

Introduction

Stories and Lessons from the Bible

Can you tell the difference between fake and real? Between virtual reality and real life? We live in an age that increasingly has difficulty agreeing on what is real.

Science used to claim the **material** world is all there is: "Nothing else exists beyond what can be seen and scientifically tested (including 'mind' or any other force or reality)."



Yet, so-called material reality seems or important. Now, it is all about the **virtual** music, games and social media. We assume the only thing that is real is what is in our mind, our ideas or what is on our devices. Some believe their ideas create reality, like they can on their devices.

less real
world of

Meanwhile, the greatest story in the world goes largely unnoticed.

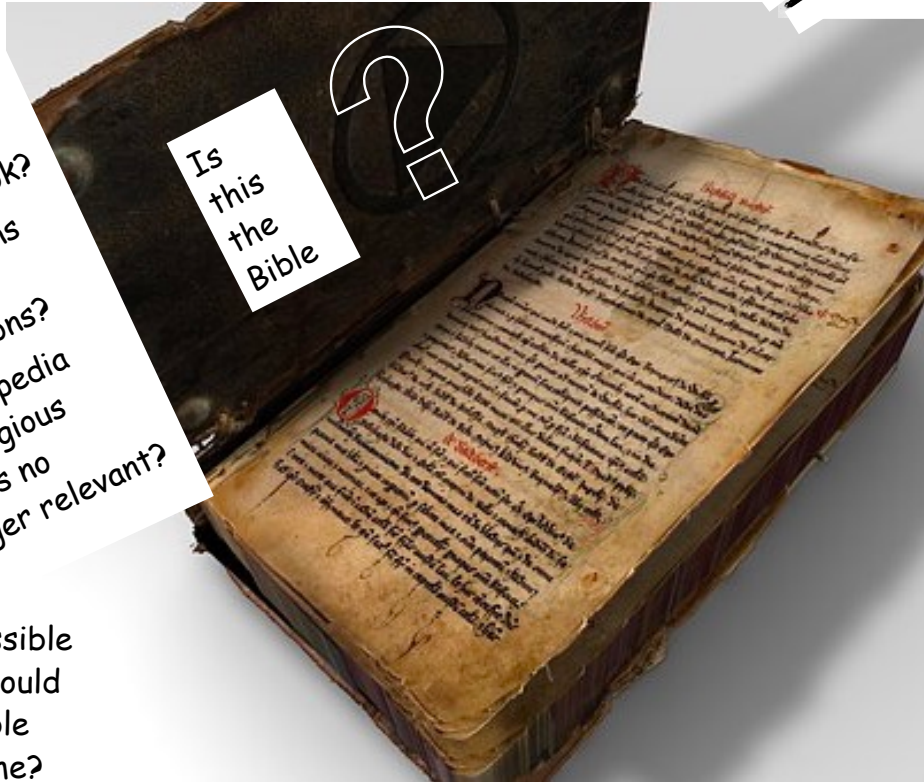
Fascinated with our devices, we are missing the greatest opportunity for our well-being and happiness.



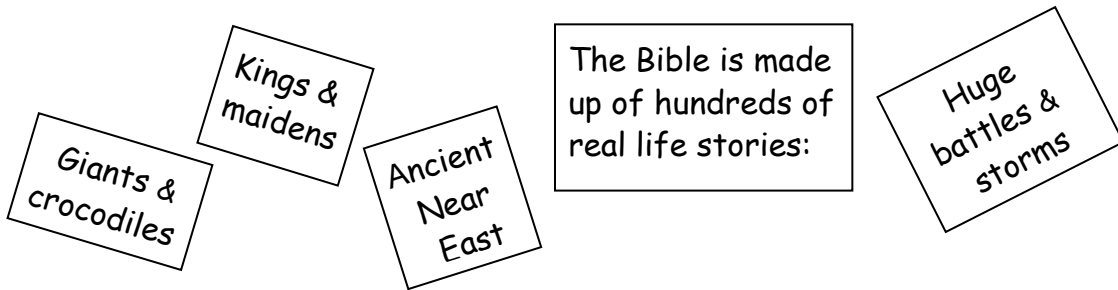
What do you imagine the Bible to be like?

- Old dusty book?
- Superstitions and secret incantations?
- Encyclopedia of religious terms no longer relevant?

