



HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

Part 1

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Perry Atkinson, Bob Just, and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

As a pre-introduction to this program, let's first consider a few items in no particular order that we did not have time to address in our program last month:

Putin set to emerge as the Czar of Russia

According to Joel Rosenberg and Flash Traffic, Putin has kept a low profile for the past several years, but has recently announced that he is officially running in the March 4th elections for president of Russia. Putin is anti-American, anti-Western, responsible for building strategic alliances with radical Islamic allies (such as Iran), and has vowed to return Russia *"to her former glory."* If elected, Putin could be in power for the next 12 years.

Bombardier Beetle

Last month we were discussing the fact that the Bible clearly delineates some dinosaurs were capable of breathing sparks, smoke, and fire from their mouths (i.e., 41st chapter of Job). Bob asked if there were any modern animals that were capable of similar feats. As time ran out, we mentioned the Bombardier Beetle. The Bombardier Beetle is a small insect that is armed with an impressive

defense system. Whenever threatened by an enemy attack, the beetle can blast irritating and odious gases at 212-degrees F. into the face of a would-be aggressor. The explosive mix is produced by mixing two very dangerous chemicals (hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide). In addition to these two chemicals, the beetle adds another type of chemical known as an “inhibitor.” This chemical prevents the aforementioned chemicals from blowing up and enables the beetle to store the chemicals indefinitely. Whenever the beetle is approached by a predator (such as a frog), the beetle squirts the stored chemicals into the two combustion tubes, and at precisely the right moment he adds another chemical (an anti-inhibitor). This chemical knocks out the inhibitor, and a violent explosion occurs right in the face of the attacker. From an origins perspective, could this beetle and its complex mechanism evolved piecemeal over millions of years? The answer is a resounding “absolutely not.” From an evolutionary perspective, there must have been thousands of generations of beetles improperly mixing these hazardous chemicals in fatal evolutionary experiments, blowing themselves to pieces until they got it right. Consider that there is no need to evolve an inhibitor unless you already have the two chemicals you are trying to inhibit. On the other hand, if you already have the two chemicals without the inhibitor, it is already too late, for you have already blown yourself up! Creation is the only logical answer to this marvelous insect.

Secrets of the Sixth Edition

Last month, we also briefly discussed a newly released book by Master Books, and authored by Randall Hedke that delineates how “Darwin Discredits His Own Theory” in his 6th and last edition of *Origins* (1872) that was first published in 1859. In that 6th edition, Darwin incredibly abandoned natural selection, the mechanism by which evolution was believed possible. Consider the following quotes from the 6th edition:

- *“I have now considered enough, perhaps more than enough, of the cases, selected with care by a skillful naturalist, to prove that natural selection is incompetent to account for the incipient stages of useful structures.”*
- *“The belief that any given structure, which we think, often erroneously, would have been beneficial to a species, would have gained under all circumstances through natural selection, is opposed to what we can understand of its manner of action.”*
- *“I was a young man with unformed ideas. I threw out queries, suggestions, wondering all the time over everything; and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire. People made a religion of them.”*

As a result, we need to go no further in the viability of evolution because without a viable mechanism there can be no evolution and that means the entire evolution curriculum is discredited.

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

The question of “How Do We Know the Bible Is True” has been asked for numerous years by Christians and non-Christians alike. Several reasons for this are:

- Can it really change a person’s life?
- Is it really inerrant?
- Is it the “Word of God?”
- Why it is the most popular book ever written/produced?
- etc.....

As many Christians are aware, secular science and/or modern culture does not place any (or minimal) emphasis on the Bible as the inspired word of God, and therefore, it is just another religious book that is often viewed as either irrelevant and/or full of errors, and therefore, should not be taken seriously. However, if the Bible is the inerrant word of the Living God, the person who created the universe with the word of His mouth, continues to hold the universe together, and most importantly, holds the human race accountable to His standards, then the Bible is a book that can be viewed as God’s operational manual to us that also should be taken extremely seriously. In reality, this perception can be viewed as a “*Life or Death Matter*” as each human being will either spend eternity with or without God as delineated in the Bible. Therefore, the perception of whether or not the Bible can be trusted (inerrancy) is of paramount importance, and will significantly impact the following considerations:

Trustworthy Character of God

If the Bible is perceived as containing errors, or is not true, that implies that God has mishandled his word and allowed us to be deceived.

