

How do people think about the Bible?

A holy book for Christians

- The Bible was written by many different authors.
- Many Christians believe that the writers were inspired by God.
- Originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek (New Testament).
- About 400 years after Jesus, Church leaders agreed which writings should be included in the official Bible.
- Bibles have been translated into many different languages.
- Christians today think hard about what the words mean in their lives today.
- Very few Christians believe the Bible describes things exactly as they happened.
- Most Christians say some parts are stories to help people understand God.



The Bible is used in many Christians' daily lives in lots of ways, such as for private prayer, collective worship and quiet reflection.

Key vocabulary

- **Messiah:** a saviour of the Jewish people prophesied in the Bible.
- **New Testament:** second part of the Bible telling the life of Jesus and the early Christian Church.
- **Old Testament:** first part of the Bible containing histories of the Jewish people and their relationship with God.
- **prophecy:** a prediction of what will happen in the future.
- **Prophet:** a person chosen by God to pass on God's messages to ordinary people.
- **reliable:** something that can be trusted.
- **scripture:** a word used to describe religious texts.
- **theology:** the study of God, religion and belief.
- **theologian:** a person who studies God, religion and belief

The Old Testament

- This is the oldest part of the Bible.
- Some parts are about 3000 years old.
- Many of the writings are also special to Jewish people.
- Includes: stories about how the world began (Genesis), God's relationship with people, histories, prophesies, songs and rules.
- Contains prophesies about the coming of a **Messiah**, a saviour who would unite the Jewish people in peace.

The New Testament

- The second part of the Bible.
- Tells about the life and teachings of **Jesus Christ**, and the early Christian Church.
- Written about 100 years after Jesus' resurrection.
- Many Christians see the **New Testament** as evidence that Jesus Christ was the **Messiah**, who gave up his life to save people.

