

BIBLE INTRODUCTION

A BOOK LIKE NO OTHER

- ◆ The first ever printed
- ◆ An Integrated Message System
- ◆ World's best-seller year after year
- ◆ Written in more than 700 languages
- ◆ Inspired by God & written by 40 authors
- ◆ Portions of it are in more than a further 2700 languages
- ◆ It's for all time and all people, having endured all attempts to suppress it
- ◆ Contains history, law, philosophy, poetry, letters, love, wisdom, prophecy & more



Table of Contents

- Pages 2 & 3 The Bible has been taken to many countries and translated into many languages around the world. The stamps shown commemorate translations into eight languages. They also commemorate the advance from hand-written texts (the Norwegian stamps) to versions printed with moveable type (per the American stamp). Some also included ornate woodcut artwork (per the Icelandic stamp).
- Page 4 That Bibles are a part of life can be seen from the selection of stamp topics here: a Bible from onboard HMS Bounty; it is featured on the Dominican Republic's Coat of Arms; on a Norfolk Island Christmas First Day Cover; as part of Britain's extensive 1999 Millennium Series; and German churches designated 2003 as a Year of the Bible.
- Page 5 Bible Societies started being formed around 1780 and really picked up steam in the early 1800s. They aimed to translate, publish and assist with distribution and use of Bibles. Shown are stamps from four countries celebrating anniversaries of their Bible Societies/Institutes. Also shown are a couple of Cinderellas from the American Bible Society with well-known verses on them, often quoted at weddings.
- Page 6 takes us inside the Bible, starting at the beginning in Genesis 1 verse 1 (on an American stamp). Other portions from the book of Genesis are shown, being the six 'days' of creation (Israeli set) and the flood of Noah (Tonga and Vatican City).
- Page 7 advances to the New Testament of the Bible where we have the often-memorised John chapter 3 verse 16 and part of the Lord's Prayer. The whole crux of the Bible is Christ, so shown are stamps and a miniature sheet with Bible verses about Christmas. The stamp from St Vincent quotes a prophetic verse from Isaiah, predicting the coming of Jesus - the light of the world.
- Page 8 Evangelists are passionate about sharing the contents and purpose of the Bible. Shown using Bibles are two of Britain's famous evangelists, John Wesley and Samuel Marsden. The final stamp (from Zambia) shows the Bible, a symbol of truth and honesty, being used for swearing-in a President.

SIGNIFICANT BIBLE EVENTS



Norway 11th Century Medieval hand-written, illustrated Bible
Known as **Aslak Bolt's Bible**. Aslak owned it in the early 1400s.

Issued for Christmas 1977

80 David with bells 1.00 Singing Friars 1.25 Virgin & Child



USA 1452 - 1952
500th anniv of printing 1st book, The Holy Bible, from movable type.
Known as **Gutenberg Bible**
after printer, Johann Gutenberg

Netherlands 1477 - 1977
500th anniv of printing
Dutch Bible - Old Testament



Germany 1517 - 2017
500th anniv of Protestant Reformation.
Bible text with some of Martin Luther's notes in margin

Chile 1569 - 1969
400th anniv of translation of Bible into Spanish

SIGNIFICANT BIBLE EVENTS



Iceland 1584 - 1984

400th anniv of the **Gudbrand Bible**, being the 1st complete Bible printed in Icelandic. Named after the translator of the Old Testament. It contained ornate woodcuts like this "D".



Wales 1588 - 1988

18p 400th anniv of translation of 1st complete Bible into Welsh, translated by William Morgan

26p & 31p 1567 Translation of New Testament into Welsh, mainly by William Salesbury and partly by Richard Davies

34p 1620 Whole Welsh Bible revised by editor Richard Parry



Australia 1611 - 1961

Stamp issued in 1960 to coincide with the 350th anniv of the English translation of the Bible authorised by King James I, known as the **King James Bible** - Bible open at Luke 2.10

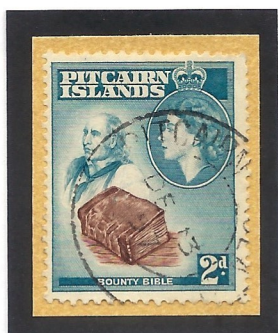


NEW ZEALAND 1868 - 1968

100th anniv of publication of 1st edition of the **full Bible in Maori**.