Faith in the Value of Christ

You cannot have a reliable Savior without a reliable Bible. In summary, no one would trust an unreliable Savior for their eternal salvation.

Confidence in the Truth of the Gospel

If the Bible (scripture) is viewed as unreliable, how can the church (Christians) offer the world a reliable scripture?

Conclusions of Modern Science

Either the Bible is true from the first verse in Genesis to the last verse in Revelation, or it is not. Therefore, if modern science contradicts the Bible in its interpretation of “origins,” then either a person must put scripture ahead of science, or science ahead of scripture. If the scripture is true (and it is), then it’s scripture over science.

Preaching of Scripture

If scripture is not inerrant, then confidence in scripture from the pulpit and the pew will be minimized and/or discounted.

Let's look at How Do We know The Bible Is True and begin by considering why it is **unique** in all of recorded literature.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE

Internal Consistency

The Bible is astonishingly self-consistent when one considers that it was written by more than 40 authors over a time span of about 2,000 years. If the Bible is really God's revelation to mankind, then we should find a continuing theme throughout the book; and that is exactly what we find – God's moral law, man's rebellion against God's law, and God's plan of salvation. Summarized by Norman Geisler and William Nix: *"The Paradise Lost of Genesis becomes the Paradise Regained of Revelation. Whereas the gate to the tree of life is closed in Genesis, it is opened forevermore in Revelation."*

Continuity

As previously mentioned, the Bible was written by more than 40 authors over a 2,000 year period, but yet the continuing theme is consistent from Genesis to Revelation. Consider the following:

- The forty authors were from every walk of life and backgrounds - Peter was a fisherman, Luke was a physician, Amos a herdsman, Moses a political leader, Daniel a prime minister, etc.
- The Bible was written on three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- The Bible was written in three different languages – Hebrew (the language of the Israelites), Greek (the international language during the time of Christ), and Aramaic (the common language of the Near East).
- The Bible was written during different time frames – Paul while in and out of prison, Solomon during prosperity and depression, David during war and self-imposed crime, etc.
- The Bible was written during different dispositions – confusion, doubt, conviction, joy, confrontation, etc.
- The Bible was written in various locations - Paul inside a prison, John on the island of Patmos, Moses in the wilderness, etc.
- The Bible was written in a wide variety of literary styles – biography, romance, poetry, parable, law, historical narrative, etc.
- The Bible addresses numerous controversial subjects that are covered with harmonious accord within the text – adultery, lying, finances, salvation, homosexuality, etc. Amazingly, these topics (as well as many others) were

controversial thousands of years ago, and are still controversial (if not more so) today.

- Although the Bible was written over thousands of years by over 40 authors, the central character throughout is Jesus Christ. From cover to cover, the Bible is Christocentric. Although the Bible consists of many books by numerous authors, its continuity is demonstrated by the fact that it is also one book.

Translation

Although the biblical sales numbers are more than impressive, the number of Bible translations are no less impressive. As reported by the United Bible Societies, the Bible (or portions thereof) have been translated into more than 2,200 languages, which is about one-third of the world's 6,500 known languages. The aforementioned 2,200 languages represent the primary communication for over 90-percent of the world's population. No other book in history approaches the Bible in translation activity.

Circulation

Today, it seems as though books are judged by their ability to sell by the millions, reach the New York Times Top Ten List and/or be mentioned in Oprah's book club as recommended reading. It is rare to find a book that has sold over 10 million copies. Therefore, it is astounding that the number of Bibles sold has reached into the billions. As The Cambridge History of the Bible states, *"No other book has known anything approaching this constant circulation."*

Predictive Prophecy

A number of scriptural passages predict (with total accuracy) future events, and often in great detail. The importance of this statement is that the predicted events were future to the writers but are now in our past. As several examples, the second chapter of Daniel predicted the next three world empires (up to and including the Roman Empire) and their falls, the time-city-nature of Christ's birth, and return of Israel to the Land. Critics of distant events can argue that some people have the ability to perceive distant future events (i.e., psychic powers). However, only God alone declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9), as only God can know the future. Remember that Old Testament prophets were judged on accuracy – one mistake and they were no longer a viable prophet (Deuteronomy 18). No other book has predicted world events with 100 percent accuracy. As a side note, Mohammedanism cannot point to any prophecies of the coming of Mohammed written hundreds of years before his birth, and neither can the founders of any cult in this country correctly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance.

