

## THE GREATEST BOOK EVER

### I. The unity of the Bible proves it is inspired.

- A. When one reads the Old Testament there is a distinct unity of thought that goes throughout it.
  - 1. Man is in need of a savior because of sin.
  - 2. From Genesis 3:15 on we are pointed towards a savior.
  - 3. Every book of the Old Testament has the savior in it, either by direct statement or implication.
- B. When you come to the New Testament we meet the savior and see that He is the Son of God, Jesus the Christ.
  - 1. We learn that He came to earth and taught us how to live and died for us.
  - 2. We then learn that He established a church as He said He would and that He is coming back one day to judge the world and deliver the church to the Father.
- C. What this shows is that there is consistent unity of thought throughout the book.
- D. Someone may say, "My favorite author is James Patterson and every one of his books has unity of thought in it, so what is the big deal?"
  - 1. It is true books today have unity of thought throughout.
  - 2. The difference is, they generally have one author who wrote the book over a period of a small number of years.
- E. When one reads the Bible, he reads a collection of books that were written over a minimum of 1,500 years by more than forty men.
  - 1. These men were from different historical periods of time.
  - 2. They wrote in different languages, with Aramaic, Hebrew and Greek being the languages found in scripture.
  - 3. Think of from where these authors came: Moses was trained in Pharaoh's house, Nehemiah was a cupbearer to a king, David was a King, Isaiah was an advisor to kings, Amos was a herdsman, Ezra was a priest, John was a fisherman, Luke a physician
- F. What makes it even more amazing is that each author was independent of the other authors.
  - 1. They weren't told what another writer was inspired to write in order to make sure there was unity.
  - 2. Each man wrote as he was moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- G. The prophecies of the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the New Testament all point to its unity, which can only be explained by inspiration.
  - 1. Over 300 prophecies of Jesus are found in the Old Testament.
  - 2. Each of them is fulfilled in the New.
  - 3. Nothing else can explain this but inspiration.
- H. However, the greatest evidence of unity is the unfolding of God's plan of salvation.
  - 1. You have the promise of one bruising Satan's head.

2. You then have the promise of all nations being blessed through Abraham.
3. You then have the giving of the law to the Israelites, which contained a sacrificial system that pointed to the way the savior would come for mankind.
4. You have the prophets all foretelling His birth, life, death and resurrection.
5. You then have the gospels to show the truth of what was said about the savior in the Old Testament.
6. You close with the plan of salvation and how to remain saved.
- I. There are no disagreements, contradictions or errors in it.
- J. The unity of the Bible proves it is inspired.

## **II. The uniqueness of the Bible proves it is inspired.**

- A. It is unique in that it is nothing like mere men would write.
  1. The Bible does not hide the failings of its figures.
    - a. David was an adulter.
    - b. Moses was a questioner.
    - c. Peter had to be withstood by Paul.
  2. Men would not write such about the central figures of their works.
  3. Where are the descriptions of God and Jesus?
    - a. Man would write about their looks.
    - b. Other religious works are filled with descriptions of their divine characters.
  4. As Wayne Jackson wrote, there are things in the Bible that could not have been the result of mere human intellect and there are things not in the Bible that surely would have been there if the documents had been humanly engineered.
- B. In a world full of polytheism, the Bible sets forth monotheism as truth.
- C. In an immoral world, there is no bowing down to sin but a demand for a righteous and pure life.
- D. The Bible is historically, geographically, scientifically and philosophically correct.
  1. Each of these in themselves is a proof of inspiration.
  2. All people, places and things are accurate, which could not be accounted for if mere men put the book together.
- E. Much more could be said about the unique nature of the Bible, but these suffice to show the inspiration of the Bible.

## **III. The usefulness of the Bible proves it is inspired.**

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- B. The word "profitable" means useful or helpful.
- C. It is useful for doctrine.
  1. This indicates the teaching contained in scripture.
  2. Through this doctrine one can be made wise about salvation (vs 15).
- D. It is useful for reproof.
  1. This word is the same one translated "evidence" in Hebrews 11:1.

2. It carries the idea of the change that the truth contained in scripture brings about in a person's life.
  3. The scriptures are useful to bring about change in our lives.
  4. The scriptures allow us to believe in God and become what He would have us to be.
- E. It is useful for correction.
1. When reproof has taken place, eventually there needs to be correction because we will stumble at times.
  2. The Bible gives us the correction we need to make things right again.
- F. It is useful for instruction in righteousness.
1. This carries the idea of chastening us to be righteous.
  2. The scriptures tell us how to be and remain righteous.
- G. All of this allows us to be whole or complete Christians and useful to Christ in His kingdom, the church.
- H. Other ideas about the usefulness of scripture could be shown but these suffice to show the inspiration of the Bible.