

## “The Doctrine of Inspiration”

### INTRODUCTION

The True Best-Seller of all Time vs. some “also rans”

An article in Newsweek from Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> of last year looked at the 30 Best Selling Books of All Time.

- #6 – The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis...85 million
- #5 – And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie....100 million
- #4 – Dream of the Red Chamber (Chinese fiction, 18<sup>th</sup> C.)....100 million
- #3 – The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery....100 million
- #2 – Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling....120 million
- #1 – The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien....140.6 million

They stated from the outset that The Bible, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, and Quotations of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, were not included because many of those copies were not bought and sold by printed and given away....But didn’t someone have to pay to have them printed?

Since The Gutenberg Bible of 1455, produced on his movable type press, there are estimated to have been 5 Billion Bibles printed, the Koran comes in at a distant 800 million, the Book of Mormon at 190 million and Chairman Mao’s Book of Quotations at 800 million.

But it is many, many more since those numbers were estimated by Guinness Book of World Records in . . .1995.

With the advent of digital copies and the progress of Bible translators working on new translations of the Scriptures, that number could easily be double that by now.

In spite of those vast numbers, here is what Wycliffite Bible Translators have to say about the work still to be done.

- “1.5 Billion still don’t have an entire copy of the Bible in their language...”
- “145 Million don’t have any of the Bible in their language.”
- “And 350 sign languages are still in need of a video Bible version”

What makes the Bible in such demand? Why have people given their lives to translate it into just one dialect? Why have people so generously given their money to have Bibles printed to give away freely? Why have some people risked their lives and some lost them just for having a page or two of the Bible in their possession?

It is, I believe, the most important uniqueness...that God, the author speaks directly to those who wrote it and who read it.

## **The Uniqueness of the Bible**

### **I. The Manner of Divine Communication... God Communicates...**

- A. ...Personally [“thus says the Lord” (425); “God said” (500)]
- B. ...Prophetically, Luke 4:14-21
- C. ...Profitably, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Transition: The Bible is a unique communication because it is marked by the miraculous.

### **II. The Means is Miraculous...Inspiration**

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “God-breathed” Greek: THEOPNEUSTOS
- B. 2 Peter 1:13-21 – “Spirit carried and controlled” But not auto dictation. God worked in and through the intellect, experience, vocabulary, and perspective of the writers.
- C. Verbally – God has bent low to use the common language of mankind to communicate. And since He commissioned men to write His words down, it should not be a surprise that he uses literary forms to communicate. Story and narrative, oral tradition later put down in writing, poems, songs, historical record, multiple figures of speech, and on and on. God is creative.
- D. Plenarily – “completely in every respect, absolutely, unqualified.”  
Thomas Jefferson couldn’t wrap his mind around this concept. The original Jefferson Bible can be found in the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Jefferson razor cut and pasted only the moral and philosophically pleasing aspects of the 4 Gospels and excluded all Jesus miracles and most mentions of the supernatural including the accounts of the resurrection.

### **III. The Miracle of Changed Lives**

- A. Paul – 1 Cor. 15:8-10; Phil. 3:4-12
- B. All the Rest of Us – 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Peter 1:23

## CONCLUSION

George Barna's poll: "53% of those polled who had read the book said it had been 'helpful in their spiritual growth and understanding'."

Romans 10:17

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

A tool: [Bible.is](http://Bible.is)

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