

When asked which book has contributed most to the story of my life, in a heartbeat I said, “*The Bible*, of course!” I began to think about my ready selection, however, questioning the possible turnout. Obviously writing about *The Bible* could seem religious and might not be taken seriously by an essay contest’s judge. The more I continued to question, however, the more appealing the option seemed. Truly, *The Bible* has influenced my life more than any other book. My motivation in choosing this book is not to convert the reader to Christianity, or to even cause the reader to appreciate *The Bible*. I am simply writing this essay to inform the reader of which book has had the greatest influence on my life. Without seeming ‘hokey,’ I’d like to explain how *The Bible* has been one of the main influences of my daily life by using not only personal experience, but also trustworthy historical facts.

Aside from the spiritual gains reaped from reading *The Bible*, which are difficult to express through paper and pen, it also contains practical information regarding how a person should live his life, as well as accurate historical facts. It is easy to see how *The Bible* contains historical fact. The Old Testament contains an abundance of law, war, stories of kings, and genealogies (especially that of Jesus Christ). The Old Testament of *The Bible* also contains a large portion of prophecy, much of which, because *The Bible* was written so long ago, has already come true. An example of this occurring is found in Ezekiel 26:3-21 which is a very specific prophecy against the city of Tyre, and states that many nations will come against her, led by Babylon. It is so detailed that Ezekiel even describes that Tyre’s debris will be thrown into the ocean, the city will not ever recover, and that it will become a place for fishermen to lay their nets to dry. Alexander the Great in 333 B.C. completely destroyed the mainland city of Tyre and threw all of its debris into the ocean. In fact, so much debris was thrown into the ocean that a 200 foot bridge was built and Alexander’s army was able to march straight to Tyre’s island city

and conquered the island. This prophecy is one of many that have been fulfilled over the years, and does not necessarily prove that all of *The Bible* is accurate, but shows that at least these eighteen verses are.

*The Bible* has influenced my life more than any other book in more than a couple of ways. The first and foremost way it has affected my life is that it tells me who Jesus Christ is, how he has saved my soul, and how I can live for him. One way that it does this is found in Micah 6:8 where it says, “And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (NIV). While to some right and wrong may be fuzzy “gray areas,” for me it is clear as night and day because it is written out plain and simple.

Another reason why I love to read *The Bible* is that it is personal. As I read it, I know that every promise in it can apply to my life, and I can relate to many of the stories. For example, the story of Esther (found in the book of Esther) is that of a young girl who is simply training and working toward a goal that she does not even understand. After all of her training, she was found to be the king’s favorite and became queen. When she became queen, she was given the ability to influence the king to save her people from being killed. This story gives me hope as I am working hard in my classes and in other ways learning to do what is right, training to become someone who hopefully will be used in a mighty way.

Another way *The Bible* has influenced my life is that, no matter how many times a person reads it, it never gets old. There’s always more to learn from its words. This can be seen even in the example above. The first time a person reads the book of Esther, he may receive from it the information given above and when finished say, “Well, that’s a nice story and everyone lived happily ever.” The next time he reads it, however, he may realize how great of a situation it was that not only were the lives of Esther’s people on the line, but hers was as well as she petitioned

to the king for mercy. As the reader reads it one more time, he may discover how great of an influence Esther's uncle was in mentoring, encouraging and guiding her into living what was right and how all these things added up to save lives.

After seeing ways in which *The Bible* contains historical fact, and after discussing why it is so important to me personally, one may understand why I love it so much and read it daily. Although I could explain continually just how many significant things there are to be found in *The Bible*, to gain complete understanding or even any hope of finding any sweet tidbits of wonder, I recommend reading it to find out in a way that will be specific to one's life. While some may appreciate the action packed war scenes in the Old Testament, others may prefer the "fortune cookie" proverbs found in the book of Proverbs. One person may be soothed by the psalms of David (and others), while a person with a creative mind who appreciates fantasy and the "impossible" will absolutely love Revelation. Whatever a person's preferences may be, I recommend *The Bible* to anybody who is willing to open their eyes and read it.