

THE BIBLE MAKES US DISTINCTIVE

One of the things that should be distinctive about us is the Book we follow. The Bible is a distinctive book. It is the basis of all our distinctiveness. Most distinctive book in all the world (Unique and unusual book). Without it, we can't be distinctive.

- I. It is distinctive in the fact that it is the only source that provides us with the origin of the universe, the origin of man. . .
 - A. There is no other way that we could know.
 1. In the providence of God, the flood destroyed every vestige of evidence that science could have had in any way to try to probe back to the very beginning of time.
 2. Romans 1-When man laid aside the Bible, he could not understand the origin of the universe.
 3. Result of that: Without knowledge of God, man drifted downward.
 - a. He could not understand himself.
 - b. Without the Bible we cannot know ourselves.
 - c. That's what Romans 1 teaches.
 - d. He not only could not understand self, he could not understand his neighbor.
- II. It is the only source of the knowledge of sin.
 - A. Where did evil come from? What is it's source?
 - B. Apart from the Bible, we would have no idea. There is no way we could know.
 - C. Book of Colossians is partly dealing with fact that men were struggling with the source of evil.
 1. Had idea that matter was evil
 2. Thus, how could God, who was perfect, have anything to do with it?
 3. Col. 2:8,9.. Out of human philosophy, they were trying to solve the problem of where evil came from.
 - D. I submit to you today, the Bible is distinct in that Genesis 3 is the only place where you will ever learn where evil came from.
 1. Satan is the source.
 2. Describes for us what sin is, what it is all about..
 3. Without this book, we would not know, where sin came from, what sin is, what sin does. . . (All in Genesis 3).
 4. The very essence of sin is selfishness (Gen. 3:6).
 - a. Desires to make one wise. To obtain knowledge. Be able to get along without God.
 - b. To let self become their own God.
 - c. Live in harmony with their own will, doing whatever they desired to do.
 - d. Word "desire" is word translated (covet) in Joshua 7 (Achan)
 - e. Out of that. . . came sin.!
 5. Satan is able to appeal to that part of man that is earthly, physical, desires that are proper within themselves.
 6. Satan takes advantage of that and deceives us as he did Eve.
 7. He led her to believe that she could be her own god, get away from and reject the goodness of God.
 8. Out of that came sin !!!
 - E. Where did death come from?
 1. The Bible is distinct in that it is the only book that enables us to know the source of death.
 - a. It not only reveals the source of life; i.e. where man came from.
 - b. It also reveals the source of death.
 - c. We see people dying continually.
 - d. Without the Bible, we would never know why it is that man, one by one, decay and finally die (II Cor. 5:1).

- F. The Bible is distinct in that it defines sin, and the only way we can know what is sinful is by this book.
1. The reason that men are having problems today, some of the problems in the church, is that we have laid aside divine distinction and descriptions of what sin is!
 2. Whenever Eve failed to listen to what God said, follow God's will in God's way, she was guilty of sin and led Adam into sin.
 3. Same is true today. This is the only book in all the world that enables us to know just exactly what is sinful and what is not, and to help us avoid walking in the path of sin.
 4. Whenever we lay it aside, then we have no way of knowing what is right and what is wrong.
 5. It is our only standard.
 6. The Bible must maintain that distinctiveness in our own minds and in our own hearts, or we will lose our distinctiveness.
 7. Whenever this book ceases to be the distinctive book that it is, then we cease to be a distinctive people.
 8. Just look at history of religion in O.T. . . N.T. . . Today
 9. Results of losing distinctiveness of this book.
 - a. Our problems are multiplying.
 - b. Worldliness has infiltrated the church.
 - c. Ungodliness is overwhelming many today..
 10. All lines between the world and the church are being blotted out.
 11. The root source of it is: We have **FAILED** to keep in mind and believe, without any question, that this is a **DISTINCTIVE BOOK**.. No other book like it in all the world.
- III. Genesis 3 - - - Seed of Woman.
- A. There had not been as far as we know, a single birth in the world at this point in time.
 1. The seed of woman will bruise serpents head.
 2. When Cain and Abel were born, it was not the seed of woman.
 3. When Seth was born, Eve thought that this was fulfillment of that promise (4:25). Was not!
 4. Seth was not seed of woman.
 5. Entire history of world for four thousand years would deny the possibility of that.
 6. Think about that! Once sin entered into the world, before any birth: God said, contrary to all nature, the seed of woman will be the means of redemption of man and of conquering sin.
 7. Only God could make a statement like Genesis 3:15. That is an amazing thing.
 8. This is a **DISTINCTIVE BOOK!**
 - B. As soon as sin entered the world, God began a revelation to deal with that problem and on the very imprint of that book God said, I want you to know, that what I am saying is proof that my revelation is dependable. You can count on my faithfulness, and on my integrity.
 1. For thousand years would go by before this took place.
 2. Reminds us that the author of this book is faithful to his word.
 3. Time does not change it. Situations do not change it
 4. Whenever he has committed himself to something, this book which is distinguished by it's very nature, says, that is exactly the way it will be..
 5. Modernism is trying to undermine our faith by attacking the Bible.
 6. We need to read Gen. 3:15 over and over. Every time we read it, let it remind us that there is a promise of man's hope, but it is also a reminder of the distinctiveness of this book.
 7. Because of that, I can believe what is in this Book.
- IV. Deut. 4... Moses is speaking to a new generation about the uniqueness of the book they have.
- A. Deut. 4:5-9.
 1. Sad day in Israel was when they forgot about the distinctiveness of the Book God gave them.
 2. When God gave the law, through Moses, they lost sight of it.

3. They failed to realize that they were blessed beyond all people.
 4. That here is something that they have, that nobody else has.
 5. The very people to whom God gave that book. lost their appreciation of it's distinctiveness and in so doing, Lost their way, Departed from the faith, apostatized, and went into Babylonian captivity.
- B. Is there not a lesson for us in this?
1. The day that we fail to believe that we are blessed above all people in having this book that God has given us, and it loses it's distinctiveness,
 2. Because it loses it's distinctiveness, we therefore lose our appreciation for it, we like Israel will lose our way.
 3. That is exactly what we see happening in the church today.
 4. There are no short-cuts back.
 5. We are not going to reverse what is taking place, until we have a revival in the heart of God's people, that we have a distinctive book.
 6. There is not anything in all the world like it.
 7. Realizing the distinctiveness that is in it, to hold to it and to appreciate it.
 8. Out of that appreciation comes a study of it, the desire to follow it, and the intent to live by it, and the purpose of heart to uphold it and defend it in a world that denies it and despises it and makes fun of it.
 - a. Humanism laughs at it.
 - b. Evolutionist make fun of it.
 - c. God's people say, This is my Book! It is distinctive and it make us a distinctive people!

Con: What about you? Do you believe that God's book is a distinctive book? Have you done what it says for you to do to become a Christian? Do you follow it's teachings on how to live the Christian life? Do you search it for the answers to problems that arise and follow what it says?