The Bible

The Scope of the Bible Message

The Bible is a book that reveals the origin of man, sin, and hope. To know man’s origin is to know man’s persistent problem of sin. The Bible reveals the creator to be Holy (Lev. 11:44). Jehovah demands the same character out of His created beings (I Pet. 1:16-17). Those who do not live up to the Lord’s demands of perfection (Matt. 5:48; Heb. 7:18-19) are identified as living in sin (I Jn. 3:4). The sinful have no eternal place with God (Rev. 21:27). Seeing that all sin (Rom. 3:23) the Lord formulated a plan from before the foundation of the world that would save man from the consequences of their sin (Eph. 1:3ff). Jesus, the longed for Messiah of the Old Testament (Isa. 9:6ff), came in the flesh (Jn. 1:14), taught the gospel of the kingdom of God (Matt. 4:23), was crucified for man’s iniquities (Matt. 26:26-28), raised from the dead in three days (Matt. 28:1ff), appeared in the resurrected state during a space of forty days to many (Acts 1:3; I Cor. 15:4-6), and ascended into the heavens to reign as king of his kingdom (Acts 1:11). Jesus gave the apostles, through the Holy Spirit, divine revelation whereby men would be taught and saved (Lk. 24:44ff). Those who receive and maintain a life of faithful obedience to the Lord shall be rewarded with a heavenly home wherein is no anxiety, pain, sorrows, tears, or hunger (Rev. 21:1-8). The Bible warns that those who do not receive the saving gospel of the kingdom shall be eternally tormented in fire (Rev. 20:10ff). The Bible tells us that Jesus will come again to bring his saints home to eternal glory and all others shall suffer eternal condemnation in flames (Matt. 24:36ff).

The Bible is the Inspired word of God

The apostle Paul wrote, “All scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (II Tim. 3:16-17). Not only do we find that the Bible reveals man’s origin, sin, and hope but it too discloses the origins of divine revelation (i.e., itself). The Bible
is the result of God’s inspiration. God “moved” men to speak revelation “by the Holy Spirit” (II Pet. 1:21). The Holy Spirit “entered into” (Ezek. 2:1-2) and “fell upon” (Ezek. 11:5) the prophets of old and guided the apostles and other inspired writers of the New Testament times (Eph. 3:3ff). When all revelation was revealed that was necessary for man’s salvation the canon of scriptures was closed. Peter wrote, “Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue” (II Pet. 1:2-3). Jude (Jude 3) and James (James 1:25) confirm the fact that the scriptures are complete.

An Early Look at the Development of the Bible

Seeing that it is not God’s will that any man should perish in sin He saw to it, by His divine providence, that His revelation was made known to all men of all generations (II Pet. 3:9; Matt. 28:18-20). The art of writing, compiling a book, and making copies has not always known modern technology. Egyptian hieroglyphs (a system of pictures and symbols used to represent words or sounds) have been discovered dating back to 3000 BC. Writings have been discovered upon stone and clay dating as far back as 2500 BC. The Bible tells of how Ezekiel was commanded to write on a clay tile (Ezek. 4:1). Other writing materials included animal skins, the papyrus plant, and vellum (or parchment).

The first person mentioned in the Bible that wrote something is Moses (see Ex. 17:14). Through time, other authors such as Joshua (Josh. 24:26), Samuel (I Sam. 10:25), Jeremiah (Jer. 36:2) and the apostles (see II Cor. 10:10), to name a few, wrote divine revelation. As these authors wrote, their material was kept and bound into book form. These divinely inspired writings were used by subsequent generations as is indicated in Daniel 9:2; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Colossians 4:16; and I Thessalonians 5:27. Through a period of about 1,500 years all sixty six books of the Bible had been written and complete. It is generally agreed that the last inspired book of our Bibles was completed in the first century AD.

Writing infers language. The Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. These three languages continue to be used today in various parts of the world. Greece and the Greek Islands have as many as ten million people who speak Greek today. People in Israel continue to use Hebrew as the state’s official language. Those of Damascus and Syria continue to use an Aramaic dialect.

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