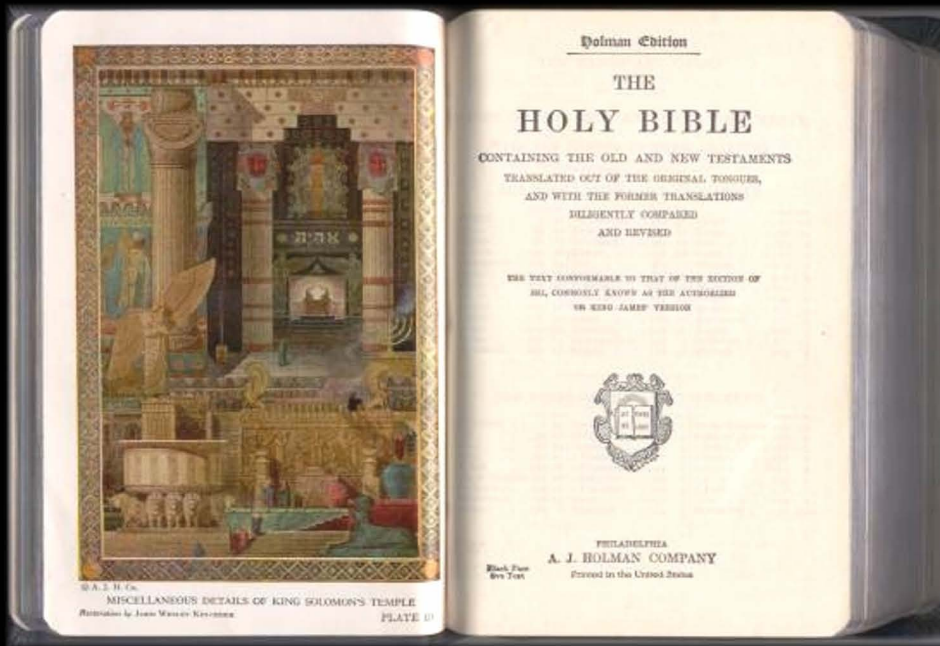


Is there a Masonic Bible?



There is a Bible in every Masonic lodge, but the perception of what this Bible is supposed to be is a misperception by many. The Bible found in Masonic lodges is typically a Christian Bible, but the Jewish Bible, or Tanakh, and the Qur'an, the religious text of Islam are also either available or accessible, because a Mason of any religious faith may use the Bible of his faith - not just the Christian Bible. Freemasonry does require a belief in a Supreme Being, but does not dictate the Supreme Being an individual man must hold in his faith.

Bibles are often traditional gifts in the Fraternity given to a man either when he joins the lodge or once he has been raised to Master Mason or another level. There is usually a special presentation page in the version used by Freemasonry that is printed in the front pages, much like in some family Bibles where the owner's name and names of family members, the church to which they belonged and even birthdays or dates of Baptism are recorded. In some Bibles printed for Masons there is a similar index for quick reference as to where passages may be found that are also linked to Masonic ritual. Commemorating important dates of degree work and in some, short essays along with frequently asked questions and answers may also be included.

So, there is indeed a Bible that has the word Masonic embossed on the front, but it's the very same Bible familiar to Christians.

