

# Be Happy in JESUS

## What is the Bible?

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**INTRODUCTION:** Bible is a unique book. It is unique in its origin, existence, influence and message. It is the only book that has been translated into so many languages. The divine thoughts of this book give comfort to the comfortless people.

**The Bible:** 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' which means 'Books'. Bible is also known as the 'Divine Library' because it has sixty-six books in it. It is mainly divided into two: 1, the Old Testament (OT) and 2, the New Testament (NT).

**Old Testament:** The first thirty-nine books are known as the OT. The Old Testament consists of the books from Genesis to Malachi. The Old Testament is mainly describing the work and dealing of God with the people of Israel. And also the major theme of OT is the about the Messiah (Jesus Christ) who is yet to come. The person of Christ is pictured through out the O T in a prophetical way. The first book Genesis 3:15 talks about the coming of Christ and this prophecy were made four thousand years before the birth of Christ.

**New Testament:** The last twenty-seven books in the Bible are known as the NT. Christ is pictured in it as a person who came to fulfill the OT prophecies. The four Gospels portray the various aspects of the person of Christ. Early church history is found in the book of Acts. The Epistles are letters to the various Christian churches that explains the NT doctrines and the book of Revelation is a prophetical book.

**The Authorship of the Bible:** Humanly speaking almost forty writers wrote the Bible within a period of thousand and six hundred years. The message and the words did not originate in human mind, but men who were inspired by God wrote down the message at different times and in different places. So Bible is 'God inspired' or 'God breathed' (II Peter 1:21,22; II Thim 3:16,17). Though the writers did not obviously consult each other, the Bible still has no contradictions! This proves that God is the real author of the book. Since God Himself is the author, the Scripture is without any error.

**Date of writing:** The books of the Bible were written in between 1500 BC and 100 AD. Moses the prophet wrote the first book of the Bible and John the Apostle wrote the last book of the Bible. The Bible is complete and no one should add anything to it or remove any thing from it.

**The root languages of the Bible:** Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

**The central figure of the Bible:** The person of Christ is the central subject of the Bible. It reveals God to man. It talks about God, man and the relationship between them. It shows us how to experience God in our personal life. It also shows us how the life of a man is transformed into the likeness of Christ.

**The central message of the Bible:** The first book of the Bible explains about the creation and sin of man, and the origin of the nation Israel. The history of the nation of Israel till 400 BC is mentioned from the book of Exodus to the book of Esther. The five books from Job to Song of Solomon are known as poetical books. The remaining seventeen books of the Bible, from the book of Isaiah to the book of Malachi, deals about the present and future condition of the nation Israel.

**The influencing power of the Bible:** Bible is the only book that contains divine truths. The message of God in the Bible is God's revelation to man. The message of the Bible is capable of making drastic changes in the life of man. No other religious books or political ideologies or writing of great men explains such uniqueness. Bible has proved that it is unique by changing cannibals into civilized people. The world is changing yet the Bible and the message in it remains the same. This Holy Scripture reveals the mind of God, the fallen condition of man, the way of salvation, the blessedness of those who believe in Christ etc.,. The doctrines of the Bible are very simple. The History of the Bible reveals that it is real and authentic. Those who believe in it experience life and power. It gives you light and nourishes you with spiritual food of fulfillment and satisfaction. Let us obey it for our purification.