Stamp shows Bishop Hadfield's personal Bible open at Deuteronomy, resting on the carved kauri lectern in Otaki's Rangiatea Maori Church

JUST FOR INTEREST



Pitcairn Islands

1951 4^d Bible removed from HMS Bounty prior to its burning circa 1789

1957 2^d Bounty Bible and John Adams, the last survivor of the Bounty mutineers who settled on Pitcairns in 1790

Dominican Republic

Stamp issued 1911

Coat of arms with country's motto: Dios, Patria, Libertad (God, Homeland, Liberty)
In centre, on flag, is Bible & cross



Norfolk Island Christmas First Day Cover/stamps issued 1978
20c Poinsettia, 30c Native Oak & 55c Hibiscus - each with a Bible



Great Britain Part of 1999 Millennium Series,
The Christians' Tale (Nov 1999)
King James I with King James Bible



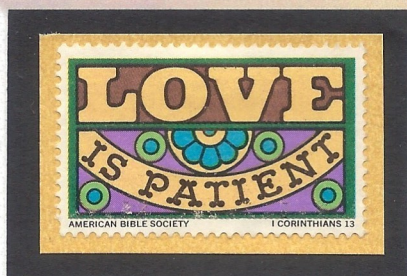
Germany Stamp issued 2003
A Bible-promoting initiative of several Christian churches in Germany:
"2003 Year of the Bible"

BIBLE INSTITUTES/SOCIETIES



Germany 1812 - 1962
150th anniv of
Württemberg Bible Institute
Chi-Rho Christogram and goblet
on open Bible

1 Corinthians 13



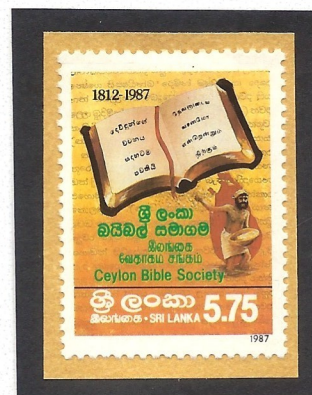
American Bible Society
Cinderella



RSA 1820 - 1970
150th anniv of Bible Society
of South Africa
Front view of open Bible



Norway 1816 - 1966
150th anniv of
Norwegian Bible Society
Chi-Rho (XP) Christogram
through centre of open Bible



Sri Lanka 1812 - 1987
175th anniv of
Ceylon Bible Society
Open Bible and man scattering
seed

