

Uniqueness of the Bible

- 1. One and only; single; sole.*
- 2. Different from all others; having no like or equal.*



Uniqueness of the Bible

*“Place all the sacred books of **the East**, if you will, on the left side of your study table.”*

*“But place your own **Holy Bible** on the right side—all by itself, all alone, and with a wide gap between them.*

“For, there is a gulf between... which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly, and forever... a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought.”

Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit, spent 42 years studying Eastern books and said the above in comparing them with the Bible.

Uniqueness of the Bible

1. Written Over **1600 YEAR** PERIOD (1500 BC-100 AD)
2. Written Over **40 Generations** (Mt 1:17; Lk 3:23f)
3. Written by Over **40 AUTHORS** from Every Walk of Life: (Kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, farmers, scholars)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. MOSES, Egyptian Prince (Ex 3:10) | 7. LUKE, A doctor (Col 4:14) |
| 2. PETER, Galilean fisherman (Mk 1:16 ^f) | 8. SOLOMON A king (1Ki 4:1,32) |
| 3. AMOS, Tekoan herdsman (Am 1:1) | 9. MATTHEW, Tax man (Mat 10:3) |
| 4. JOSHUA, Military general (Jos 1:10) | 10. PAUL, Scholar (Acts 22:3) |
| 5. NEHEMIAH, Judean leader (Neh 5:14) | 11. ISAIAH, Statesman (Isa 37:5-7) |
| 6. DANIEL, Prime minister (Dan 5:29) | 12. JEREMIAH, A priest (Jer 1:1) |

Uniqueness of the Bible

4. Written on **3** Different **CONTINENTS**:

Asia Minor: Gen - John, 1-2 Cor, Revelation.

Africa: Jer 43:6-8; 44:1,15-30 (Egypt)

Europe: Rom, Gal-Col, Thes, Tim, Ti, Philm, 1 Jn.

AND IN **DIFFERENT AREAS** ON THOSE CONTINENTS

1. Moses in the Sinai Wilderness (Ex 34:27-28)
2. Jeremiah in a dungeon & palace (Jer 37:16-17)
3. Daniel on riverside (Dan 12:4-5)
4. Paul while under house-arrest (Acts 28:16; Eph 6:20)
5. Luke while travelling (Acts 16-28)
6. John on the island of Patmos (Rev 1:9-10)

Uniqueness of the Bible

5. Written at Different Kinds of *TIMES*

DAVID was in a time of *WAR* (Ps 3:5-7)

SOLOMON in a time of *PEACE* (1 Ki 4:21,24)

ISAIAH was in a time of *PROSPERITY* (Isa 3:16 -23)

MALACHI in a time of *DEPRESSION* (Hag 1:9 -11)

PAUL in a time of *PERSECUTION* (Phil 1:13 -14)

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6. Written in different *MOODS*

1. Paul wrote in the heart of *JOY* (Phil 1:4; 4:1)
2. Paul wrote of depth of *DESPAIR* (2 Cor 7:5-6)
3. Jer wrote in time of *REJECTION* (Jer 15:10-21)
4. Job wrote of a time of *SUFFERING* (Job 1:20 -22)
5. Nehemiah wrote in a time of *HOPE* (Neh 6:16)
(Neh 8:10; 12:43)

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7. Written in 3 Different *LANGUAGES*

1. **Hebrew**: Original language of the Jews.

2Ki 18:26 “Do not speak to us in Hebrew”

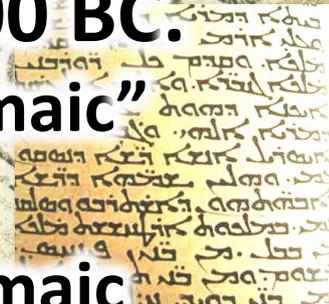


2. **Aramaic** = Trade language of Syria pre 300 BC.

2Ki 18:26 “Speak now to your servants in Aramaic”

Ezra 4:7 “The letter was written in Aramaic”

Dan 2:4 “The Chaldeans spoke to king in Aramaic”



3. **Greek** = Int'l language in NT times.

John 19:20 “In Hebrew, Latin & Greek”

Acts 21:37 “Do you know Greek?”



Uniqueness of the Bible

8. Hundreds of *CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS* without disagreement.

The Bible authors wrote on hundreds of these subjects which would create opposing opinions wherever else mentioned.

Each author wrote a portion of the total Bible & when all of the books are put together they not only agree, but form a continuous & harmonious story starting with “Paradise Lost” in the book of Genesis and ending with “Paradise Regained” in Revelation.

The gates to *tree of life* were closed in Genesis and *opened again* in Revelation.

