

Content of the Bible

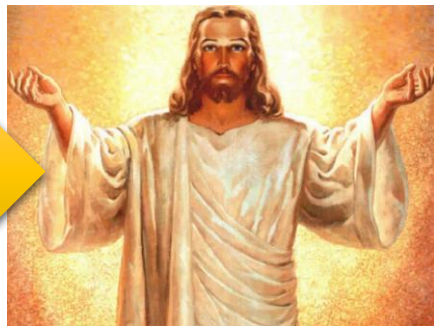
The Old Testament

-The Old Testament is made up of several sections:

- Law is the first five books (Genesis to Deuteronomy). These are not 'laws' in the modern sense, but stories and ideas about how life should be lived.
- History contains the books of Joshua to Esther. This has twelve books which look at the history of the land of Israel.
- Wisdom is the book of Jobs to the Song of Songs. The Wisdom section contains 'intelligent' ideas about how life should be lived.
- Prophets contains the books of Isaiah to Malakai, and contains information about inspired preachers and teachers of God.

The New Testament

- The New Testament contains the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. These contain the main records of the life & teachings of Jesus.
- The New Testament also contains that Acts of the Apostles, which were also written by Luke. This tells of how the actions of Jesus' followers after his death and resurrection led to the formation of the Christian Church.
- Finally, it contains the 21 Epistles (letters) written by Paul and the Book of Revelation, written by St. John the Divine. This discusses the end of the world.



Big Ideas:

Justice and Equality



God's love of Humanity.



The Nature of God



The Big Narratives



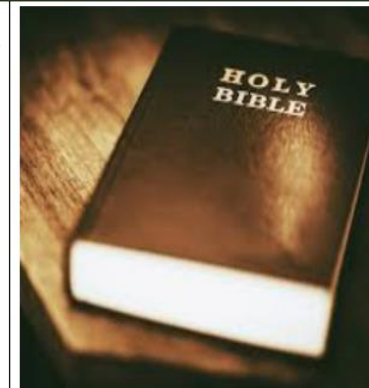
Overview

-The Bible is the holy book of Christianity. It is not written by one author, but rather is a collection of 66 different books within one volume.

-The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament (which contains 39 books) and The New Testament (with 27 books).

-The Old Testament has the same content as the Jewish Tenakh. It mainly discusses creation and God's early relationship with the Jews.

-The New Testament mainly covers the life of Jesus, his followers, and early Christian communities.



Year 8- The Bible Autumn One



The Importance of the Bible for Christians

Christians refer to the Bible as the word of God.

-Some take the words in the Bible as God's actual words, whilst others consider the Bible as the words of those inspired by God.

-Likewise, some Christians take every word in the Bible as though they are literally true, whilst others think that parts are figurative (not meant to be taken literally, but make a point). Whatever their outlook, all Christians agree that the Bible inspires and educates them in how they should live their lives.

Fundamentalist Christians:

Christians who believe that the statements in The Bible are literally true and believe there are certain basic beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith. They would believe that God literally created the world in 6 24 hour days, that the world is 6,000 years old and that we are all blood descendants of Adam and Eve.

Liberals:

Christians who believe that the Bible's authors were guided by God, but that not everything they wrote is a literal account of what actually happened. They look for a spiritual truth rather than focusing on factual truth. For example the story of the tortoise and the hare (not in the Bible) did not happen but still contains truth.

Key Terms

Scriptures: the sacred writings of a religion.

Testament: a testament is a statement of belief. The most famous testaments are the two parts of the Christian Bible. The Old and New Testaments, the event that separates the Old and New Testament is the birth of Jesus.

Gospel: (literally meaning Good News) a reading from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), which tells of the life and teachings of Jesus.