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To You Personally



You are holding in your hands a very special letter which is intended to address you personally.

You might think: "Aren't letters written on paper a bit outdated?" That's true. Letters are being replaced more and more by texts or emails.

>> But even in a digital age, it is still preferable to write special letters on paper as a means to show their value and importance.

You couldn't imagine, for example, receiving an email as an invitation to a royal wedding!

Please take your time with this special letter that you are holding. It is very important. Therefore read it carefully. You will not regret it!

You will find amazing information about

- > **another, much more precious letter**
- > **the most meaningful document in the world**
- > **the greatest message of all time and its impressive reliability and relevance for today**



This more precious letter, the Bible, is a personal message for you, directly from God.

>>> You will gain great blessing from it if you open it and read it.

The Bible - A Letter for You

**The Bible is like airmail –
its origin is heaven.**

God is the wonderful creator of the universe.

He also gave you your life and knows you completely. You are not a product of chance!

He is looking for a relationship with you and makes a direct appeal of love to you through His 'letter'.

You don't know God's letter yet? Perhaps it is located in your house somewhere, unread.

You don't carelessly lay aside a personal letter just like that. You read it with great interest. Therefore, open God's letter to you – read the Bible!

You don't own a Bible yet? We would be happy to send you one free of charge.

At the end of this booklet you will find out how you can contact us.





A Unique Letter

Yes, you have understood correctly: the Bible, the Word of God, is meant here, to which the title "A Letter for You" fits very well. The reason this unique letter is so important is because God is its author.

You might argue: "But the Bible was written over centuries by around 40 different people. Often, their names are not even mentioned."

Yes, that's true. Yet God dictated His message to individual people directly:



For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible – 2 Peter 1:21

God used their talents, their education, their cultural background, their social background and even their writing style.

>>> *They wrote word for word what God wanted them to write.*

This is called "inspiration".

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua

Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings

1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalm
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah

Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians

Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy

2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James

1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John

3 John
Jude
Revelation

The Books of the Bible

> The Bible consists of 2 parts:

> the Old Testament (39 books)

> the New Testament (27 books)

> The New Testament consists of:

> the four Gospels

> the Acts of the apostles

> the 21 epistles or letters

> the Revelation

The Bible gives you answers to life's questions.

Through reading it, you have the opportunity to experience what a positive change the love of God can bring to your life.



"The Head-down Generation"

Do you also belong to this generation, or doesn't this term mean anything to you? Are you always living with your head down, only focussing on your smartphone or tablet?

Being online constantly and everywhere leads to you being drowned by the flood of information from the internet. Is there anything else at all apart from surfing, chatting and tweeting? Hours pass unnoticed and your senses are bombarded – and it is not uncommon that your soul is polluted. Not only that, but this distraction keeps you from thinking about God and His message to you.

TIP: If you want to get to know God personally, you cannot go past the Bible. You need silence around you to read it. Therefore, switch off everything that might disturb you in this process. You will be surprised how this will do you good. Your thoughts will be influenced in a positive, pure way that you may never have experienced before.

By reading the Bible, you will be able to find the truth and get to know someone who is really interested in you, who loves you and who wants to give your life deep meaning and a rewarding goal.

On pages 62&63 you will find recommendations on how you can read the Bible.

Please give it a go!

Is the Bible Still Up-to-date?

Many people believe that it is naïve to deal with an "outdated book of ancient times." They are of the opinion that modern man cannot believe the Bible anymore.

Ideas like this are often supported by the media and are accepted without question.

However, it is a common misconception that logic and intelligence must reject the Bible.

On the following pages you will find many facts which confirm the relevance and meaning of the Bible.

**Blessed are those
who hear the word of God
and keep it.**

The Bible – Luke 11:28

A Harmonic Miracle

One of my acquaintances is a musician and can play several instruments. He uses his computer for sound recordings and creates quite a few works of art.

He explained: "Firstly, I take my oboe and play the soprano. This creates the recording of the first soundtrack.

On the second soundtrack I record the alto without deleting the first recording. This is how I add six more instruments, up to the deepest bass.

Then the eight soundtracks are brought together. Do you want to hear the result?"

What I heard then was a glorious symphony. It is hard to believe that a single musician managed this!

This is the same case with the Bible. It was written by more than 40 different people. All were inspired by the incomparable artist, God, the Holy Spirit, who made all of these 40 "instruments" to play.

Each book of the Bible has its own character, but it all fits harmonically together according to God's plan.

This is one of the amazing wonders of the Bible!



**>>> Read the Bible in order
to explore its unique harmony!**

Waited in Vain ...

A man, who did not care one bit about the Bible, wanted to convince a young Christian that the Bible was outdated and contradictory to modern discoveries. He wanted to send him a few chosen articles from science and philosophy about this topic.

The young man, however, could not be shaken in his faith. He answered: "If you've got anything **better than the Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5-7), anything **nicer than the stories about the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, or the woman at the Well of Sychar** (Luke 10 and 15, John 4); if you have anything **more comforting than Psalm 23** or know anything that **reveals God's love towards me better than the gift of His Son Jesus Christ**, or can give me anything that **describes future eternity more clearly than the Bible**: please send it to me as quickly as possible!"

He waited in vain for a reply.

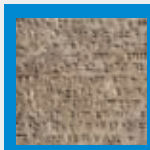
There is no book that can be compared to the Bible. The reason is simple: the Bible is God's book.

How the Bible Came to Us

How, and on what did people write?

3000 BC If anybody wanted to write a "letter" 5,000 years ago, he didn't do it with paper and ink. People used the so-called cuneiform in those days – signs and symbols that were engraved into little clay tablets, which were then dried or fired.

During excavations in old cities in today's Syria and Iraq, thousands of little clay tablets containing this writing have been found.

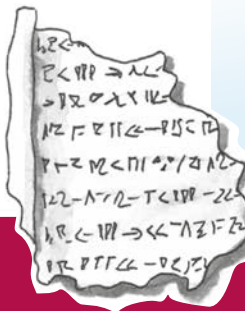


At approximately the same time, the Egyptians developed a different pictographic and symbolic writing (hieroglyphics), which you can also find in the pyramids. It took linguists centuries to decipher the writings of these oldest languages of mankind.

