

SCRIPTURE VINDICATED BY ITS UNIQUENESS

February 11, 2018

Psalm 119:1-32

“Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.”

Psalm 119:161

Believers know that the Bible is God’s Word. It claims to be God-given, and its content powerfully affirms this claim. Those who’ve received its message know its divine origin, not only from its claims, but from their own experience of its life-changing power.

Its uniqueness is another irrefutable evidence that it is divinely inspired. There is not another book like it. To put it in these words is surely an understatement, for the factors that make it unique are so extraordinary that no reasonable explanation can be offered for its existence other than God’s authorship.

Has any other book been written over a period of roughly 1500 years? That is how much time separated its first writer, Moses, from the Apostle John, its last writer. If such a book were just now being completed, writing would have begun near the year 500. Approximately 60 generations of humanity separated them, and during that long span of time almost 40 different writers penned the content of the Bible. Few of them knew one another or ever spoke to the others.

The distance that time separated them mirrors the distance of their cultural separation. They came from three different continents, from vastly different cultures. One was from ancient Egypt. More than a thousand years later, one was born and reared in Turkey (Asia Minor), then wrote from Italy. Hundreds of years before him, another one, born in Israel, lived most of his life in Iran (Persia), and there wrote his portion of Scripture. Moses wrote while living as a nomad in the Arabian Desert. Paul was a citizen of the highly-structured Roman Empire, reared within a strict religious sect known for obstinacy toward the empire. Daniel wrote from within a dictator-ruled, pagan world empire.

The writers’ lives were very different. One was a prince groomed for governing Egypt. Another was a shepherd, military hero, poet and king. Another was a farmer, another a cupbearer for a king. There was a career bureaucrat who became a prime minister, a military commander, a Jewish tax collector, a Gentile doctor, a rabbi tent-maker and scholar, and a fisherman. In short, this was a very diverse collection of men.

These men, separated so by time, geography, nationality, culture and profession, wrote about the most controversial subject humanity can consider: religion. Yet they did so without contradiction. Not only were they free from disagreement, but they manifest a continuity. A progression of thematic development and a singularity of focus are conspicuous; this from some who did not understand what they were writing (I Peter 1:10-12; Daniel 12:8, 9; Deuteronomy 29:29). These qualities can be attributed only to a vast mind choosing them for the task, orchestrating their lives, organizing their writing, and illuminating their thoughts to create in 66 books of Scripture a unified, coherent whole. This is miraculous and astonishing.

One who refuses to accept the Scriptures is confronted with irrefutable confirmation that the Bible is not a work of man, not another religious book, but the Word of God. Its riches and its warnings are ignored at one's own eternal peril.