Divine Insight

Although the Bible is not a scientific book, it does touch on scientific matters that go beyond the knowledge possessed by mankind at the time. As an example,

Isaiah 40:22 talks about the expansion of the heavens (universe) which was not discovered until 1920. Job, written about 2,000 B.C. is generally considered one of the oldest books of the Bible, and also the most scientific. As an example, Job 26:10 and 26:7 talks about the fact that the earth is circular and hangs in space. Remember, when Columbus began his voyages, mankind thought the earth was flat.

Character

Interestingly, the Bible openly deals with the sins and shortcomings of its primary characters, even when those sins can be detrimental to God and His chosen people. The Bible focuses on honesty and reality, not fantasy. As an example;

- Disorder within the church.
- King David's adultery.
- Sins of the patriarchs.
- etc.

Persecution

Why has the Bible been persecuted, maligned, burned, and banned from some civilizations over other books? The question is easily answered by considering the prime enemy of the Bible (Satan) who realizes what the Bible is and what it stands for. As an example, several examples of the Bible being maligned are:

- In A.D. 303, the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy the Bible.
- The Bible needs to be smuggled into some eastern countries as it is illegal.

Interestingly, the future of the Bible is secure as evidenced by history and scripture as found in Mark 13:31, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away."*

CONCLUSION

The evidence that is previously presented does not prove the Bible is the inspired Word of God. However, it clearly indicates that it is distinctively superior to any other books, past and present. Next month, we will consider the reliability of the Old and New Testament.



HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

Part 2

Aired on theDove, November 2, 2011

Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

As a pre-introduction to this program, let's first consider a topic of major importance, and then a question that is frequently asked regarding creation.

TOPIC

With the increasing threat from Iran and its growing nuclear capability, its leader who has promised to destroy the United States and Israel, and the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq by the end of this year, a relevant question is *"What is the future of Iran in Bible prophecy?"* An answer to this question is based on a passage from Jeremiah 49:34-39, and is known as the prophecy against Elam. Elam is an ancient name used in the Bible to describe the territory we know now as modern day Iran. In the prophecy, the Lord says in the *"last days"* He will have *"fierce anger"* against the government of Iran and will bring judgment and destruction against the government of Iran. However, the Lord also says that He will set his *"throne"* in Iran - - that is, while He will strongly oppose the leaders of Iran, He

will show compassion and mercy on the people of Iran. Go to Joel Rosenberg's blog at flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com for more information on this subject.

QUESTION

"If God finished creation in six days and declared it "very good," where did disease-causing designs (i.e., microbes) come from?" Based on the creation account in Genesis, and specifically Genesis 1:31, it would appear that God originally made microbes to perform only beneficial functions. However, what caused some microbes to go bad? There are three possible answers, or a combination of all three as follows:

- Microbes were originally designed to perform beneficial functions in restricted places, but after the Fall, they spread to other places and began to cause disruption and disease.
- Microbes were physically modified to become pathogenic (disease-causing).
- Microbe growths were originally designed to remain within safe ranges, but now they fluctuate, causing either under- or over-population that results in disease and disruption of a once-balanced system.

Interestingly, scripture hints at examples of helpful creations that have gone bad, such as thorns and thistles. Yeast is another example of a good thing that can become invasive and harmful when it spreads too rapidly (see 1 Corinthians 5:6-8). In fact, yeast can cause severe infection, such as thrush and candidiasis in humans. As a side note, the increasing number of mutating diseases are proof for devolution rather than evolution.

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE (from Part 1)

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IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD (Part 2)?

The Bible claims to be the “Word of God.” If so, how was it communicated to human authors? To answer this question, we need to first consider the writings of Paul as found in 2 Timothy 3:16 that clearly states - - *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* This verse tells us that:

- All scripture is given by inspiration. Both the Old Testament and New Testament are included by the word “all.”

IS THE BIBLE INSPIRED BY GOD?

Second, we need to consider the phrase “*inspired by God*.”