These forms of writing had a big disadvantage: they consisted of hundreds of symbols. It was only in 1500 BC that the alphabet was invented.

With a few changes, this alphabet spread quickly from 1000 BC. It is the basis of our Latin alphabet, which is still used today.

Apart from clay, stone or wood, people in later centuries wrote on papyrus, which is produced from the pulp of the papyrus plant. Later, people wrote on parchment (specially made animal skins), which was made into scrolls.



This is how God took care in a wonderful way that at the time when the Bible was written down, there was a simple, yet clear system of writing available.

Writing, collecting and storing

Moses was one of the first writers of the Bible. We read a couple of times that God gave him the task of writing in a book the things that had happened.

Through God's chosen people, the various books of the Old Testament were collected and stored carefully.

In approximately 400 BC the OLD TESTAMENT was finished. It was written in the Hebrew language, with a few short passages in Aramaic.

It was only from the death and the ascension of Jesus Christ until the end of the 1st Century that the books and epistles of the NEW TESTAMENT were written in the widespread Greek language of that time.

Moses died in approximately 1400 BC, so we can say that the Bible was produced over a period of 1500 years.

Completed and Concluded

Very early, the first Christians knew through the leading of the Holy Spirit which books belonged to the Bible and which did not. They had clear criteria for the acknowledgment of a book and thus could distinguish well which books were genuine (canonical), and which were not genuine (apocryphal).

Martin Luther judged **these apocryphal books**, saying that they were “not considered equal to the Holy Scripture.” In reading these texts, you will notice that they consist of extreme contradictions to the books of the Bible.

Fairy-tales about the Lord Jesus and the apostles, forged letters from biblical characters as well as historical and geographical mistakes can be found. In 1545, during the Council of Trent, these books were falsely declared “equal” to the other books of the Bible, amongst other things to support the Council’s deviant doctrines. This all shows clearly that the Apocrypha has no divine origin. That is why you should read Bible editions without the apocryphal books.

God’s Word includes a diverse range of books which were carefully selected through the leading of the Holy Spirit, and it has been completed for all time.

The Bible is rightly called the Holy Scripture, because it comes from God, not from human authority. Even today it is the highest authority for our faith and our life.

**Heaven and earth will pass away,
but My words will by no means pass away.**

The Bible – Matthew 24:35

Reliable Manuscripts

More than 5,000 manuscripts and fragments of the New Testament in the Greek language have been preserved. The most popular manuscript is Codex Sinaiticus, a still almost completely preserved Greek Bible

from the 3rd Century which was found by the scholar Constantine von Tischendorf in Saint Catherine’s Monastery on the Sinai Peninsula in 1859. This priceless biblical treasure not only contained parts of the Old Testament, but also **the complete New Testament with its 27 books.**

In addition to the diverse New Testament manuscripts and fragments, there were **approximately 9,000 old translations** from the original texts. Together with **36,000 Bible quotes** from the so-called Church Fathers, it led to an almost one hundred percent reconstruction of the original text through intensive exploration.

Not a single text variant casts doubt on the truth of God’s message in the New Testament.



Saint Catherine's Monastery in the mountains of Sinai. It was here in the middle of the 19th Century that Tischendorf found the Codex Sinaiticus.

The precision of the handing down of Bible texts throughout the millennia is unique.

The Caves of Qumran

During the spring of 1947, a boy from a Bedouin tribe, who was supposedly searching for a runaway goat, found the entrance to a hidden cave in the rugged hillside of Qumran on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

He threw a stone into the little mouth of the cave. To his surprise he heard the noise of breaking clay. He wondered what that could be.

With curiosity, he squeezed himself into this mysterious cave and found a number of clay jugs in which there were rolls of leather (scrolls), wrapped in canvas. These were old, extremely precious manuscripts which were still in surprisingly good condition, even after 1,900 years.

The shepherd boy took a scroll with him and found to his surprise that archaeologists were very interested in it. A wild hunt for these unique manuscripts emerged between greedy adventurers and scholars.

Prices for these scrolls rose into millions. This sensational discovery in the caves of Qumran put the scholarly world in motion.

For us, the scroll of the book of Isaiah is the most important one as it is the oldest complete copy of a book of the Bible.

There is not a single doubt about the authenticity of the manuscript, which

was written in the 2nd Century BC. When comparing it to the 1,000 year younger Masoretic text (Hebrew text of the Hebrew Bible) of the book of Isaiah, the scholars discovered with surprise that there was basically no difference! The texts coincided with one another with astonishing precision!

Because the text of this scroll was uninterrupted, all the Bible critics who had claimed that the book of Isaiah had been compiled over the centuries and was incorrect were disproved.

Among the vast findings of Qumran were around 250 scrolls of Old Testament Bible texts which proved that the manuscript copies were handed down with exceptional accuracy.

God watched over His Word so that we may hold it in our hands unaltered. God's Word is like a rock: it is immovable.

But the word of the Lord endures forever.

The Bible – 1 Peter 1:25



Bible Production

<< Past and Present >>



Over 500 years ago the development of printing changed the world. Before this, if someone wanted a Bible it had to be copied by hand, which was very time-consuming and thus cost a fortune.

In order to preserve the original text, it was necessary to know the oldest manuscripts because copying from one to another brought with it the danger of alterations.



