

Falling into a literary ocean, infinitely deep

by [Carol Zaleski](#)

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What's the Bible for? We asked dozens of writers to respond to this question in seven words or less, as well as to expand on their response in a few sentences. To see all of the responses together as they are posted, bookmark this [page](#).

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My grandmother gave me my first Bible when she heard I had the part of Job's daughter in Archibald MacLeish's *J.B.* I opened it and fell into the ocean. But I never lost that first impression: the Bible is for literature, as a refuge from the coarse words and images of our age; for law (if not for legislation); for divine guidance (if not for divination); for wisdom, veiled and revealed.