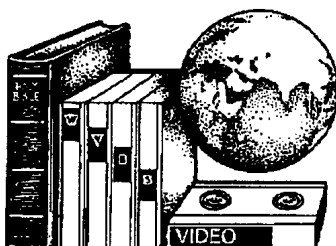


# World Video Bible School®

Established 1986



IS GOD THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE?



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Study Christian Evidences? . . . . .	Page 1
Scientific Accuracy and Foreknowledge Prove Inspiration. . . . .	7
Fulfilled Prophecies Prove Inspiration. . . . .	13
The Uniqueness of the Bible Proves Inspiration.. . . .	25
The Resurrection of Christ Proves Inspiration. . . . .	29
Archaeology Proves Inspiration. . . . .	35
Chart – Liar, Lunatic or Lord?.. . . .	43



# **IS GOD THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE?**

## **Class # 1 - Why Study Christian Evidences?**

- I. Introduction.
  - A. We will be studying evidences for the inspiration of the Bible.
  - B. Rom. 1:16 - only the gospel can convert; Christian evidences will give evidence that the Bible is God's inspired authoritative word.
  - C. Although evidences by themselves do not convert a person, before the Gospel can have its effect a person must believe the Bible is the word of God.
  - D. 1 Pet. 3:15
  - E. Can you give reasons why we believe the Bible is the word of God?
- II. Many do not believe the Bible is the word of God!
  - A. Atheists - believe there is no God.
  - B. Agnostics - do not know whether God exists or not.

C. Some “religious” leaders.

1. Textbook used in high school and college classes for a literature credit class - The Bible and the Common Reader.
2. Bible “scholars.”
  - a. Goodspeed.
  - b. Oxford University.
  - c. University of Chicago Divinity School.
3. Reader’s Digest - “Mysteries of the Bible.”
4. Children’s record called “The Bible” narrated by Art Linkletter.

D. Results of Gallup Poll.

1. The Bible is only a collection of manuscripts -
2. The Bible is the word of God, but sometimes mistaken -

3. The Bible is the word of God and is never mistaken -

III. Why are these beliefs prevalent?

A. Survey of ministers and students in religious seminaries.

1. God's existence -
2. Evolution -
3. Genesis accurate -
4. New Testament accurate -
5. Virgin birth of Jesus -
6. Satan real -
7. Heaven exists -

8. Hell exists -
9. Any resurrection -
10. Second coming of Jesus -
11. Jesus' resurrection -
12. Christ's death for sin -
13. Final judgment day -

B. Survey in Denver area.

1. Did God reveal His will to man?
2. Is the Bible directly inspired by God?



3. Are people to go by the Bible alone to find out how to worship God and become a Christian?

IV. Even some in the brotherhood are seriously questioning the inspiration of the Bible!

A. Mission magazine -

B. President of a “Christian” university and Bible teacher in that school -

C. Commentaries written by brethren -

1. “Living Word” - Old Testament

2. “Living Word” - New Testament

V. Conclusion.

A. A study of the evidences for the inspiration of the Bible is absolutely essential!



## **Class # 2 - Scientific Accuracy and Foreknowledge Prove Inspiration**

- I. Introduce 2 propositions.
  - A. Proposition # 1 - The Bible does contain scientific truth even though its facts are stated in non-scientific language.
  - B. Proposition # 2 - The Bible does not contain the errors and fallacies of science common to the age of its production.
  - C. Why examine scientific accuracy of the Bible?
    - 1. Man is able to examine information logically.
    - 2. We ask each viewer to do so!
- II. Some examples of scientific foreknowledge in the Bible.
  - A. Prov. 8:27 (1,000 BC) - circle on the face of the deep.  
Isa. 40:22 (722 BC) - circle of the earth.
    - 1. 384 - 322 BC - until the time of the Greeks, everyone believed the world was flat. Aristotle was one of those who theorized the world was round.

2. 200 BC - Romans went back to belief that world was flat disc shape.
3. 1520 AD - actually proved world round. From 1000 BC until 1520 AD (2,500 years) the Bible was not proven to be true in this statement, but when the final answer came, the Bible proved to be right.

B. Job 26:7 (2,000 BC) - hangs the earth on nothing.

1. Hindus - four elephants.
2. Greeks - Atlas.
3. Egypt - solid crystalline spheres.
4. Bible - expanse, **NOT** firmament.
5. Almost all before 1543 AD believed earth mechanically supported.
6. 1687 - Newton's theory of gravity.