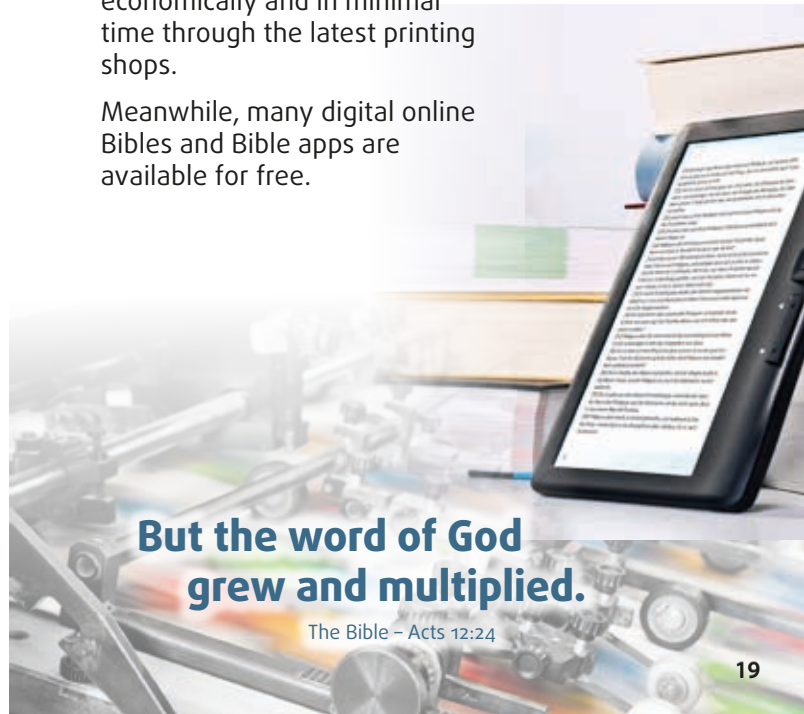
Discoveries of texts prove astonishing things: the 3,000+ familiar old manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible coincide remarkably with one another, and confirm the familiar text. The oldest parts of the Bible, which came into being almost 3,500 years

ago, have been handed down precisely into our time.

How was that possible? In reverence to the Holy Word of God, the Jews observed a large number of rules to ensure accurate copying. For example, single letters or the occurrence of certain words were counted and checked repeatedly.

Today, vast numbers of editions of Bibles can be produced economically and in minimal time through the latest printing shops.

Meanwhile, many digital online Bibles and Bible apps are available for free.



But the word of God grew and multiplied.

The Bible – Acts 12:24

The Bible and Science

How can a book that was written such a long time ago with its statements on nature and history always be right? Why is it not scientifically possible to disprove the Bible?

There are numerous examples where modern science has taken a long time to catch up with the statements of the Bible. Here are two of them:

Is the earth spherical?

God never claimed that the earth was a disc and that the sun revolved around the earth. This is what many scientists consistently believed for a very long time.



On the contrary, God says in one of the oldest books of the Bible, in Job 26:7: **"He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing."**

Is the hare a ruminant?

In Leviticus 11:4&6 it says: **"Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud ... the hare, because it chews the cud..."**

This statement of the hare being a ruminant was held as false for many centuries.

However, in the 19th century scientists found out that the hare has two different kinds of excretions. One of them is eaten up again to absorb vital nutrients.



Thus science is still forced to agree with the Bible over and over again after years of research. Also, biblical statements are not contradictory to current scientifically and archaeologically proven facts.



Could It Be Any Different?

Should God, who created the universe and gave us His Word (the Bible), contradict Himself? No, both these revelations of God, CREATION and the WORD, mutually confirm each other.

The Message of the Bible

> God created you

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The Bible – Genesis 1:27

You are God's creature. There is only one of you in this world. In addition to this, your body and all of its functions – brain, systems, organs – have been brilliantly created by God. There is no hint of time and chance – as the unproven theory of evolution claims. God has created man "in His image", i.e. to represent Him in this creation.

However, man fell into sin and turned away from God.

> God classifies you as a "sinner", too

For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **The Bible – Romans 3:22&23**

To sin means to act without submission to God. It makes no difference whether sin is visible as a deed, or if it is said out loud, or maybe just practised in the thoughts. The Lord Jesus once said that hatred towards a man is as bad a sin as killing!

> God will be your judge

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment... **The Bible – Hebrews 9:27**

God is absolutely holy and righteous. That is why He must one day judge everything that is not consistent with His nature. The Bible makes unmistakably clear that every man who dies without forgiveness of sins will have to expect eternal separation from God. Unlike heaven, where everybody who has a relationship with the Lord Jesus will be, there will be a place that the Bible calls "hell" or "the lake of fire". God will not be there, and then there will be no possibility to communicate with Him.

Yet there is hope!

> God has a great interest in you

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. **The Bible – 1 John 4:9**

Look up to the cross of Calvary where Jesus Christ experienced punishment from God by suffering terrible agonies. He was forsaken by God at the cross because He bore our sins. We cannot imagine what this must have meant for the Lord Jesus, who was completely without sin.

**Do you see
how much God loves you?**

God's Help + Means of Salvation

We are separated from God through sin. God cannot accept our efforts to improve ourselves. God, in His holiness and purity, has to judge evil. There is only one way out: we have to accept the means of salvation which comes from God Himself.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Bible – John 3:16

In order to reveal God, your Creator, Jesus Christ became man and came down to earth to us.

Jesus Christ has shown us God's love. He proved it fully by dying for you at the cross of Calvary. As your representative, He took upon Himself the punishment for your sins – if you believe in Him.

If you accept this in faith and confess your sins to God, He will give you forgiveness and eternal life.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Bible – 1 John 1:9

Jesus Christ lives! He rose from the dead and returned back into heaven.

This good news has been preached for almost 2,000 years. Salvation can thus be offered to all men. Everybody who believes in Jesus Christ – the one and only Saviour – will be freed from God's eternal judgment. Every person who accepts the work of redemption of Jesus Christ in faith will be declared righteous before God.

... being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

The Bible – Romans 3:24



Divine Promises

To sum it up, the divine letter, the Bible, says:

1. God is holy.

*> He has to judge
and punish sin!*

2. God is love.

*> He wants to forgive
you all of your sins.*

God can forgive you your sins because His Son, Jesus Christ, has taken upon Himself the punishment for sin and satisfied everything required by a holy God.

However, to obtain forgiveness personally you have to come before God in genuine confession of your sins, and believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, even for you, as Saviour and Redeemer.

