

**THE  
BIBLE  
IS  
U N I Q U E  
(only 1 of its kind)**

**U – Unity**

**N - Numbers**

**I - Indestructible**

**Q – Quality**

**U – Unknown**

**E - Excavations**

# U-unity of message... even though...

Bible written > 40 **different** authors, of **different** backgrounds

1. Moses – shepherd, leader
2. Nehemiah – king's cupbearer, governor
3. Luke – physician
4. Matthew – tax collector

# **U-unity of message... even though...**

- Bible written > 40 **different** authors, of **different** backgrounds.
- Bible written over about 1500 years in many **different** places
  1. Moses in the wilderness (Dt 1:1)
  2. Paul from locations in Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, a prison in Rome (Php 1:12-13)
  3. John on island of Patmos (Rev 1:9)

# **U-unity of message... even though...**

- Bible written > 40 **different** authors, of **different** backgrounds.
- Bible written over about 1500 years in many **different** places.
- In spite of all the different authors, backgrounds, times and places, Bible speaks with amazing unity
- Even on controversial subjects, like:
  - Marriage & Divorce: Matt 19:3-6; Gen 2:24
  - Sin: Gen 2:16-17; Rom 6:23
  - Eternal Life: Gen 3:24; Rev 22:2
  - Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies

“The ‘Paradise Lost’ of 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.”  
(quote from Geisler & Nix)

# Was this unity an accident? No!

How did it happen?

\* The message came from the eternal God.

- 2 Pet 1:20-21
- 2 Tim 3:16-17

# N – Number of copies, manuscripts, quotations

## COPIES

- More copies of Bible any other book
  - ~4-5 billion copies made
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place is 820 million - Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-Tung
- Published in more languages
  - Entire Bible ~ 700 languages
  - New Testament only ~1500 languages

“However, over all there is absolutely no book that reaches or even begins to compare to the circulation of the Scriptures. The first major book printed was the Latin vulgate. It was printed on Gutenberg’s press.”

(from Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Josh McDowell)

# **N – Number of copies, manuscripts, quotations**

- Copies – More copies of Bible than any other book.
- Manuscripts – New Testament has most manuscripts (handwritten copies) – approx. **24,000 total**
  - **Greek** manuscripts: **5,856**
    - 2.6 million pages of text, average size 450 pages
  - **Non-Greek** manuscripts
    - **18,130** manuscripts, Armenian, Latin, Coptic, Syriac
- No other book of antiquity has such an abundance of manuscript evidence
  - Illiad, by Homer – less than 2,000 manuscripts

# N – Number of copies, manuscripts, quotations

- Copies – More copies of Bible than any other book.
- Manuscripts – NT manuscripts **closest in time** to original documents
  - examples of early NT manuscripts:
    - 130 AD John Rylands Papyrus – contains portion of gospel of John
    - 150-200 AD Bodmer Papyrus II – most of John
    - 200 AD Chester Beatty Papyri – major portions of New Testament
    - 325-250 AD Codex Vaticanus – almost whole Bible
    - 350 AD Codex Sinaiticus – most of NT, >50% of OT

# N – Number of copies, manuscripts, quotations

- Copies – More copies of Bible than any other book.
- Manuscripts – NT manuscripts closest in time to original documents
  - Consider other ancient writings:
    - Illiad by Homer – approx. 500 years gap
    - Tetralogies, Plato – approx. 1,200 year gap
    - Annals, Tacitus – approx. 1,000 year gap
    - Aristotle – approx. 1,400 year gap

# **N – Number of copies, manuscripts, quotations**

- Copies – More copies of Bible than any other book.
- Manuscripts – most manuscripts, closest in time to original
- Quotations – of Scripture, during first couple of centuries
  - Preserved; not always complete or correct, but still valuable
  - **Over 86,000 quotations** of the New Testament – So extensive that...
  - “The quotations are so extensive that the N.T. could virtually be reconstructed from them without the use of New Testament manuscripts.” J. Harold Greenlee, Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism

# I- indestructible nature

God said He would protect His word, which will last forever

- Matt 24:35 “...My words will by no means pass away”
- 1 Pet 1:24-25 “...But the word of the Lord endures forever.”

Yet, many have tried to destroy the Bible over the years, including:

# I- indestructible nature

Many have tried to destroy the Bible over the years, including:

- 1) Greek ruler, **Antiochus Epiphanes** (216-164 BC)
  - a) Began a bloody persecution against Jews, destroyed Scriptures
  - b) “And [the officials of Antiochus] rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, and set them on fire. And wheresoever was found with any a book of the covenant, and if any consented to the law, the king’s sentence delivered him to death.” (from 1 Maccabees 1:56-57)
  - c) Persecution → Maccabean revolt, more intense examination of Scriptures

# I- indestructible nature

Many have tried to destroy the Bible over the years, including:

- 1) Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes (216-164 BC)
- 2) Roman emperor **Diocletian** (245-313 AD)
  - a) Issued an edict to burn up the Scriptures - “All assemblies of Christians were forbidden and churches were ordered to be torn down. Four different edicts were issued, each excelling the preceding in intensity. One edict ordered the burning of every copy of the Bible – the first instance in [Christian] history when the Scriptures were made an object of attack.” (source: Hurst, John F. 1897. *History of the Christian Church*. Vol. 1. New York, NY: Eaton & Mains.)

