

# The Uniqueness of the Bible

1. being the only one, one of a kind : SOLE
2. being without a like or equal : UNEQUALED

## 1 Peter 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

# Voddie Baucham Quote

“I chose to believe the Bible because the Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses, which report supernatural events in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claimed their writings are Divine and not of human origin.”

# Defending the Bible:

C.H. Spurgeon said this: “The word of God is like a lion. You don’t have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let it loose, and the lion will defend itself”

## Quote by Prof M. Montiero-Williams

former Boden professor of Sanskrit held this perspective. After spending 42 years studying Eastern books, he compared them with the Bible and said:

“Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side—all by itself, all alone— and with a wide gap between them. For...there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly, and forever... a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought” (Collett, AAB, 315, 315)

# UNIQUE in the following Ways:

The Bible is unique, different from all others in the following ways:

- Unique in its continuity
- Unique in its circulation
- Unique in its translation
- Unique in its survival
  - Through time
  - Through persecution
  - Through criticism
- Unique in its teachings
  - Prophecy
  - History
  - Character
- Unique in its influence on literature
- Unique in its influence on civilization

# UNIQUE in the Continuity

- Written over approximately a period of 1500 years
- Written by > 40 authors from all walks of life.
- Written in different places
- Written during different times
- Written during different moods
- Written in three languages
- Written in a variety of literary styles

# UNIQUE in the Continuity

The Bible addresses hundreds of controversial subjects, subjects that are hotly debated:

- Marriage / divorce / remarriage
- Homosexuality
- Adultery
- Obedience to authority
- Truth telling
- Lying
- Character development
- Capital punishment
- Parenting
- Beginnings of creation
- God Himself

**YET:** From Genesis to Revelation there is harmony throughout the Bible regarding the above controversial subjects.

Plus:



# Quote by Norman Geisler

**Norman Geisler & William Nix put it this way:**

**“The ‘paradise lost’ in Genesis becomes the ‘paradise regained’ of Revelation. Whereas the gate to the ‘tree of life’ is closed in Genesis, it is opened forevermore in Revelation” (Geisler/Nix, GIB’86 28)**

# Unique in Circulation

Rank	Title	Author	Volume Sales	Publisher	Genre
SOURCE: <a href="#">NIELSEN BOOK SCAN</a>					
1	Da Vinci Code,The	Brown, Dan	5,094,805	Transworld	Crime, Thriller & Adventure
2	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows	Rowling, J.K.	4,475,152	Bloomsbury	Children's Fiction
3	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	Rowling, J.K.	4,200,654	Bloomsbury	Children's Fiction
4	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	Rowling, J.K.	4,179,479	Bloomsbury	Children's Fiction

# Translation chart

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of languages</u>	<u>Original language</u>
1	The Bible	3,384	Hebrew,
		2,191	Aramaic,
		698	Koiné Greek
2	The Little Prince	300[3]	French
3	The Adventures of Pinocchio	240-260[4][5]	Italian
4	Dao De Jing	>250[6]	Classical Chinese
5	The Communist Manifesto	>200[7]	German
6	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	174[8]	English
7	Steps to Christ	>160[9]	English
8	El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Manch	>140	Spanish
9	Andersen's Fairy Tales	129[12]	Danish
10	The Adventures of Asterix	115	French

# Unique in its Survival

John Warwick Montgomery observes that “to be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament” (Montgomery, HC’71, 29)

## Unique in its Survival – Bruce Metzger Quote

Bruce Metzger, a Princeton professor and one of the world's leading Biblical text critics, comments that in contrast with other ancient texts, “the textual critic of the New Testament is embarrassed by the wealth of his material (Metzger, TNT, 34)

## Unique in its Survival –Bernard Ramm quote

Bernard Ramm speaks of the accuracy and number of biblical manuscripts: “Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. With their *massora (parva, magna, and finalis)* they kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity—scribes, lawyers, massorettes.

# Unique in its Survival

Bernard Ramm Quote cont'd:

...“Who ever counted the letters and syllables and words of Plato, Aristotle? Cicero or Seneca:” (Ramm, PCE'53, 230-231)

# Unique in its Survival-Manuscript Chart

## Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# Mss.
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25-50 yrs	24,000



## Unique in its Survival-More reliable than Shakespeare

“It seems strange that the text of Shakespeare, which has been in existence less than two hundred and eight years, should be far more uncertain and corrupt than that of the New Testament, now over eighteen centuries old, during nearly fifteen of which it existed in manuscript.... With perhaps a dozen or twenty exceptions, the text of every verse in the New Testament may be said to be so far settled by general consent of scholars, that any dispute as to its readings must relate rather to the interpretation of the words than to any doubts respecting the words themselves. But in every one of Shakespeare’s thirty-seven plays there are probably a hundred readings still in dispute, a large portion of which materially affects the meaning of the passages in which they occur” (LEA, GBW, 15)

## Unique in its Survival-Through Persecution

A.D. 303 Roman Emperor Diocletian issued edict to stop Christians from worshiping and to destroy the Scriptures. The Churches were to be razed and the Scriptures burned.