**Then God has more than 1,000 irreversible,
divine statements ready for you in His
Word, the Bible.**

You will find a few of these statements here >>>

**He who believes in the Son has
everlasting life; and he who does not
believe the Son shall not see life,
but the wrath of God abides on him.**

The Bible – John 3:36

**He who hears My word and believes
in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,
and shall not come into judgment,
but has passed from death into life.**

The Bible – John 5:24

**But as many as received Him, to them
He gave the right to become children
of God, to those who believe in His name.**

The Bible – John 1:12

**Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name;
you are Mine.**

The Bible – Isaiah 43:1

The Prodigal Son

A Story from the Bible

A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me." So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no

one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer

worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf." But he was angry and

would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, "Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him." And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

The Bible – Luke 15:11-32



Many Religions - All the Same God?

It is a commonly held idea in the world that all religions lead to the same God, just through different ways.

This is completely contradictory to the core message of the Bible out of the mouth of Jesus Christ: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). This truth is generally denied these days.

For example, this comparison of the Quran and the Bible clearly shows that "Allah from Islam" cannot be the God of the Bible:

QURAN ...therefore believe in Allah and his messengers, and do not say: "Three"... Allah is only one God. Far exalted is He above having a son.
The Quran – taken from Surah 4

BIBLE For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Bible – John 3:16

QURAN And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them.
The Quran – taken from Surah 4

BIBLE For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God ... but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness. The Bible – 1 Corinthians 1:18&23

The Quran clearly denies that "Allah" has a son, God's trinity and the fact that Jesus Christ died on the cross! But the God of the Bible is a living God. Out of love towards you and me, He gave His Son as a sacrifice for sins – in that Christ suffered God's judgment and entered into death. Thus "Allah" cannot possibly be the biblical God, that is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the way: biblical Christianity is not a religion!

In various religions of this world, man tries to find a way to God through his own efforts.

But the Bible shows us a holy God who came down to us in His Son Jesus Christ, so that everybody who believes in Him and confesses their sins to Him shall be saved.

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. The Bible – Romans 4:5

Look into the Future

The Bible gives us reliable statements concerning the future.

We are surrounded by anxiety and sorrows these days: death, immorality, violence, famine, wars, natural disasters, financial crises, tragedies, terrorism...!

However, Jesus Christ will come back soon! God clearly tells us in the Bible that the days shortly before His coming are characterised by such events. A reader of the Bible also knows how things will continue:

God will judge the world, which has turned away from Him and is now sinking in sin. Yet God **"now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world..."**

(Acts 17:30&31).

This will happen through His Son Jesus Christ, who will soon come back from heaven for judgment. He, the despised and crucified one, will come back as victor and with the authority of the highest judge: He is the one **"who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead"** (Acts 10:42).

Judgment is certain – but there is hope for you!



The Bible prophesied in detail the birth of Jesus Christ as well as his death and resurrection many centuries earlier. As Jesus Christ gave His life for you, God offers you His grace and His forgiveness even today.

Come today, says God – it might be too late tomorrow:

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. The Bible – 2 Corinthians 6:2

Accept God's offer, then you will receive eternal salvation from this divine judgment. To do this, you must come to Him in confession of your sins.

The almighty God prophesies absolutely truthfully: no man can do that. Hundreds of prophecies in the Bible have been verifiably fulfilled. The Bible prophesied about: the empires many centuries before; the birth of Jesus Christ; the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD; the dispersal of the Jews across the whole world etc.

All this proves in a unique manner that the Bible is the Word of God.

The Bible, for example, says about the Jews (the people of Israel) in Deuteronomy 28:64&65: **"Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other ... And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place."**

>> Judge for yourself whether or not this has been fulfilled!

Life is Short and Flashes by Like a Film



Today you have to prepare yourself to meet God.
Do you want to keep putting off turning to God?
Then it will be too late for you one day!



too self-confident



too happy



too busy



too worried



too old



too late

Therefore:
Be reconciled
to God.

The Bible – 2 Corinthians 5:20

Striking Remarks about the Bible

"I studied the Holy Scriptures in detail for 40 years, and my faith is stronger today than it was 40 years ago. All promises are trustworthy and true."

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), missionary in China

"I have read the Holy Scriptures regularly and thoughtfully, and I think that this old book ... contains more grandeur and beauty in language than any other books, whatever age or language they were written in."

Sir William Jones (1746-1794), one of the greatest linguistically gifted people (28 languages) and expert of the East

"How poor, how despicable are the words of our philosophers with all their contradictions in comparison to the Bible. Is it possible that a book, which is so simple and at the same time so complete, should only consist of human words?"

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), philosopher

"The Bible is both a uniquely historical document as well as a reliable historical source book. It has led to thousands of archaeological findings, and has created an extensive literature on old cultures. The Bible has always shown that it is true wherever it could be verified, in description of little details as well as in the description of great events."

Dave Balsinger and Charles E. Seller, American archaeologists

"In the Bible you can find great truths that go beyond the compass of our human mind, and show us how flat our limited reason is. However, in its main and fundamental statements, the Bible is not hard to understand."

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), revivalist preacher

"The Bible is the only information document from God that we have in print and in human language. This is the reason why the Bible is unique and absolutely reliable in the sum of all its statements.

It is not science, philosophy or ideology that manage to correct the Bible. However, on the contrary, the Bible is able to cleanse our system of thought."

Prof. Dr. Werner Gitt, former Head of information technology department at PTB Braunschweig

It is easy to accuse the Bible of inaccuracy, but it is a completely different thing to actually prove this.

Translation from the Original Text

Bible translation is difficult work.

Both the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Greek text of the New Testament have only capital letters, which all sit very closely together without full stops or commas. That is why it is a hard task for linguists to recognise where a new sentence begins.

In addition, there are no vowels in Hebrew, like a, e, i, o, u, but only consonants (b, k, t etc.).

You have to add the vowels yourself. Genesis 1:1 for us would look like this then:

NTHBGNNGGDCRTDTHHVNSNDTHRTH

Would you be able to recognise the following sentence from this: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"? We can therefore be very grateful for the scholars who searched for these old manuscripts, found them and translated them.



