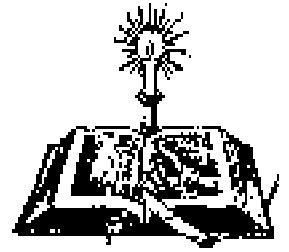




What do we know about the Bible?

by Komodo D



The Bible is a well-known book, most people regardless of religion have heard of this famous book. As Catholics, we are very fortunate to have opportunities to explore and appreciate the Bible under guidance. However, our emphasis has always been on the content and most of us know very little on the facts behind this book. I am a curious person and have decided to stop asking the “who did what, when and how”. I would like to share some of my findings with you.

What is the Bible?

- γ The word “Bible” means *book*.
- γ The *content* of the Bible represents the *Word of God*.
- γ God began to instruct men to write down His Word *3,500 years* ago, more than *40* different people recorded these messages.
- γ God’s Word were recorded on scrolls and *thus* are known as *Scriptures*.
- γ Writings on the *scrolls* were bound together as *one book*, and is known as the *Bible*.

What makes the Bible one of the amazing books in the world?

1. How many books are in the Bible?

- γ The Bible is a *library* of *73* books.
 - This includes *46* books in the *Old Testament*, which contains stories before the birth of Jesus Christ. These stories were written as history, poetry and prophecy.
 - This includes *27* books in the *New Testament*, which contains stories after the birth of Jesus Christ. These include the Gospels, Epistles (letters) and Revelation.

2. Who wrote the Bible?

- γ *Over 40 writers* wrote the Bible and these writers came from all walks of life.
 - *Moses* was a political leader, wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
 - *Peter* was a fisherman, wrote part of the Epistles.
 - *Amos* was a herdsman, wrote the book of Amos.
 - *Joshua* was a military general, wrote the book of Joshua.
 - *Daniel* was a prime minister, wrote the book of Daniel.
 - *Luke* was a physician, wrote part of the Gospel.
 - *Paul* was a tent maker and a tax collector, wrote part of the Epistles.
- γ *Moses* contributed the most books to the Old Testament, he wrote the first five books.
- γ *Paul* contributed the most books to the New Testament, he wrote 14 books.



3. Where was the Bible written?

- γ The Bible was written on *3 continents* – Asia, Africa and Europe.
- γ The writers wrote from *different places* – for example, Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah in the dungeon, Paul in the prison, John on an island.
- γ The Bible was written in times of war and peace, joy and sorrow, hope and despair.

4. What language was the Bible written in?

- γ The Bible was originally written in 3 languages – *Hebrew, Aramaic* and *Greek*.
- γ The Bible has been translated into over *2,018 languages*, with countless audio translation for unwritten languages.

5. When was the Bible written?

- ∨ It was written over a period of **1,500** years, from around the time of Moses to the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- ∨ The **first** version of the Bible is the “**Septuagint Version**” and dated back to **280 BC**.
- ∨ The Bible was **canonized** by the council of **Carthage** in **397 AD**.



6. When was the Bible first printed?

- ∨ The Bible was the **first book ever** printed.
- ∨ This was printed in **1454** by a German, Johannes Gutenberg. The two – volume bible was printed with a total of 1,282 pages. This was created with the help of 20 staff. A total of 180 copies were printed, with 150 copies on paper and 30 on parchment with 48 copies still existence. Copies can be found in **Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana** at the **Vatican City**.

7. What is the difference between a Catholic Bible and a Protestant Bible?

- ∨ In the **Old Testament**, the Protestant version has only 39 books, but the Catholic version has 46 books. The seven additional books included in Catholic version are Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. Catholic version also includes additions to the Books of Esther and Daniel, which are not found in Protestant Bibles. These books are called the deuterocanonical books. The Catholic Church considers these books to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- ∨ In the **New Testament**, the difference is not in the number of books or chapters, but in the way certain words were translated into English from the original language they were in.

8. Is the Bible still the best selling book in the world?

- ∨ The Bible is the **best selling** book every year.
- ∨ According to the Guinness World Records, **2.5 billion** Bibles have been printed since 1815.

9. How long does it take to read the Bible aloud?

- ∨ It takes about **70 hours** to read the entire Bible aloud.

聖 體 聖 事

英子

我經常利用10時與11時45分彌撒間的半小時空檔，一來與主促膝長談、祈禱、反思，二來細讀是日經文。

那日，我如常提早入聖堂，放眼回顧，見到有一位熟識的姊妹獨坐一隅，頻頻拭淚，於是我靜靜地走去坐在她身旁，等到她祈禱完畢，抹掉眼淚，睜開眼睛與我四目相交時，我急切地握住她的手，詢問她甚麼事。

她嗚咽著說：「我剛領完聖體，與主相遇，我好感動」，眼淚更一串串的流下來。「主以祂的體血滋養我們，我感覺到好幸福，主好愛我，真的好愛我。」

她深情地望了我一眼，語重心長地說：「領了聖體心中有無限感觸，只想留下坐多一會，細細體會與主相遇的奇妙，神人共融的感動，天人合一的喜樂，感謝主。」

於是我們不再說話，但緊緊相握，靜靜坐，默默祈禱，深深嘆息，悄悄拭淚，沉醉于聖恩之中多麼美好的靈修，果真是三人行必有我師，且喜有二師。

感謝主的恩寵，感謝聖神的帶領，感謝資深教友的傳授，就在那一刻，使我真正實實在在領悟了聖體聖事的真諦。

誠然，閱讀聖經，恒常祈禱是基督徒的日修神課，從生活中拾取點滴，滴水穿石，感動自己，感染別人，有如蠟燭燃燒自己，照亮別人，正是學習的另一要環，就像銀幣的兩面，相輔相成，缺一不可，謹此與各兄弟姊妹共勉。

