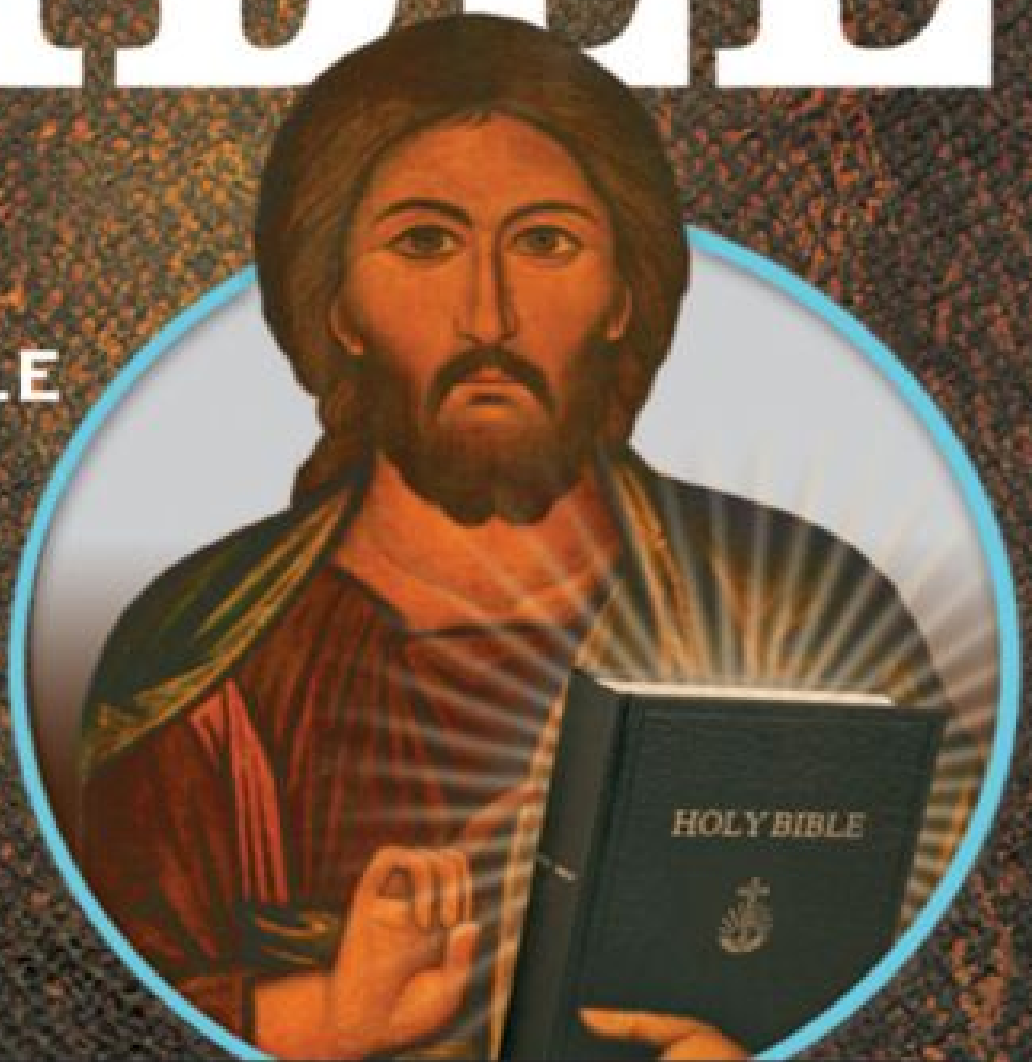


POCKET GUIDE — TO THE — BIBLE

A LITTLE
BOOK
ABOUT
THE
BIG BOOK



JASON BOYETT

Author of POCKET GUIDE TO THE AFTERLIFE

POCKET GUIDE
— TO THE —
BIBLE

A LITTLE
BOOK
ABOUT
THE
BIG BOOK



JASON BOYETT

Author of **POCKET GUIDE TO THE AFTERLIFE**

Table of Contents

[Praise](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright Page](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 01 - BIBLICABULARY \(A GLOSSARY OF THE GOOD BOOK\).](#)

