

“The Bible”

by Bill Crews

Like the word “*baptism*,” the word “Bible” (usually capitalized) is a made up word. “*Baptism*” is a transliteration of the Greek word βαπτισμα (**BAPTISMA**), which means “immersion, submersion, dipping, washing, plunging, overwhelming.” “Bible” is a transliteration of the Koine Greek word βιβλος (**BIBLOS**), which means “book” or “scroll.” It was a very common Greek word and is found in many of our English words (“bibliography,” “biblicist,” “bibliopeggy,” “bibliophile,” etc.). It is now used almost exclusively of the religious book accepted as divine in origin by most who profess to be Christians. But it is used of other writings (as in the Bible of Mormons is “*The Book of Mormon*”; Mary Baker Eddy, while writing her *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*, called it “my Bible”; other books are said to be “the Bible” on fighting ships, aircraft, coin collecting, hand guns and rifles, etc. — the idea being that a book is the best, the fullest, the last word on the subject).

Often called “**The Holy Bible**,” but more often, simply, “**The Bible**,” no other book deserves to be called “The Book.” There are millions of books written by men, but the Bible alone deserves the designation which means “The Book.” (Imagine calling a car, “The Car,” or a house, “The House,” or a watch, “The Watch,” or a nation, “The Nation,” or a race, “The Race,” or a computer, “The Computer,” etc.).

It is the only book that is divine in origin. Many others claim to be. but they are not. They do not deserve to be compared to the Bible; they are not in the same class as the Bible. The only reason anybody ever took the Book of Mormon seriously is because it contains some 10,000 direct quotations from the King James Version (one of its revisions, not the original 1611 edition) of the Bible. Some pay a little respect to the Koran because they have heard that it recognizes the Old Testament and the historicity of Jesus (not exactly the truth, however — the Bibles we have they consider garbled accounts of what really occurred).

[continued on page 304302](#)

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