

# PART ONE: KNOWING THE BIBLE

## CHAPTER 1

### WHAT DOES THE WORD "BIBLE" MEAN?

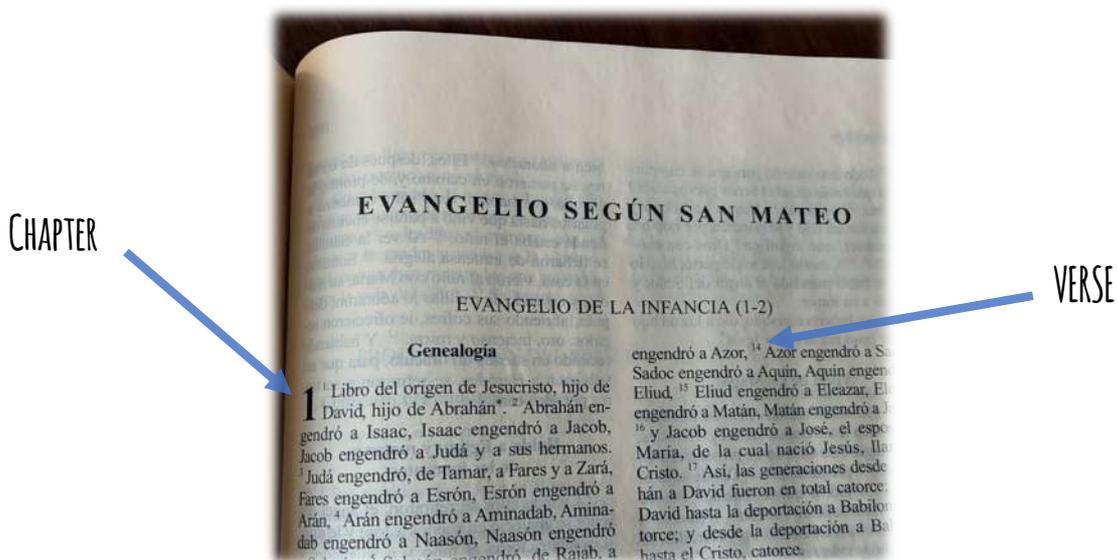
"Bible" is a term from the Greek word βιβλίον (*biblíon*), which means **scroll, papyrus, or book**. In the plural it is said τα βιβλία (*ta biblíia*) which means **scrolls, papyri or books**.

The "Bible" is so called because it is made up of many books (the book of Genesis, the book of Exodus, the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the book of Revelation...) Specifically, there are 73 books, collected in a single volume. And that is why that single volume is called "Bible" (whose correct translation would be: "Set of books").



The Bible is the book with the most reproductions in the history of mankind (about five billion copies). It is also the best-selling book of all time. It is also the book that has been translated into the most languages (the Bible has been fully translated into more than 700 languages; and partially into about 2500 dialects).

Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters, and each chapter into verses. Chapters appear as large numbers in bold. Verses are small numbers on top of written text.



For example, the book of the Bible called "*Gospel according to St. Matthew*" has 28 chapters. Each chapter is divided into different verses. Specifically, chapter 1 of Matthew's Gospel has 25 verses.

When the Bible is quoted, an abbreviation of the name of the book is put followed by the chapter and verse. Let's look at some examples:

The following quote means:  
"Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 7, verse 21"



If we want to quote more than one verse, we join them with a hyphen. And so, the next quote means, "Gospel of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 15 to 21."



If we want to quote verses not in a row, we do so with a period. And so the next quote means, "Gospel of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 10 and from that verse we jump to verses 15 to 21."