[ALTAR](#)

[AMEN](#)

[ANGEL](#)

[APOSTLE](#)

[ARK OF THE COVENANT](#)

[ATONEMENT](#)

[BLOOD](#)

[BRIDE/BRIDEGROOM](#)

[CANAAN](#)

[CHRIST](#)

[CIRCUMCISION](#)

[COVENANT](#)

[CROSS, THE](#)

[DEMON](#)

[DEVIL](#)

[DISCIPLE](#)

[EPISTLE](#)

[ETERNAL LIFE](#)

[EXILE](#)

[EXODUS](#)

[FAITH](#)

[FLESH](#)

FORNICATION
GOSPEL
GRACE
HIGH PRIEST
HOLY SPIRIT
ISRAEL
JEWS
LAW, THE
LORD'S PRAYER, THE
MEDIATOR
MESSIAH
NEW TESTAMENT
OFFERING
OLD TESTAMENT
PARABLE
PENTATEUCH
PHARISEES
PROMISED LAND
PROPHET
RABBI
SABBATH
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SIN
TABERNACLE/TEMPLE
TRINITY

Chapter 02 - CAST OF CHARACTERS (A TO J).

AARON
ABEDNEGO
ABEL
ABIMELECH
ABISHAG
ABRAHAM

ADAM
AHAB
ANDREW
BALAAM
BAPTIST, JOHN THE
BARABBAS
BATHSHEBA
CAIN
CALEB
DANIEL
DAVID
DEBORAH
DORCAS
EHUD
ELIJAH
ELISHA
ESAU
ESTHER
EVE
EZEKIEL
FORTUNATUS
GABRIEL
GIDEON
GOD
GOLIATH
HAM
HEROD THE GREAT
HOSEA
ISAAC
ISAIAH
ISHMAEL
ISRAEL
JABEZ
JACOB
JEHOVAH
JEREMIAH

JESUS
JEZEBEL
JOB
JOHN
JONAH
JOSEPH (OF THE OLD TESTAMENT)
JOSEPH (OF NAZARETH)
JOSHUA
JUDAS ISCARIOT

Chapter 03 - CAST OF CHARACTERS (K TO Z)

KORAH
LAZARUS
LOT
MARY MAGDALENE
MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
MESHACH
METHUSELAH
MIRIAM
MOSES
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
NEPHILIM
NOAH
OG
ONESIMUS
PAUL
PETER
PONTIUS PILATE
POTIPHAR'S WIFE
RAHAB
REBEKAH
SAMSON
SAMUEL
SATAN

SAUL
SHADRACH
SIMON THE MAGICIAN
SOLOMON
TIMOTHY
URIAH
UZZAH
WISE MEN, THE
YAHWEH
ZACCHAEUS

Chapter 04 - WHAT HAPPENS, PART I (THE OLD TESTAMENT AT BREAKNECK SPEED).

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 & 2 SAMUEL
1 & 2 KINGS
1 & 2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

Chapter 05 - WHAT HAPPENS, PART 2 (THE NEW TESTAMENT AT BREAKNECK SPEED)

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
1 & 2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 & 2 PETER
1, 2, & 3 JOHN

JUDE REVELATION

Chapter 06 - THE BRIEF HISTORY OF HOLY WRIT (A TIMELINE).

900-ISH BC

400 BC

300-200 BC

AD 90

AD 100-ISH

AD 150

AD 367

AD 382

AD 397

AD 600

AD 800

1205

1380

1411

1456

1516

1525-1526

1534

1535

1536

1539

1546

1560

1568

1524-1590

1582

1605

1611

Chapter 07 - VERSIONS AND PERVERSIONS (A SELECTIVE SURVEY OF TRANSLATIONS)

THREE TRANSLATING PHILOSOPHIES YOU NEED TO KNOW FIRST

THE KING JAMES VERSION/AUTHORIZED VERSION (KJV/AV1611)

THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION (RSV)

THE JERUSALEM BIBLE (JB)

THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE (NAB)

THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE (NASB)

