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;
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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