

Searching The Scriptures

(rev.02 M.A.R.)

What is the Bible?

I. Is the Bible the inspired Word of God?

A. External evidences of the divine origin of the Bible.

1. Its Production.

a. The Bible was produced over a time span of about one thousand five hundred years.

1. Century after century men added to this book, unaware, for the most part, of one another's writings and sometimes in the dark as to the meaning of some of their own words.

b. The Bible was written by more than forty different authors.

1. The backgrounds of these different men were diverse.

c. The Bible was written in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).

d. The Bible is one book and yet many books. It is not merely a collection of historical narratives, letters, stories, and poetry. It is a perfect unity that is composed of many diverse elements.

e. The Bible is a progressive revelation which harmoniously traces redemption from Genesis to Revelation. It is a unified and self-consistent portrait that centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ as Its primary theme.

2. Its Preservation.

a. In spite of persecution, perversion, criticism, abuse, and time, the Bible has survived intact.

3. Its Proclamations.

- a. Over a quarter of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written, and these prophecies stand alone in their graphic detail, accuracy, and scope.

4. Its Product.

- a. No other book has so profoundly influenced the culture and history of the world.
- b. It has not only changed history, but it has also changed millions of lives. Its witness to redemption in Christ has provided hope, joy, and purpose for all who have appropriated it.

B. Internal evidences of the divine origin of the Bible.

1. The Bible claims Its divine origin and authority.

a. 2 Tim. 3:16-17:

"All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

b. 2 Ptr. 1:20-21:

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost."

c. Jn. 17:17:

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

d. Ps. 119:160:

"Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever."

II. Evidence that demands a verdict.

A. All things considered, the weight of evidence is staggering. As the narrative of mankind continues to unfold before all the world, the prophecies of the Bible are proven again and again.

B. Based upon the evidence and considering the fact that mankind is greatly impacted through Its revelations, all of mankind will have to render a verdict regarding the Bible. Whether one accepts or rejects the Bible, Its revelations can not be ignored.