

Chapter 104

What Can You Learn from the Size of Your Bible?

Before you ever open it the Bible can teach you a big lesson. Sound ridiculous?

OK, the next time you are in a good library, take a look at the shelves that contain books on the history of England. No doubt you will notice that one of the greatest works on English history is a three-volume set of books that fills about one foot of library shelf space. It seems quite detailed, yet, if you think about it, a great and old nation like England must have generated a mass of historical documents that could easily fill ten libraries from floor to ceiling. So a three-volume history is actually extremely selective and, for the most part, quite sketchy.

Now think about the Bible—one volume. How much material do you suppose has been generated in all of God's dealings with mankind during thousands of years of world history? Jesus' ministry alone could overwhelm our libraries. Speaking of Jesus' three years of ministry, the apostle John exclaimed:

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written (John 21:25).

Talk about a selective book! How many tough decisions do you think John had to make concerning what to exclude from his Gospel? Similarly, how many tough decisions do you think had to be made concerning what material to exclude from the Bible as a whole?

Therefore, the Bible is far and away the most carefully selective book in the world. Our Sovereign Lord governed the process.

An almost automatic conclusion has to hit you at this point. The Bible must be filled with the most important words in the world because, out of the billions of events, illustrations, teachings, and characters the Lord could have chosen, he chose what he chose. There is divine wisdom in each and every word that's there, right down to the genealogies. It is dangerous to teach or to believe that the Lord was somehow imprecise in the way he allowed those words to be chosen and expressed, because, whether we like it or not, our faith in redemption through Jesus rests primarily in the testimony of the Bible.

