

Understanding the Bible

By Doug Hamilton

3. Understanding the Application of the Bible

In the last lesson we discussed the creation and structure of the Bible. The word was originally spoken to the Patriarchs and recorded down by inspired men of God. 2 Peter 1:20-21, “*But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*”

The Jewish leaders organized these writings into the Old Testament which was accepted by Jesus Christ as authorized by God (Luke 24:44). Jesus gave apostolic authority through the Holy Spirit to preach His message to the world (Mark 16:20). The Christians who received these letters from the apostles. Because they recognized the backing of the Holy Spirit in apostle’s lives, the first century Christians made copies of the letters and passed them on to other congregations of the Lord’s church. When Roman soldiers later came to the churches and demanded their copies of the letters, the churches were willing to be persecuted and even cared before giving up their scripture.

By the end of the first century, the churches began to assemble these letters into a collection through a process called *canonization*. This method tested each of the letters against the Old Testament scriptures and brought a consistency to the word. False letters would be weeded out of the mix and the accurate writings would be included. It was not long until the church had a New Testament to go with their Old Testament. Today we have the entire holy inspired Word of God (Psalm 119:160).

What began as a book which was outlawed by the Roman Empire has gone on to become the best-selling book of all time, numbering more than five billion. With that in mind, I offer a proposition that this is true because our Bible is the most superior book to have ever been assembled. Here are seven reasons this is true.

Seven Reasons to Trust the Bible.

A) It is Archeologically superior.

The Bible is not a book that starts out “Once upon a time”, but in a time/place perspective. There are thousands upon thousands points of reference that can be validated from an archeological perspective.

- Mountains, rivers, lakes, cities, roads, trees and other references can be dated to be accurate.
- The customs of the varying groups mentioned throughout, from the cradle of civilization to the end of the first-century, are extremely accurate.
- Events from early on in the flood all the way to the persecution of the Christians are all in a time/place dimension.
- The cultures of the peoples, from the lowly shepherds to mighty kings, are all brought into the discussion of the text, all with great accuracy.
- Time and time again, when the Bible states a location of an event and the archeologists dig, the truth of the Bible's superiority in this area shines forth.

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B) It is Scientifically superior.

The Book of Genesis confirms the First and Second Law of Thermodynamics, genetic law, numerical sciences, biology, climate change, continental drift, the geologic column and dinosaurs. While scientists are constantly seeking a missing link that has never been found, the Bible made it clear they never would, for it was never there. God-hating scholars promoted for centuries the idea that we lived on a flat earth, but the Bible said differently.

- Isaiah 40:22, "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy..." (NIV)
- Job 26:7, "He stretches out the north over empty space, and hangs the earth on nothing."

Today the same God-hating types refer to the Christians as "flat-earthers" even though the term applied to themselves prior. There are hundreds of examples where the Bible was proven true and the educated elites were wrong. Without a doubt the Bible is superior in the realm of science long before microscopes and genetics were discovered.

C) It is Poetically superior.

There have been many works of poetry put together by men that resonate well in the ear. No publication in human history has moved more men in their souls. The Bible is poetically superior and a great source of encouragement. Of some of the inspiring verses contained within.

- Psalms 23:1-2, The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- Psalms 55:6, And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at home."
- Isaiah 6:3, And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."
- Isaiah 40:31, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up {with} wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13, And now abide faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (KJV)

D) It is Prophetically superior.

There are many hundreds of prophecies that were fulfilled from the Bible. In great detail great nations were accurately predicted to fall; droughts were predicted to come and they did; Kings were predicted to rise and fall; Astronomical events would occur as just as predicted.

Jesus the coming Messiah was mentioned hundreds of times with accuracy centuries before His coming, including His family origin, place of birth, childhood, His ministry, His miracle-working, His parables, His triumphal entry, His cleansing of the Temple, His betrayal, His type of death to be suffered, His burial, His resurrection; His ascension all were predicted centuries prior. From a prophetic standpoint, the Bible is superior.

E) It is Relevantly superior.

There is the misconception that the Bible is an out-of-date book that really does not have anything to do with our lives today. There could be nothing further from the truth, for it is truly

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lives up to the nickname, the Book of Life. Here are just a few of the relevant topics the Bible deals with.

1) Marriage:

The Bible gives marital insight in many topics including dating, engagement, covenant, sexual relations, family leadership and growing old together. Ephesians 5:31, “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.”

2) Parenting:

If you are like most parents in the world, you might have noticed that children are not easy to bring up. If only there was an instruction book with this topic in mind. The #1 best-selling book of all-time, the Bible, has been providing sound parenting advice for more than two millennia.

- i. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- ii. Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

3) Money:

Want to learn about money? Want to know how to make the ends meet and prosper? Want to know how to make good investment decisions? Want to improve your credit rating? The Bible provides great insight to financial issues in hundreds of verses. Entire national economies have come and gone for centuries, but the monetary teachings of the Bible are unchanging. Principles like saving, investing, debt, charity and fiscal responsibility are found in the Bible and most certainly are applicable today.

4) Relationships:

Besides our immediate family, the Bible advises us in other relationships that we have: Friendships, enemies, business, professional, government and employment. You name it; it is covered.

F) It is Morally Superior.

Think of all the self-help books that are on the market today. Many of these attempt to promote a standard of living for a better life. Some reach the level of a big seller, but none surpass the Bible. The Book of Life promotes a standard of morality that is head and shoulders above all other publications.

- While the world promotes "eat, drink and be merry", the Bible says to take it all in moderation.
- While the world says that being promiscuous living is good and will bring you happiness, the Bible said that it will bring great turmoil in their lives.
- While the world is saying "Survival of the Fittest" and “Dog Eat Dog”, the Bible says to love all and seek no harm to others.

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- While the world says it is okay to hate your enemy, the Bible says that we should love them.
- While the world is teaching us to put ourselves FIRST, the Bible says to value others as more important than ourselves.

Look at all the morality that the world is teaching and compare it to the morals taught in the Bible. Without a doubt, the Bible is morally superior. We all are going to develop our morals from some source or someone. The question is whether it's a quality source. The Bible has passed this test over and over through time.

G) It is spiritually superior.

What is the world of literature offering you that is comparative to the Bible? The Bible carries with it the words of eternal life.

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have {it} abundantly.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.
- John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.
- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is likely the top reason Do you want to know what the #1 reason is as to why the Bible is the #1 best-selling book of all time? It is because the Bible carries the hope of eternal life for those who seek to find it.

Summary

80 percent of people who have never read the entire Bible. There are likely some those individuals who in attendance today. Please, make sure to take a life-long challenge of the following:

- 1) Read God's Word Everyday!
- 2) Understand What You Read.
- 3) Practice What You Understand.
- 4) Share What You Learn With Others.