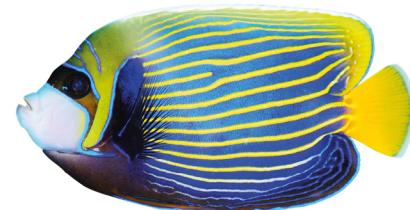
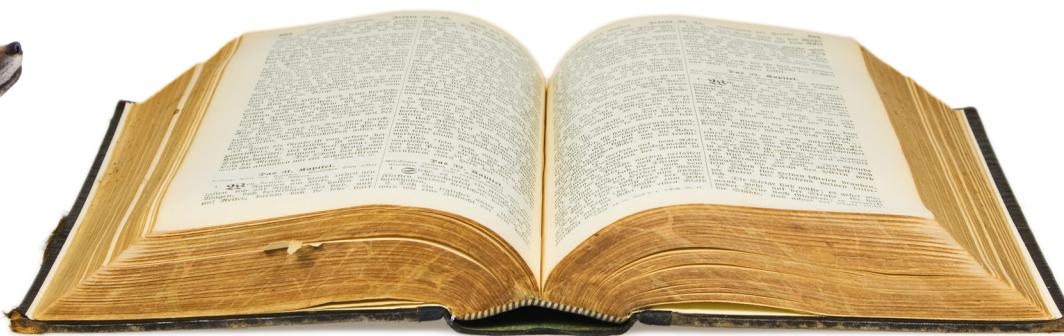
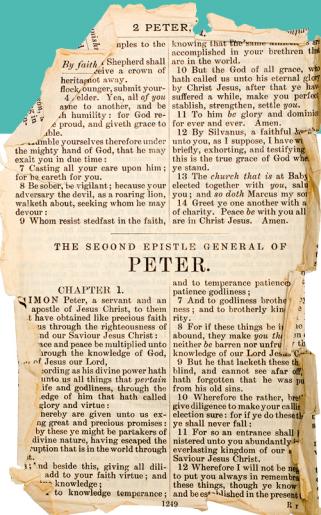


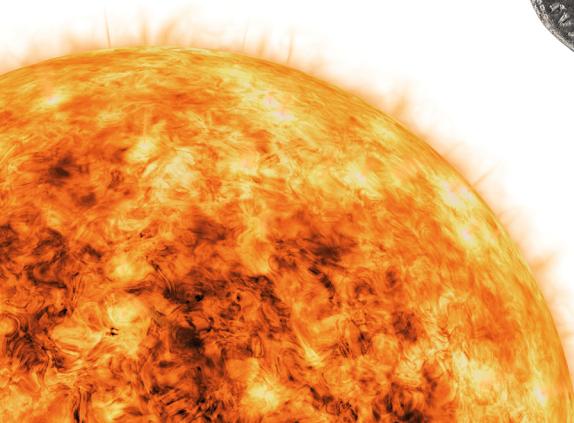
ALL ABOUT...

THE BIBLE

Over 100
amazing facts
about the Bible!



Alison Mitchell





ALL ABOUT...

THE BIBLE

Over 100 amazing facts about the Bible

Written by

Alison Mitchell

Design by

André Parker

the  COMPANY



ALL ABOUT THE BIBLE

This is a book about a book...
a very unusual book.

It's very old. Even the newest parts were written nearly 2,000 years ago.

It's a collection of 66 books in one cover written by over 40 people on three different continents.

Those authors included kings, shepherds and fishermen.

Many people think it's the most important book ever written. Some think it is out of date and boring – or just a bunch of rules.

But this is a book from God himself. (How can that be boring?!)

You may have heard it called the Holy Bible or Scripture or God's Word. In this book, we are simply calling it the Bible.

That name comes from the Greek words $\tau\alpha$ $\beta\iota\beta\lambda\iota\alpha$ (*ta biblia*) and means “the books”.

So this book is all about the Bible – how it came to us, how we can know if it's true, what it tells us about God and about his people, and what he is saying to us through it today.

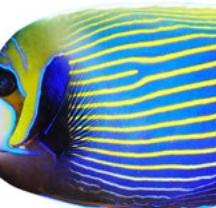
Definitely not boring!



