Is the Bible as God’s Word Trustworthy: Unity of Scriptures?

Zanesville, OH | January 6, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 1 Thess. 2:13

**Intro**:

* It has been said that the greatest evidence for the bible being God’s word is the bible itself. One cannot argue against the bible being God’s word unless he/she has read it for himself. Many people hold the bible in high esteem as a great source of history and knowledge but do not see it as divine and the standard for which we must live by. What makes the bible so different and unique from every other book in history? It’s **UNITY**!

**The Internal Evidence**

1. **Unity is inherently from God**
   1. The bible repeatedly affirms that God is ONE i.e. He is a God of unity and peace and not of anarchy and chaos (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 14:33; Eph. 4:6). Thus, anything coming from a God who claims absolutely unity and perfection, one would expect it would exhibit similar qualities.
   2. The bible asserts that it’s message, doctrines, themes and examples all originate from God and no one else (2 Tim. 3:16).
   3. The men who compiled and wrote the words we have in the bible do not claim responsibility but attribute it solely to God (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:16-21).
2. **Unity in scripture despite diversity**
   1. The bible is so different from any other book in that those who wrote and recorded the events that took place according to God’s will number approximately forty. Even more striking than this if the fact that these men come from all sorts of different backgrounds.
   2. *“The writers themselves were a heterogenous number of people, not only separated from each other by hundreds of years and hundreds of miles but belonging to the most diverse walks of life. In their ranks, we have kings, herdsmen, soldiers, legislators, fishermen, statesmen, courtiers, priests and prophets, a tentmaking rabbi and a Gentile physician, not to speak of the others of whom we know nothing apart from the writings they have left us”* (Bruce, *BP*).
   3. The diversity of these men and the years that separate them is in and of itself overwhelming evidence that God’s fingers were at work in the compilation of His book. There is a vast difference especially between those who were educated and uneducated, yet the bible holds together in themes, doctrines and examples (ex. Gen and Rev. Tree of Life).
3. **Unity in scripture despite time span**
   1. The bible is unique and very different than any other book in that the events and messages we have recorded on its pages were compiled by forty men over the course of 1500 years or more.
   2. This would mean that the earliest books of the bible were written sometime after the Exodus in Egypt which fits well with the widely recognized suggestion that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the bible.
   3. What is perhaps even more striking however, is that while the bible was complied approximately 1400 BC to 100 AD its messages pertain to events occurring well before and well after the time it was compiled.
   4. One would normally think that over the course of so many years there would be a multiplicity of errors occurring. However, the bible is united from beginning to end despite its vast time span in compilation and its events harmonize perfectly together in history.

**Sources**

Bruce, F. F. (1984). *The Books and the Parchments: How We Got Our English Bible*, rev. ed. Old Tappan, NJ: F.H. Revell.