

WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

A NON-RELIGIOUS INFORMED
APPRECIATION OF THE BIBLE

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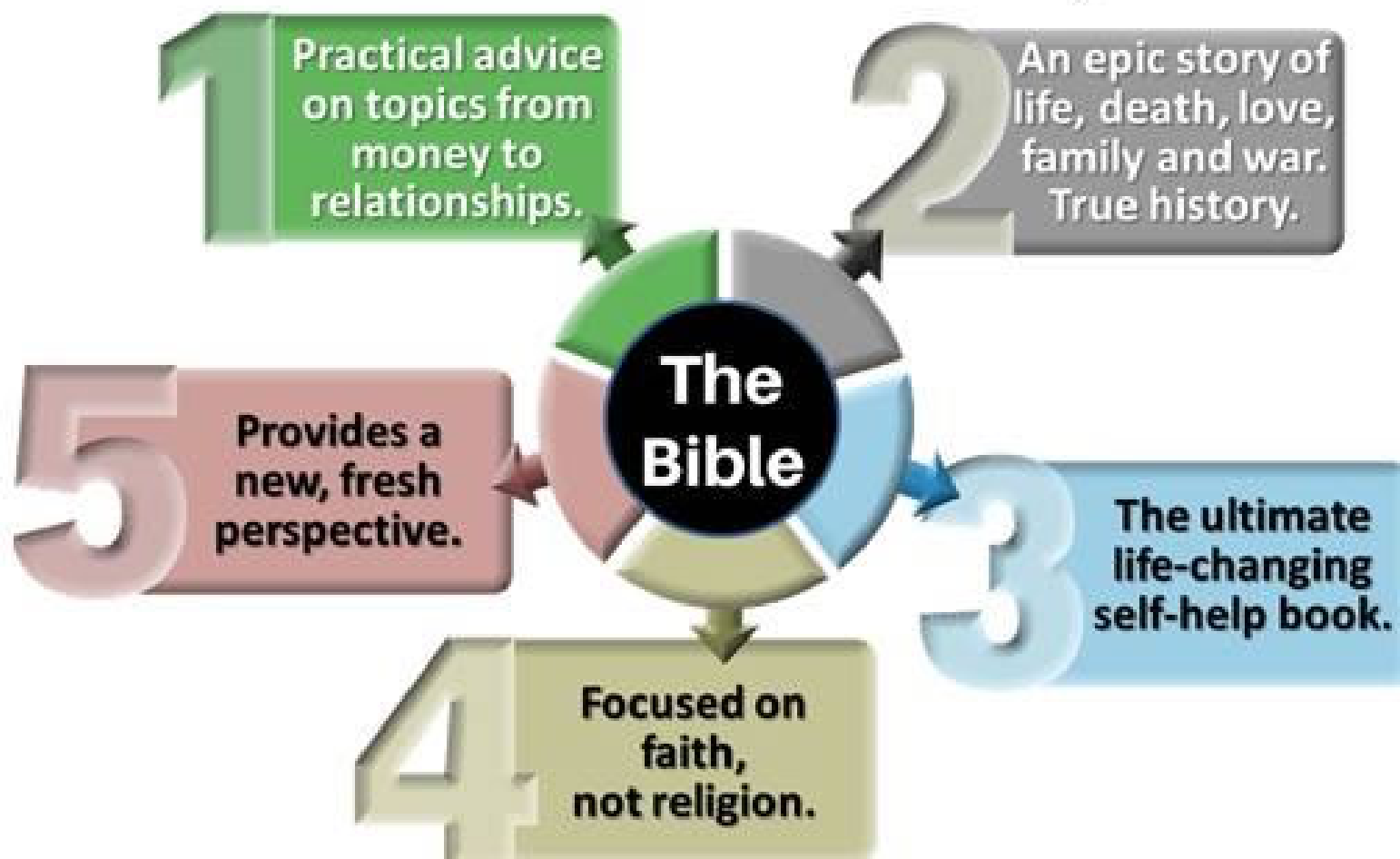
For centuries, the Bible has been considered a special document by the World's three great monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam... and many others as well. Discover many of the unique features that make it so whilst learning to apply the perspectives and tools covered in this course to better appreciate the many dimensions of the most popular book in history.

Each week will examine one or more passages in detail. Whilst using the Christian Bible (Old Testament (Hebrew Tenakh) and New Testament) for teaching purposes, this non-religious/non-denominational course does not specify any particular version or translation (even though significant variances will be unearthed), and students may use any Bible version of their own preference.

Typical Bible Study Tools

- 1 Study Bible:** notes
Interlinear Bible: languages
Parallel Bible: versions
- 2 Bible Commentary:** systematic explanations and interpretations
- 3 Bible Concordance:** list of alphabetical Biblical words and where each occurs
- 4 Bible Dictionary:** defines words and proper names referenced by verse
- 5 Bible Encyclopedia:** articles and definitions to words and terms in Scripture
- 6 Lexicon:** English meaning of words in the original Bible languages
- 7 History:** historical writings, archaeology and context relating to Biblical matters
- 8 Websites:** useful online Bible study tools

