

"Evidential Reasons for Faith"

Volume 1 - Issue 3

The Bible & Christian Faith

Topic: Biblical Inspiration

Q. Why are other sacred books excluded from the Holy Bible?

A. 1) In the case of the contemporary books of the Old Testament period, i.e., (The Apocrypha & others), they were never recognized by authorities as the Pharisees or Ezra, the prophet etc.
2) They were never quoted by the Jews, by Jesus, or by any other New Testament writer,
3) The great Jewish historian Josephus excluded them.
4) The well known Jewish philosopher Philo didn't recognize them.
5) The early church fathers excluded them.
6) Some books contained historical and geographical errors. Example, the moon is 50,000 leagues higher than the sun, etc, etc.
7) Some books teach false teaching (example- praying to the dead).
8) No apocryphal book can be found in any catalogue list of canonical books composed during the 1st four centuries AD.

The Bible & Historical Accuracy

Topic: The Bible & Historical Finds

Q. What are some biblical events, places, or things archaeology confirms?

A. 1) The fall of Jericho - (Josh 6: 1-27). The archaeologist John Garstang found evidence that Jericho was destroyed about 1,400 BC (about the date given by Joshua), and that the Walls had fallen flat, outward, and down the hillside. This was extremely unusual, for had the city been captured normally, the walls would have been pushed inward by the ramming weapons of that day. He also found the layer of ashes left by Joshua's fire. (see Joshua 6:24) The Bible says that God delivered the city into the Israelites hands by causing the walls to fall down.
2) Solomon's stables (1 Kings 9:19; 10:26-29). The Oriental Institute has found the ruins of his stables with their stone hitching-poles and mangers.
3) Jezebel's cosmetic box (2 Kings 9:30). The actual saucers in which she mixed her cosmetics have been found in Samaria among the ruins of Ahab's house.

The Bible & Scientific Accuracy

Topic: Creation or Evolution

Q. When was the Universe brought into being?

A. Population statistics. If man appeared over 1 million years ago, the present world population would be thousands of times greater than it actually is. In fact our entire galaxy could not provide the needed space for so many. The present world population is around 7.94 billion. Assuming the average life span to be seventy years, and the average generation length to be 35 years. Hence, starting with one family, the present world population would result in about thirty doublings. These doublings would carry us back in history from today to around 3,500 BC. This date is suggested by several creation scientists to mark the time of the flood. Thus, the creation model dovetails beautifully with known world population statistics.

The Bible & Prophetic Accuracy

Topic: Prophecy & Ancient Empires

Q. What are some prophecies that have come to pass regarding various gentile nations?

A. 1) Babylon, was the first of four world powers mentioned in Daniel 2:31-43, and 7: 1-8. Daniel prophesied the demise of mighty Babylon as did Isaiah (13:17-19), and Jeremiah 51:11. This literally took place on the night of October 13, 539 BC by Darius the Mede.

2) Media-Persia, Daniel foretells of a series of battles that would take place some 217 years later between Darius III (as the ram), and Alexander the Great (as the goat) both men were symbolized as these animals. Written in 551 BC (Daniel 8:1-7, 20, 21). Fulfilled in 334 BC at Granicus; 333 BC at Issus; and 331 BC at Gaugamela.

3) Greece - Daniel predicted the dissolution of the Greek empire into four smaller separate powers after Alexander's death, each ruled over by Alexander's four generals. The four generals were Ptolemy, Cassander, Seleucus, and Lysimachus. Fulfilled in 301 BC (Dan. 7:6, 8:8,20, 28).

Week 3