

UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE



UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE (PART THREE)

WHAT IS THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE?

3. UNIQUE IN ITS CONTINUITY AND SURVIVAL

Despite the possibility of eradication throughout the centuries, the Holy Scriptures/the Bible has survived. The Scriptures survived this challenge while many literary works did not.

Survived the Challenge of Continuity

Because scriptures were written on materials that perish, it was important and necessary to keep making new copies. And we are talking about hundreds of years of continually doing this process with correctness and integrity until the invention of a more advanced method of copying and before the era of printing.

Survived the Challenge of Criticism

Bernard L. Ramm was a Baptist theologian and apologist. At one point in time said this...

“No other book has been so chopped, knifed, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology... has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? With such venom and skepticism? With such thoroughness and erudition upon every chapter, line and tenet? And yet, the Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions.”

Survived the Challenge of Condemnation

Since the days of Roman emperors there are attempts and initiative to outlaw and destroy the Bible.

In A.D. 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian (dai-uh-klee-shn) issued an order to stop Christians from worshipping, and to destroy their scriptures. He burned thousands of copies of the Bible and even decreed that any home with a Bible in it should be burned.

There's even this story that he proclaimed, “The Christian name has been extinguished!” But Five hundred years after Diocletian's (dai-uh-klee-shn) death, his grave (a huge mausoleum) became a Church.

French philosopher, Voltaire (1694-1778), is reported to have once said... “In 100 years, the Bible would be a forgotten and unknown book.” It is also reported that Fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his printing press and house to produce Bibles.

The truth is, the word of God will continue to face challenges when it comes to Continuity, Criticism, and Condemnation. Maybe different from what the early Christians experienced and witnessed but nevertheless will continue to confront great challenges. And we should be aware of this and be vigilant.



But so far these words from Scriptures are continually being revealed as true...

ISAIAH 40:8 NIV

8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

PSALM 119:89 NCV

89 Lord, your word is everlasting; it continues forever in heaven.

MATTHEW 24:35 THE VOICE

My words are always true and always here with you. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

At the end of 1993, the whole Bible had been translated into 337 languages; 2,062 languages have translations of at least one book of the Bible (Guinness Book of World Records, 1998).

The Bible is the most translated book in history!

QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLE DISCUSSION:

1. What is your reaction to the Bible’s uniqueness in continuity and survival?
2. What is one book of the Bible you often return to, and why?