

The Seven Wonders of the Bible

Part I - Internal Consistency

Introduction: Marina Noyes, “When the trouble comes, we cry. When it gets bad, we pray. When it becomes unbearable, we sing.”

Psalm 27:6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

26 Million Americans Stopped Reading the Bible Regularly During COVID-19 - But in 2022, it dropped 11 points. Now only 39 percent say they read the Bible multiple times per year or more. It is the steepest, sharpest decline on record.

The Ukrainian Church Leaders: ‘We Need More Bibles’ - “There are mothers wailing for their sons outside the hospitals; there are children who won’t remember their fathers’ faces; thousands of people are feeling hopeless and afraid. But we have noted something else too: church leaders are working together for peace, and people seeking for hope in Scripture.”

Isaiah 40:8 “the grass may wither, the flowers may fade, But the word of our God stands forever.”

(SLIDE) Seven Part series on the Seven Wonders of the Bible

September 3 - Internal Consistency

September 10 - Archeological Consistency

September 17 - Translational Consistency

October 1 - Scientific Consistency

October 8 - Prophetic Consistency

October 15 - Historical Consistency

October 29 - Cultural Consistency

This series is designed for those who have questions and doubts about the validity and reliability of the Scripture. This series will answer questions like,

- What is so unique about the Bible that I should read and apply it in my life? How were the books of the Bible chosen?
- Can we prove that the stories, events, and unexplainable miracles we find in the Bible are True?
- Do I have the same Bible that existed during the time of Jesus and the apostles?
- How do we explain the different versions of the Bible?

According to the Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Over 5 - 7 billion copies have been sold worldwide. An even more startling fact is that the Bible is the bestselling book of the year every single year. In the United States alone, 50 Bibles are sold every minute, 72,000 daily, and 26 million yearly.

The Bible is the most Stolen Book: Ironically, although one of the Ten Commandments is "thou shalt not steal," the Bible is the most stolen book in the world. Bibles are regularly taken from hotels, hospitals, bookstores, and other locations.

Bible is also the most translated book ever. The Bible has been translated into more than 3350 languages. Which makes it, without a doubt, the most translated text in the world, breaking all records.

The Bible was the first printed book ever. Johannes Gutenberg, In 1452, produced the one book to come out of his shop: The Bible. There are 21 complete copies of the Gutenberg Bible.

The Bible's principles and teachings have shaped and defined great civilizations from the ancient past to modern times.

1. **Egypt:** Dated as 1219 B.C, the Merneptah Stele is the earliest extrabiblical record of a people group called Israel. Set up by Pharaoh Merneptah to commemorate his military victories, the stele proclaims, "Ashkelon is carried off, and Gezer is captured. Yeno'am is made into nonexistence; **Israel is wasted, its seed is not.**" Ashkelon, Gezer and Yeno'am are followed by an Egyptian hieroglyph that designates a town. Israel is followed by a hieroglyph that means a people.

2. **Babylon:** CNN, August 12, 2019, Archaeologists find evidence of Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem -- as told in the BibleThe team noted that the recovered arrowheads, known as Scythian arrowheads, are "fairly commonplace" in battle sites from the 7th and 6th centuries BCE, and were known to be used by Babylonian warriors.

Ancient tablets reveal life of Jews in Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon:

More than 100 cuneiform tablets, each no bigger than an adult's palm, that detail transactions and contracts between Judeans driven from, or convinced to move from, Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar around 600 BC. Filip Vukosavovic "We started reading the tablets and within minutes we were absolutely stunned. It fills in a critical gap in understanding of what was going on in the life of Judeans in Babylonia more than 2,500 years ago."

3. **Persia/Iran:** Isaiah 45:1 Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, To subdue nations before him, And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut.

National Geographic: Was Cyrus the Great? Cyrus went down in history as one of the most benevolent conquerors of all time, allowing his subjects to live—and worship—as they pleased.

A clay brick inscribed with Babylonian Cyrus' name and titles and the statement that he established peace in the land.

A trilingual inscription declares Cyrus as King in Old Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian.

Relief of Cyrus the Great from Pasargadae

4. **India:** Esther 1:2 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia.
5. **United States of America:** George Washington, like most gentlemen of his time and social standing, was acquainted with the Bible, specifically the King James Bible, and he liberally seasoned his discourse with biblical phrases and allusions. Washington's papers contain hundreds of biblical quotations, figures of speech, idioms, proverbs, and allusions. No literary text is referenced more frequently in his writings.

