GROVE BIBLE

UNITY OF SCRIPTURE

BIBLIOLOGY
PAPER





Unity of the Bible

The Unity of the Bible is an important truth regarding the united coherence of the overarching message of The Scriptures. The Bible is an aggregate of 66 divinely inspired books that expresses the unified message of God's glory through redemption in Christ. God has, "[made] known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:9-10 ESV).

Diversity of Scripture

The Scriptures were authored by God (2 Tim. 3:16), through men (2 Pet. 1:21), by roughly 40 different authors, from different geographical locations, various vocations, numerous genres, in 3 different languages, over a span of approximately 1500 years, in varying circumstances and settings. Yet, there remains one golden thread that runs seamlessly through the whole, namely, God's glory through redemption in His Son. Historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, gospels, epistles, apocalyptic, and wisdom literature make up the divine conglomerate of Scripture as a whole. God used prophets, fishermen, tax collectors, kings, priests, shepherds, military commanders, and scribes to communicate His authoritative, inerrant truth. The diversity of Scripture vividly displays the Divine Author's grand work of revelatory brilliance and power. As R.C. Sproul stated, "The unity of Scripture is a unity of diverse elements. These elements are not contradictory; rather, they are complementary. They do not merely coexist; they coalesce". Francis Turretin similarly highlights the diversity of Scripture, beautifully magnifying the unity therein, "The diversity of the writers does not detract from the unity of the Scriptures, because all are divinely inspired by one Spirit and harmonize in the same saving truth." The Bible is diversified, and yet, supernaturally cohesive. The differing elements of Scripture are like gleaming faces on the diamond that is God's Word.



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The Bible is united in a way that does not reduce its multifaceted splendor. As John Murray said, "The unity of the Bible is not merely the unity of general teaching but the unity of plan... The Bible as a whole is characterized by a complexity and richness which defy reduction to mere unity of teaching." God's grand plan of redemptive grace (Eph 1:10) is the spine that runs through the whole body of scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God knit together the tapestry of truth that is His salvific conquest through Christ (Gen 3:15, Col 2:15, Rev 3:21). J.C. Ryle said, "The Bible is one harmonious book, from beginning to end. It is the story of the Father's everlasting plan for the salvation of sinners, by Jesus Christ, from Genesis to Revelation." The Omnipotent and Eternal God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same God Who became flesh (John 1:1,14,18) on the cusp of the first century in Bethlehem and bled to save souls on the hill of Golgotha outside the city of Jerusalem. The Divine documents that record this message are united because they come from the same Sublime and Triune Being. God's holy heart is revealed in the unity of His Word. The zenith of this unity is seen in God's Messiah, who was prophetically anticipated in the Old Testament writings (Isa 53, Psalm 22, Luke 24:27) and vividly revealed through the writings of first century fishermen, tax collectors, and shepherds. From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of The New Earth, (Gen 2:8,15, Rev 22:1,2) God's united plan of salvation is brought to glorious consummation, revealing the Divine life and the glory of His Great Being. "The unity of the Bible is no shallow agreement of opinions; it is an organic unity of persons and things, of facts and revelations, through which, by a thousand veins, one divine life is coursing," (Abraham Kuyper). The unity of Scripture beautifully blossoms through the progressive revelation of His Word. Communion with His people (Rev 21:3) through covenants (Gen 9:8-17, Gen 12:1-3, Ex 19:1-6, 2 Sam 7, Jer 31:31-34) and The Christ (Luke 22:20) comes to fruition as revealed in His united Word, The Bible. People from every tribe, tongue, and nation comprise God’s Kingdom, (Rev 7:9,10) during the Millennial reign, (Rev 20:6) and ultimately in the eternal state (Rev 22:3-5). The unity of Scripture reveals the metanarrative of God's glory displayed, in Jesus, eloquently unfolded through the creation, fall, and redemption, vitally connected in the whole of His Word. "The whole of revelation forms an organism of correlated parts, all of which are vitally connected with the centre and in view of the purpose of redemption" (Geerhardus Vos).