



Bible Access List

Where Bible access is most difficult, and Bible shortage is greatest

Armenia

Bible Restrictions Rank: **87**

MINIMAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Bible Shortage Rank: **38**

Bible needs estimate between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand



An Overview of Bible access in Armenia

Armenia's Christian population comprises nearly 95% of its 2.8 million inhabitants, amounting to roughly 2.6 million believers. While the country is often seen as a historic bastion of Christianity, being the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, modern-day access to the Bible tells a different story. By rough estimates, approximately a quarter of Christians have reliable access to Scripture, highlighting a significant spiritual gap in a nation where faith is woven deeply into cultural identity.

Legally, there are no restrictions on owning, distributing, importing, or printing Bibles in Armenia. On paper, access is open and free. However, practical challenges—such as economic hardship, a shrinking church infrastructure, and outdated or limited distribution networks—have created a quiet crisis of Bible scarcity. Even in a country where Christianity is culturally dominant, the actual ability to read and engage with God's Word remains limited for most.

While the country is making strides economically, a disparity can be seen in the general population. Many Armenians live in economically strained conditions, and in rural or mountainous areas, reaching believers with physical Bibles is difficult. For those without consistent electricity or internet, estimated to be a sizable portion in some areas, digital access is unreliable.

While the Armenian Apostolic Church remains the dominant denomination, traditional use of Scripture shows minimal engagement. This also reveals a growing need among Protestant and Evangelical communities.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Armenia?

How can I pray for Armenia?

- **Renewed Access.** Pray that physical and digital Bibles will reach those in rural regions and underserved churches, especially young believers seeking to grow in their faith.
- **Church Strengthening.** Ask God to empower local churches across denominations to become stronger hubs of Scripture engagement and Bible teaching.
- **Spiritual Revival.** Pray for a renewed hunger for God's Word across Armenia, especially among those who feel culturally Christian but have not yet encountered Christ personally.

Bible Access Restrictions

No Access Restrictions

Other Limiting Factors

Some Other Factors



Poor infrastructure

Bible Shortages Among Believers



Bible ownership is very low, **estimated** Bible need is between 100 and 250 thousand

Main religion: Christianity

Country population: 2,778,000

Christian population:



2,637,000, 94.92% of total population

After praying for Armenia, continue reading on the next page to learn more.

WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN ARMENIA?

Complex Privilege, Quiet Inequality

At first glance, Armenia doesn't seem like a country where Bible access would be a challenge. With a vast majority identifying as Christian and no legal restrictions on importing, printing, or distributing Bibles, the spiritual landscape appears open. But underneath this openness lies a more nuanced and deeply rooted problem: Bible access is not equally experienced across all Christian communities.

While the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC) enjoys widespread access to public spaces, educational institutions, and government partnerships, Christians outside of this national church face a very different reality. Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Baptists, and other minority Christian groups must often navigate bureaucratic red tape, institutional gatekeeping, and deep social stigma simply to worship or distribute religious materials freely.

Subtle Barriers, Serious Consequences

Though Bibles can legally be imported and distributed, minority groups have faced discriminatory practices. Some shipments of donated religious materials have been met with inflated customs taxes and import delays, despite clear legal protections. In one notable case, customs officials increased the declared value of free literature, forcing the organization to pay thousands of euros in unfair fees. This kind of treatment creates a chilling effect on distribution efforts.

Moreover, because the AAC holds privileged access to hospitals, schools, the military, and prisons, minority denominations must request special permissions to reach these populations. This makes it nearly impossible for them to distribute Bibles in the very places where spiritual hunger often runs deepest. Even voluntary Bible studies in prisons or literature stands in public squares have been met with verbal harassment, mob disruption, or complete denial of access.

Social Stigma and Public Discretion

In daily life, Christians outside the AAC often feel compelled to keep their faith quiet. Workplace discrimination, public ridicule, and being labeled "sects" or "enemies of the state" by some government and AAC leaders make open expression of faith risky. Evangelistic efforts or literature displays can provoke hostility, and in some rare cases, even violence. Minority Christians may practice their faith privately, but their ability to share it publicly, including distributing Bibles or hosting studies, is often limited by fear of backlash.

Digital Access Isn't a Catch-All

While digital tools offer potential workarounds, they don't solve the problem entirely. Internet access is growing, but inconsistent infrastructure, especially in rural areas, limits reach. And even when digital Bibles are available, many Armenian believers, especially older adults, still prefer or rely on printed Scripture.

So, while Armenia doesn't face the overt Bible bans of other nations, what it does face is perhaps something subtle: a deep structural inequality that creates practical, social, and cultural barriers to Bible access, especially for the Christians who need it most.

THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN ARMENIA

Despite Armenia’s deep Christian roots, Bible access in the country remains alarmingly low. Believers simply don’t have the means, access, or community support to obtain a Bible of their own. For a nation with over 2.6 million Christians, **an estimated two hundred and fifty thousands Bibles** are needed to bridge the gap.

A Declining Church In Desperate Need of God’s Word

Unlike regions where the church is expanding rapidly, Armenia’s Christian population has actually declined in recent years. This shrinking trend makes the need for Bibles even more urgent.

A decreasing population often signals growing apathy, disillusionment, or generational drift from the faith. Without access to God’s Word, it becomes harder to disciple the next generation, equip believers, or reach seekers with the truth of the Gospel. In moments like this, strategic investment in Bible access can reignite faith and bring renewal to a weary church.

Bible Formats for Diverse Needs

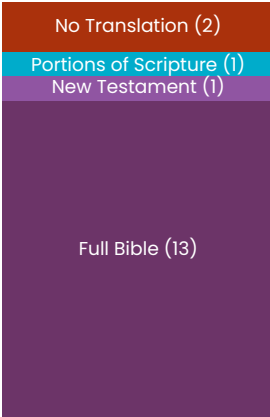
To meet this need, a range of Bible formats must be made available. **Print remains the highest priority**, particularly for rural communities and older generations who rely on tangible Scripture. **Audio Bibles** are also essential, especially for those with low literacy.

The Translation Gap

Language diversity further complicates the challenge. Armenian Christians speak at least 17 distinct languages. Of these languages:

- **13** languages have a complete Bible translation.
- **1** has only the New Testament.
- **1** has a partial translation.
- **2 languages still have no Bible translation at all**

For the believers in those language groups, the Gospel remains fragmented or entirely out of reach. Translation efforts must continue so that every Armenian Christian, regardless of dialect or region, can hear God speak in their heart language.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Armenia

THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Armenia is more than a logistical gap. It's a spiritual emergency. This is a nation with a long Christian history but a present-day vacuum in Scripture engagement. From remote mountain villages to the streets of Yerevan, believers are waiting for the Word of God to reach their hands, their homes, and their hearts.

Now is the time for the global Church to rise. We cannot let history be the only testament to Armenia's faith. We must step in—through strategic distribution, urgent translation, and partnership with local churches—to ensure every Armenian believer has access to the life-giving power of the Word of God.



Bibles needed for both
**Believers
& Seekers**



100-250k
Bible needs estimate



**Printed
Bible**
Preferred Format



**Audio
Bible**
Format 2nd Priority