

The Wonders of the Bible

Ps 119:89

Psalm 119:89 - For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Introduction:

1. The Bible is a book of wonders
 - a. It is the book of books
 - b. It is the impregnable rock on which Christianity is built
 - c. It is the Magna Carta of human liberty
 - d. It is the declaration of liberty from the oppressions of ignorance and superstitions
 - e. It is the Emancipation Proclamation of the souls of men
2. The Bible is beyond all other books as a river is beyond a drop of water, as the sun is beyond a candle, as the mountain is beyond a grain of sand.
3. Lincoln's comments on the Bible ←
4. In this lesson we shall study the wonders of the Bible

I. The Wonder of the Bible's Divine Revelation – Heb 1:1

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

A. Man Needed a Revelation

1. The universe declares God's existence, but His Word teaches about God's attributes – Ps 19:1-3
2. The creation needed to know what the Creator required of it
3. Man needed to know some things about himself
 - a) *Where we came from*
 - b) *What our nature is*
 - c) *What our purpose is*
 - d) *What is the real aim for our lives?*
 - e) *Where are we going after death?*

B. God Provided a Revelation

1. God spoke – Heb 1:1
2. Holy men wrote as they were inspired
3. 1Pe 1:21 **Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**
4. 2Ti 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

II. The Wonder of the Bible's Persistent Freshness

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

A. We Never Tire of Its Truth

1. Like an orange, you can squeeze it and squeeze it and there is still more juice left in it
2. It is the like the widow's oil and meal that fed Elijah and never ran out
3. It is an inexhaustible mine of wealth
4. It is like a fountain that never runs dry

B. For Centuries Preachers from Drawn from the Bible's Unsearchable Riches

1. The Bible is studied more microscopically than any other book
2. Thousands of commentaries have been written about it
3. Millions of sermons have been preached from its texts

C. The Bible is Inexhaustible

1. It is the bread of life and no matter how we slice it today, there is plenty left for tomorrow
2. The works of men become stale and obsolete
3. We need to store the word in our hearts and use a fresh supply every day
4. Jesus used the Word to battle the devil in the wilderness

III. The Wonder of the Bible's Amazing Unity – Col 1:18

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

A. The Unique Circumstances Under Which It was Written

1. It was written on at least two continents
2. It was written in three languages
3. It was completed over 16 centuries
4. It was penned by 40 authors of different vocations
 - a) Judges Kings Priests Prophets
 - b) Patriarchs Ministers, herdsmen Scribes
 - c) Soldiers Physicians Fishermen
5. It was written under a variety of conditions
 - a) In tents In deserts In cities
 - b) In palaces In dungeons
 - c) In the time of danger In the time of joy
 - d) In spite of all this, there is unity

B. The Bible Deals with a Central Unified Theme

1. The authors never knew each other and yet the central theme of the Bible stands
2. Genesis – sin and fall of man – our need for salvation
3. The OT promises a Messiah and His redemptive work
4. The gospels tell of his birth, life, work, death and resurrection
5. The epistles declare the precepts by which the redeemed are to live and die
6. Revelation shows the triumphant victory of the redeemed

IV. The Wonder of the Bible's Unique Teaching

A. The Bible's Histories and Biographies are Impartial

1. God revealed...
 - a) *Peter's denial*
 - b) *Abraham's lie*
 - c) *David's adultery*
 - d) *Moses' rebellion*
2. The Bible does not whitewash God's servants

B. The Bible's Teaching about Man is Unique

Ps 39:5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

1. Man is declared to be lost and doomed in sin
2. Man is seen as dependent – not independent

C. The Bible's Teaching About Sin is Unique

1. Man ignores, minimizes, justifies, denies sin
2. The Bible presents sin as grievous, deceitful, exceeding sinful against God, lawlessness
3. Ge 18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;
4. Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

D. The Bible's Teaching About the Savior is Unique

1. Great Bible characters stand out because of some quality they demonstrated...
 - a) *Noah walked with God*
 - b) *Abraham had unwavering faith*
 - c) *Joseph was pure* *Moses was meek*
 - d) *Joshua had courage* *Paul had zeal*
2. In Jesus we find all these qualities combined

E. The Bible's Teaching is Authoritative

1. The Bible is the final court of appeal
2. To reject the Word of God is to reject Christ
3. Joh 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.
4. Re 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

