

Introduction to the Bible

Psalm 19:7-11

Introduction

I The Uniqueness of the Bible

- A. The Bible is unique in its **unity**
 - 1. It was written over a 1,600-year period
 - 2. It was written by more than **40** writers
 - 3. It was written in different places
 - 4. It was written at different times
 - 5. It was written during authors' different moods
 - 6. It was written on **three** continents
 - 7. It was written in three different languages
 - 8. It was written concerning **controversial** issues
- B. The Bible is unique in its **teaching**
 - 1. Through its **prophecy**
 - 2. Through its honesty
 - 3. Through its moral and ethical values
 - 4. Through its **revelation** of God
- C. The Bible is unique in its **circulation**
 - 1. Read by more people than any other book
 - 2. **Translated** into more languages than any other book
 - 3. It remains the **#1** best selling book of all time
- D. The Bible is unique in its **survival**
 - 1. Through efforts to **eradicate** it
 - 2. Through efforts to marginalize it
- E. The Bible is unique in its **influence**

II The Structure Of The Bible

- A. It is made up of 66 individual books
 - 1. **39** Old Testament books
 - 2. **27** New Testament books
- B. The Old Testament is an account of a nation: **Israel**
 - 1. **17** Historical books
 - 2. 5 Poetical books
 - 3. **17** Prophetical books
 - a. **Major** Prophets (the first five)

- b. **Minor** Prophets (the last 12)
- C. The New Testament is an account of a man: **Jesus Christ**
 - 1. **5** Historical books:
 - a. The four Gospels
 - 1. Matthew: Jesus the **King**
 - 2. Mark: Jesus the Servant
 - 3. Luke: Jesus the Son of **Man**
 - 4. John: Jesus the Son of God
 - b. The book of Acts
 - 2. **21** Epistles (letters)
 - 3. **1** Prophetical book
- B. Interesting facts about the Bible
 - 1. It gets its name from the papyrus plant, "Biblos"
 - 2. It is organized by genre rather than chronology
 - 3. Paul's letters are organized according to length
 - 4. Chapter divisions: Cardinal Hugo in 1250
 - 5. NT Verse divisions: Sir Robert Stephens in 1551
 - 6. Chapter & verse divisions in OT & NT: In 1560 in the "Geneva Bible."
 - 7. The longest chapter of the Bible? Psalm 119
 - 8. The shortest chapter of the Bible? 2 John
 - 9. The shortest verse in the NT: John 11:35
 - 10. The center verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8

III The Benefits Of Reading The Bible

- A. **Salvation** and eternal life - Jn 5:24; 6:63, 68; 20:31; Rom 1:16-17; 10:17; 16:25-27; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 1:23
- B. Wisdom and knowledge - Prov 1:1-6; Eph 1:17
- C. **Guidance** - Ps 119:105, 133; 2 Peter 1:19
- D. Success and prosperity - Joshua 1:8; Ps 1:1-3
- E. **Encouragement** and hope - Rom 15:4
- F. Protection from sin - Ps 119:9, 11
- G. A **knowledge** of God - Titus 1:1-3
- H. A knowledge of the **future** - Is 44:7-8; 46:9-10

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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