King James also made an important contribution approximately 400 years ago when he had the Bible translated into English. Ever since, many linguists have continued this work in order to translate the Bible more accurately, and to ensure that it is still comprehensible.



In the English language there are numerous Bible translations. They particularly differ as to the question of how accurately the original text is represented. Unfortunately, some modern Bible translations deviate so much from the original text that some words may lose their seriousness, for instance if "sin" is translated "mistake".

If you want to make sure that you actually read what God has written down in the Bible, we advise you to get a Bible translation that is close to the original text.

Presently, the Bible or parts of the Bible are available in more than 2,900 languages. Roughly 97% of the world's population has the possibility of reading parts of God's Word.

Yet there are still translators who sacrificially translate the Bible into more languages in the most remote areas of the earth. Often, this is very hard as they first have to create a written language.

The Bible has become the best known and the most widespread book of world literature. The number of translations (sometimes partial) into other languages has grown rapidly over the past two hundred years.

By the year 1800, translations into 75 languages had been produced.

By the year 1900, there were 567 translations.

By the year 1953, there were 1167.

By the year 1978, this number had grown to 1600.

By the year 2017, the Bible (or parts of it) had been translated into almost 3,000 languages!

The Book for All People

- > written by 40 people
- > translated by hundreds,
- > printed by thousands,
- > read by millions.

No other book has ever been spread to so many languages and cultures as the Bible. It is the most-read book in the world.

On the following three pages, the Bible verse from John 3:16 can be read in different languages.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This verse, also called the “the heart of the Bible”, summarises God’s good news to mankind:

- > God loves you so much that He gave His Son for you.
- > Through faith in Him you will be saved.

Amharic

Ethiopia

ከገጹ ከጻፉበት ስጦታ አንዱ ነው።
የሕይወት ጥቅም ለሁሉም ሰጥቶታል።

Arabic

Egypt and Middle/Near East

هكذا أحب الله العالم حتى بذل ابنه الوحيد لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به بل تكون له الحياة أبدية

Bengali

India

কারণ ঈশ্বর এই জগতকে এতোই ভালবাসেন, যে, তিনি তার একমাত্র জন্মগ্রহণ পুত্রকে দিলেন যেন যে কেউ সেই পুত্রের উপর বিশ্বাস করে সে বিনষ্ট হয় না বরং অনন্ত জীবন লাভ করে

Burmese

Myanmar

ဘုရားသခင်၏သားတော်ကိုယုံကြည်သောသူတစ်ပါးတို့သည်မျက်စိဖြင့်
သို့မဟုတ်အာရုံစူးသက်ကို ရစေခြင်းငှါဘုရားသခင်သည်ဖိစိဉ်တပါး
တည်းသောသားတော်ကိုစွန့်တော်မူသည့်တိုင်အောင် လောကီသားတို့ကို
ချစ်တော်မူ၏။

Chinese

China

你从未听到过如此怜悯饶恕的伟大案例这伟大的爱付出了最昂贵的代价这伟大的爱是人人都是可以享有的拥有这爱的条件出乎意外的宽厚这爱提供了伟大的救恩这爱是你能得到的最美好礼物

German

Germany

So hat Gott die Welt geliebt, dass er seinen eingeborenen Sohn gab, damit jeder, der an ihn glaubt, nicht verloren gehe, sondern ewiges Leben habe.

French

France

Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde qu'il a donné son Fils unique, afin que quiconque croit en lui ne périsse point, mais qu'il ait la vie éternelle.

Greek

Greece

Επειδὴ, με τέτοιον τρόπο αγάπησε ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε ἔδωκε τὸν Υἱὸν τοῦ μονογενοῦς, γιὰ νὰ μὴ χαθεῖ καθεὶς πλὴν τοῦ πιστεύει σ' αὐτόν, ἀλλὰ νὰ ἔχει αἰώνια ζωὴ.

Hebrew

Israel

כי כה אהב אלהים את העולם עד כי נתן את בנו יחידו
למען לא יאבד כל המאמין בו אלא יחל חיי עולם.

Japanese

Japan

神は、実に、そのひとり子をお与えにな
ったほどに、世を愛された。それは御子
を信じる者が、ひとりとして滅びることな
く、永遠のいのちを持つためである。

Polish

Poland

Albowiem tak Bóg umiłował świat, że Syna swego jednorodzonego dał, aby każdy, kto weń wierzy, nie zginął, ale miał żywot wieczny.

Portuguese

Portugal

Porque Deus amou o mundo de tal maneira que deu o seu Filho unigénito, para que todo aquele que nEle crê não pereça, mas tenha a vida eterna.

Russian

Russia

Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир, что отдал Сына Своего единородного, дабы всякий, верующий в Него, не погиб, но имел жизнь вечную.

Spanish

Spain

De tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dadoa su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna.

Telugu

India

దేవుడు లోకమును ఎంతో ప్రేమించెను. కాగా ఆయన తన అద్వితీయ కుమారునిగా పుట్టిన వానియందు విశ్వాసముంచు ప్రతివాడును నశింపక నిత్య జీవము పొందునట్లు ఆయనను అనుగ్రహించెను.

Turkish

Turkey

Tanrı dünyayı öyle sevdi ki, biricik Oğlu'nu verdi. Şöyle ki, O'na her kim iman ederse mahvolmasın, ama hepsi sonsuz yaşama kavuşsun.

Hungarian

Hungary

Mert úgy szerette Isten a világot, hogy egyetlen Fiát adta, hogy mindenki, aki hisz benne, el ne kárhozzon, hanem örök életet nyerjen.

You Can Read the Bible in Different Ways:

- ▶ You can read it **as a piece of ancient literature** in order to satisfy your curiosity.
- ▶ You can read it **as a history book** to get information about times past.
- ▶ You can read it **merely intellectually** in order to analyse and critically judge its statements.
- ▶ However, you can also read the Bible **in faith**, as God's message directly to you today.