- The phrase “*all scripture is given by inspiration by God*” in 2 Timothy 3:16 indicates that scripture is “*breathed out by God*” or “*God-breathed*.” This means that sometimes God told the Bible writers the exact words to say (Jeremiah 1:9 - - *“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: Behold, I have put My words in your mouth”*), but more often He used their minds, vocabularies, and experiences to produce His own perfect infallible, inerrant Word (1 Thessalonians 2:13 - - *“For this reason, we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe,”* - - Hebrews 1:1, and 2 Peter 1:20, 21).
- It is important to note that inspiration applies to only the original copies of Scripture, not the Bible writers; there are no inspired Scripture writers, only inspired Scripture. Interestingly, we often say that a musician or artist is inspired which is a general use of the term and it is understood today as meaning something that is well done or of great value. However, when we apply “*inspiration*” to the Bible we intend a different meaning. The Bible was not inspired the same way as a musician (as an example). The Bible has been directly breathed by God as the Bible claims to be His very word; it has come from his very mouth!
- God is so identified with His Word that when Scripture speaks, God speaks (Romans 9:17, Galatians 3:8). Remember that Scripture is called “*the oracles of God*” (Romans 3:2 - - *“Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God,”* - - 1 Peter 4:11).

IS GOD’S WORD INERRANT?

The word inerrant has generated much discussion and debate over the centuries as it implies that the Bible is without error and/or is perfect (it is not uncommon for some people to say the Bible is full of errors). Interestingly, the Bible says that God cannot err as found in Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:12. Additionally, consider the following biblical references:

- "Your word is truth" - - John 17:17.
- "The entirety of your Word is truth" - - Psalm 119:160.
- "Every Word of God is pure" - - Proverbs 30:5.
- "It is impossible for God to lie" - - Hebrews 6:18

Therefore, to deny the inerrancy of Scripture is to deny the character of God and/or to malign the integrity of God or the identity of the Bible as God's Word. So, if we want to define the word inerrancy and apply its definition to the Bible, it would be summarized by the following perspective:

"The biblical definition of inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs, properly interpreted, will be shown to be wholly true in everything they affirm, whether this has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences. The Bible has been breathed by God. He used men to write out exactly what He wanted them to write. He kept them free from error but at the same time used their unique personalities and styles to convey exactly what He wanted" (Josh McDowell).

However, within this definition, it must be remembered that God used various linguistic styles as follows:

- A variety of expressions (i.e., the four gospels tell the same story from different points of view).
- God used varying personalities and styles (i.e., Moses, David, Solomon, Paul, etc).
- God used non-biblical sources (i.e., Paul quoted from the heathen Cretan poet Epimenides (as found in Acts 17:28) in his Mars Hill address.

What Inerrancy Is Not

- Not strict grammar. The rules of grammar represent normal usage of language.
- Varying figures of speech are present. The Bible is not written in one literary form (there are parables, allegories, metaphors, poetry, history, etc).
- Non-scientific language is used. Quite simply, the Bible is not a scientific book as it was written for the common people of every generation. The Bible was also written in ancient times using ancient standards.
- The exact words of Jesus. This is not to imply that the exact words that Jesus spoke are found in every quote. As an example, numerous words spoken by Jesus were spoken in Aramaic, and as a result, had to be translated into Greek which would result in some literary variances. Interestingly, the four gospels have slight variances (as they were written by four different authors) but the slight variances in the words of Jesus words actually assist in capturing the intended meaning as opposed to the four authors copying each other.

- The text. Inerrancy does not apply to every copy that has been transcribed down through the millennia, but only to the original text.

CONCLUSION

The evidence that is previously presented does not prove the Bible is true. However, it clearly indicates that it is distinctively superior to any other books, past and present. It is of utmost importance to remember that in modern times, a common belief is based on the premise that *“all religions are good”* and *“different religions are like different roads leading up a mountain.”* These perspectives rely on the viewpoint that it does not matter which road is chosen, since all roads lead to the same place. It is also commonplace to reason that there is only one God, so all religions must ultimately lead to Him. However, Jesus clearly delineated two distinct viewpoints on this subject as follows:

- *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction; and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”* - - Matthew 7:13-14.
- *“Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only those who does the will of My Father in heaven”* - - Matthew 7:21.

These verses clearly state that there is only one way to heaven and one God. That *“way”* is found in the one book that delineates the *“way”* to heaven and God, and that book is God’s word, the Bible.

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