Words found in a letter he wrote in 1783 - "The foundation of our empire was not laid in the gloomy age of ignorance and superstition but in an epoch when, above all, the pure and benign light of revelation [by which he meant the Bible] had ameliorating influence on mankind and increased the blessings of society."

In his first year as president, Washington said, “It is the duty of all nations, to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.”

Theodore Roosevelt : “(My) great joy and glory that, in occupying an exalted position in the nation, I am enabled, to preach the practical moralities of The Bible to my fellow-countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and Savior of the world.”

Internal Consistency: Basic facts of our Bible

The word Bible comes from the Greek word "Ta Biblia," which means “the books” or “the scrolls.” The word is derived from the old city of Byblos in Lebanon, the official supplier of papyrus/paper to the ancient world.

The Number of Books in the Bible Varies: While all Bibles have 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, there are additional books that are accepted in the different branches of Christendom.

- The Protestant Bible has 66 books
 - (OT: 1445 BC - 400 BC, NT: 44 AD - 94 AD)

- The Catholic Bible has 73 books
 - The deuterocanonical books or Apocrypha (300 BC - 70 AD)
 - Tobit
 - Judith
 - Baruch
 - Sirach
 - 1 Maccabees
 - 2 Maccabees
 - Wisdom

The Orthodox Church does not have a universally approved biblical canon. Orthodox Bibles can have between 79-86 books.

The Bible Was Written in Three Languages Across Three Continents

The Bible was written in Asia, Europe and Africa

The Bible was written in three different languages

Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew, while the New Testament was written in Greek. Parts of Daniel and Ezra were written in Aramaic. The Bible is written in many different literary styles: Prose, poetry, historical narrative, romance, law, biography, parable, allegory, and prophecy.

The Bible was written by 40 different authors

Farmers, Fishermen, Shepherds, Soldiers, Kings, Wise men, Philosophers, Tax Collectors, Doctors, and with personality and intellectual perceptions of their own, and yet the books they wrote do not contradict one another. Most of them never met each other, some of them were separated by 1500 years, but what they wrote has no contradictions whatsoever.

Sir Frederic Kenyon, president of the British School of Archeology, “The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in his hands the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries.”

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 21 or prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1. **The Bible Is Infallible** - This word means that the Scriptures are incapable of failing! Everything the Bible says is accurate, and everything it promises will come to pass! The Scriptures are in every sense perfect, and they are an ideal revelation of the mind of God to man!
2. **The Bible Is Inerrant** - E.J. Young defines inerrancy this way, "By this word, we mean that the Scriptures possess the quality of freedom from all error. They are exempt from liability for mistakes and incapable of error. They are in perfect accord with the truth in all their teachings."
3. **The Bible Is Complete** - When the Apostle John laid down his pen at the close of the book of Revelation, the Revelation in the Scriptures was perfect and fully complete. The Bible is complete!

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

How often do we read our Bibles? How much time do we spend feasting God's eternal and Holy word?

III: Evangelist Robert L. Sumner in his book *The Wonders of the Word of God*, tells of a man in Kansas City who was severely injured in an explosion. The victim's face was badly disfigured, and he had lost his eyesight as well as both hands. He was just a new Christian, and one of his greatest disappointments was that he could no longer read the Bible. Then he heard about a lady in England who read Braille with her lips. Hoping to do the same, he sent for some books of the Bible in Braille. Much to his

dismay, he discovered that the nerve endings in his lips had been destroyed by the explosion. One day, as he brought one of the Braille pages to his lips, his tongue happened to touch a few of the raised characters and he could feel them. Like a flash he thought, I can read the Bible using my tongue. At the time Robert Sumner wrote his book, the man had "**read**" through the entire Bible four times.

III: For this Hymn was written by Priscilla J. Owens, who lived not far from us. She was an educator in Baltimore for some 50 years. She taught at a public school and was also her church's Sunday school teacher. In her long career as a teacher, Owens had seen a generation of youngsters who grew up in the troubled environment enter and exit her classrooms. For if you look at the hymn, each of the first three verses she penned conveys that her students were 'lone and tempest-tossed,' had 'broken' hearts, felt 'fear' and 'grief,' and they walked in 'gloom.' And the only remedy she offered to their broken hearts and their tempest-tossed souls were to ask for the Bible. Give me the Bible...When you have the word of God in your hearts and by your side, you can lead a vibrant and victorious life. Amen!