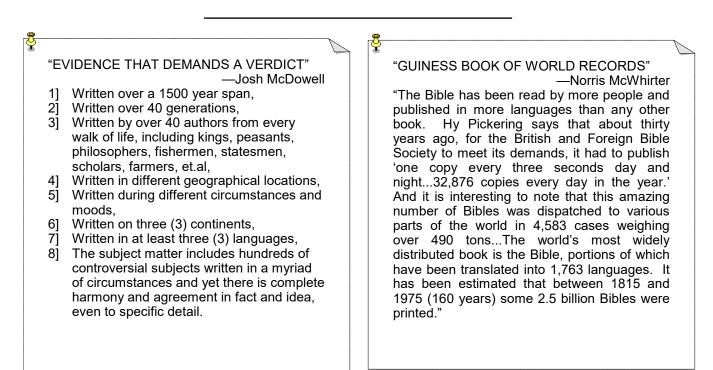


Lesson 9

The Unique Word of God

Introduction: The Bible is unique. In this lesson we will be looking at the Word of God in a way which should prove faithbuilding. Its continuity and unique harmony attest to its origin, confirming its claim as the Revealed Word from our Creator. There are many more proofs as to the authenticity of this Book of Books and the studies of those proofs is called "Evidences" and "Apologetics". It would serve you well to continue studying this area to help ward off Satan's skeptics. As a brother once told me, "People do not have intellectual problems with Christianity, only moral ones." I have found his

observation to be very accurate. When people try to explain away the authenticity of the Scriptures they are quite often dealing with a troubling passage with which they would rather not comply. Also, G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting but rather found difficult and not tried." These statements reveal much about man's attitude toward trying to find the Truth (capital "T") but when genuine, objective criteria is used to evaluate the authenticity of the Word of God, it stands tall among all literature. Let's take a look at its uniqueness.



"There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament." FF. Bruce

AUTHOR	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Thucydides	460-400 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1000 AD	1,400 years	193
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1,400 years	49
Homer (Illiad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
New Testament	40-100 AD	125 AD	25 years	24,000+

EARLY PATRISTIC QUOTATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

WRITER	Gospels	Acts	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	TOTAL
Justin Martyr (AD 133)	268	10	473	6	330
Origen (AD 185)	9,231	349	7,778	399	17,922
Tertullian (AD 160)	3,822	502	2,609	120	7,258

MANUSCRIPT RELIABILITY— "Of the considerable volumes of unpublished material that Dean Burgon left when he died, of special note is his index of NT citations by the church fathers of antiquity. It consists of 16 thick volumes to be found in the British Museum and contains 86,489 quotations."

