



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.

"EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT"

—Josh McDowell

- 1] Written over a 1500 year span,
- 2] Written over 40 generations,
- 3] Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life, including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, statesmen, scholars, farmers, et.al,
- 4] Written in different geographical locations,
- 5] Written during different circumstances and moods,
- 6] Written on three (3) continents,
- 7] Written in at least three (3) languages,
- 8] The subject matter includes hundreds of controversial subjects written in a myriad of circumstances and yet there is complete harmony and agreement in fact and idea, even to specific detail.

"GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS"

—Norris McWhirter

"The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book. Hy Pickering says that about thirty years ago, for the British and Foreign Bible Society to meet its demands, it had to publish 'one copy every three seconds day and night...32,876 copies every day in the year.' And it is interesting to note that this amazing number of Bibles was dispatched to various parts of the world in 4,583 cases weighing over 490 tons...The world's most widely distributed book is the Bible, portions of which have been translated into 1,763 languages. It has been estimated that between 1815 and 1975 (160 years) some 2.5 billion Bibles were printed."

"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+

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."

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

