

UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE



UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE (PART ONE)

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (LB)

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true, and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at any point fully equipped to do good to everyone.

Part of our growth as Christians should be a deeper study and understanding of the Bible. There's even a systematic study of the Bible and we call it BIBLIOLOGY..

From the word

“biblio’ which means ‘relating to a book or books.’

‘ology’ which means ‘the study of’

“Biblio’ is derived from the Greek word used for ‘papyrus’. Papyrus was the type of “paper” God’s Word was originally written on – scrolls upon scrolls that were carefully copied by scribes through the centuries.

WHY DO WE NEED BIBLIOLOGY?

Bibliology gives us answers, proofs, and a historical record of where the Bible came from, how it was written, and how it has been preserved until now. It affirms our belief in the validity and authenticity of Scripture. In other words, we need Bibliology because it gives us confidence that the book we are believing and basing our lives on is true, reliable, and unique.

It answers questions like...

- What is the Bible?
- Is the Bible really the Word of God?
- How is the Bible inspired? What does it mean for the Bible to be inspired?
- What proof do we have for the inspiration of the Bible?
- What proof do we have for the historical accuracy of the Bible?

WHAT IS THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE?

1. UNIQUE IN AUTHORSHIP, LANGUAGES, AND LITERARY FORMS

Among all the books ever written, the Bible is absolutely unique. Actually, it is not just a book—it’s 66 books. And one of its most remarkable qualities is the complete unity of the overall message despite having so many different authors writing over many centuries

AUTHORSHIP

The Bible was written by roughly 40 people from a whole range of backgrounds over a period of 1,500 years. (Among them were kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, statesmen, musicians, scholars and shepherds.)



Some authors include...

Solomon, a king
Peter, a fisherman
Luke, a doctor
Joshua, a military leader
Matthew, a tax collector

Biblical writers include almost every type of person: wise and foolish, faithful and treacherous, rich and poor, innocent and guilty, and young and old. The Bible was written in many different places, at many different times and by people experiencing many different moods.

LANGUAGES

The Bible is written in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). This is so because Bible was written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. And each of these languages has a way of using words, painting images, and describing reality.

LITERARY FORMS

The Bible was written in a multitude of distinct literary forms. It includes...

History (Exodus),
Historical biographies (The Gospels)
Law (Leviticus)
Poetry (Song of Songs)
Wise Sayings (Proverbs)
Songs (Psalms)
Letters (e.g., Ephesians, Corinthians, and Romans)

Yes, there are other ancient literary works that utilized a variety of literary forms, but the biblical authors used them in order to focus their recipient's attention on one metanarrative.

Look at its amazing unity:

Just imagine: A novel with sixty-six chapters, which was begun by a single writer... Now, after the author has completed the first five chapters of the novel he suddenly dies. Now a group of 30 freelance writers felt compelled to do the rest of the chapters. They don't share anything in common. They speak different languages, they live in different countries, they live in different times, different backgrounds, different occupations, different styles of writing, and yet in the 39th chapter it stops, for no reason at all. It stops. After 400 years, another 8 authors wrote and completed the next 27 chapters.

With all this in mind, what would be the chances of this novel to become moral, scientific, prophetic, and historically accurate?

Yet that's the story of our Bible!

QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLE DISCUSSION:

1. What is your experience with the Bible?
2. How has the Bible been uniquely sufficient for all matters of faith and practice for you?