If you read the Bible as the message from God, the love of God, which you can see in Jesus Christ, can speak to your heart. Then your conscience will also be divinely enlightened just as Jesus shed light by His deeds and words.

Interesting

The smallest printed Bible

> complete Bible

The smallest printed Bible known to us is just a bit bigger than a £2 coin. This Bible is 2.8cm long, 3.4cm wide and 1cm thick and has 1514 pages. You can read everything very well with a magnifying glass.



The smallest Old Testament ever

> on a digital microchip

In 2008, Israeli scientists from the Institute of Technology in Haifa managed to write down the Old Testament on half a square millimetre. More than 300,000 words of the Old Testament in the Hebrew language were saved on a silicon chip the size of a sugar grain. It was only with the help of nanotechnology that such a mini-data carrier could be built. To read the text, the data would have to be converted and then enlarged 10,000 times.

Can it go even smaller?

> DNA - the storage medium of the future

God, the creator, has planted a brilliant storage medium into each of our body cells. Its storage capacity surpasses by far everything that is known to us as yet: it is the DNA string that has a diameter of two millionth millimetres. Inside it there is countless information about the genetic material of every human.

If we possessed prepared DNA material the size of a sugar grain with its corresponding writing and reading skills, we could "store" almost one billion complete Bibles on it. Scientists believe that gigantic DNA storages will be available in a few years.

Jesus - Our Best Friend



Children were attracted to Him. He gladly took the little ones in His arms.

He was powerful! The storm whipped up the waves and the boat in which He sat was in grave danger. He rebuked the wind and the sea became quiet.

He healed the sick and had pity on all people – the poor as well as the rich.

He saw the sin in their hearts, the source of all misery. Yet a woman with a dubious reputation was not afraid of Him. Crying over her own wickedness, she came to Him, and He forgave all her sins.

One day they took Him captive! They decided that he had to go. He was so good and so pure – and thus He not match with their sinful condition. Therefore, they decided that they had better get rid of Him.

He was nailed to a cross to die.

But they did not understand that He knew all of it beforehand! He, the Son of God, had come from heaven to die. He wanted to save us all from death, the eternal death.

But what joy! The Lord Jesus did not remain in death. He rose from the tomb. He lives and is in heaven now. He sees us and has pity on us. He knows you and wants to forgive all your guilt if you are sorry about your sins and confess them to Him, like the woman mentioned earlier.

“Yes”, is what He will say then, “I can forgive you your sins now because I bore the punishment for them on the cross.”

And then a new story will begin: the story of your new, changed life, because it will be completely different to what it was up till now. He will become your best friend. You will be able to discuss everything with Him (this is called “praying”). Then you will want to read the Bible yourself in order to get to know Him better.

The Bible will become an intriguing book for you. You will surely want to read something of the Lord Jesus every day.

He just
wants to be
your best
friend!





Big Clean-up

How terrible the young man's bedroom wall looked! It was covered with trashy photos and posters. One day his uncle, an artist, came for a visit. He was sad about this eyesore but didn't say anything.

A few days later, the nephew received a particularly attractive and precious painting from his uncle. This artwork took a place of honour on the bedroom wall, and a few photos were taken down to make way for it.

From that moment, it seemed as if a different, purer atmosphere reigned in this room and one poster after another disappeared. They simply didn't fit any more.

If you start reading the Bible, it could well be possible that this and that will disappear from your wall, your bookshelf or your CD-rack. Perhaps some data, games or links on your PC or smartphone will be deleted. Who knows – maybe something from the dark corners of your heart will disappear too.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
And what communion has light with darkness?**

The Bible – 2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:14

The Most Interesting Storybook in the World

"Mummy, don't stop, keep reading! The story is exciting, please read to the end!" Indeed, the story is really exciting:



Joseph, hated by his brothers, is thrown into a waterhole, pulled out later and sold as a slave to Egypt, where he is thrown into prison despite being completely innocent. Yet he becomes prime minister of Egypt, who saves his family and the whole country during the famine.

The Bible – Genesis 37-50

The Bible is full of exciting factual stories like this which are thought-provoking and yet appeal to the heart.

The Bible – Daniel 3

Just think of Daniel's three friends, who did not want to bow before the king's idol and were thrown into the burning furnace for this; however, they came out of it unharmed.



**The Bible is a thrilling book,
even for young people!**

Ever Eaten Belladonna?

(Atropa belladonna)



The poison of a belladonna plant is life-threatening. "But I want to try it because I'm sure it won't hurt me like it hurts others."

If anybody spoke like that, it would be right to doubt their sanity. However, don't we sometimes act similarly? We plunge deeper and deeper into the world of the media, where God's principles about marriage and family are turned upside down. We read novels in which occult practices are described, where lies and intrigue are on the agenda. We want to "try" these things to try to prove to ourselves that we are above being harmed by them.

The Bible says that we should "stop" our ears and "shut our eyes" so that we do not hear or see evil (Isaiah 33:15). Therefore a good piece of advice is:



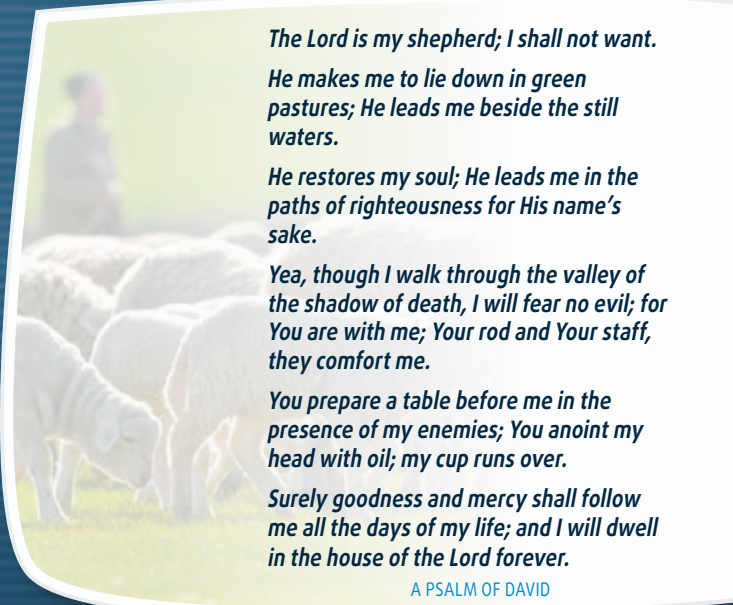
>>> Don't eat any belladonna plants!

