

**Episode:** Other Letters Series No. 02

**Narrator:** Ezra

**Primary Scriptures:** Ezra 7:1-11

**Story Summary:** An introduction to the Bible

**Location:** Jerusalem

**Time:** circa 450 BC

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Ezra 7:11

The Bible consists of 66 writings which are known as “books.” It is separated into two parts often called the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament are the sacred writings of the Jews and the New Testament are the sacred writings added by the Christians.

The Bible is a “library” provided by God to tell about him, his characteristics, and his desires. It is the authoritative and direct source of information about God. There is no other reliable base source.

The library consists of these areas:

- **Creation:** The stories of creation are found in Genesis Chapters 1-11. These tell of the creation of the entire universe and mankind’s very early history.
- **History:** The Old Testament stories tell of the history of the Jewish people from the time of their founding father, Abraham, until they return from exile in Babylon and Persia. The New Testament stories tell of the history of the Christian Churches from the time of their founding after the death of Jesus until about 68 AD.
- **Poetry and Wisdom:** These Old Testament books were written by David, Solomon, and many others. These books include the well-known books of *Psalms* and *Proverbs*.
- **Prophecy:** The Old Testament books of prophecy were written during the time period of the kings. The New Testament has one book of prophecy named *Revelation*. Prophecy is sometimes about foretelling of truth, not the foretelling of the future.
- **Gospels:** The New Testament books about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Letters:** The New Testament books which are letters written by various Christian leaders.
- **Commandments and Rules:** Throughout many of the books of the Old Testament and New Testament are commandments and rules about how God’s people are to be and what they are to do.

The Bible is a love story of God and his people. The story starts in *Genesis* with God creating and being in close relationship with his people, and ends in *Revelation* with God being in close relationship with his people for all eternity. In between are stories of people violating their relationships with God and how God patiently attempts to mend those relationships. Perhaps 2 Peter 3:9 sums up the attitude of God, “Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Rather than thinking of the Bible as the story of a strict God not wanting you to have any fun, try thinking of it as treasure map that leads you to the unbelievable riches of being a child of the king and creator of everything.