(Greenslade, CHB, 476)

By the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, church historian – Eusebius, who wrote that twenty-five years after Diocletian's edict the Roman emperor Constantine issued an edict ordering that fifty copies of the Scriptures should be prepared at the government's expense (Eusebius, EH, VII, 2, 259)

## Unique in its Survival-Through Persecution-Voltaire

Voltaire, the noted French infidel, who died in 1778, said that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. But what happened? Voltaire passed into existence and Christianity and the Scriptures continue to this day. The irony of it all....."only fifty years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles" (Geisler/Nix, GIB '68, 124, 124)

## Unique in its Survival-Through Criticism

H. L. Hastings has forcefully illustrated the unique way in which the Bible has withstood attacks of infidels and skeptics: “Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. It’s circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels with all their assaults, make about a much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt”

## Unique in its Survival-Through Criticism – Bernard Ramm

“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put”

# Unique in its Survival-Through Criticism – Bernard Ramm

No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology or *belles lettres* of classical or modern times 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? The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions and studied by millions (Ramm PCE '53, 232-233)

# Unique in its Survival-Through Criticism – Nelson Glueck

former president of the Jewish Theological Seminary at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and one of the three greatest archeologists:

“I’ve been accused of teaching the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scripture, I want it to be understood that I have never taught this. All I have ever said is that in all of my archeological investigation I have never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God” (Radmacher, PC, 50)

# Unique in its Teaching - Prophecy

“No unconditional prophecy of the Bible about events to the present day has gone unfulfilled. Hundreds of predictions, some of them given hundreds of years in advance, have been literally fulfilled. The time ( Dan. 9), city (Mic. 5:2) and nature (Is. 7:14) of Christ’s birth were foretold in the Old Testament, as were dozens of other things about His life, death and resurrection (see Is 53). Numerous other prophecies have been fulfilled, including the destruction of Edom (Obad. 1), the curse on Babylon (Is. 13), the destruction of Tyre (Exek. 26) and Nineveh (Nah. 1-3) and the return of Israel to the Land (Is. 11:11). Other books claim divine inspiration, such as the Koran, the Book of Morman, and parts of [Hindu} Veda. But none of those books, contains predictive prophecy. As a result, fulfilled prophecy is a strong indication of the unique, divine authority of the Bible (Geisler/Nix, GIB ‘86, 196)



# Unique in its Teachings - History

Hebrew national tradition excels all others in its clear picture of tribal and family origins. In Egypt and Babylonia, in Assyria and Phoenicia, in Greece and Rome, we look in vain for anything comparable.

Concerning the reliability of the “Table of Nations” in Genesis 10, Albright concludes: “It stands absolutely alone in ancient literature without a remote parallel even among the Greeks....” The Table of Nations’ remains an astonishingly accurate document. (Albright, RDBL, 70-72)

## Unique in its Teachings – Character

Lewis S. Chafer, founder and former president of Dallas Theological Seminary, said: “The Bible is not such a book a man would write if he could, or could write if he would”

The Bible deals very frankly with the sins of its characters, even when those sins reflect badly on God’s chosen people, leaders and the biblical writers themselves for example:

# Unique in its Teachings – Character-reveals faults

- The sins of the patriarchs are mentioned (Gen. 12:11-13; 49:5-7)
- The sins of the people are denounced (Deut. 9:24)
- King David's adultery with Bathsheba and his subsequent attempted cover-up is revealed (2 Sam. 11-12)
- The Gospel Evangelists paint their own faults and those of the apostles
- The disorder within the church is exposed (1 Cor. 1:11; 15:12; 2Cor. 2:4)

## Unique in its Teachings - Character

The Bible as a book focuses on reality, not fantasy. It presents the good and bad, the right and wrong, the best and worst, the hope and despair, the joy and pain of life. And so it should, for it's ultimate author is God, and 'there are no creatures hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account' Heb 4:13

# Unique in its Influence on Literature

- Susan Gallagher and Roger Lundin state: “The Bible is one of the most important documents in the history of civilization, not only because of its status as Holy inspired Scripture, but also because of its pervasive influence on Western thought. As the predominant world view for at least fourteen centuries, Christianity and its great central text played a major role in the formation of Western Culture. Consequently, many literary texts, even those in our post-Christian era, frequently draw on the bible and the Christian Tradition.” (Gallagher/Lundin, LTEF, 120)

# Unique in its Influence on Civilization

The influence of the Bible and its teaching in the Western world is clear for all who study history. And the influential role of the west in the course of world events is equally clear. Civilization has been influenced more by the Judeo-Christian Scriptures than by any other book or series of books in the world. Indeed, no great moral or religious work in the world exceeds the depth of morality in the principle of Christian love, and none has a more lofty spiritual concept than the biblical view of God. The Bible presents the highest ideals known to men, ideals that have molded civilization.”(Geisler, GIB '86, 196-197)

# A Reasonable Conclusion

The evidence presented above does not prove that the Bible is the Word of God. But it clearly indicates that it is uniquely superior to any and all other books. Anyone with an honest heart who is seeking the Truth would do well to pay attention to this unique book.

