

Our Wonderings

The Bible

Is every story in the Bible real?

The Bible contains different genres - poetry, history, parables, and symbolic stories. Some stories reflect historical events, while others are written to teach religious truths or values. Not every story is “literally” real, but all are meaningful for faith and moral teaching.

How many stories are in the Bible?

There are hundreds of stories. The Catholic Bible contains 73 books (46 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament), each with many stories that reveal God's relationship with humanity.

In the Adam and Eve story, why does the snake try and trick them?

The snake represents temptation and evil, traditionally associated with the devil. In Catholic theology, this story shows the origin of making wrong choices, or when humans freely chose to turn away from God. It shows how people can choose to do wrong. We are reminded to listen to God and make good choices.

How many pages are in the Bible?

That depends on the version and font size. Most Bibles are around 1,000–1,500 pages long.

How many words are in the Bible?

There are roughly 783,000 words in the Bible (depending on the translation).

How old is the Bible?

Parts of the Bible were written over 1,000 years, starting about 3,000 years ago. The oldest parts of the Old Testament were likely written around 1000 BCE, while the New Testament was completed by about 100 CE.

How many different characters or people are in the Bible?

There are over 3,000 named individuals in the Bible, along with many unnamed characters.

Who wrote the first Bible?

The Bible was not written by one person, but by many inspired authors. Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit inspired human writers over many centuries. The Church, guided by the Spirit, later recognised and compiled these sacred texts.

Why are there so many miracles in the Bible?

Miracles show God's power and love. They often happen when God wants to help, heal, or send a message. For believers, miracles are signs of God's presence and care. In Catholic understanding, they often show God acting through Jesus, prophets, or saints, and they help reveal God's nature to us.

How many stories have Jesus in them?

The four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - contain dozens of stories about Jesus' life, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. Jesus is the central figure of the New Testament.

Who wrote the Book of Esther?

The author is unknown. The book was likely written by a Jewish author inspired by God, sometime between the 4th and 2nd century BCE. It teaches about God's hidden guidance and protection even when God's name isn't mentioned directly.

How many chapters are there in the Bible?

In the Catholic Bible, there are about 1,334 chapters.

What is the longest book in the Bible?

The Book of Psalms is the longest, with 150 chapters. The Psalms are used in prayer and liturgy.

How do we know that Jesus was executed by the Romans?

Roman historical records and the Bible both describe crucifixion as a Roman method of execution. The Gospels tell us Jesus was sentenced by Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor. This fact is accepted by historians, even outside religious circles. Catholic tradition affirms that Jesus' death was a real, historical event that fulfilled God's plan of salvation.

Who wrote the Book of Psalms?

Many Psalms are attributed to King David, but others were written by various authors over centuries. The Catholic Church uses the Psalms in all its liturgies, showing their enduring importance.