

BIBLIOLOGY (19)

(Remarkable Claim #12) - John 5:39

Again, the claims here are unusual:

1. Jesus Christ states that He is the theme of the Scriptures.
2. Jesus Christ dies allude to the fact that the Scriptures have the power to give eternal life.
3. Jesus Christ states that the Scriptures are in written form. (5:46,47)
4. Jesus Christ states that the writings of Moses were predictive writings concerning Himself. (5:46)

(Remarkable Claim #13) - Matthew 21:42

1. Jesus Christ identifies Psalm 118:22 as being Scripture.
2. Jesus Christ applies these Scriptures to Himself.

(Remarkable Claim #14) - Galatians 3:8

1. Paul identifies Genesis 12:3 as being Scripture.
2. Paul connects Genesis 12:3 to the doctrine of "justification by faith."

(Remarkable Claim #15) - I Timothy 5:18

1. Paul says that Deuteronomy 25:4 is Scripture.
2. Paul states that this O.T. principle is to be applied in the N.T. age.

These are just some of the remarkable claims that the Bible makes within its own pages. When we examine these internal claims, we must admit that these statements are very unique and very powerful. No other book makes these kinds of remarkable claims about itself and the truth is, no other book can make such statements about itself. As many have concluded, these statements are true and they absolutely prove that the Bible is the eternal and inspired written word of God.

QUESTION #8 - What are the external proofs that the Bible is truly the Word of God?

There are a series of evidences that, although based on statements from the Bible, combine themselves with other facts to prove the Bible is what it claims to be. This is called the external evidence that the Bible is the Word of God. When this evidence is carefully considered, one must admit that the Bible is like no other book that has ever been written. Under the heading of external evidence that the Bible is the Word of God, we may observe twelve proofs that truly do establish that the Bible is the Word of God:

(External Proof #1) - The attitude given to Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and the New Testament is one of respect and honor to the ultimate level, which no other person in any other book has ever had.

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There are many books which have a key figure or subject as its theme and many that give due honor to its subject. However, there has never been a book written that gives the kind of honor and respect that the Bible gives to Jesus Christ:

- 1) He is called the Most High LORD. (Luke 1:76; Malachi 3:1)
- 2) He is called the Mighty God. (Isaiah 9:6)
- 3) He is called the Creator. (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-19)
- 4) He is called Lord. (Isaiah 45:22-23; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:9-11)
- 5) He is called the Savior. (Isaiah 53:4-6; Luke 1:47; John 1:29)
- 6) He is called the High Priest. (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 3:1)
- 7) He is called the King. (Isaiah 33:22; John 19:19)
- 8) He is called the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 19:16)
- 9) He is called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23) - which means "God with us."

There is **no** other book which has ever been written which gives such honor and respect to one Person. Both the O.T. and the N.T. honor Jesus Christ at the ultimate level. These types of claims concerning this Person make this book totally and completely unique, in a class all by itself. This fact alone puts this book in a different class- it puts it in the class of being God's word.

(External Proof #2) - The uniqueness of the Bible establishes that it is a very unusual book.

The Bible is unique in its content because it exposes man and his sin. It is a book that condemns all men and says that his works are as "filthy rags." The Bible is God centered, **not** man centered. It is not a book designed to flatter man, it is designed to honor God and tell the unflattering truth about man.

There is information in this book that is far beyond the normal sphere of human knowledge. Subjects like: Trinity, Salvation by Grace, Jesus Christ and what really happens to a person at death. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer made a profound observation when he wrote: "The Bible is not such a book as man would write if he could or could write if he would." (Vol.1, p.22).

When one considers the unique claims and information contained in the Bible, one must come to terms with the reality that this book is what it claims to be- "The Word of God!"

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(External Proof #3) - The wonderful knowledge that is found in the Bible.

The Bible is a very unusual book that touches base with many different subjects: God, Angels, Satan, Demons, Science, Astronomy, History, Medicine, Archeology, Creation, Heaven, Hell and Man, just to name a few. When the Bible speaks on any of these subjects it speaks with total accuracy. Whenever something is discovered, it continually proves the accuracy of the Bible. No other book in the world has ever spoken on so many subjects of life.

