

I am the Bible . . .

I am the Bible, the Holy Word of God.

I am both ancient and new.

I am ancient as a product of time.

I am new to all who read me.

I CONTAIN:

The mind of God.

The state of man.

The way of salvation.

The doom of sinners.

The happiness of believers.

I AM:

The traveler's map.

The pilgrim's staff.

The pilot's compass. The soldier's sword.

And the Christian's charter.

I AM:

Indestructible

Incorruptible

Indispensable

Infallible

And, Inexhaustible

I am the most unusual of all books of all time.

I am God's Book for God's creation.

I bear His words from Heaven to Earth in hope

That one day man may bear his soul from earth to Heaven.

My birth was long.
My pages are complete.

Some 40 writers over nearly 16 centuries wrote upon my pages those messages
God gave them.

My authors were kings, shepherds, prophets, priests, statesmen, fishermen
Unlearned men, wise men, disciples, apostles, tax collectors, scribes, prisoners,
doctor, and a tentmaker among others.

I was born in many countries and on no fewer than two continents.
God breathed and I am here.

I was written by one hand and produced by one mind . . .
the hand and mind of God.

My words were formed in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.

I was scrolls before I was pages.

I was whole books before I was chapters.

I was paragraphs before I was verses.

I was in ancient languages before I appeared in modern tongues.

I was known in many countries before I came to be known in America.

Throughout history my journey has been hard.

Rubble fell upon me when Jerusalem was destroyed.

I have been locked away in dark places where men could no longer see my light.

Fire has ravaged my pages.

Ordinances have been passed against me.

In places where I was once welcome, I am welcomed no more.

In places where my words were read, only memories of it remain.

Men have denied my right to be heard.

Religions have sought God apart from me.

People have been put to death because of their love for me.

When Gutenberg invented the printing press, I was the first book

To come forth from that new technology.

My pages speak of law, history, poetry, biography, and epistles.

My words present all that God would have us know for now, so as
To enable us to know God.

I have felt tears fall upon my pages.
I have heard joy and rejoicing when my words were read.
I have felt heavy layers of dust remain upon my covers when men
neglected to pick me up.

I have felt the hands of presidents rest upon my bindings when
the oath of office was taken.
I have felt the danger of being smuggled into places where I was forbidden.
I have been carried into battles.
I have sailed upon the seven seas.
I am present at weddings.
I am sought at funerals.

I have been the subject of sermons.
The subject of debates.
The subject of ridicule.
The subject of legislation,
The subject of decrees.

I have been:
The charter of liberty,
The forerunner of civilization,
The molder of governments,
The fashioner of law,
The guide of history,
The friend of science,
The inspiration for philosophies,
The illuminator of darkness,
The enemy of oppression,
The up-rooter of sin,
The comfort in sorrow,

The strength in weakness,
The escape from temptation,
The answer to many questions,
The promise of the future,
The star of death's night,
The revealer of God,
And, The Book of all Books.

Read me to be wise.
Believe me to be safe.
Practice me to be holy.

Before you were born I was here.
After you are gone I will remain.
When you reach the judgment, there will I be before you,
For when the books are opened, of them I will be one.
Get to know me now so we won't be strangers there.
God knows my words are true for He put them there . . .
Now, won't you be true to my words?

Donnie S. Barnes