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- true stories about heroes
- explore the library
- Who wrote the Bible?
- true stories about kings and queens
- Z of Bible characters
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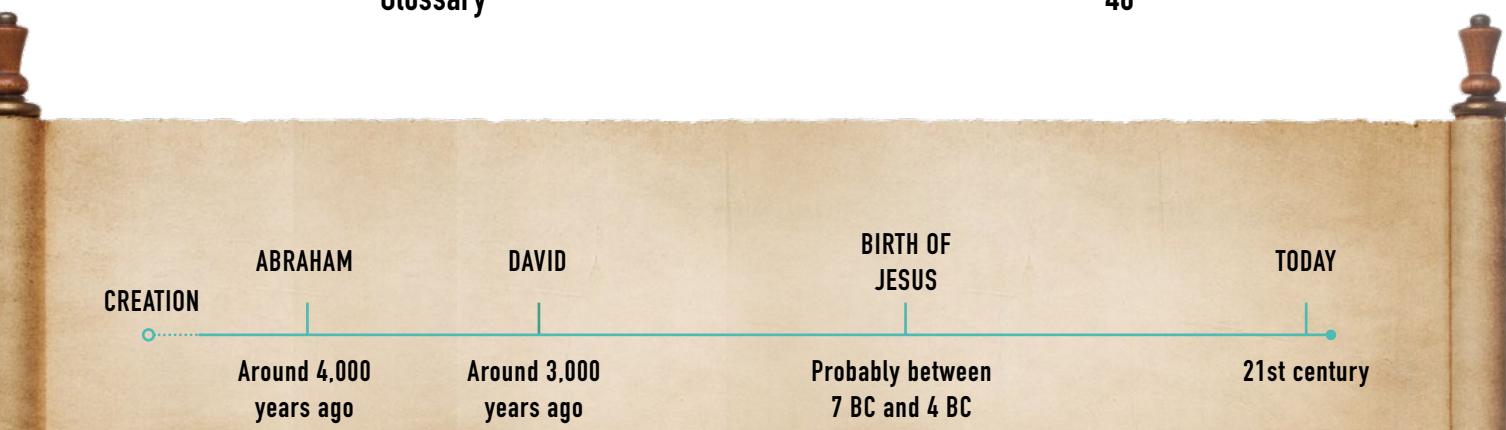
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THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING BOOK

Have you ever wondered what the most popular book in the world is? You might guess at something by your favourite author... or the story of someone famous... but no – it's the Bible!

5,000,000,000 – 7,000,000,000

A billion is nine zeros.
That's a lot!



How many Bibles have been printed so far?

As you can imagine, this is hard to find out. But research by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 2021 points to the number being between 5 and 7 billion copies!



How many are being printed now?

It's thought that around 80 million Bibles are printed each year. (This book was written in 2025, so how many have been printed since then?)

(Compare that to *The Gruffalo*, which has about 18 million copies printed so far, and the first *Harry Potter* book, which has sold around 120 million copies since 1997.)



Watch out for thieves

The Bible says, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20 v 15). But which is the most stolen book in the world? Yes, it's the Bible! But, if you asked at most churches, they would give you a Bible for free. So there's really no need for anybody to steal one!



How to find a Bible verse

Finding your way around the Bible is a bit like finding someone's address. So, if you want to visit a friend in another town, you'll first go to the town, then find the street they live on, and finally check the numbers to find the correct door.

So the verse below, "Isaiah 40 v 8", works like your friend's address. First, you go to the right book of the Bible (Isaiah); then, you find the correct chapter (40); and finally, you look for the tiny verse number (8).

~~40 v 8~~

Did you know?

The people who wrote the Bible didn't include chapter and verse numbers. Those were added later to make it easier to find the section we want to read.

