

BIBLIOLOGY (15)

(Remarkable Claim #3) - Hebrews 4:12

Again, here is a very unusual verse that makes some very unusual claims:

1. This verse states that the word of God is "**the Word of God.**"
2. This verse states that "the Word of God" is "**living and active.**"

The participle "living" is present tense, meaning that the Word of God is **continually** alive at all times. The participle "active" is a word that literally means "to work in", indicating that the Word of God will continually and constantly work in and move in people. This verse makes a remarkable claim. It claims that its words are alive. It claims that its words are a moving, living life force, which works in people. When a person presents God's word, he is presenting a word that is alive, not dead.

3. This verse states that it can reach and "pierce" the innermost part of man- his soul and spirit. This is a remarkable claim for a book to make that it can actually cut open and cut into the soul of a man.
4. This verse states that this book has the power and capability to "judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." There is no other book in all the world that can make such a claim. There is no other book that is equal to the Bible.

(Remarkable Claim #4) - Psalm 119:11

Here again is a remarkable claim- the Word of God which is "treasured" literally stored up in a heart can keep a person from sinning against God. The claim of this verse is amazing for it states that the key to purity in one's life and the key to not sinning against God, which is the greatest objective of all, is the treasuring of God's word in one's heart.

There is no other book on earth that can claim that it has the power to keep a person from sinning against God. This is a very unique claim about a very distinct power.

(Remarkable Claim #5) - Proverbs 30:5-6

Again, we notice the unique claims made here:

1. "**Every**" word in Scripture is tested, literally refined and pure. The word "tested" speaks of the refining of metals, such as gold or silver. This refining process was done by putting the metal in fire, so that impurities were purged out. The fire would separate the valuable substance from that which is not valuable so that the end result was pure gold and pure silver. The claim of these verses is that God has refined every word. The Bible states here that God has placed every word in His word and that every word is valuable and pure. God has refined every word and no other book in the universe can make such a claim.

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2. No person is to **add** anything to God's word, for severe judgment will come to the one who does. Since God has purified every word in His word, any human who attempts to add anything to God's word will be reproved by God and proved to be a liar. Those who claim they have received "extra" revelation or "extra" information from God, are those who will face severe judgment. Woe to any person or religion who dares to claim that their words and writings are additional words and writings of God. These people will eventually be proved to be liars.

There is no other book that makes such a tampering claim. In fact, some of the most scholarly works specifically state that they are not the final word or final authority. For example, many consider the finest writing on the historical setting of the N.T. world and the life of Christ to be Alfred Edersheim's, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah." Dr. Edersheim was a Jewish Bible scholar of the 1800s, who made an intense study of the "doctrines, practices and conditions of Judaism as they illustrated and related to the New Testament." It is considered to be a scholarly masterpiece. It is considered to be "The" work on New Testament life and times. In 1883, when Mr. Edersheim finished his first historical work, he wrote these words: "What labour and patience this required every reader will perceive-although even so I cannot hope that no misprint or slip of the pen escaped our detection." "My deepest and most earnest prayer is that He, in Whose service I have desired to write this book, would graciously accept the humble service-forgive what is mistaken and bless what is true." (pp.xviii-xix) As esteemed as this human writer was, the author still was very clear that he was not the final word.

Compare this statement with the opening statement in the Introduction to the Book of Mormon: "The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible." (Introduction) Just a few pages later in the section titled, "A Brief Explanation About The Book of Mormon" we read: "Some minor errors in the text have been perpetuated in past editions of the Book of Mormon." This, in itself, indicates that the opening statement concerning the Book of Mormon is a false lie. A book that is equal to the Bible cannot contain "minor errors." The Bible claims that "every word of God is tested."

This claim in Proverbs is amazing for it does state that every word has been refined and put into the Bible by God and any who add anything to it will face His severe judgment.

(Remarkable Claim #6) - Matthew 5:17-18

These verses are very unique and make some remarkable points:

1. Jesus Christ who is the living Word, specifically states that He is a copartner with the written Word. The word of God is extremely important in the mind of Jesus Christ.
2. The written word of God will be in existence and will be fulfilled as long as the heaven and earth exist.

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3. The actual words and letters of the Scriptures have a lasting and eternal value in the mind and thinking of Jesus Christ:

- 1) "smallest letter"- Literally in the original text the Greek word is "iota" (ιώτα). This letter is the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet - (ι). The smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet is "yodh"- (י). In the KJV, the word "jot" is used. Webster says this word referred to the smallest letter of the alphabet, but since generally it is not used in that context today, it is best to translate it "smallest letter."
- 2) "stroke"- Literally in the original text the Greek word is "keraia" (κεραία). This word refers to the little "point or extremity which distinguishes some Hebrew letters from others." (G. Abbott-Smith, Greek Lexicon, p.245) To state it simply, a stroke is the small difference between Hebrew letters. The KJV refers to this as a "tittle". A good illustration of a "stroke" can be seen by comparing the Hebrew letters "He" (ה) and "Het" (ה). The only difference between these two letters is a small gap in the upper corner. According to Jesus Christ, the Scriptures are not only inspired to the very words and letters, but to the very differences between the letters.

There is no other book in the universe that can make such a claim. Either this book is making the most remarkable false claim or it is truly eternal. Jesus Christ believed it was truly eternal, right to the very letters.

(Remarkable Claim #7) - Romans 10:17

Here again is a remarkable claim. The claim is that faith is produced by hearing the Word of God. Frederic Godet summed it up well when he wrote: "...faith is born of hearing ...hearing is wrought by the word preached." (Romans, p.387) There are many books that desire to be the object of one's faith, but there is **only** one that desires to be the source of one's faith. This claim is absolutely remarkable- that this book has the power to produce faith.

(Remarkable Claim #8) - Isaiah 55:11

Look at the claims here:

- 1) It is God's word, not man's word (notice verse 8).
- 2) It is a word that will not return to God empty. The word in Hebrew is one which means that God's word will always accomplish its purpose. When the Word of God is given out, it will **never** come back empty handed (Gesenius, p.768).
- 3) It is a word that will **always** accomplish what God desires.
- 4) It is a word that will **always** succeed in the way God wants it to succeed.

The claims are amazing- any time the Word of God is given, it will accomplish its intended purpose, even if it goes forth from people who are not right with God (Phil.1:15-18).