



# RELEVANT

**How To Study the Bible**



**Lesson One:  
What is the Bible?**

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## The Word of God

- ▶ **Living and Active**
- ▶ **Like nothing else ever spoken or written**
- ▶ **Tried** - Psalm 18:30 KJV - "*As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.*"
- ▶ **Pure** - Proverbs 30:5 KJV - "*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*"
- ▶ **Powerful** - Hebrews 4:12 KJV - "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful.*"

## God's Word Written to Humanity

- ▶ It's what **God has said**.
- ▶ **God's own speech**, as he brings order out of chaos and makes his will known to us.
- ▶ **God's divine message** to us.

## Transliteration of the Greek word bíblos: "The Books"

- ▶ **The English word Bible is derived from Koinē Greek meaning: "the books".**
- ▶ **Bib-loss** = The Book, a written book, a roll, a scroll
  - ▶ The biblical scholar F. F. Bruce notes that John Chrysostom appears to be the first writer (in his Homilies on Matthew, delivered between 386 and 388 CE) to use the Greek phrase *ta biblia* ("the books") to describe both the Old and New Testaments together.
  - ▶ Matthew 1:1 - "*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*"
  - ▶ This word is used 13 times.

## Surprising Facts About Americans

- ▶ According to the most recent research conducted by Barna in 2017, 87% of American households own a Bible. But the question is, how many people are reading it?
- ▶ Of the world's 6,901 languages actively used as first languages, less than 50 % have a completed Bible or even a completed portion of a Bible.
- ▶ If this number surprises you, you aren't alone. Nearly 72% or three-quarters of Americans mistakenly believe the Bible is currently available in all of the world's languages. In fact, 21% or only two in 10 adults recognize there are still languages in the world without a Bible translation.
- ▶ Matthew 24:14 - *"This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."*
- ▶ We have a lot of work to do.

## The Truth

- ▶ The Personhood of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ The Bible does what it says it does.

## Moment of Reflection: How did this lesson impact you today?