

1 WHAT IS IT?

Dismantle the wrong category

**It's not a book.
It's a library.**

"Bible" is from the Greek for *the books*. Plural. It was never meant to be the book.

66

DOCUMENTS

40+

WRITERS

1,500

YEARS

3

CONTINENTS

A library has sections: history, poetry, law, biography, letters to specific people about specific problems. **Chelsea wasn't reading badly. She was reading a library like it was a book.**

2 HOW DID IT GET HERE?

Church history in three minutes (it won't be)

THE MAP Luke gives us the pattern in four verses. Luke 1:1-4

EVENT

WITNESSES

HANDED DOWN

INVESTIGATED

WRITTEN

Notice where writing sits in the story. Fifth of five.

c. AD 30

1

THE EVENT

An empty tomb, and people who could not shut up about it.

ACTS 8

2

THE MOVEMENT

Persecution scatters them. What spreads is not a book. It's news.

ACTS 11:26

3

THE CHURCH

They don't even name themselves. Antioch does.

c. AD 60-90

4

THE DOCUMENTS

Eyewitnesses start dying. Luke writes a report for one man.

AD 313

5

ROME

Constantine legalises it. The empire that executed Jesus stops.

AD 367

6

THE LIST

Athanasius names 27 documents. The list you're holding.

Roughly 300 years. No Bible. It spread anyway.

▶ **A bound volume**

What nobody chose. Jesus didn't hand out a book. Nobody voted on the name. And no meeting invented the list. Churches were already reading and copying these writings long before anyone wrote them down in order.

The part not to miss. Luke's account was not trusted because it was in the Bible. It was in the Bible because it was already trusted.

INNER TRANSITION · WHAT IT COST

It wasn't a documentary. It was people. Slow right down.

AD 303

Diocletian burns the Scriptures. People hide fragments in their houses.

1536

Tyndale. Eleven years on the run, smuggled in bales of cloth. Strangled.

Today

Translators still giving their working lives to a language that has never had it.

**They didn't die for a book.
There wasn't a book yet.**

3 WHY DOES IT EXIST?

The landing. Arrive at a person, not a conclusion about documents

NOT FOR THIS

- ✗ So you'd have rules
- ✗ A self-help manual with a religious accent
- ✗ So anyone could win an argument with you

There *are* rules in it. That's just not why it's here.

BUT FOR THIS

People saw something they couldn't explain or keep quiet, and were terrified it would be lost.

Not to preserve a book. To make sure you could meet a person.

BOTTOM LINE

**The Bible didn't create Christianity.
Christianity created the Bible.**

It's not a rule book. It's an introduction. Jesus is not one more story in the Bible. He's the reason there is one.