1) Leviticus 13:46 - Here is medical information, a law of leprosy, which presented the idea of demanding isolation with certain diseases. In the 14th century, the black death (bubonic plague) killed 75 million people in Europe, 1/4th to 1/2 of Europe's entire population. According to historians, this plague was partially stopped when this principle of Leviticus was read and applied.

2) Deuteronomy 23:12-14 - Here in plain language is God's system of sanitation. It is a known fact that one of the causes for the black death, and a leading cause of intestinal diseases, typhoid fever and cholera in Europe was a failure to develop a proper system of sanitation. Again, when this principle was discovered and applied, these physical problems disappeared.

We would expect God's word to contain information and knowledge concerning a variety of subjects. This is precisely what is found in the Bible. The knowledge of the Bible, when understood and applied, always proves to be true and powerful. As Dr. Chafer said: "So far as human knowledge goes, the Bible deals as freely with things unknown as it does with the known. ... Like a telescope, the Bible reaches beyond the stars and penetrates the heights of heaven and the depths of hell. Like a microscope, it discovers the minutest details of God's plan and purpose as well as the hidden secrets of the human heart." (Vol.1, p.27)

(External Proof #4) – The Ethics of the Bible, from cover to cover, are at the highest level.

There has never been a higher code of morality which has ever been written. For example:

1) Exodus 20:1-17 - These ten commandments present a God-honoring system of morality which includes mandates not to steal, kill, commit adultery or lie. These commandments not only exhort people to the highest standard of ethics, but they will also expose people and their sin, and show them their desperate need of Jesus Christ (i.e. Romans 3:19-20). Here is a code of ethics at its highest level for it not only presents God's character, but it condemns man's character. There can therefore be no higher code of ethics anywhere else in existence.

2) Matthew 5:28 - Here is a very high code of ethics, only understood and applied by those walking very close with the Lord. The exhortation is not to look at a woman in a lustful way because God considers it to be adulterous.

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3) John 15:13 - Here is the ultimate ethical code pertaining to love- the greatest demonstration of love is one who is willing to lay down his life for a friend. Not lay it down for a cause or a country, but for a friend.

4) James 3:5-10, James 4:2 - In the mind of God certain speech is classified as murder.

These are just a few examples of the ethics of the Bible. The Bible's ethical codes are the highest and they never lower their standards to accommodate man. The Bible continually exhorts man to raise his ethical standards in conformity with God and challenges to this goal with the promise of future judgment.

(External Proof #5) – The continuity of the Bible.

Here is one of the most remarkable proofs that the Bible is the most unique book in the entire universe. The Bible is written with themes and messages that consistently and continually reveal the same things from cover to cover. The Bible was written over a 1600 year span of time. It was written over a time frame of 60 generations. It was written by over 40 authors of all walks of life (King-Solomon; Fisherman-Peter; Poet/Soldier-David; Peasant-Amos; Scholar-Paul; Medical Doctor-Luke; Tax Collector-Matthew). The Bible was written on three different continents (Asia, Africa, Europe). The Bible was written in two main languages, with parts in a third language (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic). The Bible has been translated into several other languages. It is a book that speaks on hundreds of controversial subjects (Creation, Angels, Satan, Heaven, Hell, Life After Death, Death, Israel, Promised Land Boundary Markers). Yet in spite of this- **all the writers agree and say the same things about these controversial subjects.**

Josh McDowell challenged a scholastic skeptic to find 10 authors all from one walk of life, one generation, one place, one time, one mood, one continent, one language and one subject. His challenge to the skeptic was to find 10 authors who all wrote on the same subject who agreed in what they wrote about the subject. The skeptic finally came to the conclusion that it was an impossibility and he ultimately trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior (Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands A Verdict, p.21).

In my personal reading and study, I have **never** found even two authors who completely agree on every part of a controversial issue. I have read several books on subjects such as Running, Camping, Packing Animals, Training Horses, Hunting various species of animals, Nutrition, just to name a few. Many of these authors know each other and quote each other, yet they do not agree on several things.

When I was a teacher, I saw, on several occasions, two students write a thesis on the same subject and come to the same conclusion, but did not agree on how they arrived at their conclusion. They were using the same books for research and attending the same school. Here is the point- when we consider the amazing continuity that exists in the Bible over a 1600 year span of time, we must admit, the Bible is like no other book in existence.