1 Corinthians 13



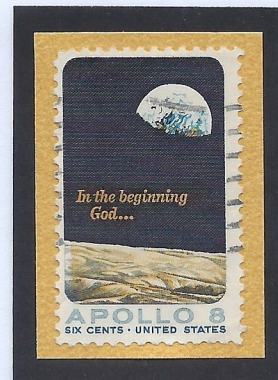
American Bible Society
Cinderella



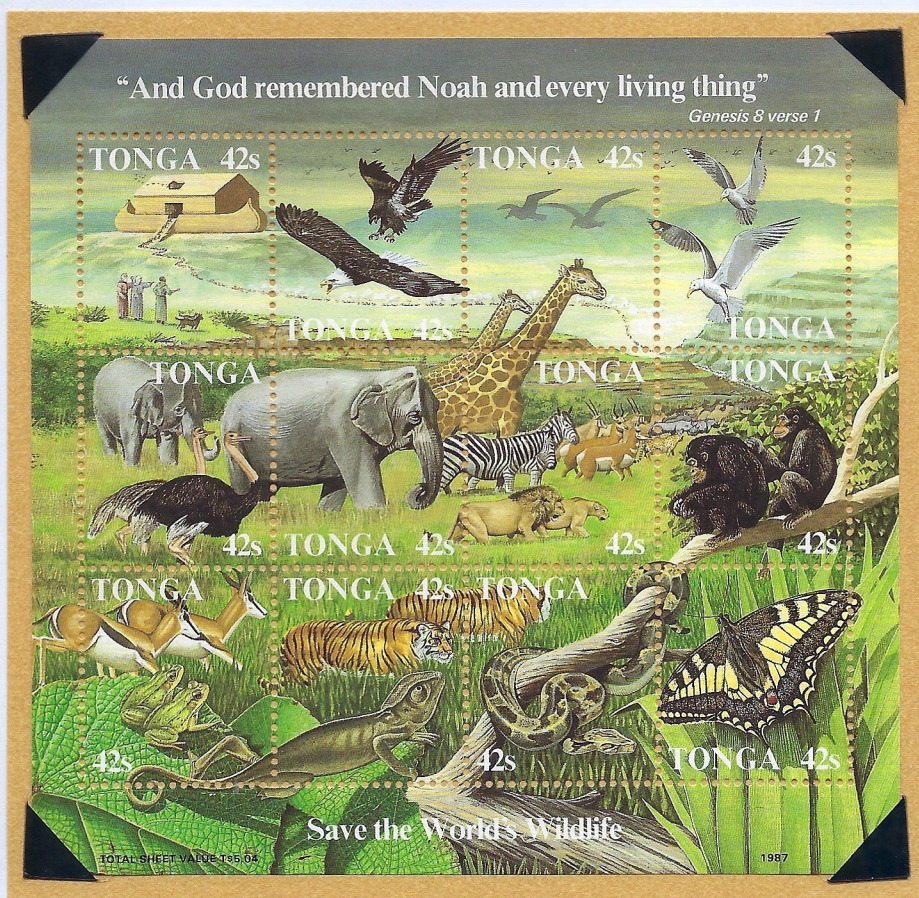
RSA 1987
Bible Society of South Africa
Bible translations in 75 languages

BIBLE CONTENTS

USA 1969
Genesis 1.1
"In the beginning
God ..."



Israel 1965
Genesis 1.3-31
Days of Creation
(from right to left)



Vatican City State 1974
Genesis 9.13
"I have set my rainbow in the
clouds ..."

Tonga...1987 Miniature Sheet
Genesis 8.1 "And God remembered Noah and every living thing."

BIBLE CONTENTS



Fiji 1992 John 3.16
"For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son ..."



St Vincent 1983 overprint Isaiah 9.2
"The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light."



Great Britain Christmas 2011 Miniature Sheet
Luke 2.10

"... Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy..."



Christmas Island 1982

Origami Paper Sculptures - Mint, Embossed

27c Joseph

Matthew 1.20b-21a "Joseph, the son of
David ... call his name JESUS"

50c Angel

Luke 2.9-10 "And lo, the angel of the Lord
came ... good tidings of great joy."

75c Mary & Baby Jesus

Luke 2.6a-7a "And so it was ... laid him in a
manger"

North American Postcard circa 1908

The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6.9 "Hallowed be thy Name"



BIBLE IN SERVICE



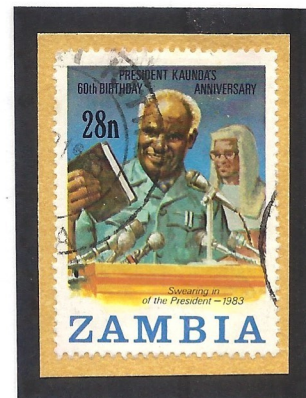
Guernsey 1787 - 1987
200th anniv of John Wesley's visit to Guernsey.
Wesley holding or touching a **Bible** in each stamp (mint)



NEW ZEALAND
Stamps issued for Christmas 1997
70 c Samuel Marsden preaching from the **Bible**



NEW ZEALAND 1814 - 1964
150th anniv of Samuel Marsden's first Christian
Service in NZ, held at Oihi Bay, Bay of Islands
Bible in his left hand



Zambia 1983
Stamp issued 1984
Kenneth Kaunda being sworn in, on the **Bible**,
as President of Zambia (for the 5th time in a row)