

MARCH FIRST WEEK

A LITERARY MIRACLE II Peter 1:18-21

DEVOTIONAL READING II Peter 1

CENTRAL VERSE: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
(II Timothy 3:16)

As a “literary miracle” the Bible holds no peer. If it ever was a book—and is today The Book—for every man, is truly a miracle. Except in the mind of God, there never really was a production schedule. A group of writers and editors did not sit down in the beginning and plan the sixty-six books of the Bible. More than forty different writers and editors (many of them non-scholars) worked on the Bible, but their work spanned sixty generations. Think about it—a book with its beginning and end written 1,500 years apart!

Without committee planning, the Bible grew part by part, book by book, and century by century, in an orderly and progressive manner. First, there was only The Law, commonly called the “Pentateuch.” Next, the New Testament was written—but in a much shorter time. But here, also, there was no prearranged plan made in a conference of writers. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John did not meet to decide how to write the Gospels.

Paul and James did not get together on the road to Jerusalem and decide that Paul should dwell on doctrine and James should write on practical morals. John and Peter did not hold an island retreat and plan for John to write about the future in symbolic language, while Peter addressed encouragement to persecuted Christians.

The Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Though it is a literary garden in style, authorship, and topics, its sixty-six books are a marvelous unit.

ESSENTIAL THOUGHT: The Bible is a perfect whole, purposeful revelation and a progressive proof that it is more than the work of fallible men.

