

Chapter 1

2 Timothy 3:16

1 Peter 1:20-21

The Story so Far

We've only just begun!

Objectives

- To understand that the Bible is God's word to His world, written by human beings
- To understand that the Bible is a story about Jesus and His Kingdom
- To introduce the definition of God's Kingdom = God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing

Connections

- The Old Testament and New Testament are connected. The Old Testament involves God's promise of a Kingdom. The New Testament involves the fulfilment of God's Kingdom in Jesus.

Summary

**The Bible is God speaking to us.
It is a book about Jesus and His Kingdom.**

The Bible

When God created the universe He did not hide from people. God revealed Himself during the history of the world. The book called the Bible is the record of God's revelation of Himself in history. The word 'Bible' means 'the Book'. God wants human beings to know Him, so He wrote us a book. By reading and studying the Bible you can know the Creator God in a personal way.



Who wrote the Bible?

1. God wrote the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)

There are two parts to breathing – breathing in and breathing out. When we speak, we breathe out our words. The word “God-breathed” means “God breathed out”. The whole of the Bible is God's breathed-out words to us, which means that every word in the Bible comes from God. He is the author of every sentence of the Bible. This means that the Bible is a very unique book; it is God's words to human beings. No other book in this world is like it. Therefore studying the Bible is very exciting, because every time we open the Bible and read it ***God speaks to us.***

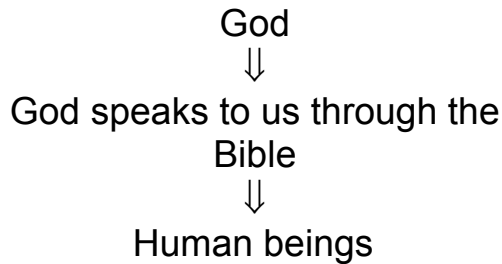
Every word of the Bible comes from God. Through the Bible we hear God speaking to us.

2. Human beings wrote the Bible (1 Peter 1:20-21)

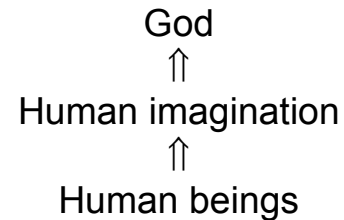
God did not write the Bible in heaven and drop it to the earth. God the author used human beings to write the Bible. People were moved by God's Spirit to record the revelation of God in history. Each human being wrote with his own style of writing, but God controlled every word by His Spirit. Therefore, no part of the Bible is written from only a human understanding.

God is the author of the Bible but He used human beings to write it.

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to human beings



The Bible is not human imagination about God



The Bible is God's revelation of Himself in history - not a collection of human imaginations about God.

Who did God use to write the Bible?

God used over forty different authors to write the Bible. An example of writers of the Bible are: a political leader (Moses), fishermen (Peter and John), shepherds (David and Amos), kings (David and Solomon), a military general (Joshua), a prime minister (Daniel), a doctor (Luke), a tax collector (Matthew), and a Jewish religious teacher (Paul).

How many books are in the Bible?

The Bible has two parts and is made up of 66 individual books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The word 'testament' means 'covenant', which is like a marriage contract. In the Bible there are two covenants – an old one that is replaced by a new one. We will learn more about these covenants later on.

What is the Bible about?

(John 5:39b; Luke 24:22; Mark 1:15; 2 Corinthians 1:20a)

The Bible is a book about a person called Jesus Christ. It is a story about Jesus and His Kingdom. The Bible begins with God establishing His Kingdom at the creation of the world. But His Kingdom is soon ruined. God then makes many promises throughout the Old Testament to rebuild His Kingdom. In the New

Testament Jesus fulfils those promises. The Bible can therefore also be understood like this:

Promise  **Jesus**  **Fulfilment**

When Jesus says, 'The time has come... The Kingdom is near!' He is announcing the good news that God's Kingdom will be established through Him. Through Jesus, God re-establishes His Kingdom that is ruined at the beginning of creation.

In the Old Testament God makes many promises about His Kingdom. In the New Testament Jesus fulfils those promises.

This means the first part of the Bible (the Old Testament) is about God's promised Kingdom; and the second part of the Bible (the New Testament) is about how Jesus establishes God's Kingdom and brings it to completion in a new creation.

God's Kingdom

Like reading any book, if we are going to understand it, we must understand the beginning, for that is where the plot is established. The Bible begins and ends with similar language of God's people living in His presence, under His loving rule. This must therefore be our control for understanding the other parts of the Bible. It is all about God's Kingdom – God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing. The Bible follows this simple plotline:

Creation (Kingdom)  **Ruin**  **New Creation (New Kingdom)**

God's Kingdom = God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing.

The pattern of God's Kingdom can be understood from the diagram on the next page.

God's Kingdom				
<i>Constitution: 'I will be their God, they will be my people'</i>				
God's promises				
	Place	People	Rule & Blessing	King
Creation	Eden	Adam & Eve	God's word	Adam
God's Kingdom ruined				
Abraham	Canaan	Abraham's family	God's promises	Kings from Abraham's family
Israel in desert	Tabernacle	Israel nation	God's rules	Tribe of Judah
Israel in Canaan	Temple in Canaan	Israel nation	God's rules	David, Solomon
God's Kingdom ruined...again!				
Israel in exile	Return to new temple in Canaan	Remnant	New covenant	A perfect King is promised
Jesus	JESUS The fulfilment of God's promises			
The church	God's people are a living temple	People who have faith in Jesus	The Gospel	King Jesus
New creation	New heaven & new earth	Perfect people from every nation	God's everlasting rule & blessing	King Jesus

