

BIBLICAL REVELATION

“The fundamental debate is really about the most trustworthy source of information about history. Do we start with the Bible, Which God says is true in every detail, including its history, or do we start with the changing theories of imperfect man? God tells Christians to walk by faith and that ‘without faith it is impossible to please Him’ (Hebrews 11:6).” _____ Bodie Hodge

THE HOLY BIBLE

“The Holy Bible, as a Book which is “superior to all other books”, “stands before the world unique, defying all comparison or competition. It owes nothing to any other, although every other is indebted to it. The Bible differs from every other book.

1. Every book must have an author, and an author whose moral and intellectual perceptions are equal to the task. Now we assert, that the book we call the Bible infinitely transcends the moral and intellectual powers of any man, or any set of men of which history makes mention; this is not less true even of the men whose names are associated with its production. Our assertion is that the Bible contains “the oracles of God” --- that God is its author --- that its origin can and must be traced to the Almighty mind.

2. Its history already is of itself a science, in which a lifetime would be too short to become perfect. Some portions of it are older than any known record besides. None of it belongs to one age alone --- “It goes up to the beginning of all things, and gives some prophetic notices of the end of all things” --- whilst every passing age affords some evidence that it is intimately connected with it. It gives us faithful biographies of such men as Moses, and David, and Solomon, and Daniel, and Paul, and John, and Jesus. Its history runs parallel with the history of the most learned, most mighty, and most polished nations of antiquity; and still holds on its way, and will, till “the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ.” Against it earth and hell have been leagued, and many times has every copy been hunted out to be burned, as though it were the enemy of God. Does it not differ, then, from every other book in its history?

3. Every author has a style peculiarly his own, and oftentimes it is so strongly marked that many who know the author can easily detect his anonymous productions. So is it with the Bible. The first thing which strikes us perhaps on minutely examining its style is its unity. Another thing is its style is its sublime simplicity. The treasures of Heaven, the secrets of God, the depths of eternity, are made clear to the mind of a child.

4. A book is worthless or valuable in proportion to the new truths it unfolds, to the light it throws on old truths, or to the purifying and elevating thought it presents. Now every page, almost every line, in the Bible, if thus estimated, becomes invaluable. But what are those revelations which make it differ from all other books? Among many others it reveals to us God in all His perfections. It reveals to us man as he was, is, and might be. The disclosures it makes on this subject are such as our consciousness approves.

5. But what book has exerted a title of the influence that the Bible has over individuals, and families, and societies, and institutions, and governments, and nations?!” It has gone hand in hand with civilization, science, law, and has been the precursor of all that could elevate the physical, intellectual, and moral conditions of a people. Happy is the man who experimentally understands its influence”!

Joseph S. Exell, *The Bible Illustrator*, Vol.1, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, USA, p. XXIII
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