The Bible says

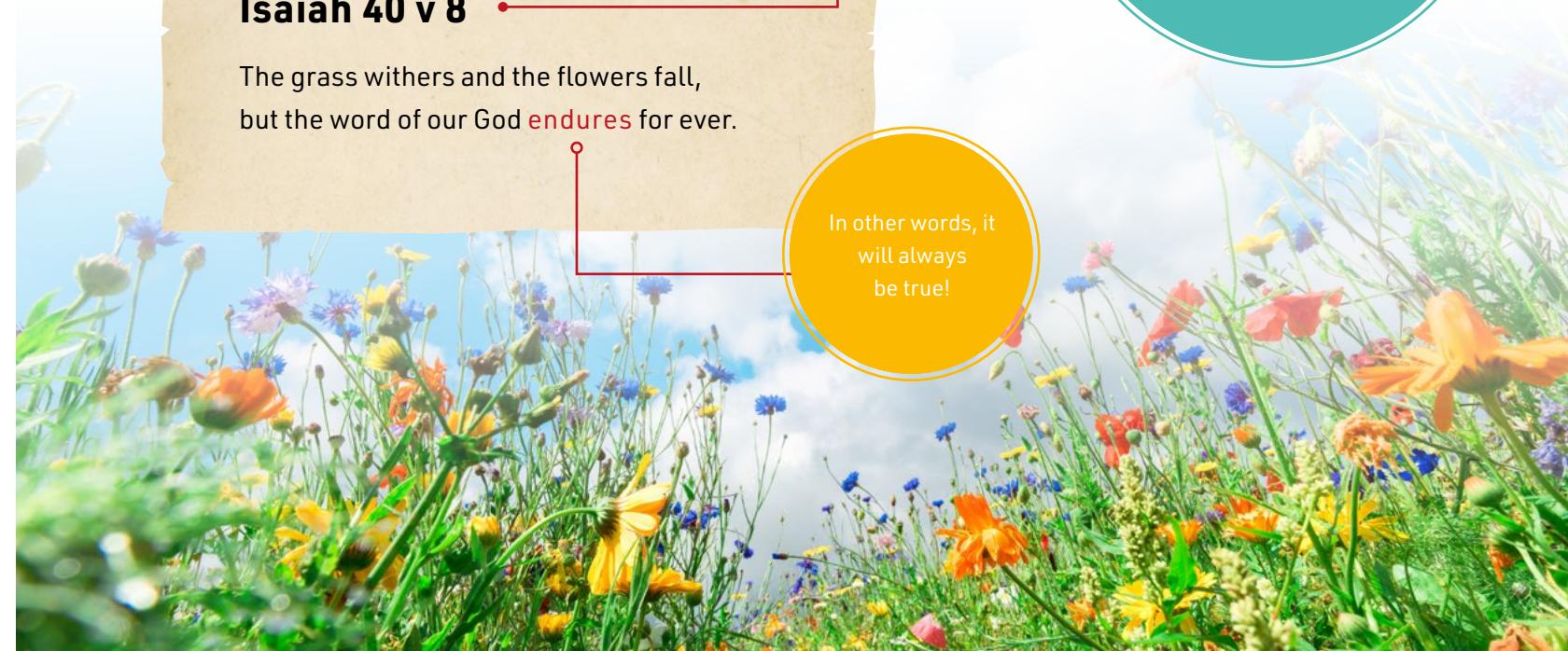
What does the Bible call itself? Some of the names are Scripture, the word of God or the Law and the Prophets (which means the Old Testament part of the Bible).

Here's one verse that tells us about God's words in the Bible:

Isaiah 40 v 8

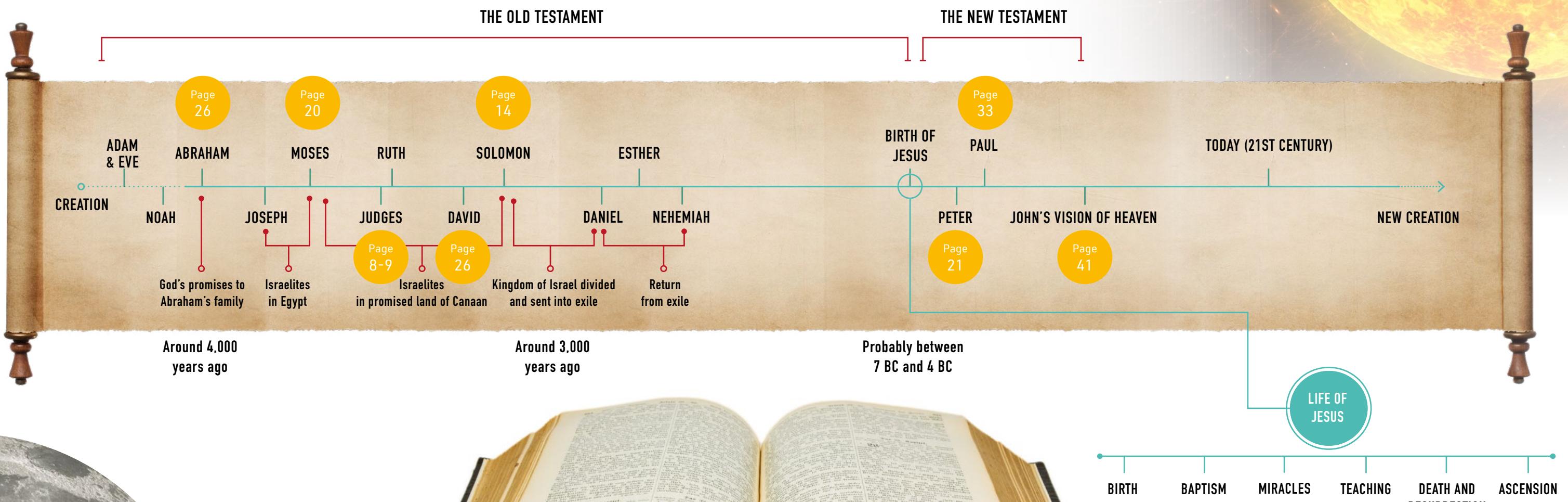
The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God **endures** for ever.

In other words, it will always be true!



