

EXHIBITS TO SEE IN THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

Prepared for Oklahoma Christian University

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Note exhibits recommended and the length of time to see all of that exhibit. To enter the Museum, you will go through an airport type screening. Be sure not to take a knife or anything that would not pass such screening like fingernail files, food or drink, or even gum. Bottles of water are allowed. Tickets for Washington Revelations may be purchased for \$8 at the entrance of that exhibit. The exhibits on Floor 3 tend to be the most crowded so if you are there early, it may work well to start on that floor and then go elsewhere.

1ST FLOOR

Be sure to get a good look at the ceiling.

The **Gift Shop** and the place to pick up a **digital guide** if you wish to use one are on the first floor.

Courageous Pages is designed for children to maximize both their enjoyment and their learning through a series of fun games and interactive features, all pointing to one continuous theme: courage. The area is geared to show kids that the Bible is packed with stories and people who dug deep and did what they believed was right, even in the face of fear or opposition. Children read, hear, see and experience stories in which small, courageous choices resulted in big victories, all while tired parents catch a breather while their children play.

Vatican Museum and Library. Includes items on loan from the Vatican Museum in Rome. The most important item shown here is a replica of the Codex Vaticanus which is the earliest known collection containing nearly all of the Old and New Testament books. Written in Greek capital letters, it is dated as from 300 to 325 AD. The original of this document is one of the key early copies used in compiling the Greek text from which the New Testament is translated.

2ND FLOOR

The second floor addresses the Impact of the Bible, demonstrating the enormous influence the Bible has on nearly every aspect of life. There are four major exhibits.

Bible in the World (1 hour) demonstrates the breadth of the Bible's impact across the world. Each different element shows the Bible's impact on a different subject such as art, music, dance, fashion, and film. Also includes a replica of the Gutenberg press.

Bible in America (1 hour) RECOMMENDED. This walk through American history shows the impact the Bible has had, starting with those who first came to America and continuing on through much of American history. Explore the profound and sometimes complicated impact of this book on American culture.

Bible Now, in which guests experience the Bible in live media feeds, showing its current influence and impact as people around the world continue to interact with and discuss the Bible.

Washington Revelations (\$8, 5 minutes) RECOMMENDED. Takes guests on an amazing flight through Washington, D.C., revealing the Bible's presence in many places throughout the city. Focuses on places where the Bible is quoted or mentioned on many important buildings. Gives a sensation of flying and a little bit of a roller-coaster effect. Some people have a bit of sickness from this exhibit so be cautious. Better to stand with the feet separated and one foot ahead of the other to give better balance.

3RD FLOOR

The third floor of the museum is dedicated to Stories of the Bible.

The Hebrew Bible (45 minutes) RECOMMENDED. An immersive walk-through experiences based on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as outlined below.

This series of walk-through scenes provide theater environments inspired by art installations. There are five automated shows placed throughout the experience. Groups of up to 40 guests enter the experience with a new group entering approximately every five to seven minutes.

- **Hebrew Bible Queue:** In this gathering area, a docent prepares guests for their journey into the Hebrew Bible.
- **Prologue:** The walls are simple, except for what appears to be an ancient Hebrew scroll. Interesting projection transforms the scroll into a window, which then spreads out beyond the scroll as lighting and special effects immerse guests into the story of creation and the relationship the children of Israel have with God.
- **World in Chaos:** Guests then walk through a gallery representing the world in chaos. A diorama depicts the killing of Abel by his brother Cain as the world is

plunged into turmoil. A dramatic scene of Noah being called by God to build an ark is layered on glass pillars. Lighting and sound effects foreshadow the coming of the great flood.

