

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Libraries

"A great library contains the diary of the human race." – George Dawson

"Over the door of the library in Thebes is the inscription 'Medicine for the soul.'" – Diodorus Siculus

"Libraries can be of indispensable service in lifting the dead weight of poverty and ignorance." – Francis Keppel

"To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul." – Cicero

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." – Jorge Luis Borges

Libraries can be fascinating places to visit. Did you know that the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. has more than 162 million items catalogued?

Libraries have existed for thousands of years. There are evidences for libraries going back to 3020 B.C. Early ones consisted of clay tablets and papyrus plants, a far cry from the paper and hard backs we often find today. Ancient Greece and Rome provided much to make libraries popular, even including a classification system. Early paintings show the people in Rome even having books in their homes.

There are more than 119,000 libraries in the United States today. And quite a variety too. There are academic, public, research, and special libraries. In addition, there are a vast number of libraries throughout the world. Current estimates run around 350,000 and many are connected to the internet.

There are a large number of private libraries. It is common to find them in doctor's private offices, government offices, lawyers, preachers, and even churches.

Do you realize that the Bible you carry is in fact a library? There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament, for a total of sixty-six books. If you want to have a little fun with people you can tell them that you can carry sixty-six books in one hand.

What makes the Bible unique is that it was written over a 1600-year period, but with a harmony that links the books in such a way to evidence the inspiration of God.

What also makes the Bible a special library is the realization that God is the author behind it all. Yes, He used human writers, but God stands as the source. He provides for us all that we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

Treasure what God has given you. Know that the Bible is the greatest library in all the world. No, it by no means is the largest, but you can know with assurance that it has stood the test of time, and its truthfulness is second to none.