THE LIVING BIBLE (TLB)

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION (NKJV)

THE NEW JERUSALEM BIBLE (NJB)

THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV)

THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

THE MESSAGE (MSG)

TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (TNIV)

A FEW OTHER, LESS-POPULAR VERSIONS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER

Chapter 08 - LIST YE BE SMITTEN (BIBLICAL FLOTSAM AND JETSAM)

FIVE HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT SOUND ABSOLUTELY AWFUL, AS DESCRIBED IN THE KING JAMES

THE FOUR BEST MOMENTS FOR DONKEYS

NINE MISCELLANEOUS THINGS YOU MUST NOT DO, ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES

ONE STATEMENT BY PAUL THAT, WHEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, MAKES HIM SOUND ...

TWO MIGHTY MEN THAT SPELLCHECK LIKES

THREE BIBLICAL EXCUSES ONE MIGHT STILL
APPROPRIATE IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS

SEVEN NON-CANONICAL BOOKS MENTIONED BY NAME
IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

SIX BIBLICAL MAGICIANS, WITCHES, SORCERORS,
AND/OR FORTUNETELLERS

TWELVE BIBLICAL NAMES THAT ARE STILL POPULAR
TODAY

FOUR ACTIVITIES OF MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
ONE PHRASE FROM THE KING JAMES VERSION, USED
GENERALLY TO DESCRIBE MALES, ...

NINE BOOKS THAT CATHOLICS ACCEPT AS BIBLICAL, BUT
PROTESTANTS DON'T

TEN COMMON ENGLISH PHRASES WITH BIBLICAL
ORIGINS

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
THE AUTHOR

“Informative, thoughtful, humorous in all the right places; and best of all, it’s smartly written!”

—**CHRIS YAMBAR**, Bart Simpson Comics, Mr. Beat creator

“I usually don’t laugh out loud when I read the Bible—or even stuff about the Bible—but Jason Boyett had me laughing all the way through this book. Laughs aside, the *Pocket Guide* is well researched and documented, instructive and insightful.”

—**DEAN NELSON**, co-author of *The Power of Serving Others* and director of the journalism program at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego

“Jason Boyett dips the King James into a cultural vat of theological salsa. One bite and you know this ain’t your grandpa’s Bible.”

—**TERRY ESAU**, author of *Surprise Me*

“Most books don’t move me to read Leviticus. Weirdly, this one does.”

—**MATTHEW PAUL TURNER**, speaker and author of *The Christian Culture Survival Guide* and *Mind Games: Advice, Stories, and Truth for Thinking Free*

“Jason’s first *Pocket Guide* left me shaking my head with a grin and a healthy appetite for more. This new book exceeded my expectations. Reading it is like staying up late with that old friend from seminary. He just won’t shut up, and you’re not about to ask him to, ‘cause you’re loving every second of it.”

—**ANDREW OSENGA**, singer/songwriter with Caedmon’s Call

“A true sign of brilliance is the ability to explain the complex and convoluted simply. Jason Boyett has done that in *Pocket Guide to the Bible*. His clever and conversational style makes it an enjoyable as well as intriguing read.”

—**RUSSELL RATHBUN**, author of Post-Rapture Radio

POCKET GUIDE
— TO THE —
BIBLE

A LITTLE
BOOK ABOUT
THE BIG BOOK

JASON BOYETT

J JOSSEY-BASS
A Wiley Imprint
www.josseybass.com

Copyright © 2006 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved. Previously published by Published by RELEVANT Books, a division of RELEVANT Media Group, Inc.

Published by Jossey-Bass
A Wiley Imprint
989 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1741—www.josseybass.com

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-750-8400, fax 978-646-8600, or on the Web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 201-748-6011, fax 201-748-6008, or online at www.wiley.com/go/permissions.

Readers should be aware that Internet Web sites offered as citations and/or sources for further information may have changed or disappeared between the time this was written and when it is read.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

Jossey-Bass books and products are available through most bookstores. To contact Jossey-Bass directly call our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 800-956-7739, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3986, or fax 317-572-4002.

