

BIBLE EXPRESS

*The Fast Track to the
Old and New Testaments*

JOYCE SLAYTON MITCHELL

Bible Express: The Fast Track to the Old and New Testaments is for anyone who ever wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start. Each book of the Bible is summarized and the reader is guided to the best-known stories, miracles and parables. The best-known prayers and Psalms are also listed. Bible Express is intended to make the Bible more accessible to those unfamiliar with it and to lead the reader into a deeper experience of truth, beauty and the love of God.

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by Joyce Slayton Mitchell

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BIBLE EXPRESS:

**The Fast Track
To the Old and New Testaments**

With the Apocrypha

By Joyce Slayton Mitchell

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BIBLE EXPRESS: The Fast Track to the Old and New Testaments

With thanksgiving and admiration for my missionary

Friend of the Word:

Sister Josephine Scanlan

And her Franciscan Sisters

At St. Clare's Convent, Aitape, Papua New Guinea

“The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand
for ever.”

Isaiah 40:8

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THE BIBLE

The Bible is the religious story of the ancient Hebrews and the early Christians. It is a collection of sixty-six books (plus Apocrypha), written by many authors over a period of twelve hundred years - from about 1100 B.C. to A.D. 100.

With few exceptions, the Bible was originally written in Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament). No single book has influenced the world more; it has inspired the greatest works of art and literature of the world and is the most quoted book ever: there are translations in more than 1,700 different languages.

The Bible describes men's and women's daily relationship to God and their yearning for true meaning in life. Even within the great diversity of the Old and New Testaments, there are common themes providing unity: there is one God; we are God's people; sin is alienation from God and from each other; God is just, compassionate and forgiving.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

BIBLE EXPRESS uses the New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version of the Bible for the arrangement, names of books, and quotations, and also the New American Bible for the Apocrypha and references because they are the most up-to-date in Protestant and Roman Catholic Biblical scholarship. Bible Express: The Fast Track to the Old and New Testaments was written to encourage you to take a step toward reading, hearing and understanding the real thing.

Joyce Slayton Mitchell

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FASCINATING FACTS OF THE BIBLE

There are sixty-six books in the Bible: thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. There are 1,199 chapters in the sixty-six books of the Bible; 31,173 verses, 773,746 words and 3,566,480 letters.

The first book in the Bible is Genesis; the last is Revelation. If you open the Bible in the middle, you will open to Psalms.

The New Testament represents 25 percent of the total Bible; the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) 11.1 percent; and Psalms 5.9 percent.

The first scripture written was the Song of Deborah in Judges, Chapter 5.

The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9; the shortest verse is John 11:35.

The land of Biblical times, which was about the size of Massachusetts, has many names throughout the Old and New Testaments: Canaan, the Promised Land, Israel and Judah, the divided kingdom, the united kingdom, the southern and northern kingdoms, the Hold Land, the land of milk and honey.

Jerusalem is first named in the Bible in Joshua 10:1. It is also called the Holy City, the faithful city and Zion.

2 Kings 20:11 describes how the sundial moved backward.

The word snow appears twenty-four times in the Old Testament and three times

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in the New.

Scholars cannot find Cain's wife in the Bible. You can find the Christian Hymn of Love in 1 Corinthians 13; and the most-read funeral scripture in Psalm 23.

The names of Jesus' brothers appear in Mark 6:3

Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except the letter j.

There are no words or names of more than six syllables in the Bible.

Animals speak in two places in the Bible: the serpent speaks to Eve in Genesis 3:1-5; and the ass speaks to Balaam in Numbers 22:28-30.

St. Jerome translated almost all of the Bible from its original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek into the Roman Catholic Latin translation (the Vulgate) from 382 to 405 A.D.

The first Bible printed in America was published by John Eliot in 1663 and was in an Indian language. The first American Bible printed in English was published in 1782.

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17 and again in Deuteronomy 5:1-21.

The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:9-13 and again in Luke 11:2-4.

The Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes) is found in Matthew 5:3-12.

The Golden Rule is found in Matthew 7:12.

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