

The Bible in 100 Words

These are a selection of submissions by participants of the 'Understanding the Bible' BCD module at Ansley (2008/9 BCD programme).

The Bible is a library, a collection of books written over many centuries by about forty different authors - mostly unknown to one another - and yet producing a final unity, thus showing the whole as inspired by the Divine Mind.

The Bible is the story of God's self-revelation, His purposes in the Creation and how things went wrong with humankind. It relates His loving and remedial action in Jesus Christ and how the story will end in God's own time.

Alan Minchin

God created and was elated.
The earth was not as God would dream,
and so sent floods to make it clean.
Slavery, sin and greed were born,
the good relations now all torn.
Shalom, perfection now revealed,
God now ruling, creation healed.
No justice, though kings tried to strive,
but prophets kept the hope alive.

The Holy child born - then rejection,
He died for us, then resurrection.
Jesus to heaven did ascend,
a new beginning - not an end.
The church and creation begin again,
It's now down to us to cause no pain.
The sparkling waters like crystal shone,
may the grace of the Lord be with everyone.

Susan Harte

The Bible is the story of mankind, beginning with the creation of the world and Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; ending with the prophecies regarding the second coming of our Lord. In between we have the cleansing of mankind by the flood and the promises made to Abraham regarding his land and his descendants and the giving of God's Ten Commandments. The prophecies of Jesus' birth and appearance of John the Baptist heralding the arrival of Jesus himself. Jesus' life culminating in His death upon the cross for our sins, his conquest of death itself and ascension to heaven.

Dave Baldwin

God created the world, people and nature to live in harmony. People rebelled. God started again. God selected a man and his family to found a nation that will be his own people, a covenant but again people rebel. They become slaves and exiles. Prophets prophesy that God will send a Saviour. Jesus is that Saviour. A new covenant through faith in Jesus. A group become his disciples to continue his work. Religious leaders suspicious of Jesus, he's arrested, tried and executed. God raises Jesus from the dead and he appears to his followers. The gospel is spread throughout the world.

Ken Steane

In the beginning God created a perfect world. Then He gave people the ability to choose which led to sin, greed and pride. Over the centuries His people often fell to the wayside and when in need returned to Him. God never stops loving his people and to show this He came in human form to teach the way. He dies for them to give them eternal life. One day Jesus will return to earth with the new Jerusalem to save us all. He will destroy all evil, there will be no fear, no pain and no tears. Shalom will reign.

Peggy Baldwin

God created a perfect world but humankind thought they knew better! God didn't abandon humankind but came up with a 'rescue plan' through Abraham et al. There followed several 'wilderness experiences', battles and exiles but God continued to care for his creation. God only had one way of re-setting the balance and giving humankind the opportunity to turn around and return to Him. He sent his only Son. Jesus entered the world, showed us how to live and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. The rest is history and people and nations have been changed!

Kay Aldersley

God created the universe and pronounced it good.
Mankind rebelled against God's rule and thus severed their relationship with him.
God determined to rescue fallen mankind firstly through the old covenant and then through the new covenant. Thus God himself entered his own creation in the person of Jesus and lived a sinless life. He died in our place and rose again from the dead to enable the relationship to be re-established. After the ascension of Jesus the Holy Spirit came to all believers to encourage, guide and equip us on our journey through this life to our heavenly home.

Chris Jones

God speaks, the world is created.
God sees that the world is spoilt and floods it clean.
God chooses his people and guides them.
His people are shrouded in slavery but find freedom.

Judges judge without justice and kings rule without power.
Prophets keep up the hope of a better world with the promise of a new saviour.

The promised saviour, Jesus, is born and the better days come.
Jesus, rejected by his own, dies a cruel death, and undergoes a miraculous resurrection.
Empowered by Jesus, new prophets sing new songs.
Our hope is now in the New Jerusalem.

David Lloyd
