



SESSION TWO

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE



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The Authority of Scripture

The Bible is by far the most translated book in the world.

At least some portion of the Bible has been translated into 4,007 languages out of a known 7,396 languages. These languages give access to 99% of the world's population.

The whole of the Bible has been translated into 776 languages which can be accessed by 6.2 billion people out of the world's population of 8.2 billion.

The New Testament has been translated into a further 1,798 languages.



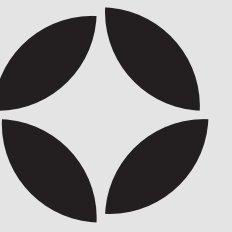
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The progress over 26 years has been remarkable. As of 1 August, 2025, just 544 of the world's 7,396 living languages remain on the waiting list for Bible translation to begin. A year ago, the number was 985 languages. In 2020, it was more than 2,000. In 1999, it was more than 5,000.

Put another way: Since 1999, Bible translation movements have engaged more than 4,600 languages that had no Scripture access before then.

Wycliffe Global Alliance



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The Authority of Scripture

100 million copies of the whole Bible are sold worldwide every year.

Bible sales have surged by 87% in the UK between 2019 and 2024.
Highest sales have been amongst Gen Z.



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The 'canon' of scripture.

Greek: 'kanon' meaning 'measuring rod' or 'rule'.

39 'books' in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

The word, "Bible" literally means "the books" or "the little books," deriving from the Greek words 'ta biblia'.

The singular form, 'biblion' (βιβλίον), meant a scroll or papyrus.



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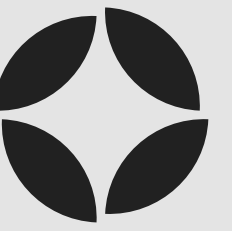
The Authority of Scripture

Why read the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 and 17

All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Greek – ‘pasa graphe theopneustos’. = ‘every scripture inspired by God’ or ‘every scripture is inspired by God and is...’



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The Authority of Scripture

- It teaches
- It rebukes and corrects
- It is inspired by the Holy Spirit
- It is a weapon of spiritual warfare
- It teaches us how to pray
- It helps us to live in purity
- It thoroughly equips us for every good work
- It gives insight into human history – past, present and future.



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The Authority of Scripture

How do we read the Bible?

- With expectation
- Consistently and systematically
- Take time and meditate
- Journal
- Use study aids
- Memorise
- It gives insight into human history – past, present and future.