

## Upcoming Events...

**Business Meeting:** Today, April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

**1 Corinthians Class:** Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

**Barnabas Group Meeting:** April 25

## The Bible

According to Wikipedia, the Bible has been translated into many languages from the biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. As of September 2016 the full Bible has been translated into 636 languages, the New Testament alone into 1442 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1145 other languages. Thus at least some portion of the Bible has been translated into 3,223 languages. According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over 5 billion copies sold and distributed.

### April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight	11 Dolly Cashion	23 Shannon Hudson
3 Amanda Hoffman	16 Alana Hudson	26 Stori Rose Hoffman
6 Susan Hudson	17 Belva Meanor	

### April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

#### Preacher:

Mike McKnight

#### Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 28 No. 15

April 9, 2017

## A Brief Introduction to the Bible

By Allen Webster

**The Bible is the world's most amazing book.** It has been at the top of the best-seller list for as long as anybody can remember. It was written over a period of 1600 years by about forty men. The two fundamental sources of human knowledge are: reason and experience. But they are limited. The Bible claims to provide this third source of knowledge-revelation. It describes two forms of revelation: "general" and "special." General revelation refers to the evidence of God seen in nature (cf. Psalms 19:1-6, Romans 1:18,20). God's special revelation involves His more direct means of communicating (Hebrews 1:1,2) in the pages of Scripture.

**The Bible is the only book which can tell our past, present, and future.**

- \* Our Past: We were created in the image of a loving God (Genesis 1:27).
- \* Our Present: The purpose of life is to praise God (1 Peter 2:9).
- \* Our Future: We can live in heaven with Him (John 14:1,2).

**The Bible is the world's only divinely inspired book** (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13). Therefore, it is the most powerful book ever written (Hebrews 4:12). Mysteriously, the Scriptures claim to be completely divine and completely human. There is a parallel here to the God-man, Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man (John 1:14). God joined with humanity (Mary) (Matthew 1:18-25) to produce the sinless living Word, and in a similar sense joined with humanity to produce the inspired written Word. "*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*" (2 Peter 1:21). The styles, personalities, and vocabularies of the different biblical writers are quite distinct, but their work is nevertheless the Word of God (cf. Mark 7:13; Luke 3:2). One of the evidences of the divine origin of the Bible is its uniqueness.

**The Bible is unique in its production.** Century after century men added to this book, unaware for the most part of one another's writings and sometimes in the dark as to the meaning of some of their own words (1 Peter 1:10-12). In spite of writing from different places, in different centuries, and even in different languages, they never contradicted one another. The Bible reads like a continuous, logical work of a genius. That Genius is God (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

**The Bible is unique in its preservation.** In spite of persecution, perversion, criticism, abuse, and time, the Bible has survived intact. It is an anvil that has worn out many skeptic hammers (cf. 1 Peter 1:23).

**The Bible is unique in its proclamation.** Over a quarter of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written, and these prophecies stand alone in their graphic detail, accuracy, and scope (cf. Isaiah 41:22,23; Micah 3:8).

**The Bible is unique in its product.** No other book has so profoundly influenced the culture, thought, and history of the world. It has molded and dominated the art, music, morality, oratory, law, politics, philosophy, and literature of civilization.

### **What the Bible Says About Itself...**

2 Timothy 3:16 *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness"*

Romans 15:4 *"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

Psalms 19:7-11 *"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more*

*desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."*

### **What others have said about the Bible...**

**George Washington**, First President of the United States "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible."

**Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826), third U.S. president, stated: "I have always said and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, better husbands ... the Bible makes the best people in the world."

**Abraham Lincoln** (1809-1865), 16th U.S. president, stated: "I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God's word because it finds me where I am." "I believe the Bible is the best book God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

**Theodore Roosevelt**, 26th President of the United States, (1858-1919) "A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education."

**Ronald Reagan** (1911-2004), 40th U.S. president, said, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." He also stated, "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

**Patrick Henry**, American Revolutionary leader and orator, (1736-1799) "There is a book worth all other books which were ever printed."

**George Washington Carver**, an American botanist and inventor, (1860s-1943) "The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible."

**Charles Dickens**, British author, (1812-1870) "The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world."