# I- indestructible nature

Many have tried to destroy the Bible over the years, including:

- 1) Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes (216-164 BC)
- 2) Roman emperor **Diocletian** (245-313 AD)
  - a) Issued an edict to burn up the Scriptures
  - b) 25 yrs. later Constantine ordered that 50 copies of the Scriptures be made at the government's expense
  - c) Diocletian failed to destroy all Scripture

# I- indestructible nature

Many have tried to destroy the Bible over the years, including:

- 1) Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes (216-164 BC)
- 2) Roman emperor Diocletian (245-313 AD)
- 3) Voltaire (1694-1778 AD), a French poet, historian**
  - a) Hated Bible, destroyed faith of many in Europe
  - b) Said in 100 yrs. from his time, Christianity to be gone
  - c) Yet 50 yrs. after his death, Geneva Bible Society used his house & press to print Bibles
  - d) Own any of Voltaire's writings?

# I- indestructible nature

“Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith’s door and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime; when looking in, I saw upon the floor, old hammers worn with beating years of time. ‘How many anvils have you had,’ said I, ‘to wear and batter all these hammers so?’ ‘Just one,’ said he; then said with twinkling eye, ‘The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.’ “And so, I thought, the anvil of God’s word for ages skeptic’s blows have beat upon; yet though the noise of falling blows was heard, the anvil is unharmed – the hammers gone!” (John Clifford)

# Q – quality of its teachings

OT example: The Ten Commandments (Ex 20:3-17)

- “The Ten Commandments are a landmark in human history, because they sum up in a few verses so much of what society and the individual need for a good, orderly, and productive life.” (Cyrus Gordon, “The Ten Commandments”, Christianity Today)
- 9 out of these 10 were repeated
  - Principles still apply today
  - “Honor your father and your mother...”; “You shall not murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, covet, etc.
  - These commands provide a basis for the laws of many societies

# Q – quality of its teachings

NT examples - Provide answers to man's problems

- Worry: "...do not worry about your life..." Mt 6:25
- Loneliness: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb 13:5-6
- Depression: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Php 4:4

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

PROPHECY - Stating beforehand things that would happen in the future

- 1239 OT prophecies, and 578 NT prophecies. Total 1817. (J. Barton Payne)
- Only God can make specific predictions, far into the future, w/ unflawed accuracy (Is 46:9-10)
- Unlike weathermen, who use education, experience & equipment to forecast weather  
“The National Weather Service admits its ability to predict weather on a long-range basis is limited. About 60% accuracy is the best they can do – and that’s only for predicting whether temperature and precipitation will be above or below normal” (UPI news item in The Houston Post)

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## PROPHECY – Examples

- 1) 3 promises to Abraham: land, nation seed Gen 12:1-3
  - **land** – Josh 24:13
  - **nation** – Deut 26:5
  - **Seed** - Gal 3:16

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## PROPHECY – Examples

- 1) 3 promises to Abraham: Gen 12:1-3
- 2) God's kingdom to be established
  - Dan 2:40-44 God would set up kingdom, never be destroyed
  - Matt 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.
  - John 18:36-37 Jesus is a King, has a kingdom
  - Matt 16:18 Jesus would build His church/kingdom
  - Acts 2 – church/kingdom established
  - Col 1:13 God's kingdom in existence 1<sup>ST</sup> century

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## PROPHECY – Examples

- 1) 3 promises to Abraham: Gen 12:1-3
- 2) God's kingdom to be established
- 3) Prophecies about Christ

“Henry Liddon is credited with the statement that there are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ. The mathematical probability that all of these could be fulfilled in one person by sheer chance alone has been calculated at one over 84 (followed by 123 zeros). That would be  $84 \times 10^{123}$ ”

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## PROPHECY – Examples

- 1) 3 promises to Abraham: Gen 12:1-3
- 2) God's kingdom to be established
- 3) Prophecies about Christ
  - a) Jesus' birthplace – Mic 5:2 (735-700 BC);  
Matt 2:1
  - b) Messiah would rise from the dead: Ps  
16:10; Acts 2:30-31
  - c) His hands & feet were to be pierced; lots cast  
for His clothes: Ps 22:16-18, Jn 19:23-24,  
20:25

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE

- 1) The earth is round, a sphere: Is 40:22 “It is He who sits above the **circle** of the earth...”
  - a) “Although Pythagoras (540 BC) is the first man credited with the idea that the world was round, common man held that the earth was flat until about 1500 AD, when the introduction of the compass and improved sailing vessels made the voyages of Columbus and Magellan possible.” (A.O. Schnabel, Has God Spoken?)

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE

- 1) The earth is round, a sphere: Is 40:22
- 2) Importance of blood:
  - a. Lev 17:11, 14 God taught Israel that “life is in the blood”
  - b. Blood-letting phased out in late 1800’s.
  - c. Blood transports oxygen & nutrients to body

# U – unknown outside of Scripture

## SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE

- 1) The earth is round, a sphere: Is 40:22
- 2) Importance of blood: Lev 17:11, 14
- 3) Eating of pork/swine
  - a. Deut 14:8 Jews forbidden to eat pork/swine
  - b. Pigs are scavengers, pick up harmful organisms:
    - Trichinella spiralis – causes trichinosis
    - Parasite Echinococcus granulosus → liver & lung tumors
  - c. Uncooked swine harmful to humans
  - d. How did Moses know that eating swine would be harmful?

# E - excavations

- Archaeology
    - Hittites
    - Sennacherib's prism
    - Hezekiah's tunnel
    - theater & temple of Diana at Ephesus
  - Geography
    - Elevations of different cities
    - Weather on the Sea of Galilee
- Historical evidence of Jesus
- Plinius Secundus, governor of Bithynia
  - Josephus, a Jewish historian

