

"Evidential Reasons For Faith"

Volume 1 - Issue 2

The Bible & Christian Faith

Topic: Biblical Inspiration

Q. How were the sixty six books of the Holy Bible separated and compiled?

A. 1) The Old Testament. By the year 300 BC (at the latest) all Old Testament books had been written, collected, revered, and recognized as official canonical books by the Jews. Many believe Ezra the prophet led the first recognition council. 2) The New Testament. During the third Council of Carthage, held in AD 397, the twenty-seven New Testament books were declared to be canonical - (accepted as genuine). Certain criteria needed to be met. Various questions were asked:

- a) Authorship- who wrote the book or letter?
- b) Local church acceptance - was it read and was it accepted?
- c) Church fathers recognition - Had the pupils of the Apostles or disciples quoted from the book?
- d) Book subject matter or content - What did it teach; was it contradictory to other recognized books?
- e) Personal edification - Did the book inspire, and edify the believers?

The Bible & Historical Accuracy

Topic: The Bible and Early Civilization

Q. What are some biblical accounts that coincide with archaeology?

A. 1) The Fall of Man - (Genesis 3:1-24). Many non-Hebrew cultures record this event. It is found in the Babylonian tablet called the "Temptation Seal." In the Assyrian Archives, referred to as the Adam & Eve Seal.

2) The Universal Flood in Noah's day -(Gen. 7:1-24) Without question;, and exception, every major human culture has a flood tradition. The Babylonian Civilization in the Gilgamesh epic depicts the Ship (Ark), animals, and flood. The Aborigines of nearly every country of the world have preserved records of the universal flood. Other areas of the world as China Siberia, Kamchatha, the Americas, and Africa have records of the flood.

3) The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) - Over two dozen ancient temple towers in Mesopotamia called Ziggurats have been excavated. A greater treatment of this subject is reviewed in a future article.

The Bible & Scientific Accuracy

Topic: Creation or Evolution

Q. When was the Universe brought into being?

A. Many creation scientists are in disagreement with those who hold to the big bang theory because of mounting evidence that our earth may be much younger than supposed, perhaps less than 12,000 years old. Some indications are as follows:

- 1) The amount of helium - 4 in the atmosphere. This suggests that our atmosphere is less than 15,000 years old.
- 2) The imbalance of carbon-14 and carbon-12. It can be shown that it would take a period of 30,000 years to attain an equilibrium between these two. However at present carbon-14 still exceeds carbon-12 by some 50%. It appears the evidence leans towards the atmosphere being young rather than billions of years old....

The Bible & Prophetic Accuracy

Topic: Israel In Bible Prophecy

Q. What are some prophecies that have come to past regarding Israel & yet to come?

A.

- 1) Israel would become a great nation.(Genesis 12:1-3; prophecy given to Abraham)
- 2) Israel would spend 400 years in Egypt.(Genesis 15:13). (Given to Abraham)
- 3) Israel would spend 70 years in Babylon. (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10)
- 4) Israel would return in part to Jerusalem after the 70 years. (Daniel 9:1,2)
- 5) Israel would be hounded and persecuted. (Deuteronomy 28:65-67) (Given to Moses)
- 6) Israel would reject her Messiah. (Isaiah 53)
- 7) Israel would return to Palestine in the latter days. Prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ. (Deut. 30:3; Ezekiel 36:24; 37:1-14; 38:1-39:29)
- 8) Israel would survive an invasion from a confederation of nations led by a powerful nation in the far north. God will intervene with natural catastrophes: rain plague, hailstone, burning sulfur. Ezekiel 38:1-23 Also, the armies will turn against itself - Ezekiel 38:21. Various scholars have determined that Gog is Russia; Persia is Iran; Cush is Ethiopia; and Put is Lybia. Review - Ezekiel 38:3,5

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