Uniqueness of the Bible

9. Written in a Variety of *LITERARY TYPES*

1. HISTORY (Gen, Josh-Esther)
2. CIVIL LAW (Ex 21:26-36)
3. CRIMINAL LAW (Ex 21:12-14)
4. RITUAL LAW (Leviticus)
5. RELIGIOUS POETRY (Psalms-Song)
6. TEACHING TREATISES (Hebrews)
7. PARABLES (Matthew 13)
8. ALLEGORY (Gal 4:24)
9. BIOGRAPHY (Gospels)
10. PERSONAL LETTERS (3 John; Philemon)
11. PROPHECY (Isaiah-Malachi)
12. APOCALYPTIC (Zech & Revelation)

10. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *CIRCULATION*

"The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book. There have been more copies produced of its entirety and more portions and selections than any other book in history...

over all there is absolutely no book that reaches or even begins to compare to the circulation of the Scriptures.

The Cambridge History of the Bible, p. 479 says: "No other book has known anything approaching this constant circulation."

Uniqueness of the Bible

11. It is Unique in its *TRANSLATION*

"The Bible was the 1st book translated:
known as the Septuagint in 250 BC.

The Bible has been translated, retranslated &
paraphrased more than any other book
in existence.

As of November 2014 the full Bible has been
translated into 531 languages, and 2,883
languages have at least some portion
of the Bible.

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS **SURVIVAL** *Through Time*

"Written on material that perishes, having to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press, did not diminish its style, correctness nor existence. (1 Pet 1:24)

The bible, compared with other ancient writings has more manuscript evidence than any ten pieces of classical literature combined.

Homer, Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Cicero, Seneca

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS **SURVIVAL**

Through Time

John Warwick Montgomery (History and Christianity) says "No documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the NT."

A.T. Robertson, the author of the most comprehensive grammar of NT Greek, wrote, "There are some 8000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate and at least 1000 for the other early versions. Add over 4000 Greek manuscripts and we have 13,000 manuscript copies of portions of the NT. Besides all this, much of the NT can be reproduced from the quotations of the early writers."

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS ***SURVIVAL***

Through Time

"It seems strange that the text of Shakespeare, which has been in existence less than two hundred and eight years, should be far more uncertain and corrupt than that of the NT, now over eighteen centuries old, during nearly fifteen of which it existed only in manuscript.

John Lea in The Greatest Book in the World
compared the Bible with Shakespeare:

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS ***SURVIVAL***

Through Time

But in every MS of Shakespeare "thirty-seven plays there are probably a hundred readings still in dispute, a large portion of which materially affects the meaning of the passages in which they occur."

John Lea in The Greatest Book in the World compared the Bible with Shakespeare.

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12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *SURVIVAL*

Through Time

The Bible has withstood vicious attacks of its enemies as no other book. Many have tried to burn it, ban it and outlaw it from the days of Roman emperors.

“The observation that the Bible is the best-selling book of all time obscures a more startling fact: *the Bible is the best-selling book of the year, every year.*” New Yorker Magazine: Dec 18 2006

www.newyorker.com/magazine/2006/12/18/the-good-book-business

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS ***SURVIVAL***

Through Time

Sidney Collett says in *All About the Bible* :
"***Voltaire***, the noted French infidel who died in 1778 said that in one hundred years from his time ***Christianity*** would be swept from existence and passed into history; while the circulation of the ***Bible continues*** to increase in almost all parts of the world, carry blessing wherever it goes..."

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12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS **SURVIVAL**

Through Time

Concerning the boast of Voltaire on the extinction of Christianity and the Bible in 100 years, Geisler and Nix point out that "only 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used **his press and house** to produce stacks of Bibles."

Uniqueness of the Bible

12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *SURVIVAL*

Through Time

The Cambridge History of the Bible says that : "In A.D. 303 Diocletian issued an edict to destroy ***Christians and their sacred book*** . . . an imperial letter was everywhere promulgated, ordering the razing of the churches to the ground and the ***destruction by fire of the Scriptures***, and proclaiming that those who held high positions would lose all civil rights, while those in households, if they persisted in their profession of Christianity, would be deprived of their liberty."

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12. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *SURVIVAL*

Through Time

*The irony of Diocletian's edict to destroy the Bible is that **Constantine**, the emperor following Diocletian, 25 years later commissioned Eusebius to prepare 50 copies of the Scripture at the expense of the government.*

Uniqueness of the Bible

13. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *PERSONALITIES*

The Bible never attempts to cover the “shady side” of its heroes. The Bible just tells it like it is.

Abram sinned
Gen 12:11f

David was a sinner
1 Sam 20:5-6
2 Sam 11-12

*Bible Heroes
were sinners*

Peter sinned
Mt 26:69-74
Gal 2:11-13

**Paul: the
chief sinner**
1 Tim 1:13, 15

Uniqueness of the Bible

14. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS ***INFLUENCE***

In Christ

"This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than...

Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined."

Phillip Schaff- The Person of Christ

Uniqueness of the Bible

14. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS ***INFLUENCE***

by Christ

“Without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet.

He set more pens in motion, furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.” *(Philip Schaff, The Person of Christ)*

Uniqueness of the Bible

14. IT IS UNIQUE IN ITS *INFLUENCE*

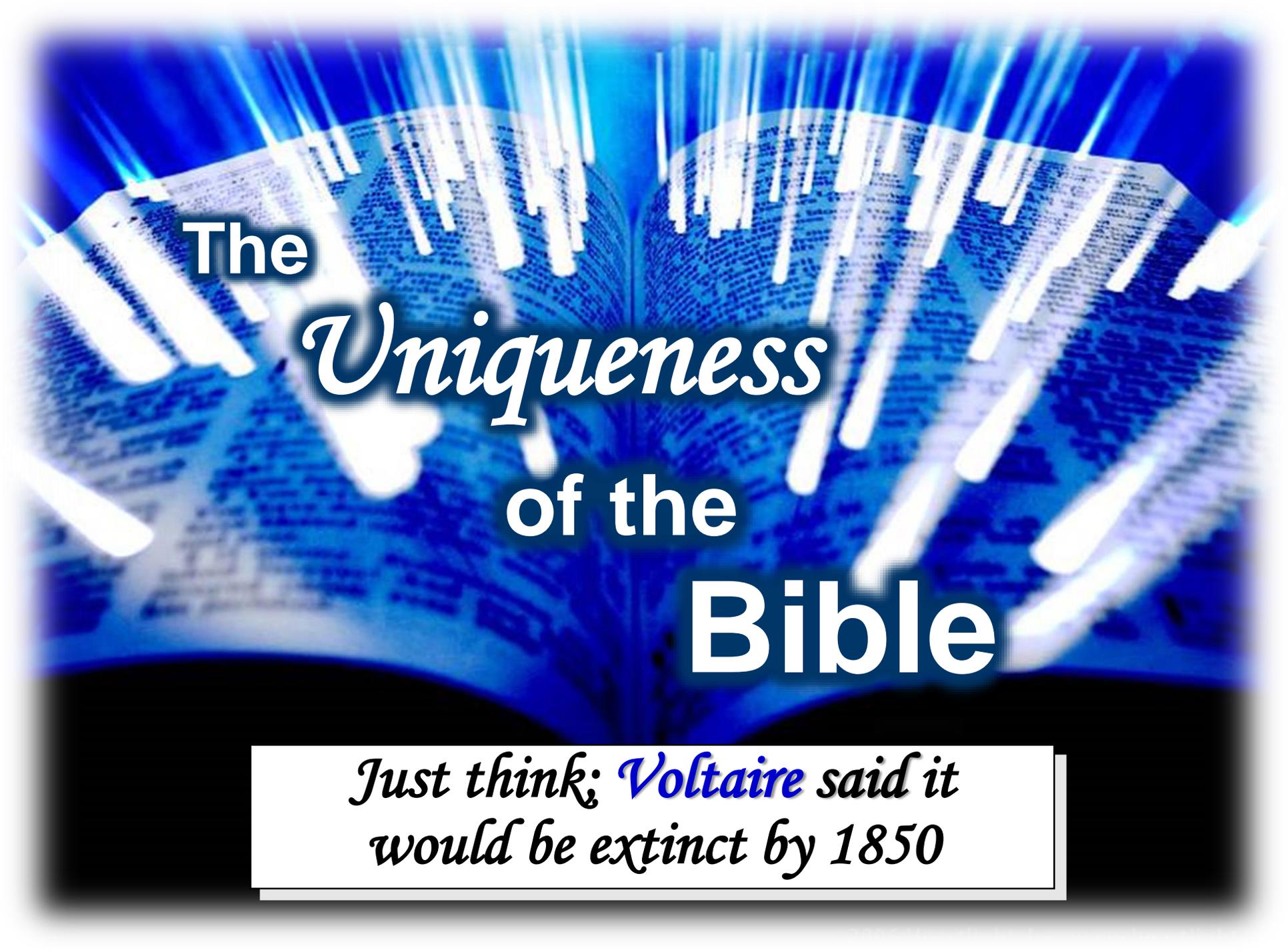
*On
Literature*

The Bible was the first book translated, The first book off the printing press. It is the smallest book, and the largest book ever printed.

The Bible is unique and one of a kind. There is nothing else like it on this planet. It is different from all others. It has no equal.

It was the first religious book to be taken into space.

Dec 24th 1968 the Apollo-8 crew read Gen 1:1-10 to the people of earth "In the beginning God created.."



The

Uniqueness

of the

Bible

*Just think; **Voltaire** said it
would be extinct by 1850*