Neither let any into your house! Avoid everything that is not in accordance with God's thoughts. God wants to preserve us from sinful influences and evil ways, and He will if we read the Bible. God's Word is pure and true, is alive and eternal. It shows you the way to real happiness and genuine peace.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. The Bible – Psalm 119:105

Psalm 23

>> a very well-known text from the Bible <<



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, 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 runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A PSALM OF DAVID

This psalm is directed to every person. Is there anything better than being able to say: "The Lord is my shepherd?"

In times of need, even when facing death, one can find genuine comfort: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ... You are with me."

The Best Proof

In the market place there was a fruit seller sitting behind her stall. When there were no customers, she used every moment to read her Bible, the book that was so precious to her.

"What book do you keep reading there?" a regular customer asked. **"My Bible, the Word of God."** "Well, how do you know that this is the Word of God? Who told you?" "God Himself." "Oh, did God Himself speak to you?" the man asked mockingly.

The woman was at a loss for a moment because she did not know how to prove **that the Bible is God's Word**. But then she pointed at the radiant sun and said to her customer: "Can you prove that this is the sun?" "Prove to you?" he replied. **"That's fairly simple. The best proof is that it gives me light and heat."**

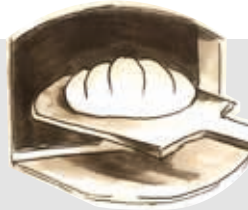
"Exactly, that's it!" the woman replied. **"That is the best proof that this book is God's Word: it gives me light and warmth within."**

The Baked Bible

Jan Hus can be called both the reformer and the martyr of Bohemia. Through his living testimony, the eyes of thousands were opened to the completed work of redemption through Jesus Christ.

But this public proclamation of the gospel did not last long in this country. Jan Hus was burnt at the stake, the blood of other Christians was flowing in torrents and search was made for Bibles in order to destroy them.

During this time, a woman, whose greatest treasure was God's Word, stood in front of her oven to bake bread. All of a sudden she heard that the men of the Inquisition were sweeping through the village and arresting everyone who they found with a Bible.



She quickly took her Bible and wrapped it up into a big lump of dough, which she pushed into the oven and the other loaves right behind it.

Soon after, her house was searched too. Everything was rifled through, from the cellar to the loft, but in vain.

After the persecutors had left the house, the bread was baked and was taken out of the oven. And lo and behold: the Bible had suffered as little damage as the three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, who had been thrown into the burning furnace. The Bible tells us how God brought them out of the furnace unharmed.

The Bible – Daniel 3.

O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me; and deliver me. The Bible – Psalm 7:1



Bull's Eye

"The Bible is not for me", Peter said to his friend, "because there's so much written in it that I don't understand."

Ken thought for a moment. He knew well that Peter just wanted to make excuses. It was just yesterday that he had stolen something from his neighbour's yard. Therefore Ken answered: "One thing is written in the Bible that you can surely understand." "Well, what?" "You shall not steal!"

That was like an arrow piercing through Peter's heart. He thought of the past day and quietly walked away.

**He who has a deceitful heart
finds no good,
and he who has a perverse tongue
falls into evil.**

The Bible – Proverbs 17:20



The Bible Thrown Away

On the way home at the weekend, several soldiers were travelling together and behaving in a boisterous manner – teasing and joking with one another.

A young soldier was sitting in the corner of the train compartment, reading his pocket Bible. Suddenly, another soldier jumped up, saying: "Let's have some fun with him." Having said that, he snatched the Bible out of the young man's hands and threw it out of the window.

This all happened in a split second, and the Bible landed on the track. Did the young soldier now jump up in fury? No, he remembered the words of the Lord Jesus: **"I am gentle and lowly in heart"** (Matthew 11:29). He was sad, but he remained silent.

A few weeks later, this young soldier received a parcel with his Bible in it. Enclosed was an interesting letter. A railway worker, who was working on the track, had found the Bible. When he opened it and started reading, God spoke to his heart. Up till then he was in great fear because of a guilty conscience, but through reading the Bible he found forgiveness of his sins by believing in the work of redemption of the Lord Jesus. Then the soldier understood why he had to be without his Bible for a few weeks. God has wonderful ways to reach the hearts of men, and the devil, the great enemy of God, again suffered a defeat.

**You meant evil against me; but God
meant it for good ...** The Bible – Genesis 50:20

The Torn Bible

Many decades ago, there was an auction of household goods in a small town. Among them was a big old Bible, but nobody took any interest in it. Finally, a merchant made an offer and was able to take it home for a few pennies.



This practically minded merchant wanted to use the pages to wrap up the goods he was selling. But

he did not think about what great value the pages of this book had. God has said: **“[My word] shall not return to Me void”** (Isaiah 55:11).

In this town there also lived a man who was constantly tortured by the thought that he was guilty of a person's death. He could not find rest day or night. The word “murderer” continually stood before his eyes in glowing letters. One day he sent his son into that shop to buy something. The son came back with the requested item which was wrapped up in a page of this old Bible. Suddenly there was this verse from Hebrews 9:22 before this man's eyes: **“Without shedding of blood there is no remission.”**

At first, these words were incomprehensible to him. Yet he was looking for forgiveness. He had to know more about it at all cost. So he again sent his boy to the merchant, who had begun tearing out pages from the first Epistle of John. When this man who was tortured by his guilt read that page, all the load dropped off his soul at once because he read: **“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”** and **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”** (1 John 1:7&9).

