

"EVIDENTIAL REASONS FOR FAITH"

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The Bible & the Christian Faith

Topic: The Bible & The Church

Q. What is the Church?

A. The Greek word "ekklesia" is broken down to mean "to call or summon out." Hence the church are those who have heard the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ and received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In the New Testament of the 114 occurrences, 109 refer to the people of God. The church is composed of: a) The people of God - referred to as Christians Acts 11:26; 1st Peter 4:16; and b) Local assemblies, encompassing believers in Christ from every nationality and walk of life. (Galatians 1:2; 3:26-29; Colossians 4:16; 1st Corinthians 6:9-11). No denomination can claim to be God's sole church on earth. Where ever born-again believers meet is a local assembly. A true church of the Lord Jesus shouldn't restrict its members to only fellowshiping with those in their denomination. Such control would tilt toward aberrant, or cultic suspicions. The issue should always rest with whether one has been born-again, i.e., (born from above), born of God - St. John 1:12; this is the foundation for one's relationship with God. The true Church of Jesus Christ is made up of born-again believers.

The Bible & Historical Accuracy

Topic: The Bible & Belshazzar the King

Q. Was Belshazzar the king of Babylon a genuine historical figure?

A. Yes. Henry Halley writes: "Until 1853 no mention of Belshazzar was found in Babylonian records, and Nabonidas (555-538 B.C.), was known to have been the last king of Babylon. To the critics this was one of the evidences that the book of Daniel was not historical. But in 1853 an inscription was found in a cornerstone of a temple built by Nabonidas in Ur to a god which reads: "May I, Nabonidas, king of Babylon, not sin against thee. And may reverence for thee dwell in the heart of Belshazzar, my first-born and favorite son." From other inscriptions it has been learned that Nabonidas, much of the time, was in retirement outside Babylon, and that Belshazzar was in control of the army and the government, co-regent with his father, and that it was he who surrendered to Cyrus. This explains how Daniel could be 'third ruler' in the kingdom. Daniel 5:16, 29 (Halley's Bible Handbook pg. 334)

The Bible & Scientific Accuracy

Topic: The Bible & the Stars in Heaven

Q. Does the Bible reveal accurately that the stars in heaven are innumerable?

A. Yes. In approximately 2,000 B.C., God spoke to Abraham one night and said, "Look now toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to number them." And He said to him, So shall your descendants be. (Gen. 15:5). Abraham more than likely could only count the visible stars which would number under 1,200 (Also see Jeremiah 33:22, Hebrews 11:12). But what of the scientific opinion of that day. As late as AD 150 the famous astronomer Ptolemy dogmatically declared the number of the stars to be exactly, 1,056. Scientist tell us today that the stars are innumerable in accordance with God's word.

The Bible & Prophetic Accuracy

Topic: The Bible & the Last Days

Q. What are some of the "Last days" events according to the Bible?

A. There is hope and there is pain and despair in these days which some are evident today
To name a few:

1. An increase of wars and rumors of wars. (Joel 3:9,10; St. Matthew 24:6,7)
2. Extreme materialism. (2nd Timothy 3:1,2; Revelation 3:14-19)
3. Lawlessness. (Psalms 78:8; 2nd Timothy 3:2,3)
4. Departure from the Christian faith. (2nd Thessalonians 2:3; 1st Timothy 4:1, 2; 2nd Timothy 3:5; 4:3,4; 2nd Peter 3:3,4)
5. Intense demonic activity. (1st. Timothy 4:1-4)
6. Unification of the world's religious, political, and economic systems. (Revelation 13:4-8, 16, 17; 17:1-18; 18:1-24)
7. Abnormal sexual activity. (Romans 1:17-32; 2nd Peter 2:10)
8. Universal drug usage. (Revelation 9:21) Sorceries = drugs
9. Religious hucksters. (2nd Peter 2:3)
10. Rise of false prophets and antichrists. (Mt. 24:5, 11; 2nd Peter 2:1-2)

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