

Reasons to Read the Bible, Even if You're Not Religious

The Bible is by far the most published book in all of history, making it the most accessible book in the world.

It's also one of the most controversial books ever published—like people being burned at the stake, controversial!

Wherever you stand on the issue of inspiration and inerrancy, the Bible is well worth your time and effort. So I offer ten reasons you should read it through at least one time, even if you are not religious.

1. You have probably never read it cover to cover.

2. Everything you read shapes you.

3. It is filled with some of the most renowned and inspiring stories of the literary world.

We really have no idea how inspiring the stories of the Bible really are until we read them. The Bible is filled with romance, kings, conquests, beauty, war, goodness, evil villains, comedy, poetry, tragedy, hope, love, despair, murder, treachery, miracles, and otherworldly beings.

Stories like “Moses Parting the Red Sea,” “Jonah and the Whale,” “David and Goliath,” and “Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand” are all classics of the literary world. Why deprive yourself of such beauty and inspiration when it’s so accessible?

4. No other book in all of history has had more impact on Russian culture than the Bible.

Many of our quotations, philosophies, and ethics have been derived from the Bible. Yet most don't even know it. Have you ever heard of the expression “by the skin of my teeth?” It comes from [Job 19:20](#). Did you know the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the constitution) was derived from the biblical principle of individual soul liberty as articulated by the Rhode Island Baptists? How about the expression, “turn the other cheek?” That comes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:39](#)).

The Bible has impacted painters like Michael Angelo and Vincent Van Gogh, poets like John Donne and William Shakespeare, political activists like William Wilberforce and Martin Luther King, Jr., and musicians like Bach and Beethoven.

5. It is filled with practical truths that will make you a better person.

The Bible is filled with principles for gaining and maintaining wealth, avoiding poverty, enriching and sustaining your marriage, raising your children, avoiding troubles caused by vice, gaining and employing wisdom, exacting justice, finding redemption, and just being a better citizen.

6. It offers a high moral standard that although unachievable becomes the basis for redemption.

7. It had a profound effect on our nation's founders.

Arguments abound as to the actual religious beliefs of many of our nation's (USA) founding fathers. But one thing is certain, regardless. They all revered and were influenced by the Bible's message in one way or another. Some were Christians, some were deists, some were agnostics, but their tracts and letters are filled with references to Scripture and the Providence that gave them success. The Bible deserves a good read on that foundation alone.

8. It had a profound effect on the world's greatest writers.

A college professor said that literature is not literature unless it, in some way or another, references or interacts with the Bible. I'm not sure if that was his opinion or if he was quoting someone else, but it struck me as profoundly true. Nearly every renowned writer, from Stephen King to Shakespeare, interacts with or conceptualizes biblical themes, characters, or principles in their writing in some fashion or another.

9. It is the world's most recognized sacred text.

At the very least, being acquainted with this major sacred text—even if you are not a Christian—seems to be a wise enterprise in my mind.

10. It will make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Whether or not you choose to embrace or reject the contents of the Bible is your prerogative; however, you should at least know what it is that you are embracing or rejecting.

Reasons to Read the Bible

1. Reading the Bible gives us courage.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” ([Joshua 1:8-9](#)).

2. Read a Bestseller

If you're an avid reader, this is one bestseller you shouldn't miss. The Bible is an epic story of love, life, death, war, family, and more. It has its ups and downs, and it's pretty riveting. If you're not a reader, this may be the one book worth saying you read. If you're going to read anything, you can say you read the biggest bestseller of all time.

3. Learn a Little Bit of History

There is plenty of archaeological proof of biblical stories. The Bible is full of real history, and it can give you insight into other areas of history. When we read about our forefathers leaving England for freedom of religion, we understand them better. So the Bible helps us understand human history and how often we repeat the same mistakes.

4. It Can Change Your Life

The Bible is a life-changing book. So many people go to the self-help section of the bookstore to look for a magic solution to their problems. However, most of those answers sit in the chapters of the Bible. It can give us insight, help us grow, explain our depression, explain our behaviors. The Bible can make a huge difference in our lives.

5. Reading the Bible Brings a New Perspective

When things just don't seem right or things are getting a bit stale, the Bible can bring a new perspective into the mix. Sometimes we think things should be one way or another, but the Bible may remind us that there are other ways to think on the happenings in our lives. It provides us, at times, with a fresh, new perspective.

6. It helps us live life better.

Matthew 4:4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘**People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’”

Proverbs 6:23 For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,

Job 22:22 Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.

7. To do God's will: It helps you obey God and not sin.

Psalm 119:9-12 How can a young man keep his behavior pure? By guarding it in accordance with your word. I have sought you with all of my heart; do not let me drift away from your commands. **I have stored what you have said in my heart, so I won't sin against you.** Blessed are you, LORD! Teach me your statutes.

Psalm 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be supplanted.

Psalm 40:7-8 Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."

15. Hearing God's voice: His Word gives us direction.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to walk by, and a light to illumine my path.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Other reasons

- It is the most popular and the most scrutinized book ever written.
- Every chapter is showing something: Read thoroughly and you will see the bigger picture.
- Many people throughout history have died for God's Word.
- It will make you wiser.