The Bible is for Everyone

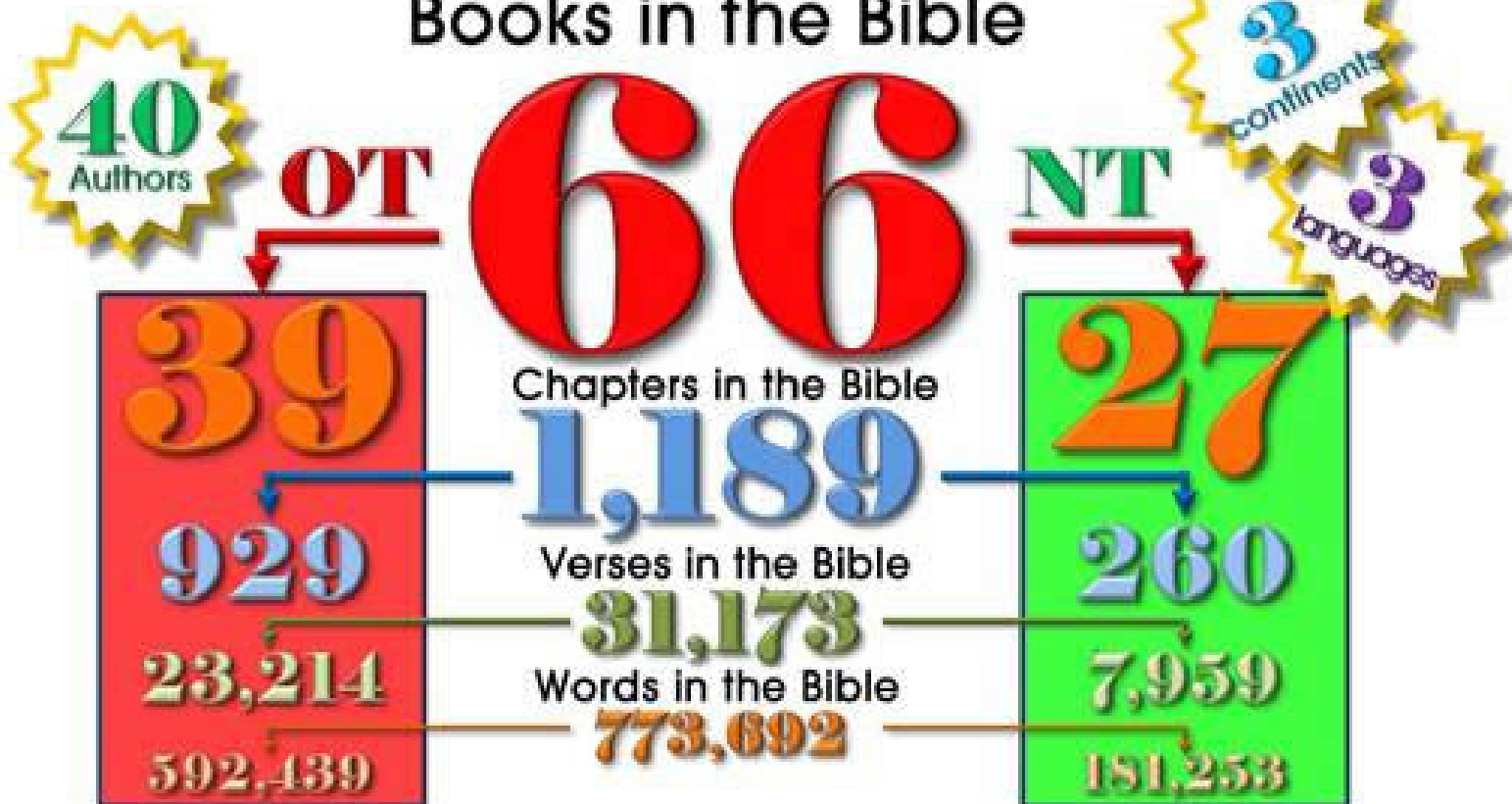


- 1 Treat others (& their beliefs) with respect!
- 2 Approach the Bible with an open mind.
- 3 Study the Bible systematically.
- 4 A text taken out of context is a pretext.
- 5 Interpret the Bible with the Bible.
- 6 If the plain text makes sense, seek no other sense.
- 7 The Bible is not just another book. Allow it to show you its differences.
- 8 If you don't understand a passage, rejoice. An insight awaits the diligent.

▲ Guidelines / Errors ▼

- 1 Analysis paralysis
- 2 Textual doubts
- 3 Reliance on church history or dogma
- 4 Not "rightly dividing the word of truth"
- 5 Distinction of Israel and the Church
- 6 Allegorical over-reliance
- 7 Lacking the "whole counsel of God"

Books in the Bible



with **ONE** consistent message!

The New Testament is in the Old **concealed**;
The Old Testament is in the New **revealed**.

5686

early Greek New Testament
manuscripts in existence

19,000

early N.T. manuscripts in
Aramaic, Syriac, Ethiopic, etc.

THE BIBLE IS NOT ABOUT RELIGION, BUT ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP!

IT'S NOT ABOUT RULES, BUT ABOUT FREEDOM!

IT'S NOT ABOUT PUNISHMENT, BUT ABOUT GRACE AND MERCY!

IT'S NOT ABOUT MORALS OR TRADITION, IT'S ABOUT TRUTH!

Welcome to U3A Course R09: What the Bible is About – An Informed Appreciation of the Bible. Course slides, notes and handouts are posted after each session on <https://www.b4uc.xyz>.

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