

The Power of God's Word

Introduction

There is a powerful force that is in operation throughout the lives of mankind. Many people deny its existence or its relevance in our lives. Many people have tried to destroy it – even churches have burnt it.

Famous people in history rejected it, famous movie stars have cursed it, and many people have thrown it out their homes.

For some people it is an ornament, a status symbol. For others it is a source of joy, peace and tranquillity!

Some people have never read it cover to cover, some people read it but it has no effect in their lives. To some it is a book of stories and yet some people it is the life blood of their Spiritual existence and they cannot do without it. No matter what people think, say or do not say, whether they read it or not, the Bible is still the number One book seller of all time.

It is a historical fact that the first book to be printed was the Bible and today it is as relevant as the first time it was put together.

The Bible has been translated into more than 2,000 languages and is the most translated book in of ALL time.

In fact you can take all the books that we ever sold, they still would not top the number of Bibles sold.

Why is the Bible so relevant, even in today's modern world and how can we believe/trust that the Bible is still accurately translated! Is the Bible really exactly the same as when it was first written down and can we prove this as fact?

Why is the Bible relevant today?

The Bible is most relevant today because it brings confront to people, brings hope to a dying world but most of all because it predicted future events which have and are coming true TODAY!

The Bible is relevant because it can and does change people every day. The Bible say in **Hebrews 4:12** that *"¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

The Bible can take the hardest person and change them into wonderful people! If you do not believe that, I am an example of a changed life through the Bible! I was not always the nice person you see today!

At one time before Jesus Christ came into my life I was a very ugly person inside! I used people, I hurt people, I destroyed people – I lived only for myself and what I

could get out of life. I did many terrible things that I am too ashamed to mention!

But one day on 21st of September 1987, God changed my whole world when I became Born Again! His Word, the Bible was pivotal to my growth as a Spiritual Baby. And it was through His Word that I could be renewed in my mind (**Romans 12:1-2**) and could become the New Creation spoken of in **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

Just ask my wife or people who knew me before I was saved! Suzette had already started changing me when I started going out with her, but the real change, the change inside happened through God coming into my life and His Word changing me from the outside!

The bible is relevant today because it is God inspired and God breathed. It has a message which steps through time and is a relevant today as the day it was first written down!

This is confirmed by **2 Timothy 3:15-17** which says, ¹⁵*And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of and been acquainted with the sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you and give you the understanding for salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus [through the leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].* ¹⁶*Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),* ¹⁷*So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

All scripture is God breathed / Inspired by Him – He knows the past and future and so we can be assured that God is in control even when our world is turned upside down!

The Bible Facts

Let's look at the Bible and some fact about the Bible. Let's see why it is an amazing book and why we can trust the text is accurately translated even today, more than 3,500 years after some of the books were written. The entire Bible was written from about 1450BC to 100AD a period of 1,500 years!

The Bible is a unique group of 66 books, the first 39 books from the Old Testament and last 26 books form the New Testament. These 66 books were written by 40 different authors. Some were well educated like Paul and Moses, Some were Kings (David and Solomon) and some were prophets, shepherds, farmers, doctors etc.

The main theme of the Bible is constant throughout the 66 books and 40 authors.

The word Testament means Covenant so that Old Testament is the Old Covenant and the New Testament is the New Covenant.

The oldest book is the book of Job written around 1,500BC and the youngest book in the Old Covenant is Malachi (400BC) and the youngest book in the New Covenant is Revelations (95AD).

Moses wrote the most in the Old Testament, the first five books as well as some Psalms like Psalm 91. Paul with 14 books wrote more than half of the New Testament.

The entire Bible is written in only three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek – The entire New Testament was written in GREEK and most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew!

How can we be sure our Bible today is accurate?

In the winter 1946/47 a young shepherd boy named Muhammed edh-Dhib and his friends discovered a cave in the area of Qumran. This discovery allowed archeologists to discover more than 972 texts or fragments of 26 books of the Old Testament; everyone was numerically and grammatically accurate to our current Hebrew Bible!

This is very significant because the Greek and Hebrew languages are the only languages use **quasi-decimal alphabet**, which has numerical values associated to their letters.

In old times when scribes hand copied the text from the original text, a scribe would numerically add up each letter on each piece copied and if it did not tally to the recorded amount it was seen as an incorrect copy and destroyed.

So we can be sure today that the Entire Old Testament in Hebrew and Aramaic today, is 100%, accurate to the original Hebrew and Aramaic text when it was first written and which are used in the translation into our languages of today.

This is also the case with the New Testament where pieces and fragments are 100% accurate with the current Greek translation from which the Bible translators work from.

It is a fact that there are over 5,000 whole books, pieces and fragments of the Old and New Testament which confirms the accuracy of our current Bible. The pieces of the New Testament were all written less than 20 years after the events took place and ALL of the authors were eye witnesses!

Just to compare this with the copies from which our History is made. All we know about the Roman Empire comes two sources both used official records but all we know about the Roman Empire and world takes as fact comes from two sources!

1) The annuals of Rome by Tacitus – The Roman Empire lasted from 800BC to 500AD, Tacitus started his writings in 62AD and ended it in 103AD

2) Writings of Josephus

Both of these historical writers refer to biblical events, especially where the Bible makes references to Wars, battles, Census' and deaths of Roman officials.

One such reference was made by Tacitus my a reference about the Jew continually making a disturbance because of Christ, the governor Claudius expelled them from the city – Compare that to Act 18:2 which clearly refers to the same event

If you take any historical even before 1900, there are less sources than references we have for the Bible and the Bible was written in quasi-decimal alphabet where the authenticity can be verified through calculating the number value of each chapter of the scripture!

Also many of these recorded Historical “Facts” were written not by eye witnesses but by historians who heard the stories told to them and many of these recordings we done many years after the fact!

All we know about the War’s of Hannibal in our history books come from one source written more than 500 years later

Today’s translation

Today we have many English bibles and even a Chichewe Bible but one must always remember that although your and my bible has been accurately translated there is often a loss of meaning of words.

For example in John 21 – Talk about the translation loss in Peter do you Love me

Closing

It have only spent a few minutes describing the Bible, I have given you many fact, each of them are true and verifiable at any library or even on the internet!

You can be assure that the copy of the Bible you have in your hand is not just an ordinary book but is God ordained, God inspired and literally the very thoughts and Word of Almighty God.

You can accept them as being extremely accurate to the original and the only slight language and words differences could let you lose some of the power.

Many men and women of God had paid the price of Death for translating the Bible into various languages. William Tindale was burnt at the stake for translating the Bible into English.

Martin Luther was hounded and persecuted because he translated the Bible in German and the list goes on and on! Even today people sacrifice their lives to bring people the Bible in their own language like in Iran, China, North Korea and many other countries!

CONCLUSION - What will you do with your Bible? Won’t you read it and hear God speak to you? If you do not have one, get one or make a copy! It is worth every kwacha spent!!!