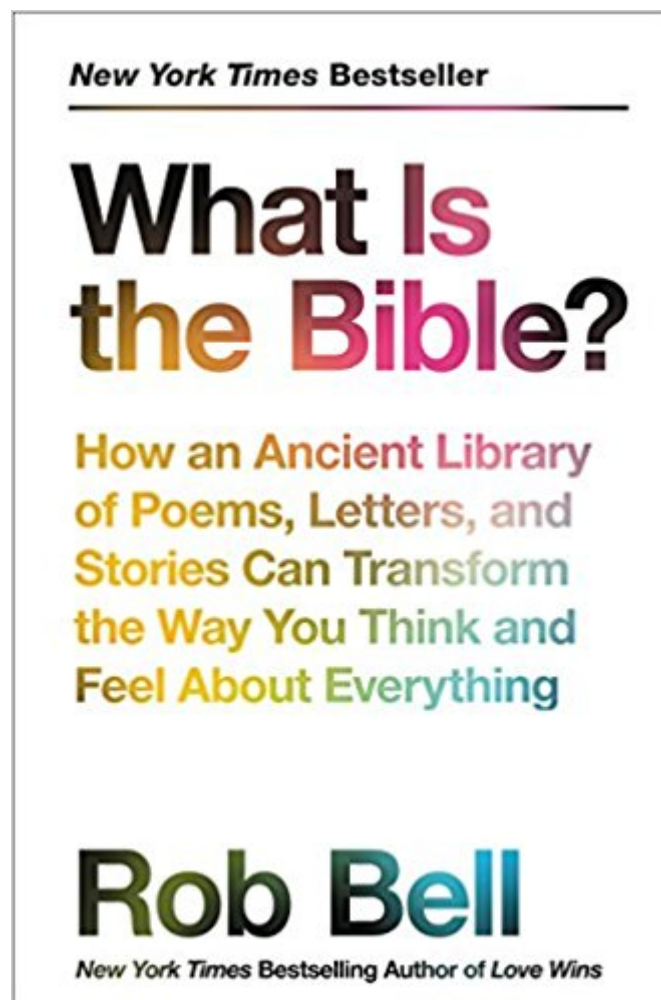




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# What Is The Bible?: How An Ancient Library Of Poems, Letters, And Stories Can Transform The Way You Think And Feel About Everything



## Synopsis

Instant New York Times Bestseller— Rob Bell, the beloved author of *Love Wins* and *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*, goes deep into the Bible to show how it is more revelatory, revolutionary, and relevant than we ever imagined—and offers a cogent argument for why we need to look at it in a fresh, new way. In *Love Wins*, Rob Bell confronted the troubling questions that many people of faith were afraid to ask about heaven, hell, fate, and faith. Using the same inspired, inquisitive approach, he now turns to our most sacred book, the Bible. *What Is the Bible?* provides insights and answers that make clear why the Bible is so revered and what makes it truly inspiring and essential to our lives. Rob takes us deep into actual passages to reveal the humanity behind the Scriptures. You cannot get to the holy without going through the human, Rob tells us. When considering a passage, we shouldn't ask "Why did God say . . .?" To get to the heart of the Bible's meaning, we should be asking: "What's the story that's unfolding here and why did people find it important to tell it? What was it that moved them to record these words? What was happening in the world at that time? What does this passage/story/poem/verse/book tell us about how people understood who they were and who God was at that time?" In asking these questions, Rob goes beyond the one-dimensional question of "is it true?" to reveal the Bible's authentic transformative power. Rob addresses the concerns of all those who see the Bible as God's Word but are troubled by the ethical dilemmas, errors, and inconsistencies in Scripture. With *What Is the Bible?*, he recaptures the Good Book's magic and reaffirms its power and inspiration to shape and inspire our lives today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Rob Bell is at it again. Love him or loathe him, the theological provocateur says it’s time to rethink the Bible. (Relevant) “With pastoral prodding, Rob Bell helps us see that scripture is a masterpiece of penetrating subtleties crafted by ancient authors with a transformative vision for humanity. Bell reminds us that the Bible is neither simple nor mundane, but worthy of our full attention.” (Peter Enns, author of *The Sin of Certainty* and host of *The Bible For Normal People* podcast)

