

Is the Bible relevant?

By Derrick Noel

Skeptics scoff at it. Intellectuals dissect it. Atheists denounce it. Agnostics question it. Scientists debunk it. Religion debates it. The faithful value it. Yet, all agree it has had a profound impact on the world.

The Holy Bible continues to be sold more than any other book on the planet. The Bible is still the most widely published and distributed book in the world. It continues to be the world's bestselling book, with billions in print.

It is hard to ignore. It is filled with riveting stories about life and death, tragedy and triumph, war and peace, love and hate, fear and courage, sadness and joy, darkness and light, good and evil, heaven and hell, God and Angels, destruction and salvation; sin and redemption.

In the Greek language, the root word for the Bible is "biblia," meaning books. The Bible is comprised of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, from the Old Testament's thirty-nine books, to the New Testament's twenty-seven. It claims to be the inspired Word of God, thus provides God's account of the creation of the Earth, the creation of man, the fall of man, the redemption of man, God's revelation of His Son, the eventual end of planet Earth as we know it, and the ultimate creation of a new heaven and new earth.

There are many people who question the Bible's relevance to our modern world. And some of them do so with good reason. Consider this, through the ages; some have manipulated the Bible to use for their own selfish pursuits. They have unwisely advanced the drumbeat of wars, maligned people outside the faith of Judeo-Christianity, and even used it to make one feel superior over others because of race and ethnicity.

The abuse and misuse of the Bible prompted the great spiritual leader Billy Graham to wisely advise; "We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding."

Graham added; "Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness."

Mark Burnett and Roma Downey produced the popular television series, "The Bible." Roma explains; "The Bible is a book that changes lives. The Bible is the cornerstone of our culture." Mark states; "We love the Bible and we believe."

No doubt, the Bible will continue to be a source of inspiration for millions around the world. Also, it will continue to be a source of controversy and debate for the skeptics. One thing is very clear; people who believe it or doubt it will continue to turn its pages searching for answers to support their faith or lack thereof.

But be advised, the Bible will cause you to think and to act. It gives a description of itself in Hebrews 4:12- "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are."