

Kingdom Order for the Family

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Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV) “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. The Bible has had the greatest impact for good than any other book ever written. Listen to what great leaders have said about the Bible:

“The best religion the world has ever known is the religion of the Bible. It builds up all that is good.”—Rutherford B. Hayes

“Here is a Book worth more than all the other books which were ever printed.”—Patrick Henry

“That book, Sir, is the Rock upon which our republic rests.”—Andrew Jackson

“The more profoundly we study this wonderful Book, and the more closely we observe its divine precepts, the better citizens we will become and the higher will be our destiny as a nation.”—William McKinley

“There are a good many problems before the American people today, and before me as President, but I expect to find the solution of those problems just in the proportion that I am faithful in the study of the Word of God.”—Woodrow Wilson

“The whole inspiration of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life.”—Herbert Hoover

“We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic.”—Franklin D. Roosevelt

“I believe the Bible is the best gift God has given to man...But for this Book, we could not know right from wrong...Take all you can of this Book upon reason, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a happier man.”—Abraham Lincoln

“The Bible is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its words. In no other Book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality, and hope.”—Dwight D. Eisenhower

“England has two books, the Bible and Shakespeare. England made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England.”—Victor Hugo of Les Miserables

“The Bible is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced.... A single line in the Bible has consoled me more than all the books I ever read besides.”—Immanuel Kant, one of the world's most influential philosophers

“So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society.”—President John Quincy Adams

A number of years ago 1,200 university presidents and 1,000 CEOs were asked to name the book that had most affected their lives. The Bible was by far the most influential book in this survey of leaders. One in four listed the Bible as the most important book in their lives. The second book on the list—Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities—was named as the most influential book by one in twenty-five.

What makes the Bible so different from other books? First, the Bible is not simply one book. It is an entire library of books covering the whole range of literature including history, poetry, drama, biography, prophecy, philosophy, science, and inspirational reading. Little wonder, then, that all or part

of the Bible has been translated into more than twelve hundred languages, and every year more copies of the Bible are sold than any other single book.

The Bible is composed of sixty-six different books: thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Jerome called the Bible "The Divine Library" The Bible was written over a span of sixteen hundred years during sixty generation. The Bible was written through forty-plus authors coming from different walks of life including farmers, business people, poor and wealthy people, philosophers, fishermen, and kings.

The Bible was written in different places and on three different continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written during times of prosperity and adversity, war and peace, and obedience and rejection. The Bible addresses both Eastern and Western cultures.

The Bible was written in three different languages—Hebrew, Chaldea, and Koine Greek. The Bible incorporates every form of literature and every figure of speech and addresses hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet the Bible is an absolute harmony from beginning to end. Josh McDowell, writing in *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, puts the Bible's uniqueness into perspective for us: "*There is one unfolding story from Genesis to Revelation: the redemption of mankind through the Messiah—the Old Testament through the coming Messiah, the New Testament from the Messiah that has come. In Genesis, you have paradise lost, in Revelation you have paradise gained. You can't understand Revelation without understanding Genesis. It's all interwoven on hundreds of controversial subjects.*"

The Bible is the best preserved of all ancient writings. In ancient times, books were copied by hand onto manuscripts which were made from parchment that would decay over time. Ancient books are available today only because someone made copies of the originals. For instance, of the oldest preserved books of ancient times, original manuscripts do not exist. Only ten copies of Julius Caesar's writings exist today that were made one thousand years after he died. Only six hundred copies of Homer's *The Iliad* exist and these were made thirteen hundred years after the originals. On the other hand, over twenty-four thousand copies of New Testament manuscripts exist—some which were written within thirty-five years of the writer's death. This does not include every portion of the New Testament referenced in the writings of the early church fathers.

The Bible has survived its greatest enemies. Rulers and kingdoms that sought to destroy the Bible are no longer around and yet the Bible is still here. No other book has been so attacked throughout history as the Bible. The Bible has been banned, burned, and black listed. Those who sought to read it, copy it, translate it, distribute it, or preach it have been subjected to great persecution, including death. In A.D. 300 the Roman emperor Diocletian ordered every Bible burned because he thought that by destroying the Scriptures he could destroy Christianity. Anyone caught with a Bible would be executed. But twenty-five years later, the Roman emperor Constantine ordered that fifty perfect copies of the Bible be made at government expense.

The Bible has survived its greatest critics. The French philosopher Voltaire, a skeptic who destroyed the faith of many people, boasted that within one hundred years of his death, the Bible would disappear from the face of the earth. Voltaire died in 1728, but the Bible lives on. The irony of history is that fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society moved into his former house and used his printing presses to print thousands of Bibles!

No book has been more attacked for its accuracy. And yet scientists and archaeologists are providing more proof every year that the Bible's content is correct. The Bible alone truly answers the greatest questions that men of all ages have asked: "Where have I come from?"; "Where am I going?"; "Why am I here?"; "How can I know the truth?" The Bible reveals the truth about God, explains the origin of man, points out the only way to salvation and eternal life, and explains the age-old problem of sin and suffering. The great theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ and His work of redemption for mankind.

The Bible is unique in its existence, inspired in its origin, infallible in its whole, inerrant in its parts, complete in its content, authoritative in its message, sufficient in its purpose, effective in its work, and determinative in its end result. Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV) declares, "*So shall My word be that goes forth*

from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Are you looking for a good book to read? Why not pick up the Bible, the greatest book in the world!

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