- **The Great Flood:** Next, guests walk through a unique, stylized representation of the great flood. Stacks of boxes tower over them. Inside each box are artistic representations of animals—two by two. Guests hear the raging of the storm outside and the creaking of the wooden ship.
- **A New Beginning:** Continuing their journey, guests enter a small space filled with color and light. This is a representation of God's promise after the great flood. From above, colors of the rainbow slowly shift.
- **Replenish the Earth:** The next space is a queuing area for the Abraham show. The ten generations between Noah and Abraham are depicted in a stylized family tree.
- **Patriarchs and the Promise:** Guests gather inside a desert tent for the story of Abraham and the children of Israel.
- **Moses Is Called:** Using awe-inspiring special effects, a hyssop bush bursts into flames as God calls Moses to free his people from bondage in Egypt.
- **Passover:** The night of the first Passover is brought vividly to life through 360-degree audio. Guests hear the drama raging outside as the plagues descend on Egypt. Inside, guests stand with a sculpture of an Israelite family under God's protection, hopeful on this night of freedom.
- **Exodus from Egypt:** The doors open and guests walk through the Exodus space. Stretched-cable walls with water lighting effects envelop them as they pass through the sea.
- **Mount Sinai:** Guests arrive at Mount Sinai and walk through a room filled with the words of the covenant. A single, bright light inside an ark of the covenant shines through cutout words. This is the moment the tribes of Israel are transformed into a people. Three graphic panels around the room depict key elements of the events that took place at Mount Sinai.
- **Crossing the Jordan:** Guests exit Mount Sinai and enter a round room reminiscent of a dry riverbed. This is the moment when the Israelites cross the Jordan River. A tower of 12 large stones is stacked in the center of the room, each marked with the name of one of the tribes.
- **Judges of Israel:** The last walk-through gallery is of the judges of Israel.
- **The Devotion of Ruth:** Exiting the dark confines of the Judges of Israel gallery, guests come upon a clean, simple space. A series of stone-like panels fill the length of the room. As the show begins, the stones come to life with colorful visuals telling the story of Ruth.
- **Journey Home:** This final gallery in The Hebrew Bible tells the story of David and the rise and fall of the kingdom of Israel.

The New Testament Theater (12 minutes) RECOMMENDED. Primarily comprised of a surround screen theater featuring an immersive film experience. A 210-degree panoramic screen gradually reveals itself from behind a grand-draped curtain, providing an environment for the story of the New Testament. This 12-minute production, with four showings per hour, focuses on the spread of the early church, first to Jews and then to Gentiles, told through the eyes of those who knew Jesus.

The World of Jesus of Nazareth (1 hour) RECOMMENDED. An exhibit space recreating a first-century village. Visitors can talk with people to ask them about their lives. *The World of Jesus of Nazareth* features a foyer area to acquaint guests with the rich context of the time period before transporting them to a re-creation of a first-century village so they can gain a deeper appreciation for and understanding of the teachings and methods of Jesus. The elements of this exhibit are listed below.

- **The Second Temple** is a brief introductory section of the exhibit that orients guests in the religious and political upheaval of the first century with an overview of the culturally important temple and what it looked like during the time of Jesus.
- **Clash of Kingdoms:** An informative timeline of the regal upheaval in Nazareth and its surrounding regions leading up to the time of Jesus.
- **Impact of Worlds:** This area orients guests with Israel's cultural struggles at the time of Jesus—while some wanted to embrace Hellenization, others wanted to hold more tightly to the law of Moses. Meanwhile, Rome's influence had a huge impact on the region.
- **Sepphoris: Nazareth's Forgotten Neighbor:** This area pays tribute to the now-lost city of Sepphoris, a thriving, cosmopolitan metropolis just down the road from Nazareth at the time of Jesus. Hellenistic Jews embraced it wholeheartedly, while more traditional Jews likely stayed in Nazareth.
- **Characteristics of Roman Rule** shows what life would have been like for both observant and Hellenistic Jews under Roman rule and the conflicted loyalty they would have felt between the Roman Empire and their religious freedom.
- **Amphitheater:** This dynamic theater offers guests a restful moment to see a presentation to prime them for the political intrigue of first-century Nazareth and the revolutionary teachings and life of a man who hailed from there: Jesus.
- **Village Center:** This vast courtyard showcases the bustle of public village life, including an animal courtyard, a winepress, a well, and towering olive trees—and a live, costumed docent to add authenticity and provide more information.
- **Parable Theater:** This cozy standing theater offers guests filmed representations of some of the most arresting of Jesus' parables.

