

"Evidential Reasons For Faith"

Volume 1 - Issue 1

The Bible & Christian Faith

Topic: Biblical Inspiration

Q: Is the Bible inspired of God?

A: Yes, the Bible not only claims it is inspired by God, but has shown to be God's inspired word by the ability to 1). Supernaturally predict the future with 100% accuracy; 2). Be consistent with historical & archaeological discoveries relating to people, places, & events; and 3). Be consistent with scientific & medical discoveries of the last four centuries. No other sacred book can receive the scrutiny the Bible has undergone in the areas mentioned and remain creditable.

Consider: **1). The Bible's Uniqueness** - it's a compilation of sixty-six (66) books, written over the span of fifteen centuries, by God-chosen holy men that number more than 40, guided by the Holy Spirit. This is progressive revelation. This would refute the argument of circular reasoning.

2). The Bible's Preservation - With the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls dated (2nd Century BC) and comparing the more recent copies of the Old Testament text, the reliability of what we have today is confirmed. In regards to the New Testament manuscripts over 25,000 copies: Of the Greek (5,800 complete or fragmented); Latin (10,000); various other ancient manuscripts in various languages including Syriac, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic, Nubian (9,300) have been discovered. The preservation of the copies discovered exceeds any other writing of antiquity both sacred and secular. **3). The Bible's Supernatural Content** - It's now confirmed that over (300) hundred predictions pertaining to Jesus Christ have been fulfilled! In the case of just eight (8) predictions being fulfilled about one individual would be one chance in 100 million billion! Statistical analysis by mathematician Peter W. Stoner. There are still (100s) more yet to be fulfilled concerning Jesus Christ and His return in the days to come!

Scripture Refs: Exodus 24: 1-4; 2nd Timothy 3:16; 2nd Peter 1:19-21; 3:1-2, 14-16.

The Bible & Prophetic Accuracy

Topic: The Test of a True Prophet of God

Q: How is a true prophet of the past or present determined according to the Bible?

A: One acid test to validate any spiritual leader or book is the ability to predict the future. In this area as in many others the Bible reigns supreme. One can search in vain through the pages of other sacred writings to find even a single line of accurate prophecy.... Some have started religions based on a vision, (a revelation said to be from God). Many of these same individuals have attempted to predict the date or time of Jesus return without success. How would one protect oneself from falling prey to false religions, faiths, and leaders? Certainly not by lumping all faiths together classifying them as all bad, this is unreasonable. Much in the same way as generalizing a certain race of people as being all bad. Any fair minded person knows, people need to be considered on an individual basis. Likewise, in evaluating various books and beliefs. Here are a few biblical guidelines in determining a true prophet.

1). What the prophet predicted must come to pass with 100% accuracy. Deuteronomy 18:20-22. Jeremiah 28:9

2). What the prophet spoke mustn't contradict the revealed Word of God, already in place. Jeremiah 27:1-11; 28:10-17

3). What the prophet spoke doesn't turn one from the God of the Bible or His Word. Deuteronomy 13:1-4. Jeremiah 25:1-14

The Bible & Historical Accuracy

Topic: The Bible and Early Civilization

Q: Is the Bible and Archaeology in agreement on the earliest location of human civilization?

A: Yes, the Garden of Eden mentioned in the second chapter of Genesis, verses eight through fourteen, not only states where God placed Adam and Eve after creation, but had a river that went out of the garden which split up into four rivers. Two of these rivers exist today, the Hiddekel or (Tigris), and the Euphrates. Archaeology has long established that the lower Tigris-Euphrates valley in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq), well within the Fertile Crescent, was the cradle of civilization. One Middle East account, among others, called the Epic of Emmerkar, speaks of a beautiful pain free land. Archaeologist Clifford Wilson writes: "We are told that birth in that land was without distress until Enki ate certain plants that involved a deadly curse. It's further told that the land was clear and a pure place, that the lion did not kill, and the lamb and the lion lived peaceably. There was no sickness, and mankind had only one speech by which he addressed the gods." It's possible this story may have been influenced by the account in Genesis chapter two and three....

The Bible & Scientific Accuracy

Topic: Creation Or Evolution

Q: When was the Universe brought into being?

A: Some scientists would confidently tell us the origin of the universe occurred via a big bang from 5 to 50 billion years ago. How are these dates calculated? One time calendar is called radiometric dating (the dating of rocks). In certain rocks, the element uranium 238 decays into lead 206 with a half-life of 4.5 billion years (that is, the decay involves 50% of the original uranium each 4.5 billion years). It is claimed that the age of a rock may be determined through this method. However, there are serious problems at times with this method. For example, radiometric dating has shown certain rocks from volcanoes in Russia to be 5 billion years old, whereas it is known they were formed within the last 200 years. (We will continue the answer to this question next week.)