

The Origin of the Bible

The Bible has been the world's best-seller for many generations. There have been times when other volumes were more popular and briefly enjoyed a greater vogue. But when the fancy of the times has passed, the Bible has kept its place as the world's most valued book with the world's most important message.

The important status given the Bible is no accident. It is the result of the Bible's effect on the lives of men. Its message has changed people, governments, movements, and countries. The fact that some have not been faithful to its teachings in their private lives neither alters the benefit that it has brought to many others, nor warps its true character.

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Literary students will think of many works that have influenced mankind, although the influence may not always have been helpful. When one thinks of the *Consolations* of Boethius, the *Essays* of Schopenhauer, or the religious writing of Confucius, he will remember the effect of these works on the affairs of men. It is not our desire to speak critically or intimately of these works; but only to point out that in uniformity of interest, benefit to men of all classes, and aid to individuals in every sort of need, they all fall far short of the Scriptures.

The Bible speaks to you wherever you are, and the revelation it gives of God is so complete as to illuminate every soul that will lend itself to truth. Why is the Bible like this? Why is its character so forceful and impressive? Why does it continue to deliver souls from fear and dismay just as it did twenty-five hundred years ago? Answers to these and similar questions are found primarily in considering the origin of