- **Typical House and Cooking Courtyard:** These two areas detail the private life of Nazareth villagers, allowing guests to walk through a typical village home to see how they slept, prepared meals and performed other daily chores.
- **Mikveh:** This ceremonial bath played a key part in the rituals of observant Jews.
- **Synagogue:** A re-creation of a typical village house of worship and instruction.
- **Olive Mill** shows the vital role olives and olive oil played in village life.
- **House Under Construction:** This feature shows the backbreaking labor that went into building a home.
- **Rest and Reflection:** The final area in the exhibit, this breathtaking and lifelike mural transports guests away from the bustle to the edge of the village, looking out from a great height onto the Sea of Galilee.

4TH FLOOR

History of the Bible (1 HOUR) RECOMMENDED. Largely display cases with room to walk around. Not very crowded. Occasionally has a place to sit with a short video. Immerses guests in the Bible's journey through time, technology and culture—beginning as a collection of oral traditions and writings accessible to only a few, undergoing major changes in form, being embraced by communities around the world and finally becoming the most widely read text in history.

- Featuring more than 600 artifacts and 50 media programs, *History of the Bible* covers 30,000 square feet organized into 11 galleries as listed below.
- ***History of the Bible Lobby:*** Sculptural maps illustrate growing access to the Bible from use in a single language among a small group of people to thriving in hundreds of languages across the globe.
- ***Drive Thru History of the Bible Theater. (Free, 30 minutes.)***
RECOMMENDED. In a 75-seat, surround sound theater, TV personality Dave Stotts leads guests through an action-adventure overview of the Bible's history. Takes you through the places and events of the Bible's journey to prepare you for an in depth discovery of the Bible's history.
- **In the Beginning:** traces the history of the Bible as it emerges in the ancient Near East, including archaeological discoveries that shed light on biblical stories and passages.
- **The Written Tradition** recounts how the Bible grew and was shared as Jewish texts were translated into Greek and Christians produced the books of their own New Testament. Displays many early copies of various parts of the Bible. Has a copy of the book of Isaiah from about 100 BC found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

- **La Biblia** shows the Bible is a compilation of many texts, and how—because not all religious traditions agree on which books should be included—there are in fact several different Bibles.
- **Translating the Bible** looks at how growing numbers of Bible followers called for translations into many languages, while Jewish and Christian leaders worked to ensure consistent versions of their Bibles remained. Especially shows the effort of early translators to get the Bible into English.
- **Revolutionary Words** places the Bible at the center of the technological, intellectual and social revolutions of the Renaissance, and demonstrates how printing made the Bible widely available for the first time.
- **The King James Bible** illustrates the story behind the English Bible, whose literary qualities helped make it the most influential and widely read Bible for more than 350 years.
- **Bibles for Everyone** reveals how growth in wealth, technology and access to education resulted in the transmission and translation of the Bible on a previously unimagined scale, while for some groups, the traditional form and language of the Bible remained virtually unchanged—evidenced by a display of almost 200 Torah scrolls and a live demonstration by a Jewish scribe working to copy a complete Torah by hand.
- **The Bible Research Lab** shows a tech classroom setting, complete with cameras and overhead monitors, presents live programs on artifact conservation and Bible research.
- **IllumiNations:** This final gallery draws attention to the work—continuing today—of translating the Bible into the languages of the world, with a display of Bibles or partial Bibles in more than 2,000 languages and media programs documenting ongoing translation work around the globe.
- **Biblical Texts and Artifacts.** Displayed within *History of the Bible* are more than 600 original artifacts, including such biblical treasures such as those especially important ones listed in a special section of this below.

ITEMS TO SEE IN THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE SECTION ON THE 4TH FLOOR

Artifacts Confirming Bible Accuracy

1. GC.CUN. 000261. Nebuchadnezzar Royal Inscription Temple Dedication.

A clay prism from Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon from 604 to 562 BC, which tells of Nebuchadnezzar's thoughts as he dedicated a temple for the Babylonian god Marduk. The book of Daniel tells many stories of the relationship between this King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel such as his dream which Daniel

interpreted, the king's mental illness, and the story of Daniel's three friends and the fiery furnace. So this object from Nebuchadnezzar tells of a very important person in the Bible and confirms that such a person was, as the Bible says, indeed king of Babylon.

