

## Welcome

How many books of the Bible have you read? There are 39 Old Testament books, while the New Testament has 27. Would you say that you have read at least half of the Bible? Is reading the entire Bible one of your #lifegoals?

## Review

The most powerful and prosperous western governments such as the US and the UK had for their foundation, a deep-rooted belief in Christian principles and values as reflected in their Constitutions.

The framers of the 1987 Philippine Constitution likewise recognized the need for God's wisdom to "rightly govern" a country. What is so extraordinary about the Bible that it should serve as our guidebook for governing the nation?

### 1. THE UNIQUENESS AND RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE.

God's word, the Bible is extraordinary because it stands apart from all other books in human literature. The Bible was written by over 40 authors over a span of 1,600 years, yet it is without contradiction and possesses one central theme: God's redemption through Jesus Christ. This unity of the Bible is amazing!

### 2. THE BIBLE PASSES THE TEST OF INTERNAL EVIDENCE.

The original text of the Bible was carefully and accurately preserved into the copies we have today. In the case of the New Testament, the authors themselves and their sources are able to claim firsthand information as living witnesses of the events they wrote about.

"This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched..." (1 John 1:1).

### 3. THE BIBLE PASSES THE TEST OF EXTERNAL EVIDENCE.

The New Testament for example is supported by not just Christian authors, but secular writers such as the Jewish historian Josephus and Roman historian Tacitus, who both confirmed in their writings that Jesus was an actual person in history.

Archeological finds affirm the historical existence of Biblical characters including Pontius Pilate (the "Pilate inscription"). Places mentioned in the Bible are also confirmed by archeology such as the Pool of Bethesda (John 5) and the Pool of Siloam (John 9).

# Have you invited others to **join this movement?**

Invite them to sign up today via [cvm.com.ph](http://cvm.com.ph) or download the app in the App Store (iOS) or Google Playstore, just search for “**Christian Values Movement**”

## 4. THE BIBLE PASSES THE TEST OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES.

The Bible is astonishingly 100% accurate when it comes to its prophecies and their fulfilment. The rebuilding of Israel was also prophesied in Ezekiel 37:21-22. In 1948, God’s promise of bringing back the Jews to the re-established nation of Israel was fulfilled. Despite many nations’ attempt to prevent this from happening, God fulfilled His promise. The Philippines was the only Asian country that voted for the re-establishment of Israel as a nation. When our country is aligned with what God says in the Bible, the Philippines will be a force for good in this world!

## 5. PROPHECIES ON JESUS FULFILLED.

The most important prophecies are those that predict with 100% accuracy the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and His Second Coming. Examples:

- Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Luke 2:4 – *Jesus born in Bethlehem.*
- Isaiah 7:14; fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23 -- *Jesus born of a virgin.*
- Daniel 9:24-26; fulfilled in Luke 3:1-2 -- *time of Messiah’s death.*

## 6. THE BIBLE IS PROVEN TRUE BY THE RESURRECTION.

Atty. Lionel Luckhoo, the Guinness Book of World Records holder for 245 consecutive murder acquittals, was an unbeliever who investigated the resurrection, yet he concluded:

*“I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt”.*

## THE BIBLE AS THE SOURCE FOR VALUES.

It seems that many Filipinos have practically accepted corruption as a part of the culture. But the Bible will not let us accept the reality of corruption in society. Corruption in society reflects a lack of integrity. Examples of government leaders with integrity in the Bible:

- Joseph, second-in-command to Pharaoh in Egypt between 2000 to 1600 BC.
- Daniel was a high-ranking official under Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon around 603 BC.



### GOD BLESSES PEOPLE WITH INTEGRITY

Proverbs 2:6-8 ...He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. ...He protects those who walk with integrity. ...He guards the paths of the just and those faithful to him.

Psalm 25:20-21 ...Expect integrity and honesty to protect those who put their hope in God.

But can leaders of integrity flourish in societies that may not necessarily be truly Christian? The answer is YES!

### GOD'S WORD TRANSFORMS LIVES!

The only way biblical values transform society is through the lives and example of a community transformed by the Word of God. If this is so, how then do we make sure that government leaders meet the expectations God has set for good governance? **This is what Session 3 is all about: God's Standard for Government Leaders.**

1. What for you is the strongest evidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word?
2. Would you know how to defend the reliability and infallibility of the Bible to someone who thinks it's just a collection of man-made stories full of contradictions? What would you need to do so you can better know the Bible and your reasons for believing it to be the Word of God?

Know the whole Bible for yourself! Start by reading a chapter every day and you will finish the entire Bible in about a year! You can start with the Book of John if you want to know more about who Jesus is—the central figure in the whole Bible.

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## Discussion Questions

## Action Points