I’ve been reading and studying and exploring and rereading and rethinking and giving sermons from the Bible for twenty-five years, and I find it more compelling and mysterious and interesting and dangerous and convicting and helpful and strange and personal and inspiring and divine and enjoyable than ever. Some people see the Bible as an outdated book of primitive, barbaric fairy tales that we have moved beyond. And then there are the folks who talk about how important and central and inspired the Bible is but then butcher it with their stilted literalism and stifling interpretations. But you, I want you to read the Bible in a whole new way. •from *What Is the Bible?* In *Love Wins*, New York Times bestselling author Rob Bell confronted the troubling questions that many people were afraid to ask about heaven, hell, fate, and faith. Using the same inspired, inquisitive approach, he now turns to the most widely read book of all time. *What Is the Bible?* provides surprising insights and answers about how the Bible actually works as a source of faith and guidance, showcasing a brand-new way of reading this sacred text. Bell takes us deep into actual passages, revealing not only the humanity behind the scriptures but the revelation that one cannot get to the holy without going through the human. When considering a passage, Bell explains the worst question we can ask of a text (“Why did God . . . ?”) and the best question to ask (“Why did people find this important to write down?”) to get at how scripture can best guide us today. In asking these questions, Bell goes beyond the one-dimensional question of “is it true?” to reveal the Bible’s surprisingly transformative power. *What Is the Bible?* recaptures this ancient library’s subversive energy and reaffirms its enduring ability to inspire and shape our lives today.

Best book of 2017. If you’ve gone through losing your faith and are wanting to re-construct something you believe in that still has a place for the Bible, get this book. Rob has a way with words and helping the Bible come to life. I find myself constantly saying, “How have I never heard this stuff in sermons before? It’s amazing!” Get this, eat it up, Enjoy it. You’ll end up having more respect for the Bible even with all of it’s flaws, weird stories and seemingly outdated advice.

If you have an open mind about the Bible, Rob Bell's book is an illuminating and refreshingly progressive take on it. You may or may not agree with everything Rob says, but I suspect he wouldn't have a problem with that. This book causes the reader to think and engage with the material. It is conversational rather than preachy. It's written as if he were giving a talk and I bought the audible book also because I love his talks. When I read his books I hear his voice in my mind, but it's still great to hear him speaking to get the tone and inflections. Several people I know who have had problems with what they were taught in their childhood church have taken a second look at the Bible because of reading one of Rob Bell's books. I would recommend this book for someone who thinks the Bible has no relevance for us today.

Just finished reading Rob Bell's new book, "What Is The Bible?". I enjoyed this book immensely - it's a quick, easy read. Easy, that is, until he says or asks something about how you view The Bible in a way that twists your brain in brand new ways. There certainly will be some who will think Bell is questioning the authority of The Bible, or that he is denying any divine inspiration within scripture. I think if you read this book and come away thinking those things, you've missed the point: "What we have is a fascinating, messy, unpredictable, sometimes breathtakingly beautiful, other times viscerally repulsive collection of stories and poems and letters and accounts and Gospels that reflect the growing conviction that we matter, that everything is connected, and that human history is headed somewhere." Bell's point is that he wants us to read The Bible in a whole new way, a way that asks more questions, better questions, dangerous questions, even those questions that rise honestly from places of hurt and anger. Bell's book, "What Is The Bible?" does not answer the question "is it true?". Rather, it encourages us to ask, "what is it saying, then and now?"

This book gives you a whole new perspective on the Bible and how to read it. Along with really changing your mindset on why you should still read it in 2017. Rob Bell does it again

Rob Bell has been one of my favorite authors for years. He never disappoints me in sharing his heart, insight and probing questions about God, religion, faith and life. Two thumbs up for this book.

I've been waiting for this book for a long time. And I had no idea how badly I needed it. Bell puts some wonderful context on some old stories, revealing new meanings and sparking new passion for a book I had long ago deemed not worth my time. Bell's prose is easy to read, and approachable.

His arguments are sound, and revelatory. If you are looking for something to rekindle your own curiosity about one of the oldest pieces of literature on the planet, check out this book.

I'm a fan of Rob Bell and his writing. This is full of informative facts about how the bible came to be the collection of books as we know it today.

Rob Bell has a wonderful way of interweaving academic material, insight, and humour, providing a book that is funny, insightful and academically sound. I would recommend this book to anyone who desires to go deeper with the layers of meaning in the Bible, layers that are transformative, liberating and empowering.

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