

The Bible.

Understand its story in
1, 10, 100, and 1000 words.



The Bible tells the extraordinary saga of the relationship between God and humanity. It is a story steeped in drama and hope. This collection of sixty-six books, written by some forty authors over sixteen centuries, tells us one and the same story: that of God's intervention for our reconciliation.

I invite you to discover this magnificent story, condensed into a handful of words that will only take you a few minutes to read. Enjoy your discovery!

Florent Varak, pastor

The Bible in

1 word

Restoration.

The Bible in

10 words

God creates mankind;
they rebel.
Jesus restores humanity
to God.

The Bible in **100 words**

God – eternal, loving, majestic – creates mankind in His image. They are free to follow Him. They reject Him and become mortal.

Nevertheless, God makes an alliance with Abraham, father of the Jewish people, from whom the Messiah

will come.

Jesus fulfills this alliance. One-of-a-kind, born of a virgin, he heals, teaches, reveals the Father. Our rebellion condemned us, but Jesus died to pay the price. Absolute justice, infinite love. Jesus rose from the dead.

God requires exclusive trust in Jesus who took my wrongs, my shame. I am then forgiven, reconciled.

God will reign forever with His people, that's restoration!

The Bible in **1000 words**

The Bible begins with an act of creation. God, eternal and glorious, is unique in his triune nature. He is completely satisfied in himself and shares his joy by creating the universe, bringing time and space into being. He creates man and woman in his image. They live in his presence and act as his representatives on earth. Life is plentiful, relationships are harmonious.

There is only one constraint in this world. Mankind is to trust God's commandment not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their decision will reveal if man remains loyal to God. An obscure mystery darkens the garden; a created being rebels against his Creator and raises himself up as the enemy

of God and man. Seduced, the first couple rebels against God and falls away. They become mortals. They are banished. They run, they hide. God's image in them is deeply scarred.

This disobedience, the very essence of sin, impacts all creation. Everything changes. Suffering becomes universal.

The story is so familiar: life offers beauty and wonder, but so much of it is tainted with fear, shame and guilt. We, as humans, try to hide our true nature, but nothing can truly heal our distorted hearts, relationships and emotions. We are spiritual orphans with no family name.

The rest of the story is the amazing saga of God's loving offer of reconciliation to mankind. God promises the coming of a Man who will crush evil and restore us to his family.

God reveals himself to Abraham and makes him a promise, which will benefit all nations. This becomes the axis around which everything else turns.

Abraham's clan, called Israel, is enslaved in Egypt, and God sends Moses to deliver them. Moses also brings the Law, summed up by these two principles: love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. But who can love like that? Israel's called to embody the joy of living in harmony with God. They fail miserably.

Nonetheless, God's promise remains and becomes clearer. God sends David, a shepherd who symbolizes the coming Messiah. A succession of rulers, many evil, lead Israel to 70 years of exile. God then sends out prophets who announce the coming of the Messiah King who will first transform the hearts of men before establishing his kingdom. This promised Messiah will be the ultimate healer.

Four hundred years of silence separate the Old and New Testaments. Empires shift. Rome rules over Israel. The promise will soon become a reality.

God the Father sends Jesus, the eternal Word, to become man. He is born of a virgin. The sign is unmistakable – he is unique, he is a gift, he is human.

He confronts religious hypocrisy, restores outcasts and accomplishes miracles that prove his power and authority.

For three years, Jesus travels through the land. He chooses 12 men, known as the apostles, to accompany him and they learn from him. They witness his wonders, his teaching and his unconditional love. They witness the glory of God, but struggle to make sense of what is happening.

Jesus is crucified, fully accepting the Father's eternal decree. This is a masterpiece of righteousness and love. Righteousness, because evil must be condemned. Our evil... that of our independence and selfishness. God pours our transgressions out upon Jesus, who pays for them on the cross. And love, because God's goodness, his honor and his forgiveness are now available. If I will accept it, God the Father purifies me completely.

He adopts me as his child, frees me from fear and cancels my debt. This is the Great Exchange, the perfect rescue.

This is the heart of the Gospel. Everywhere else people try to appease God by good works, rituals and sacrifices. Jesus cries out from the cross, “It is finished”. He dies and is raised from the dead, then ascends back to the Lord. He is, now and forevermore, the God-Man, the Man-God, the perfect bridge between the two.

Jesus lived the perfect life that I should have lived

(but didn't)

Jesus experienced the fear, judgment, shame and death that I deserve

(but will never experience)

Jesus rose again to a life that I don't deserve

(but that I can live eternally)

His life for mine, my life for his!

Jesus is the great defender. He simply demands that I admit my spiritual bankruptcy and trust him fully and exclusively.

Fifty days after his resurrection, the promise is fulfilled. God sends his Spirit upon all who believe in Jesus Christ. The Spirit is the second defender. He applies Jesus' work to the believers' lives, walking alongside them, lifting them up when they fall, exhorting, encouraging and making them ready for service... he restores the image of God in them.

The new believers are excited and the message spreads. The apostles testify about the Gospel, proclaiming that a new and changed life is possible through a personal conversion to Jesus. He is the bread of life, the water that quenches thirst. Life begins to make sense through this relationship with God.

Without pressure or violence, only through the testimony of believers, churches are founded in Jerusalem, in Antioch, in Corinth, in Ephesus, in Rome... They experience ups and downs and have many questions! In response, the apostles and their colleagues send out 21 letters to instruct the churches and their leaders. These letters deepen the message of the Gospel: God's loyal love changes lives. The church forms a family, a temple, a body, a spiritual bride

meant to live out his love. Each believer can be useful.

Here is the second part of the promise. Jesus will return one day. He will cast away those who reject him. He will establish a universal reign of peace, where the curse will be cancelled and the world freed from corruption. God will wipe every tear; paradise will come again. Eternal redemption will be achieved: God, happily dwelling in the midst of his people, filled with joy. Forever.

The Bible in **Excerpts**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one

could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. [...] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

John 3:1–18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has

committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9-11

Quotes from the Bible «The New International Version».

Next step?

Discover the richness of the Bible for yourself by reading «The Gospel of John» directly.

This captivating account will plunge you into the life and message of Jesus Christ, as shared by the apostle John. Here it is, translated in contemporary English with the url or qrcode.

<https://levangile.net/gospelofjohn>



