



MISSION
CHURCH

UNIQUENESS

OF THE BIBLE

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Ok, let's take a look at the bible for a minute. The bible is a really a collection of books bound together uniquely.

1. It's unique in **how** it's come about **and what** has happened with it. It has been preserved, translated, and circulated like no other book that has ever existed. It contains prophecies unparalleled in history. In the older section of the books (we call them the Old Testament) there are over 300 hundred prophecies alone that are fulfilled in Jesus the Christ. And in the ways in which we determine the validity of ancient literature (counting copies of manuscripts) it's overwhelmingly factual. In fact in order to doubt the historicity of the new section of books (we call them the New Testament) one would have to doubt all ancient literature.

2. It's **unique in the way it was written.** The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by more than 40 different authors. Farmers, shepherds, kings, prophets, orthodontists (OK, I made that one up), apostles, etc... These authors came from different geographical locations, from different times, from 3 continents, in 3 different languages. Even with all that diversity all the Bible writers agreed on not just one but several important issues. So, the way the continuity holds together from beginning to end is amazing.

3. It unfolds or reads in a unique fashion as well. Sometimes people get tripped up with this one. Let me put it this way...

A map will get you from point A to point B. But a map cannot tell you what you are going to feel or think or experience or go through while on the trip. If you read the Bible like a map... just wanting to know how to get to point B you'll become frustrated. Because there's just more to it... first of all there's a mapmaker who's a real entity trying to connect with you and secondly you, yourself bring all kinds of interpretation barriers into play when you read. It works best to slow down and read it in a multi-dimensional way... attempting to be aware of all the stuff going on within it and within your life.

Because seeing is one thing. Interpreting what you see is another.

The Bible can tell you how to get to places but more importantly it will help you experience and understand and interpret the journey along the way. Many people do not get this. They have what I might call a static, traditional or rules-oriented perspective. They haven't learned yet to attach meaning to what they're going through. They just want to get to the next destination. I would say stop working so hard. Stop trying to force the Scriptures to tell you what direction you should go.

It's likely you already know.

Just slow down on the doing part.

Work on the being part.

Be a part of the story of the Bible.

Be a part of your own story.

Maps can be seen. Stories have to be explored.

The bible can be read but ultimately

it winds up reading you.

Ways to learn more...

Check out our videos [here](#) →

Join us for Sunday gatherings [here](#) →

Grow in contemplative, communal and missional ways by joining a Mission Group [here](#) →

Most importantly:

Read this → The Bible

Pray this → The Lord's Prayer

Be this → Yourself