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**THE BIBLE**

1. Facts about the Bible:
   1. Divinely provided: 2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:16
      1. Written over a 1600 year time span.
      2. Written in three languages Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
      3. Written by over 40 different authors.
      4. Read by more people and published in more languages than any other book in history.
      5. Has changed more lives than any other book ever written.
   2. Divinely preserved: Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 138:2.
      1. Through time.
      2. Through persecution.
      3. Through criticism.
   3. Transmittal & Inerrancy
      1. Transmittal: Bibliographical test: over 24,000 copies of the New Testament are in existence today with the earliest complete manuscript dating back to 325 AD (a 250+\- time span) as compared to the next runner-up, The Iliad with 643 copies and a 500 year time span. Caesar’s history of the Gallic Wars has only 9 or 10 copies dated 1,000 years after his death.
      2. Inerrancy: Inerrancy extends to the original writings of the authors of the Scripture, not to the various copies. The originals were written on papyri (a perishable material). We have 92 fragments of this type that have survived. In the third century the scriptures began to be copied on parchment (animal skins) and we have a complete copy dating around 325 AD. Therefore, copyist errors are possible, however, when the copies we have are compared there is no substantial variation.
   4. Structure:
      1. Old Testament: written in Hebrew with small portions in Daniel written in Aramaic. 39 books in 4 categories.
         1. The Law 5 books (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
         2. Historical 12 books (Joshua-Esther)
         3. Wisdom 5 books (Job-Song of Solomon)
         4. Prophets 17 books (Isaiah-Malachi)
      2. New Testament: written in Greek. 27 books written in 4 categories: History, instruction, prophecy and the gospels.
   5. Prophetic authentication:
      1. God knows everything. Isaiah 42:9, 46:9-11
      2. There are over 2,000 predictive prophecies in the O.T. alone.
      3. Jesus fulfilled over 60 specific prophecies with over 300 ramifications.
   6. Central theme: God 's purpose and plan to redeem man from his sin to Himself.
2. The Authority of the Bible in our lives: 2 Timothy 3: 16-17
   1. Doctrine - What's right. Be a Berean. Acts 17:10-11.
   2. Reproof - What's wrong. Hebrews 4:12-13.
   3. Correction - How to get right.
   4. Instruction in righteousness - How to stay right. Psalm 1:1-3;
3. Study Methods: 119:160, 165
   1. Quiet time. Mark 1:35, Psalm 119:18 "…open my eyes…"
   2. Topical studies
   3. Inductive studies. 2 Timothy 2:15
      1. Observation
      2. Interpretation
      3. Correlation
      4. Application - James 1:22-25.
4. The Bible's transforming power:
   1. Cleansing power. Psalm 119:9, 11; Ephesians 5:25-27
   2. Renewing power. Psalm 19:7-11
   3. Sustaining power. Psalm 130:5-6;
   4. Birthing power - 1 Peter 1:23
   5. Growing power - 1 Peter 2:2