

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

If God's Word can be discredited, its requirements and, therefore, its outcomes are rendered negligible.

Unique in Continuity

- 66 books
- 40 authors—Every socio-economic background, every walk of life
- 3 continents—Asia, Africa, Europe
- 3 languages—Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic
- Multiple literary forms—Poetry, history, civil/criminal law, ethics, parables, biography, prophecy, personal correspondence
- 1600 years
- ZERO contradictions!

Unique in Survival

The reliability of the Bible must be tested by the same criteria that all historical documents are tested, which include the following three factors:

- The number of existing manuscripts—The Bible ranks first in all the world in manuscript evidence (5,300 Greek manuscripts; 10,000 Latin manuscripts; 9,300 other early versions; totaling 24,000+ in existence today)
- The dating of the manuscripts—New Testament original documents date to between 40-100 A.D. The average gap between original composition and earliest available copy is over 1,000 years for works of antiquity. The average gap between New Testament original composition and earliest copy is 70 years.
- The quantity of variation in the reproductions—The sheer number of surviving New Testament manuscripts we possess narrows tremendously the margin of doubt. Of the 0.5% of the New Testament variant readings, one-eighth amount to stylistic difference or misspelling.

Unique in Prophecy

Of the more than 1500 Old Testament prophecies, not one has failed in its accuracy.

Archaeological/External Evidence

- Codex Sinaiticus—This manuscript, dated to the fourth century B.C, contains the Bible in Greek, including the oldest complete copy of the New Testament.
- Dead Sea Scrolls—The scrolls date to approximately 100 B.C. and are identical to current the Old Testament in over 95% of the text (remaining 5% variations in spelling).
- Septuagint—The Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures were completed approximately 200 years before Jesus. It became the Bible of the early church.

If the Bible is only a history book, it is not threatening. It requires nothing from us.

- Scriptures do teach absolute moral truth.
- Scriptures do say that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory.
- Scriptures do say that we are in desperate need of a Redeemer and that there is only one path to God.
- Scriptures do say that Jesus is coming in great power and glory one day to judge all of mankind.
- Scriptures do tell us that some will be raised to a resurrection of life in eternity with God, and some will be raised to an everlasting destruction in Hell.