



# The Bible Stands Alone

*Compiled by Jordan and Justin Drake*

In 1889 a schoolteacher told a ten-year-old boy, "You will never amount to very much." That boy was Albert Einstein. In 1954 a music manager told a young singer, "You ought to go back to driving a truck." That singer was Elvis Presley. In 1962 a record company told a group of singers, "We don't like your sound. Groups with guitars are definitely on their way out." They said that to the Beatles. Man is prone to make mistakes. Those who reject the Bible should take the time to look at the evidence before they come to a verdict.

## **1. It is unique in its continuity.**

If just 10 people today were picked who were from the same place, born around the same time, spoke the same language, and made about the same amount of money, and were asked to write on just one controversial subject, they would have trouble agreeing with each other. But the Bible stands alone. It was written over a period of 1,600 years by more than 40 writers from all walks of life. Some were fishermen; some were politicians. Others were generals or kings, shepherds or historians. They were from three different continents, and wrote in three different languages. They wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects yet they wrote with agreement and harmony. They wrote in dungeons, in temples, on beaches, and on hillsides, during peacetime and during war. Yet their words sound like they came from the same source. So even though 10 people today couldn't write on one controversial subject and agree, God picked 40 different people to write the Bible—and it stands the test of time.

## **2. It is unique in its circulation.**

The invention of the printing press in 1450 made it possible to print books in large quantities. The first book printed was the Bible. Since then, the Bible has been read by more people and printed more times than any other book in history. By 1930, over one billion Bibles had been distributed by Bible societies around the world. By 1977, Bible societies alone were printing over 200 million Bibles each year, and this doesn't include the rest of the Bible publishing companies. No one who is interested in knowing the truth can ignore such an important book.

## **3. It is unique in its translation.**

The Bible has been translated into over 1,400 languages. No other book even comes close.

## **4. It is unique in its survival.**

In ancient times, books were copied by hand onto manuscripts which were made from parchment and would decay over time. Ancient books are available today only because someone made copies of the originals to preserve them. For



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example, the original writings of Julius Caesar are no longer around. We know what he wrote only by the copies we have. Only 10 copies still exist, and they were made 1,000 years after he died. Only 600 copies of Homer's The Iliad exist, made 1,300 years after the originals were written. No other book has as many copies of the ancient manuscripts as the Bible. In fact, there are over 24,000 copies of New Testament manuscripts, some written within 35 years of the writer's death.

## **5. It is unique in withstanding attack.**

No other book has been so attacked throughout history as the Bible. In A.D. 300 the Roman emperor Diocletian ordered every Bible burned because he thought that by destroying the Scriptures he could destroy Christianity. Anyone caught with a Bible would be executed. But just 25 years later, the Roman emperor Constantine ordered that 50 perfect copies of the Bible be made at government expense. The French philosopher Voltaire, a skeptic who destroyed the faith of many people, boasted that within 100 years of his death, the Bible would disappear from the face of the earth. Voltaire died in 1728, but the Bible lives on. The irony of history is that 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society moved into his former house and used his printing presses to print thousands of Bibles.

The Bible has also survived criticism. No book has been more attacked for its accuracy. And yet archeologists are proving every year that the Bible's detailed descriptions of historic events are correct.

Taken from the Evidence Bible, a resource that can be purchased at [www.livingwaters.com](http://www.livingwaters.com)

## **The Uniqueness of the Bible (Cont'd.)**

### **1) ITS UNITY**

The Bible is a very complex book with many diverse factors and it's unity is so apparent that it gives strong support to its divine origin. It contains an amazing continuity of message in spite of the fact that it contains many different ingredients.

- i. It was written over a 1500 year period, covering 60 generations.
- ii. Over 40 authors were involved in its final composition, each from widely different cultural and occupational backgrounds, including kings, a fisherman, a tax collector, a doctor, a shepherd, etc.
- iii. It was written in different locations over three continents, (Asia, Africa and Europe).
- iv. It was written in 3 languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Even with all this variation of contributing factors, the Bible has one single, unified theme concerning God's redemptive plan for man, showing that God was behind it all.



## 2) ITS INDESTRUCTIBILITY

I am sure that no historical artifact has been attacked as frequently and vehemently as the Bible and yet it has weathered the test of time through it all. Atheistic philosophies, higher criticism, modernists, liberal theologians, rationalists, humanists, communists and every conceivable brand of critic have launched repeated assaults against the Bible to no avail, but instead the Bible has triumphed over them all each time. For example, during the 18th century, Voltaire confidently boasted of the eventual extinction of Christianity and the Bible. However, only fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce countless Bibles.

“The Bible is no mere book, but a living creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it.” - Napoleon

## 3) ITS CONTINUED POPULARITY

Despite of all the opposition and persecution, the Bible remains the all-time best seller! Since 1456, when Johannes Gutenberg’s press printed the first Bible, 7 billion copies have been printed. No other book even comes close to that in popularity and circulation. It has been here for around 1900 years and it is still loved, read and studied by millions!

## 4) THE ACCURACY OF ITS MANUSCRIPTS

There are over 5,400 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, over 10,000 of the Latin Vulgate, and at least 9,300 other early versions. A total of over 24,000 manuscript copies or portions of the N.T. are in existence today

Compared to other ancient writings such as Homer’s Iliad or Caesar’s Gallic Wars, the Bible has more manuscript evidence supporting its reliability and accuracy of translation than any ten pieces of ancient literature combined! So conclusive is the evidence supporting this fact that one prominent scholar noted, “To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

The accuracy of manuscript translation, as well as the huge amount of manuscript material in existence, gives strong support to its divine authorship and preservation.

## 5) ITS SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY



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Despite popular belief, the progress of science has not undermined the Bible's accuracy. Not a single scientific fact or discovery has ever disproved anything in the Bible! In fact, they have repeatedly confirmed the scriptures' accuracy.

E.g. the Bible revealed that the earth was round nearly 2,200 years before the 15th century explorers realized that the world wasn't flat after all (Isaiah 40:22). The Hebrew word for 'circle' in this verse means 'sphericity' or 'roundness'.

Before the invention of the telescope, Kepler counted 1,005 stars; Ptolemy counted 1,056 stars and Tycho Brahe 777. But in 600 BC, Jeremiah revealed that the number of stars was innumerable, (Jer 33:22).

## 6) THE FULFILMENT OF ITS PROPHECIES

Throughout the Bible there are prophecies concerning nations, historic events and individuals. But what lends such overwhelming creditability to the divine origin of these prophecies is the fact that hundreds have been literally fulfilled in the most minute detail. God Himself established the issue of prophetic fulfillment as a legitimate test of divine authorship and authenticity, Isaiah 41:21-23, 26.

E.g. The Old Testament, written over a 1,000 year period, contains several hundred references to the coming Messiah -- all of which were fulfilled exactly in Jesus Christ. The chance that all these predictions could come true exactly as written is beyond most human's comprehension, giving to any honest enquirer undeniable proof that God inspired the writing of the prophecies in the Bible.

Taken from <http://www.biblicalwitness.co.uk/>