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The Divine Unity of the Bible

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The Bible is a remarkable book. Indeed, it is not just one book, but it is many books, written over a period of 1,500 years by as many as forty different writers, most of whom never met one another. In some cases, they lived many miles apart from each other. Yet, amazingly, it is one book, and in this sense it has an internal unity that would be impossible without divine inspiration. This divine unity is seen in its consistent presentation of God's purpose in Christ through history, prophecy, and even poetry. No group of men could have produced it over such a span of time, distance, and culture, and still have maintained its continuity. This happened long before electronic communications existed, but in many cases there was no communication at all between the authors of the Bible!

The unity of the Bible can be seen by comparing the Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation. The human authors were Moses, an ex-official of an Egyptian king's court around 1,500 BC, and John, an uneducated Galilean fisherman of the first century AD. In Genesis, we read about the original creation of the heavens and the earth, the fall of man, the deceiving serpent, and how death entered the world. In Genesis, the remedy to this is also prophesied through the coming of the "seed of the woman," who would annul the serpent's power. In Revelation, we see the fulfillment of this in the "woman" (Israel) giving birth to the "male Son," whom the "dragon" (the Old Serpent) attempted to devour at birth, but failed (Rev. 12:1-6). We see the curse removed, man saved, death destroyed, and Satan cast into the lake of fire. We also see the dissolution of the original creation and a "new heaven and a new earth" appearing.

May this brief meditation encourage us to more faithfully appreciate the Bible and make it our daily reading!

