

## INTRODUCTORY LECTURE NOTES

## I. UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE

## A. Unique in its Composition

## 1. Bible Itself

- Comprised of 66 separate books
- Written over a period of at least 1,500 years
- Written by more than 40 authors
- Most didn't know each other personally

## 2. Bible Writers

- From different social and occupational backgrounds
- Wrote in completely different geographic environments
- Wrote under different circumstances
- Wrote in different states of mind

## 2. Bible Composition

- Composed on three different continents
  - \* Asia
  - \* Africa
  - \* Europe
- Composed in three languages
  - \* Hebrew
  - \* Aramaic
  - \* Greek

## B. Unique in its Thematic Unity

## 1. Bible has a unifying objective

- Who is God?
- Who is man?
- Is there a possibility for a relationship between God and man,
- If so – how?

- D. Old Testament Prophecy - 17 Books
  - 1. Major Prophets (5 Books)
    - Basic features of OT prophecy
    - Comprehensive scheme of Messianic Prediction
  - 2. Minor Prophets (12 Books)
    - Classed as one book in Jewish OT
    - Amplify Messianic Themes of Major Prophets
- D. New Testament History - 5 Books
  - 1. Only historical books in New Testament
  - 2. Foundational to rest of New Testament
- E. New Testament Epistles - 21 Books
  - 1. Church Epistles (9 Books)
    - Addressed to Churches
    - Doctrinal
  - 2. Personal Epistles (4 Books)
    - Addressed to individuals
    - Personal
  - 3. Christian Epistles (8 Books)
    - Addressed to Israel
    - Transitional
- F. New Testament Prophecy - One Book
  - 1. Only book that is directly from Christ
  - 2. Only prophetic book in New Testament

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. – II Timothy 3:16

Next week – Session II: The Pentateuch



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### C. Unity In Its Contents

Whole book is about one central figure – Jesus Christ

1. Old Testament points to this Person
  - Through metaphors
  - Through direct prophecies
2. New Testament shows us the fulfillment

### C. Unique In Its Relevance

1. Bible is centuries old
2. Still read regularly
3. Relevant in every epoch of world history
  - War
  - Peace
  - In the Dark Ages
  - In our modern technological age
4. Millions have found
  - Nourishment
  - Help
  - Encouragement
5. Only book in the world read
  - By people from all walks
  - From every age group

### D. Unique In Its Circulation

1. One of the first books that have ever been translated.
  - Old Testament was translated into the Greek language
  - The Septuagint - LXX
2. First major book that was printed - Latin Vulgate on Gutenberg's press
3. World's most translated and widest spread book
  - Bible translated into 2287 languages
  - Complete Bible into 392 languages
  - New Testament into 1012 languages
  - Single books of the Bible into 883 languages

### E. Unique In Its Survival

1. Written on perishable material
2. Copied by hand for many centuries

3. Accuracy or existence has not suffered
4. Survived most malicious onslaughts of its enemies
5. For centuries enemies have tried
  - Burn
  - Ban
  - Outlaw the Bible

## II. STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

### A. One Book

1. 66 Component Parts
2. Two Major Collections
  - Old Testament
  - New Testament

Old Testament	New Testament
39 Books	27 Books
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History</li><li>• Poetry</li><li>• Prophecy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History</li><li>• Epistles</li><li>• Prophecy</li></ul>

### B. Old Testament History - 17 Books

1. Pentateuch (5 Books)
  - All from one author –Moses
  - Before Israel entered Canaan
2. Early History (12 Books)
  - Multiple authors
  - In Canaan
3. Later History (3 Books)
  - After return from Captivity

### C. Old Testament Poetry - 5 Books

1. Personal / experiential
2. Deal with problems of human heart