

5.2 Uniqueness of the Bible



Gitt's Attention
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2 Peter 1: 16

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

Apologetics

Uniqueness of the Bible

The Bible was written over a 1600-year span by over 60 generations by more than 40 authors from just about every walk of life, from kings to peasants, fishermen, philosophers, scholars, statesmen, and poets. Moses was a political leader with schooling in the universities of Egypt, Joshua was a military general, David and Solomon were kings of Israel, Nehemiah was a cupbearer, Daniel was a prime minister, Matthew was a tax collector, Peter and John were fishermen, Luke was a Gentile physician, and Paul was a Jewish Rabbi. The Bible was written in different places by Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah in a dungeon, Daniel and David on a hillside and in a palace, Paul in a prison, John in exile on the Isle of Patmos. The Bible was written in times of war or in times of peace, on the continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa, and in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). The subject matter includes hundreds of controversial topics with conflicting viewpoints. Yet, despite all this diversity, in the entire Bible there is one unfolding story: “God’s redemption of mankind.” Can you imagine taking 10 authors today, all from the same generation, speaking the same language, in the same walk of life, from one continent and one country? Do you think these authors could agree on ONE controversial subject?

The Bible is unique in its circulation, having been read by more people, published in more languages, produced in its entirety or in portions and selections, than any other book in history. The first major book ever printed was the Latin Vulgate on the Gutenberg press in 1452. Since this time, no other single book comes close to the Bible in its constant circulation. It is also unique in its translation. It has been translated, retranslated, and paraphrased into more languages and dialects than any other book. The Bible is unique in its survival over time. According to research by Josh McDowell, when compared with other ancient writings, the Bible has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature combined. (Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p. 21, 48)

The Bible is unique in its survival through persecution, with vicious attacks and attempts to ban, burn, outlaw, and destroy it by Roman emperors of old to Communist regimes of the 1900s to the liberal media of today. For example,

Voltaire, the noted French infidel who died in 1778 said that within 100 years of his day, Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. So, what has actually happened? Voltaire has passed into history, and the Bible has continued to spread blessings throughout the world. In fact, within 50 years after Voltaire's death, the Geneva Bible Society used his printing press and house to produce and distribute Bibles. (Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p. 22-23)

Of course, these observations about the uniqueness of the Bible do NOT prove the Bible is true! However, this is certainly a special, one-of-a-kind, having no equal, a book that has drawn more attention than any other! The Bible is worthy of serious consideration and further study. Then, decide for yourself its relevance to YOUR life!!

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