

The Wonder of the Bible

Introduction:

This morning we are going to look at the Wonder of the Bible. As believers we may take for granted the significance of the Scriptures in our lives. There are however, people out there who seek to discredit the Holy Scriptures by pointing out this discrepancy or this passage which is difficult to understand; i.e. – “women are saved through childbirth.” Unfortunately there are even well meaning Christians who believe in this part of the Bible but not that. So this morning I want to discover the wonder of the Bible in a fresh and new way.

Here is a classic Scripture that reveals the importance and significance of the Scriptures:

2 Tim 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I know of no other piece of literature that declares this thought; all the words of this book are breathed out or inspired by God. The Bible is unique in making these kind of statements; therefore I want us to look at some of the wonders of the Bible that make it stand alone as a book.

The wonder / uniqueness of the Scriptures:

Josh McDowell's book Evidence that Demands a Verdict is a classic book defending the Word of God. In Chapter 1 he makes reference to six wonders that the Bible can base its foundation upon. I want to inspire you this morning with the knowledge that the Scriptures are a wonder to behold.

The Bible is wonderful because of its:

1. Continuity
 - As an inspired book of God, it was written over a 1500 year period; that's 40 generations.
 - The Bible was written by over 40 authors from all walks of life... Moses, Peter, Matthew, Daniel, Amos, Luke and Paul.
 - Written in different locations; three separate continents, from prisons to palaces.
 - Written in different moods.
 - Written three different languages; Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
 - The Bible (39 OT and 27 NT books) includes many different subjects – sometimes controversial – and yet the overall theme is clear: “God's redemption of mankind.”

Just imagine for a moment that your family has a book that has been passed down for 40 generations and now it is your turn to add to it. What a challenge to preserve its message.

2. Circulation

The Bible is the most popular book of all history. Forget the Da Vinci Code or the latest self help book. The Bible will outsell these every year, and still be a best seller when they are forgotten.

There are more copies of the Bible as an ancient piece of literature than any other.

Around 60 years ago, the British and Foreign Bible Society to meet its demands, had to publish one copy of the Holy Bible every three seconds day and night. Over the years the Bible has been the number one produced book on the planet.

3. Translation

The Bible is the book translated into other languages more than any other. Because of this you can find the Bible on every continent and in every country of the world. This is the result of painstaking work of the ancient scribes who recorded the Word of God and modern translators.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, working in partnership with language communities and local organizations, is involved in active Bible translation programs in more than 1,500 languages, potentially impacting 2.6 billion people.

Today, more than 2,500 languages have some Scripture or the entire Bible. However, people in nearly 2,100 additional language groups, for whom no translation has even begun, need Scripture that speaks to their hearts.

4. Survival

The Bible has survived through centuries of criticism and persecution. The Bible was written on material that perishes, having to be copied over and over for centuries before the invention of the printing press. This however did not diminish its style, correctness nor existence.

The Bible also survived years of persecution where kings and leaders would actually burn the book to rid their empires of the influence of Christianity. In addition to the persecution the Bible has survived years of criticism from various opponents and antagonists.

5. The Bible is wonderful in its teachings

This is the most personal aspect of the Bible touching our lives today. We are told the Scriptures are profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. The personal application of biblical truth is a wonderful thing to experience, especially knowing that God is the One behind the inspiration of truth.

Another wonderful aspect of the Scriptures is that of prophecy. The Scriptures prophesy about the person of Jesus Christ before he was even born; that cannot be said about any other spiritual figure in history. This prophetic aspect of Scripture allows the Spirit to speak to us out of the Scriptures into our modern culture. The Bible teaches us about history and about human personalities in encounters with God. There is much to be learned through these examples in Scripture.

6. The Bible is wonderful in its influence

The influence of the Bible can be seen in several aspects within our society today. Firstly, the Bible has been regarded a chief foundation within British Common Law. As well, there is much influence upon literature as seen through authors over the years; Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress as one example.

In conclusion:

The wonder of the Bible is significant in many ways; it has survived over the years and become the most influential and acquired book of history. The Bible is not only popular; it is full of revelation about God and how this reality affects you and me today. The central character of Jesus Christ is predicted in the Old Testament and then realized in the New Testament.

The Bible was written by God via men! It's a great anchor in times of trouble and prosperity. The more you read it - the more it reveals to you. You should read it and find out for yourself.

Application:

Read, Study, Meditate, Memorize, ???

Around your tables share the most significant and inspiring verses of Scripture that God has given you.