Credits appear on p. 196

Jossey-Bass also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Boyett, Jason.

Pocket guide to the Bible : a little book about the Big Book / Jason Boyett. p. cm.

Originally published: Orlando, Fla. : Relevant Books, c2006.

Includes bibliographical references.

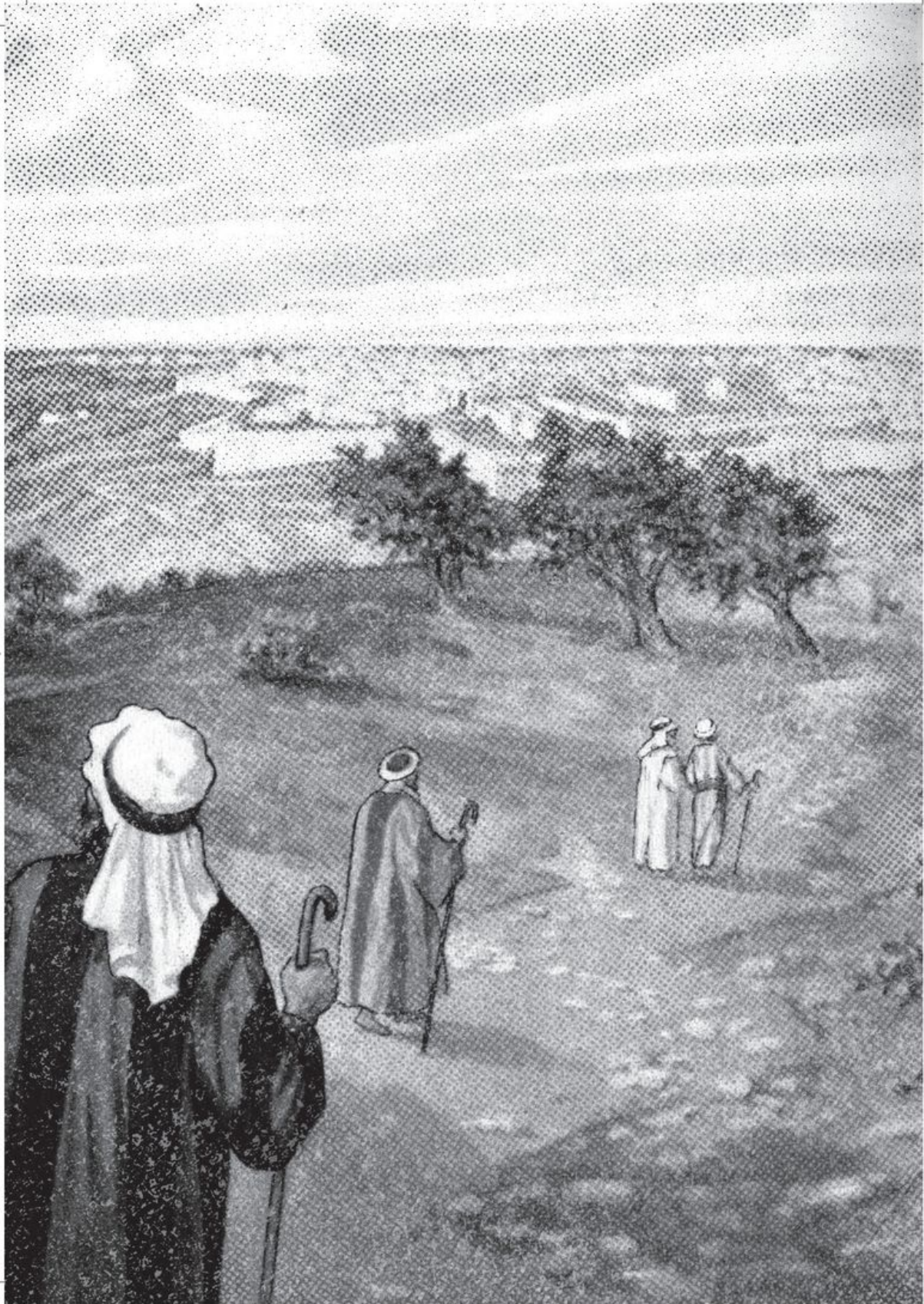
eISBN : 978-0-470-49880-4

1. Bible—Handbooks, manuals, etc. I. Title.

BS417.B695 2009

220.6'1—dc22 2009017250

PB Printing



INTRODUCTION

In the beginning was the Word. At least, that's what some people call it. Others know it as the Good Book, the Holy Scriptures, or the Law and the Prophets. But to most of us? It's the Bible.