2. **Archaeological finds from the Israel Antiquities Authority.** On the 5th floor are displays from the Israel Antiquities Authority which has some of Israel's archaeological artifacts such as selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls, cuneiform tablets from Abraham's time, materials from the First and Second Temples, and various other antiquities that go back to the Canaanite period. These confirm the accuracy of the Bible.

Early Bible Texts Which Confirm the Accurate Copying Which Produced Later, More Complete Manuscripts

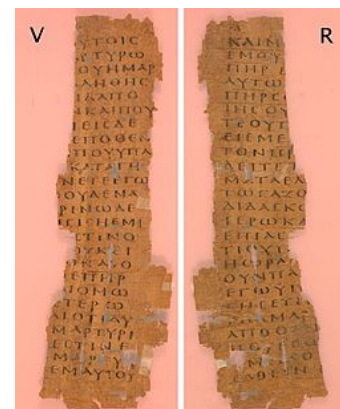
The official numbering is given to identify these items. Note the Bible texts which are included on each. By using copies like these, textual critics are able to reproduce the autograph with great accuracy. Below is information on the more significant items to look for among the many displays.

3. **MOTB.MS.000566. Wyman Fragment (Uncial 0220). Romans 4:23-5:3; 5:8-13.**

This vellum (animal skin) parchment is a page out of a book, written in Greek in all capital letters. It dates from about 275 AD and is the second oldest fragment of the New Testament writings discovered to date. Since this early fragment corresponds well with later manuscripts, it shows the accuracy of the copyists.



4. **MOTB.PAP.000116. P.Oxy. 1780 (P39). John 6:14-22.** Papyrus dating from 275-300 AD. Fragment of a page of a book copied from earlier manuscripts for the use of a Christian community in Egypt. It uses large, Greek all-capital letters. Some date it as early as 150 AD. Another very early copy of a New Testament book showing the accuracy of the copyists.



5. MOTB.MS.000170.1-49. P.Bodmer XXIV (Rahifs 2110).

Part of a cache of papyrus sheets from a book containing most of the Psalms (17-118), probably from about 275 AD. There were many books in this find, some from the Old Testament, some from the New Testament, and even some from non-biblical writings. The book of John in Greek, found in this source, is the earliest full copy of John to be discovered. This copy in Greek of most of the Psalms is the earliest copy with this many psalms and provides a very good standard with which to compare later copies.

6. Dead Sea Scroll Fragments.

In the 1940's and 1950's, Hebrew manuscripts were found in caves near Qumran, the remains of an ancient village located on a plateau sitting above the Dead Sea. The occupants of this village were from a sect of the Jews called Essenes who withdrew from regular society to live by themselves. Their scribes



made copies Old Testament books and copies have been found from all the Old Testament books except Esther. Included the hundreds of these scripts is a very long scroll of the complete book of Isaiah, a copy of which is shown in the Museum. The pieces from other Old Testament books range down to as small as an inch square. Many of these are the earliest copies we have of these books. When they were found, the question was whether they would show that the later manuscripts from which we had been translating our Bibles were significantly different from the earlier manuscripts. In the case of the Isaiah scroll, for example, the Dead Sea copy was a thousand years nearer the original than manuscripts from which the King James and other English translations had been made. After careful study, however, scholars said that the new discoveries brought no significant changes from the manuscripts which had been used. Thus, the Dead Sea Scrolls, while clarifying some particular wording, helped us know those copying biblical texts were careful and made few errors.

The Museum of the Bible displays five small pieces from the Dead Sea Scrolls: 000124 (Genesis 32); 003171 (Jonah 4); 003173 (Numbers); 003175 (Nehemiah), and 003183 (Micah). It also displays a replica of the Isaiah scroll.

Manuscripts of the Bible Text from Later Centuries in Latin, Greek, and Aramaic

7. MOTB.MS.000149.1-86. Codex Climaci Rescriptus.

At the Monastery of St. Catherine near Mt. Sinai in Egypt, the monks had manuscripts of Bible texts on vellum made during the 5th to 9th centuries which they decided to reuse for other purposes. When these were found, experts were able to erase the ink from the second use to reveal the earlier Bible texts, some in Greek and some in Aramaic. Some of these writings provide continuous biblical texts while others use quotations in a commentary or sermons. The 137 pages from these original texts provides an important link back to early manuscripts of both Old and New Testament passages. These are named Climaci because the overwritten text was a translation of the works of John Climacus.



