

1. Where the Bible Comes From

The Bible is God's _____ to the people He _____ and _____.

The people who wrote the books of the Bible were specially _____ by God so that what they wrote is God's _____ to us.

So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:19-21 (New American Standard Bible)

During and after the time when the books of the Old and New Testaments were written, people recognized _____ that the writings were not of human origin. These qualities include:

- Unusual _____ – 40 authors, including kings, prophets, judges, a shepherd, a tax agent, a physician, a rabbi, and some fishermen wrote over a period of 1,500 years in 3 languages, and the book harmonizes into one cohesive, complete message.
- Fulfilled _____ – The Bible itself sets the standard for 100% accuracy (Deuteronomy 18:21-22). Hundreds of predictions made in the Bible have been fulfilled in remarkably specific ways throughout history. Many of them are centered in the birth, life, substitutionary death, resurrection, and reign of Jesus Christ.
- Stark _____ – The Bible doesn't make its main characters appear as "bigger than life" heroes. Even the leaders of Israel and founders of Christianity are presented as flawed humans who matured and were effective only with God's help. Examples include Abraham, Moses, David,

Solomon, Peter, and Paul. The realism also includes events, such as family conflicts, military losses, and occasions of fear, ignorance, and doubt.

- Perfect _____ – The Bible describes history with astounding precision. This has been proven over and over through archaeological discoveries. It also addresses every issue of human existence with honesty, insight, and answers.

2. What the Bible Contains

- God's _____ – "law"

- The story of _____ from God's point of view – "testimony"

- D _____ for life – "statutes . . . commandments"

- The awesomeness of God – "fear"

- The _____ of God – "judgments"

