those years? Well, believe it or not, it is the accuracy of the book of Daniel that actually causes some people to doubt that it was written by Daniel. That is, they say the prophetic words of Daniel regarding Alexander the Great and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire are too accurate to believe that Daniel wrote hundreds of years before it happened.

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand).

(Matthew 24:15)

“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

(Mark 13:14)

However, there is an easy way – a short cut – for Christians to determine that Daniel actually wrote the book of Daniel. Are you ready? In Matthew 24:15 and in Mark 13:14, Jesus quotes the book of Daniel and attributes it to the prophet Daniel. In other words, Jesus Himself said that the prophet Daniel wrote the book of Daniel. So, if Jesus says Daniel wrote the book of Daniel, then Daniel wrote the book of Daniel. And he did so as he was moved – breathed upon – by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible In History

All of this, so far, is simply to say that the Bible claims to be the very Word of God and the proof offered by God Himself is that He very often speaks prophetically. That is, throughout the Bible, when it was originally written, He speaks of things nobody else had information about – like creation – and He speaks of future events that have not even happened yet as if they had already happened. That is why we use the term pre-history to describe prophecy. Because we know that when God says it is going to happen, it is the same as if it has already happened.

Perhaps that is why so many people – whether they are Christians or not – hold the Bible in such high esteem. There is no other book in the history of mankind that comes anywhere near the amazing claims and power of the Bible. It has been said, “The Bible is God’s heart in God’s words.” When the Bible claims to be “inspired” by God, the original language actually says that it is “God-breathed.” It is as if God Himself breathed upon the men who wrote the Scriptures, and thus it has been said, “The words of the Bible are the very breath of God.” Wow! What do you think about the Bible now?



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WWII U.S. General George S. Patton, known as “Old Blood ‘n Guts” by his soldiers and arguably the greatest combat general of modern times, read his Bible every single day of his life. His diaries and journals are filled with scriptures, and the margins of his Bible were filled with his own handwritten notes.

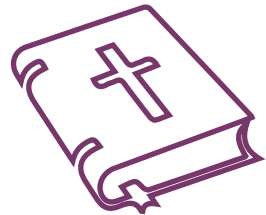
During the most watched television broadcast of all time, on Christmas Eve of 1968, as Apollo 8 was orbiting the moon, the entire crew took turns reading from a Bible provided by the Gideons. They read verse-by-verse through the first chapter of Genesis.

Even the President of the United States is traditionally sworn into office by raising their right hand and placing the left hand on the Bible. President George Washington even kissed the Bible after citing the oath. Several others have done the same.

The point is, there are many more stories like these, and the Bible is not just for “good church people” to read on Sunday mornings. The Bible speaks to the hearts and souls of people in every field of endeavor and the very bravest and most courageous of men and women often find their strength in the Bible, and they very often read their Bible every day.

What Should We Do With The Bible?

If the One who loves you more than anyone else loves you – so much so that He became one of us and lived, and died, and rose again – has taken the time to inspire holy men of God to write down His words for you (2 Peter 1:21), do you think it might be a great idea to take time each day to read His Word?



*The Bible
is God's
love letter
to you.*

The Psalmist wrote, “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You,” (Psalm 119:9-11).

So it is important to:

- Read God’s Word often;
- Study it;
- Memorize as much of it as possible;
- Obey what you read.

It will help to draw near to the One who loves you the most

“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.” ~ D. L. Moody

“Study to be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)

A note to parents from Watersprings Family Ministries

Thank you for taking on the exciting opportunity & responsibility to teach your kids about Jesus! With your help teaching and ministering our Savior's message to another generation.

*We understand there are many tough subjects & hope our **Talk To Your Kids Series** will strengthen & educate you for the task ahead.*

All these and other resources can be found at Watersprings Church at 4250 S 25th E, Idaho Falls, ID 83404, online at watersprings.net or call (208) 524-4747



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