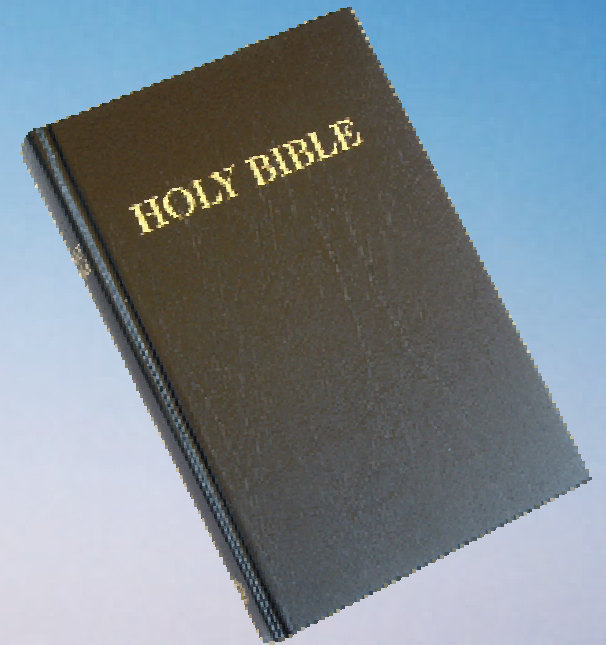


A photograph of a shepherd in a white robe and head covering, holding a staff, standing in a field with a large flock of sheep. The background shows rolling hills and a small village under a clear sky. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

# The Bible

A conversation

# The Bible



- It is a combination of
  - a Nation's history
  - words of wisdom applicable to all
  - poetry that inspires
  - accounts of healing through the power of God
  - salvation for all
- It is a book of rules & laws to show right from wrong
- It is a book of wisdom to guide our actions

# Is the Bible relevant in our lives today?

- A love of the Bible - developed by studying it - makes it a spiritual guidebook for our 'journey' through life
- The Bible gives us examples of guidance through all experiences
  - Why? Because there is no problem experienced today to which the Bible has not already shown us the answer

# Abraham to Revelation

- The truth unfolds in the Bible over 2000 years, from Abraham and Moses to Jesus and his followers
- The teachings and example of the prophets and ancient leaders formed a firm basis for Jesus to build on



# Jesus – our example

- The lives of Jesus and his disciples are examples for us
  - Jesus healed the blind, deaf, lame, demented and angry, diseased, disadvantaged, and brought people back from death
  - He assured us that we could and should follow his example
  - He restored health and well-being and showed men, women and children how to lead happy lives
  - History shows how, when people were humble and obedient to Jesus' leading, they were saved from sickness, disaster and death

# How did Jesus and his disciples heal?

- They prayed to “Our Father” that “His will be done”
- God’s will is health and wholeness for all
- Their prayers
  - changed the sufferer’s belief that they were sick, to a realisation of bodily health
  - showed that sin (belief in one’s separation from God) could be changed to a realisation of harmony with God and His creation

# Can Our Prayers Be Effective?

- We can pray effectively for ourselves
  - It is not selfish to pray for ourselves
- Others do benefit from our prayers
  - Praying as Jesus showed us is effective in healing any problem or situation
- The world also benefits from our prayers
  - Every prayer, however small, is powerful and will help bring right conclusions

# How do you know that God is leading you?

- Whenever you have kind or good thoughts, God is with you – He is their source
- We can think of His thoughts as angels – we feel them, and either listen or ignore them
- Following one's own human will, regardless of God's guidance, may
  - block out God's angel thoughts
  - encourage selfish motives

# Guiding our lives

- **The Bible truths guide our lives and show us that there is more to life than seems on the surface.**
- **These Bible truths are the light showing us:**
  - **the spirituality that is inherent within everyone**
  - **how to live our lives free from fear**

# God's promises to everyone

- **Spirituality:**

- ‘...there is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.’ (John 32:8)

- **Faith:**

- ‘...be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.’  
(Matthew 9:22)

- **Hope:**

- ‘Now the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing.’ (Romans 15:13)



# God's promises to everyone

- **Healing:**

- ‘Jesus ... healed them that had need of healing’. (Luke 9:11)

- **God's promises:**

- ‘Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God:

- I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.’ (Isaiah 41:10)