V. The Wonder of Its Survival

A. God Has Preserved His Word

1. This is a great miracle
2. The Bible has emerged from the fires of persecution unscathed

B. It is the Oldest Book, Yet It Has Survived

1. It took 16 centuries to write and the Bible has been around 18 centuries since
2. It is a wonder that the Bible has survived till the 21st century
3. Bible lands were engaged in war and the Bible survived
4. Govts changed, empires crumbled, yet the Bible stands

C. The Bible Has Survived the Attacks of Its Enemies

1. Antiochus Epiphanes sought to destroy the temple and the law of the Jews and substitute Greek culture
2. Diocletian sought to wipe out Christianity by burning Christians and the Bible
3. Skeptics like Voltaire, Paine, and Ingersoll have blasted away at the Bible and boasted that it would become a forgotten book
4. They and their works are dead, but the Bible lives on

D. The Bible Survives Because of God's Faithful Promise

1. Christianity is the religion of the book and so God has preserved the book by his overruling hand of providence
2. My Word shall never pass away
1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

VI. The Wonder of the Bible's Power in the Lives of Men

A. It is Living and Powerful – Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1. The Bible lives because God lives
2. The Bible is powerful – it operates, moves, works and saves
3. The Bible is penetrating as it reaches to the depth of the human soul and lays it bare
4. The Bible is discerning and revealing

B. The Bible is God's Power to Salvation

1. It convicts man of sin

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

2. The Bible Leads the Christian

Ro 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

C. The Bible Comforts the Grieved

1. Answer to atheist

Conclusion:

1. Why don't we read the Bible more?
2. Why don't we love the Bible more?
3. If you are lost, will you believe the message of the Bible today?

Gaylord Kambarami, the General Secretary of the Bible Society in Zimbabwe, tried to give a New Testament to a very belligerent man. The man insisted he would roll the pages and use them to make cigarettes. Mr. Kambarami said, "I understand that, but at least promise to read the page of the New Testament before you smoke it." The man agreed, and the two went their separate ways. Fifteen years later, the two men met at a Methodist convention in Zimbabwe. The scripture-smoking pagan had found Christ and was now a full-time evangelist. He told the audience, "I smoked Matthew and I smoked Mark and I smoked Luke. But when I got to John 3:16, I couldn't smoke anymore. My life was changed from that moment." Aren't you glad God's book is more than just words on paper?

Replying to an atheist who had mailed him some infidel literature, one Christian gave the following excellent answer: "My dear sir, if you have anything better than the Sermon on the Mount, the story of the Prodigal Son and that of the Good Samaritan, or if you have any code of morals superior to the Ten Commandments, or if you can suggest anything more consoling and beautiful than the 23rd Psalm, or if you can supply anything that will throw more light on the future and reveal to me a Father more merciful and kind than the New Testament does, please send it along." There was no answer.

In one of the Peanuts comic strips, Peppermint Patty came to grips with a shocking truth. She was turning to Marsha for a few answers in school. Marsha exhorted Patty to stop asking her for answers and she said, "I don't have all the answers. Sometimes I just guess." Peppermint Patty became very distressed and replied, "You guess? You've been giving me answers that you just guessed?!!" Unfortunately, Peppermint Patty's predicament doesn't just exist in the fantasy world of comics. Every day, countless people depend upon others to give them answers that may be nothing more than a guess; quite possibly a bad guess. We don't have to bank our eternity on somebody's guess, we can find the answer for ourselves in the truth of God's Word.

My five-year-old daughter, Barbara, had disobeyed me and had been sent to her room. After a few minutes, I went in to talk with her about what she had done. Teary-eyed, she asked, "Why do we do wrong things, Mommy?" "Sometimes the devil tells us to do something wrong," I replied, "and we listen to him. We need to listen to God instead." To which she sobbed, "But God doesn't talk loud enough!"

In 1864, Abraham Lincoln was honored by the Committee of Colored People. On this special occasion, he was presented with a Bible. He responded to this gift by declaring, "In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

During the Korean War, Billy Graham had the opportunity of ministering to American soldiers. While there, he learned of an incident that stirred his heart. On Christmas Eve, a young Marine lay dying on Heartbreak Ridge. One of the chaplains climbed up to the young man and whispered, "May I help you, son?" The Marine replied, "No, it's all right." The chaplain was amazed at the soldier's tranquillity. When he glanced down at the man's side he understood the source. He was clutching a small New Testament in his bloody hand and his finger was placed on the calm assurance of John 14:27, "My peace I give to you . . ."