

Evidence For Our Beliefs About The Bible

Part 2 Notes

February 24, 2013

Review

- The Bible is inspired by God; they are the words He intended.
- Because the Bible is from God, it is authoritative for our lives.
- The Bible is complete, no more and no less than God intended (called canonicity).
- The Bible is trustworthy; His words are truth and can be trusted.

Part 1 Evidence

- Unity of theme considering number of authors and span of time
- Manuscript evidence for the Bible is unique among ancient writings in
 - 1) the sheer number copies
 - 2) the integrity of the meticulous copying process
 - 3) in the case of the NT, the fact that the authors were so close chronologically and geographically to the events about which they wrote.

Part 2 Evidence

• **Fulfilled Prophecies**

- 1) Daniel 9:24-27 - Christ's coming
- 2) More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ Himself at His first coming, all of which had been written at least 400 or more years before his birth.
- 3) There are also extensive prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled, accurately, and in many cases, with specific details matching perfectly.

• **Unique Historical Accuracy**

- 1) Criterion: Is there any other historical material that confirms or denies the internal testimony of the document itself.
- 2) The standard many scholars use for the Bible is far different from that applied to other ancient documents. The Bible is considered guilty until proven innocent, and a lack of outside evidence for any aspect places the Biblical account in doubt.
- 3) The historical accuracy of the Scriptures is in a class by itself, far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations.

• **Archaeological Evidence**

- 1) Archeological confirmations of the Biblical record have been almost innumerable in the last century.
- 2) Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s - verify much of the culture and language of the Pentateuch. -*them*, ancient customs
- 3) Hittites - capitol and records discovered in Turkey
- 4) Solomon's wealth - records show it was entirely feasible
- 5) Sargon - palace discovered in Iraq; stela verifying Sargon's victory found in Ashdod
- 6) Balaam and his talking donkey - crumbled plaster Aramaic text confirms he was "a son of Beor" and "a seer of gods."
- 7) Belshazzar - tablets confirmed he ruled in Daniel's time
- 8) Over 25,000 archaeological finds have either directly or indirectly established the historicity of the people and places and events described in the Bible.
- 9) The historical existence of some 30 individuals named in the NT, and nearly 60 in the OT, has been confirmed through archaeological and historical research.

• **Scientific Accuracy**

- 1) Bible is a spiritual manual, not intended as a scientific manual.
- 2) If the scientific observations of the Bible agree with the facts of science today, then the Bible affirmed as the inspired Word of a true and living God.
- 3) A few of the claims relating to science:
 - round earth - Isaiah 40:22; Proverbs 8:27
 - infinite universe - Isaiah 55:9
 - expanding universe - Isaiah 45:12
 - beginning of time and matter - Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 2:6-7
 - Earth suspended in space - Job 26:7
 - hydrologic cycle - Ecclesiastes 1:7
 - vast number of stars - Jeremiah 33:22
 - law of increasing entropy - Psalm 102:25-27
 - importance of blood to life processes - Leviticus 17:11
 - atmospheric circulation - Ecclesiastes 1:6
 - Orion, Pleiades, Arcturus - Job 38:31-32

• **Bible's Unique Effect - No other book has ever held such universal appeal nor produced such lasting effects.**

One final evidence that the Bible is true is found in the **testimony** of those who have believed it. Multitudes of people, past and present, have found from personal experience that its promises are true, its counsel is sound, its commands and restrictions are wise, and its wonderful message of salvation meets every need for both time and eternity.