

The Greatest Book

Throughout his history, man has written many good books, but none of the books written by men can match the greatest book of all, the Bible. The Bible is greater than all other books combined, because it possesses characteristics that a book of human origin cannot have. Think about just three of the most important factors making the Bible the greatest of all books.

The Bible is the greatest of all books, because it has the greatest of all authors, the almighty God! We know the Bible was authored by God, because even though man alleges it contains contradictions, not one of those allegations has been, or can be, proven. Additionally, we know the Bible is the product of the mind of God, because through his Old Testament prophets, God revealed things about the savior of the world who would come centuries after the prophecies were given. Jesus fulfilled them, everyone! The two most striking expressions of God's authorship of the Bible were recorded by two of Jesus' greatest apostles, Peter and Paul. Peter wrote: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:20, 21. Paul's words are even more directly to the point. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). The Bible is the greatest book, because it has the greatest author.

The Bible is the greatest of all books, because it addresses man's greatest need; the need for a savior. As Paul points out to the Roman brethren: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). That statement must receive the weight it deserves, because of another truth Paul later states about sin: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). No man could have expressed it so beautifully, nor yet accomplished the deeds behind the words of Heb. 9:24-26:

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with the blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Jesus provides man's great need for a savior, but He is the savior not of those who believe only and call on his name, but those who do the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21-23).

The Bible is the greatest of all books, because it offers the greatest of all possible rewards. Again turn to the majestic words of the Bible penned by the Apostle Paul: "for I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" 2 Tim. 4:6-8). What is that crown of righteousness?

Everlasting or eternal life (Matt. 19:29; John 3:16; 6:40; 10:28; Rom. 6:22; 1 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 3:7; 1 John 2:25). We must be mindful of the Bible's warnings, though. Among its warnings is that the eternal life may be forfeited. The apostle John writes that truth in no uncertain words: "Look to yourselves that we lose not that those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (2 John 8). Gal 5:4 concurs, saying in very simple language that it is possible for an individual to fall from grace.

The Bible is the greatest book ever written because it has the greatest author, addresses man's greatest need, and offers the greatest of all rewards. Among all books, there is no wonder the Bible has been, and will continue to be, the greatest seller!

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