These words shone like a light into his dark soul. He experienced that the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, which He shed at the cross, is able to wash away all sins. Through this, everyone who confesses their guilt to God can find perfect peace for their heart and conscience.

The Word of God has become a blessing to millions of people. Very often it has been just a single verse or a page from the Bible. God's Word “is living and powerful, and ... piercing” (Hebrews 4:12). This is how God has “shaken up” many hard or even devastated hearts.

Even a torn Bible can lead people to the way of real happiness...

God's Word Is the Truth

God's Word is the truth. It strikes individuals in their consciences, shows them where they are wrong, and makes them restless and uneasy. This causes many people to be afraid of the Bible and consequently some have tried to eliminate it.

God's Word Exists Forever

But God watches over His own Word and it will never pass away.

Stack all of the books that speak against the Bible on top of one another, and you will have a pile higher than the pyramids of Giza. Then lay the Bible next to this pile. The Bible is intact. It is victorious, and outlives all who were hostile towards it.



**But the word of the Lord
endures forever.**

The Bible - 1 Peter 1:25

**Forever, O Lord, Your word
is settled in heaven.**

The Bible - Psalm 119:89

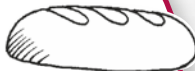
**The entirety of Your word
is truth, and every one
of Your righteous judgments
endures forever.**

The Bible - Psalm 119:160

The Bible is Like...

Bread

This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. John 6:50



Fire



Is not My word like a fire? says the Lord. Jeremiah 23:29

Light

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105



Milk



As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:2

Honey

... sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Psalm 19:10



Gold

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold.

Psalm 19:10



Silver



The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Psalm 12:6

a Mirror

For the word of God is ... a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight. Hebrews 4:12&13



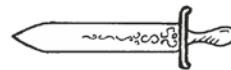
a Hammer



Is not my word ... like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:29

a Sword

... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12



the Seed



Incorruptible [seed] ... the word of God which lives and abides forever.

1 Peter 1:23

Tips for Reading the Bible

Read the Bible to get into direct contact with God. You can start, for example, with the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament, an account of the life of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the New Testament is the key to understanding the Old Testament.

If you want to read the Bible with joy and profit, the following seven points are helpful:



1. Use a good translation

- > Use a Bible that is understandable, but that is ideally a close translation of the original text.
(Unfortunately, there are editions of the Bible in which one can find deviations from the real biblical message.)

2. Take time

- > Resolve to really leave a good quarter of an hour free every day for a "quiet time" to meet with God.
A day has 96 quarter-hours: give one of those to God. He wants to speak to you.

3. You need silence

- > Read the Bible in a quiet place
Indeed, you can read the Bible online, or download it in a free app. But by reading the Bible in a book form, you will be less distracted and you will be able to concentrate better.

4. Pray to God

- > Ask God to help you to understand what you have read.
No one can explain the Bible better than He who wrote it.
- > Ask God: "What do you want to say to me? How can I put it into practice?"
He alone sees into your heart and also knows your hardships and circumstances.
- > Thank God for His precious Word.
Reading the Bible brings blessing and great profit. See Psalm 119:162

5. Contemplate it

- > Think about what you have read.
It is of little use if you only read the Bible hastily. See Psalm 119:15&27&48
- > Underline the important texts and note parallel passages.
You will then be able to find them more easily later and remember them better.

6. Learn it by heart

- > Learn by heart verses that have become important to you.
You can recall them to your memory anytime. Therefore they will be a help to you in various situations in life. See Psalm 119:11, Colossians 3:16

Put it into practice

- > Do what God shows you and says to you in the Bible.
Obeying God makes you happy and deepens your relationship with Him. See James 1:22

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it. The Bible – Luke 11:28

A Decision is Required!

You have received numerous suggestions and a lot of information about the Bible, the “letter” from God to you. Please give God an answer now. Do not push the decision away! You should now realise how important it is to listen to God. Perhaps you will not receive another opportunity.

God wants to come to you in kindness and grace and not as a judge. He calls you to turn to Him. But if you carry on with indifference and refuse the message of God, then your path is leading to eternal separation from God, which is hell.

But God makes a wonderful offer to you through His Son, Jesus Christ:

In prayer to God, you can be relieved of all your sins with simple and honest words. He happily forgives you when you make them known to Him. Tell Him that you have lived without Him and have sinned against Him. If you do this genuinely, you can surely believe that Jesus Christ also paid the penalty for your sins when he went into death on the cross.

If you accept this great offer in faith, the way to heaven will open for you, the place of eternal, happy fellowship with God. Then your life will have a purpose and a goal.

God has a great interest in you. Therefore He speaks to you through His letter, the Bible. He wants you to be saved and to receive real peace. He really sincerely loves you and cares about you.

Please read the Bible without reservation and with an open heart. Answer God! Thank Him in prayer that His good Word has come to you, and that you have accepted it. That would be the greatest joy for God!

**There will be more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents.**

The Bible – Luke 15:7



It would be a great joy to you if you were able to say to God:

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

The Bible - Psalm 32:5

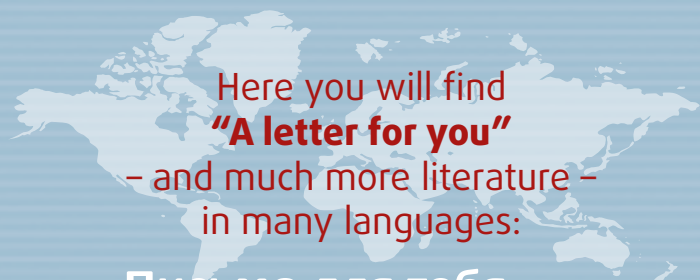
Then God's eternally valid promises will apply to you too:

... I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

The Bible - John 10:28

Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

The Bible - Matthew 28:20



Here you will find
"A letter for you"

- and much more literature -
in many languages:

Письмо для тебя

Una lettera per Lei

O scrisoare pentru tine

A Letter for you

Pismo za Tebe

رسالة لك

Ein Brief für Dich

一封给你的信

Una carta para usted

Une lettre pour vous

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Uma Carta para Você



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