8. MOTB.MS.000445. Major and Minor Prophets in Latin.

A Latin version of the Major and Minor Prophets from about 1200.

9. MOTB.MS.000474.1-2. Ussher Gospels, in Greek.

Illuminated with pictures on parchment. The four gospels in Greek from Constantinople from about 1300. Small Greek letters in two columns per page.

The Bible Printed for Wider Distribution

10. MOTB.INC.000115. Gutenberg Bible.

The Museum has a replica of the Gutenberg Press which was developed in 1454 by Johann Gutenberg who lived in Mainz, Germany. Those visiting the Museum get to see how this press, the first with movable type, printed books



much faster than had been possible before. His first major printing was the Bible in Latin and the Museum displays a page (1 Samuel 20-22) from one of these Bibles. Also the huge 40-foot doors at the entrance of the Museum are replicas of the Gutenberg printing plates of Genesis 1. A replica of the Gutenberg press is on the 2nd floor.

The Bible Translated into English

11. John Wycliff's Translation of the Bible.

Respected Oxford professor and preacher John Wycliffe believed every Christian should have access to the Bible. "The common people of England know [the teaching and life of Jesus] best in their mother tongue." Under his direction, his followers began a translation of the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible in the 1380s, and thus gave English speaking people a Bible. Wycliffe died in 1384, but in 1407 the archbishop declared: "Anyone reading the Wycliffe Bible in public or in private is to be excommunicated!" Wycliffe's influence must have endured because four decades after his death, the Catholic Church ordered his body to be exhumed and his bones burned in a field of execution. But John Wycliffe helped set the stage for the Protestant Reformation and the translation of the Bible into the language of the people!

12. Leaf from Tyndall's Translation.

William Tyndall completed his translation of the New Testament in 1524, the Pentateuch in 1530, and the book of Jonah in 1531. He used the translation in English by John Wycliff which was completed about two hundred years before. Since Wycliff's translation was made before the invention of the printing press, it did not get wide distribution. Tyndall's work, however, was widely circulated through the printing press. His was the first English translation made directly from Hebrew and Greek rather than from Latin. The Catholic Church opposed it because they did not want the Bible in the hands of individuals lest they draw conclusions different from the official interpretation. For making his translation, the church burned Tyndall at the stake in 1536.

13. Page from the Matthews Bible of 1537.

John Rogers completed an English translation in 1537 using the name of Thomas Matthew to protect his identity. Based largely on the work of Tyndale, Rogers completed more of the Old Testament books—through 2 Chronicles. While Henry VIII has granted permission for its publication, when Mary Tudor came to the throne, she restored the Catholic religion and had Rogers burned at the stake.

14. GC.BIB.002904. The Great Bible by Coverdale.

This Bible was the first authorized edition of the complete Bible in English, authorized by King Henry VIII of England and was read aloud in the church services of the Church of England. In 1539, Myles Coverdale, working under commission of Lord Cromwell, Secretary to Henry VIII, prepared this translation.

15. Page from the Geneva Bible.

When Mary became Queen, many of the reformers in England moved to Geneva, Switzerland, and several of them worked together to produce a Bible published in 1541. This was the Bible which the Pilgrims brought to America.



16. Copy of the King James Translation.

King James allowed a new translation of the Bible which was published in 1611. It became the most widely read English translation and for some 250 years no other major English translations were made.

5TH FLOOR

World Stage Theater. This technologically advanced 472-seat theater hosts daily presentations of Bible narratives and outstanding performances.

Israel Antiquities Authority has on display about 800 Bible related artifacts spanning various periods of Israelite history. These were all found in Israel. Included is a one-ton stone from the temple complex which was destroyed in 70AD.

6th FLOOR

Views of Washington, D.C. from a glass walkway.

Manna Café for full meals.

Milk & Honey Café for sandwiches, snacks, and desserts.

Rooftop Gardens featuring plant varieties mentioned in the Bible.