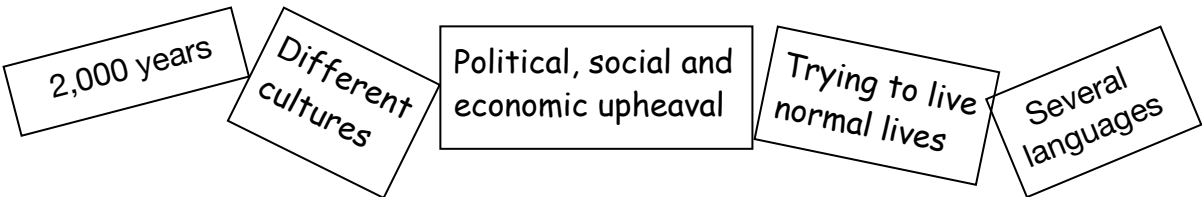
Is this the Bible



What possible benefit could the Bible be for me?

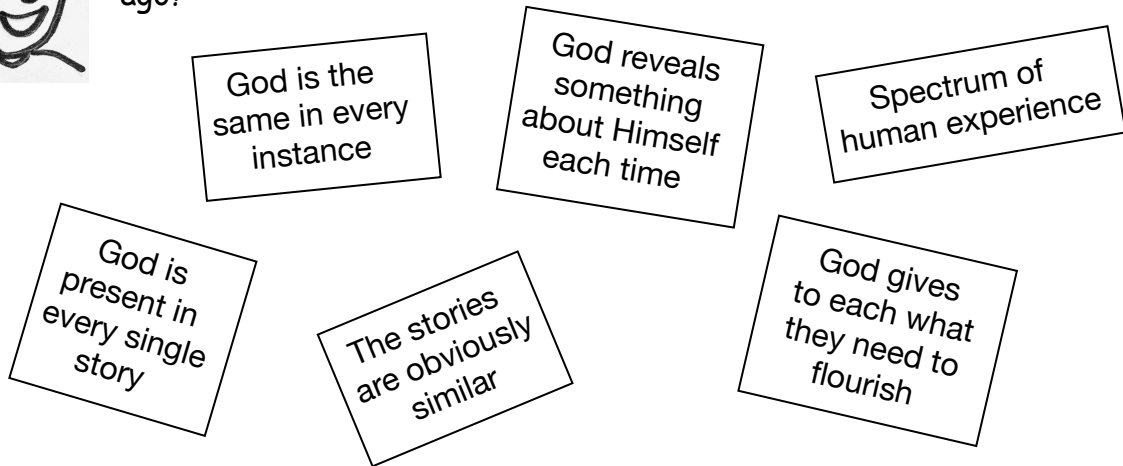


The Bible tells a universal story of interest and ultimate benefit for all people of every generation and ethnicity.



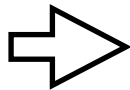


Why would I be interested in stories of people who lived a long time ago?



Most frequent description of God: *“God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in unwavering love to thousands, forgiving error and sin but by no means excuses the guilty.”* (Exodus 34:6-7 and dozens of other times)

Moses, David, prophets & apostles tell the stories



Archeology supports truth of the stories



Experts agree: these stories appear authentic



They were preserved and passed down to us



WHY?
Our benefit

10 of the most valuable Bible stories — Enjoy!

Prologue: 1st distinct Starting Point: "God started everything" (Genesis 1:1)

1. **God created everything: 2nd distinct Starting Point** (Genesis 1-2);
"He gave the earth (universe) to humans" (Psalms 115)

2. **The Story of God 3rd distinct Starting Point** (Acts 17:24-31)

3. **Garden:** (Genesis 2:8-17 & chpt. 3)
a. **We blew it** "Only God is good" (Matt. 19:17)
b. Restart needed

4. **Abraham:** (Genesis 11-25) "God: I certify my Covenant forever"
a. **Covenant:** God's unbreakable commitment to love us
b. **Faith:** reliance on God; trust him

5. **Job:** teaches us the limits of what we can learn about God from nature and from human experience (Book of Job)

6. **Exodus & Covenant: 10 Words = Covenant Stipulations** (Exodus 1-20)
a. Rescue from slavery
b. Covenant stipulated

7. **Jesus Son of God, co-Creator, Mediator of God's Covenant, final Prophet & King of everything** (Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)
a. **Incarnation**
b. **Mediator**

8. **Crucifixion & Resurrection:** "Heir of the whole creation" (Colossians 1:15; Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-21)

9. **God's Spirit & the Church:** living today (Book of the Acts)

10. **Final** (The Book of the Revelation)
a. Accountability & Judgment "All humans are appointed to die, then face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27)
b. After => **New Everything**