

The Stunningly Unique Word of God

- A snapshot of the Bible today
- Its many splendored glory
- “Fingerprints” of God
- The Bible’s own answers to:
 - An “easy” pop quiz
 - How do I properly understand it? (hermeneutics)
 - Where did the Bible come from? (canonicity)
 - How do I use it effectively?

HOLY BIBLE

**Why
bother?**

A 1982 Snapshot: The Bible – banned, burned, beloved. More widely read, more frequently attacked than any other book in history. Generations of intellectuals have attempted to discredit it; dictators of every age have outlawed it and executed those who read it. Yet soldiers carry it into battle believing it more powerful than their weapons. Fragments of it smuggled into solitary prison cells have transformed ruthless killers into gentle saints. Pieced-together scraps of Scripture have converted whole villages of vicious savages.

Yearly, the Bible outsells every best-seller. Five hundred million copies were published last year alone. Portions have been translated into more than 2000 languages and even carried to the moon.

Literary classics endure the centuries. Philosophers mold the thoughts of generations unborn. Modern media shapes current culture. Yet nothing has affected the rise and fall of civilization, the character of cultures, the structure of governments, and the lives of inhabitants of this planet as profoundly as the words of the Bible.

“**My word** that goes forth from my mouth... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it,” said the LORD through the prophet Isaiah.

Consider just the number of languages:

- _____ languages in the world; _____ in India alone
- _____ complete Bibles (up 2 from last month)
- _____ NTs (up 5) • _____ portions (up 7)
- _____ work is currently in progress (up 19)
- _____% people in their own native language
- What book is #2? _____ at _____

500 million copies/year in 1982 – really?

- Est >50m Sold worldwide in 2024 (~16m in US)
- American Bible Society distributed >200m Bibles/NTs

**** Digital:** Apps, Memory cards, Online, Downloadable

**** Video media,** like “Jesus” film (2280 translations)

**** Audio Bibles**

No other book comes remotely close!

Why?

WCF I.5 We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole, (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet, notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

WCF I.6a The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men.

“Fingerprints”

of God

What test does God himself propose?

This is what the Lord says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, **and what is to come – yes, let him foretell what will come.** — Isaiah 44:6-7

Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. **I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.** I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. — Isaiah 46:8-10

Who is this man?

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Psalms 22:6-8

Isaiah 7:14

Psalms 41:9

Zechariah 12:10

Isaiah 60:3

Zechariah 11:12-13

Isaiah 53:5-6, 10-12

Isaiah 40:3

Isaiah 52:2-3

Psalms 34:20

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 53:7-9

Isaiah 53:9

Isaiah 9:1-2

Isaiah 50:6

Psalms 16:10

Isaiah 61:1

Psalms 22:1

Daniel 7:13-14

Psalms 78:2-4

Psalms 22:14-18**

and ~300 more!

** Note: Psalm 22 (written ~1000 B.C.) describes **crucifixion**, centuries before it was invented!

Every single word was written by 400 B.C.

and fully translated into Greek by 150 B.C. And there are 100s of other specific, detailed prophecies, including the exact time of Jesus' life:

Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' — Daniel 9:25

Let's do the math: $(7+62) \times 7 = 483$

Here's the fulfillment: From the decree of Cyrus the Great in 458 B.C. to Jesus' Baptism in A.D. 26 is **483** years!

As Jesus said to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection:

“How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ... He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

— Luke 24:25-27, 44-45

Next Week:

(1) There are many 100s of other spectacular, incredibly detailed, fulfilled prophecies about the rise and fall of kingdoms spanning millennia!

(2) Herm & Knute's Toolkit, starting with an "easy" pop quiz

Review: Judges 16:19, Genesis 8:4, Exodus 20:13 and 16, 2Kings 2:11, Matthew 18: 15-20