THE WHOLE STORY OF THE BIBLE

So what is the Bible? Some people think it's a list of rules to follow. But actually it's a story – one that really happened, in history, over thousands of years. So here are the main events in that Bible history, along with some of the people we meet along the way.



TRUE STORIES ABOUT HEROES



The Bible includes many exciting stories about heroes (although they may not look very heroic at the start).

Meet the judges

After God's people, the Israelites, moved into the land God had promised to give them (around 3,400 years ago), they had a series of leaders called judges. They judged between right and wrong, and also led the Israelites in battle. God used the judges to bring his people back to living his way and to save them from their enemies.



The women who won

Deborah, one of the first judges, would sit under a palm tree and help anyone who came to her. One day, she sent for Barak, the leader of the army. "God says to take your men and fight against our enemy, Sisera," she told him. "God will give you victory."

Barak seems to have been too scared to trust God and go on his own, so he replied, "I'll go, but only if you come with me".

"I will come," agreed Deborah, "but now God will deliver the enemy into the hands of a woman instead of your hands".

The terrifying Sisera and his terrifying army were waiting by the River Kishon. They had 900 iron chariots and thousands of men. They were far too strong for the Israelite army. But Deborah told Barak and the army to **CHAAARGE!** And God made it rain so hard that the river flooded and those 900 chariots were swept away! God gave Barak's men the victory, but Sisera ran away and hid in a tent.

The tent belonged to a woman called Jael. Sisera (who was used to people doing what he told them) told her, "Give me water to drink; then keep watch at the door of the tent". But when he was asleep, Jael took a tent peg, crept up behind him... and hammered it into his skull. Sisera died at the hands of a woman, just as God had said. Then there was peace for 40 years.

Who won the victory? Was it Deborah? Or Barak? Or Jael? No! God himself won the victory and saved his people. (You can read the full story in Judges 4.)



Too many men

Gideon was the next judge after Deborah. He gathered an army of 32,000 men to fight their enemies, the mighty Midianites. "You have too many men," said God. "If you fight with so many men, you will think you have saved yourselves. Tell everyone who is scared they can go home." So 22,000 frightened men left the army. "There are still too many men," said God. "Watch as they drink from the river. You can keep the ones who lap water from their hands." That left just 300 men! "I will save you with these 300," promised the Lord.

Gideon and his 300 men crept up to the enemy camp. Each man had a trumpet and a jar with a fiery torch hidden inside it. When Gideon gave the signal, the men broke their jars so that the torch flames blazed out. Then they blew their trumpets and shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

The Midianites were terrified. Lots started killing each other in their panic – and the rest ran away. God had saved his people, just as he had promised.

(You can read this story in Judges 7.)



The golden statue

Nearly 600 years after Gideon, King Nebuchadnezzar ruled in Babylon. Some of his servants had been captured from Israel, including three friends called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (We'll call them S, M & A!) The proud king built a golden statue of himself. "Whenever you hear the music play, you must bow down and worship my statue," he commanded. "If you don't, you will be thrown into a fiery furnace!"* But S, M & A knew that the LORD was the true God. Only God can be worshipped. "We will not bow down to this statue," they said.

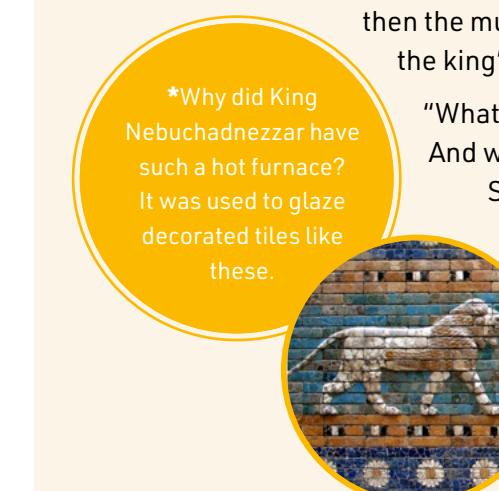
King Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He ordered the furnace to be made even hotter; then the music was played. Everyone else bowed down, but S, M & A did not. So the king's guards threw them into the furnace. Then...

"What????!!!" said the king. "Why can I see four people in the furnace? And why are they walking around unharmed? Bring them out at once!"

So S, M & A walked back out of the furnace. They weren't hurt. They didn't even smell of smoke! "Praise be to God!" said the king. "No other god can save like this."

And what about the fourth person? He disappeared again. Who do you think he was?

(You can read this story in Daniel 3.)



*Why did King Nebuchadnezzar have such a hot furnace? It was used to glaze decorated tiles like these.



The true Hero

Did you notice something in these stories? Each time, it turned out that **God** was the real Hero. But, excitingly, he loves to work with and through ordinary people like Deborah, Gideon, and S, M & A. Isn't that great?!