The thing came together a couple millennia ago and covers a few thousand years of human history. Readers of the Bible occasionally dispute its authorship. Some people think the book was written by God himself, whispering in the ears of a few dozen holy scribes way back in the Middle East. Others think those who wrote it were decent guys, perhaps more attuned to God than most, who got the Creator's point across despite subjecting the text to their own personal whims and limitations and primitive perspectives. And some people think the authors were all just a bunch of delusional wack-jobs out to justify their own misguided beliefs.

Something like 168,000 new Bibles are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed every day.

But don't let the controversy keep you from enjoying the Bible, because there's good stuff in there. Just about everyone can find something of benefit.

Steadfast believers *love* the Bible, even though right in the middle of it—in Psalms, which a lot of people cite as among their favorite books of the Bible—the authors repeatedly call into question God's faithfulness. And his presence. Even his existence.^{[1](#)} Nonbelievers and skeptics enjoy the Bible too because this collection of ancient documents packs a variety of literary styles, influential language, and beloved stories about human nature—

beneficial material, whether or not they think any of it's true.

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

—***Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)***

Uptight moralists adore the Bible despite its explicit references to sex and immorality. Cautious mommies and daddies read this book to their kids, even though parts of it detail some of the most horrific violence in human history. Politicians and judges swear on it, even though they occasionally object to it being displayed in public.

It's a book that has inspired, at various times, the decisions of great leaders of mankind and the obsessions of serial killers. Abolitionists used it to justify their actions. So did slaveholders. It drove Martin Luther King Jr. to push for civil rights while fueling the lynch mobs who opposed him. It has convinced presidents to go to war. It has convinced presidents to embrace peace.

The Bible has motivated its readers to tend the sick, feed the poor, shelter the homeless, educate the uneducated, and fight for the oppressed. It also motivated the Crusades. And the Inquisition. And apartheid.

It gives us joyful holidays like Christmas and Easter. It gives us doomsday prophets and end-of-the-world predictions.

It's stuffed with passages commanding believers to love one another and live in Spirit-led unity. These passages are

read by Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Southern Baptists, National Baptists, ELCA Lutherans, Missouri Synod Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, African Methodist Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Charismatics, Pentecostals, Assemblies of God, Nazarenes, Quakers, Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Churches of God in Christ, Bible churches, and a steaming stew of nondenominational congregations.

Jews dig the Bible. At least the first part, which they call the Torah and which Christians call the Old Testament. But Jewish readers aren't so interested in the New Testament, on account of all the Jesus stuff.

Christians dig it, too. They're all about the New Testament, but tend to forget about most of the Old Testament, except for the first few chapters of Genesis and a handful of childhood Sunday school stories.

Yes, the Bible is an interesting book. Which is why nine out of ten American households own at least one copy, according to a 2005 update from the Barna Research Group. It's why six out of ten Americans confess to reading the Bible every once in a while, according to a 2000 Gallup poll. Yet most of us Bible readers don't know Ezra from Esther or Zephaniah from Zechariah. Few of us can list all four Gospels or recite half of the Ten Commandments. A majority of us can't even identify who delivered the Sermon on the Mount.²

That's why you need this book—a handy, easy-to-read, occasionally amusing guide to the Bible and its characters, events, translations, and history. Why? Because the Bible is the all-time best-selling book, one that most people own but apparently don't read, that lots of people read but apparently don't understand, and that people allegedly understand but in a way that makes them jerks.

Let's see what the *Pocket Guide* can do about that.

The Gideons International distributes more than one million free Bibles every week. Which means people are stealing them from hotel rooms, and the Gideons are cool with that.

