

RCIA SEPT 26, 2019

Introduction to the Bible

Bible is a story of revelation. Bible is a “love story” God revealing his secrets through history and time.

Bible = Byblon (inner bark of papyrus), synonymous with letters or books

Became synonymous with scripture or writings

Catholic bible 46 books old testament 27 new testament

No original manuscripts:

Info passed down for centuries before writing exists – songs, poems, and psalms

Writing a book back then was very expensive – tablets, papyrus, parchment

Interpretation of language leads to errors - the bible was transcribed by hand leading to discrepancies in the translation. No punctuation or letter case...

1. Differences in author
2. Mistranslations
3. Difference in scholarship
4. Time it was written down

First translated into Greek and Hebrew – (language of commerce)

1454 began printing technology Gutenberg Press (Gutenberg Bible)

Where did the names for the books come from?

1. Content – Genesis – Greek for beginning
2. The authors – gospels
3. Recipients of a letter – Corinthians, Ephesians...

Main divisions of the Bible First Testament and Old Testament

Testament = covenant

Old Testament covenant between God and Abraham – mostly written in Hebrew

New Testament covenant between Christians and God – written in Greek

Robert Estienne is considered to be the first to add chapters and verse to bible in 1551

How do we read the bible

Open mind and critical eye

Some things seem to be missing - Gen 3:6 – doesn't mention the “Apple”

There are surprising things – Deut. 21:18 – parents upset with drunkard son so let the townspeople stone him to death

Some things somewhat Humorous – Give strong drink to him who is perishing and wine to those in bitter distress

Things to keep in mind – newest book revelations was written 94-96 AD almost 2K years ago.

Different expressions

Geography of Bible is different. Desert hot dry barren – therefore hell was hot

Norse cultures in cold regions – religion – hell interpreted as cold

Careful to read scripture in context

Best question to ask yourself when reading the bible

What is the author trying to tell us?



Davinci's last supper. 4 groups of 3, with different thoughts and expressions.