C. Jer. 31:36ff (600 BC) - heavens can not be measured.

1. Means universe continually expands.
2. Before 1800 AD, belief was that the universe was finite and fixed (closed).
3. 1835 - 1901 - believed most distant star was 3,260 light years away.
4. 1917 - Einstein.
5. 1928 - galaxies move.
6. 1948 - Mt. Palomar.
  - a. Millions of galaxies.
  - b. All moving away.

D. Jer. 33:22 (600 BC) - stars can not be counted.

Gen. 15:5 (1400 BC) - count the stars if you are able.

1. 150 BC - Hipparchus -

2. 150 BC - Ptolemy -

3. 1608 AD - telescope -

4. 1924 - 100 billion stars in our galaxy - 2.5 million galaxies!

5. 1575 - Brahe, Tycho (1546-1601) -

1600 - Kepler, Johannes (1571-1630) -

6. Isa. 40:26 (727 BC) -

E. Gen. 1:9 (1400 BC) - all the seas lie in one place (bed).

1. If Moses had written from his own experience, he would have known of at least two “beds” (Mediterranean and Red Seas).

2. 1520 AD -

F. Psa. 8:8 (1015 BC) - ocean paths (customary road).

1. Matthew F. Maury - “Pathfinder of Seas”

III. Some things the Bible does **NOT** have in it, but which were believed by the people of the day.

A. Papyrus Ebers (1551 BC) - medical book in Egypt before Moses.

1. Cure for hair turning gray -

2. Solution for loss of hair -

3. Dr. S. I. McMillen - “None of These Diseases.”

B. Gen. 3:15 - woman has seed.

1. 1694 doctoral dissertation.

- C. Lev. 17:12,14 - eating of blood prohibited.
- D. Lev. chs. 13 - 15 and Deut. 23:12-14 - quarantine and burying waste.
- E. Lev. ch. 11 - clean and unclean animals.

IV. Question - How did Bible writers who lived in times of ignorance and superstition consistently and accurately record information not proven true for hundreds or thousands of years?

- A. And how did they avoid putting in the false theories of the day?
- B. Chance, guesses or coincidence??
- C. A higher source - God wrote through them!!
- D. The Bible (when properly used) and science (not just theories) **AGREE!**
- E. God is the author of both!



### **Class # 3 - Fulfilled Prophecies Prove Inspiration**

- I. Everyone does not understand the Bible alike.
  - A. Date calculations.
    - 1. April 4, 5, 1982 -
    - 2. 1991 -
    - 3. Oct. 1991 -
    - 4. Dec. 1992 -
    - 5. These kinds of things are very harmful to the cause of Christ!
- II. We will follow a very strict rule - all prophecies will be archaeologically and/or historically verifiable.
  - A. We will note the probabilities of these prophecies coming true if they were merely from man's imagination or guesses.
    - 1. We will determine probabilities as in college algebra.
      - a. For example, if 1 person in 10 is bald and 1 in 100 has lost a finger, the probability of finding a bald man who has lost a finger is 1 in 1,000 (10 X 100).

2. What about a bald man who has lost two fingers?
3. These are the same principles as used by insurance companies.
4. Much of this information is in a book by Peter W. Stoner, "Science Speaks."
  - a. Used over 700 college students over 10 years.
  - b. Revised findings as study continued.
5. All of the probabilities we will use have been approved by the American Scientific Affiliation.

III. Some prophecies from the Bible.

A. Destruction of city of Tyre - Ezek. 26:3-16 (590 BC) - seven prophecies:

1. (:7) - Nebuchadnezzar going to take Tyre (1 in 3).

In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar began - took thirteen years!
2. (:3) - Other nations would participate in Tyre's downfall (1 in 5).

241 years before anything else happened to Tyre again - Alexander!

Cyprus, Sidon, Greece, Thrace helped Alexander!

3. (:12) - Stones and timbers would be laid in sea (1 in 10).

Alexander did that - took stones and timbers from old Tyre to build a causeway out to new Tyre!

4. (:4) - Tyre would be made as flat as top of rock (1 in 500).

Alexander scraped dirt off old city of Tyre to fill in sea!

5. (:16) - Other cities to fear at fall of Tyre (1 in 5).

Others saw Alexander's determination and surrendered!

6. (:5) - Tyre would become a place to spread nets (1 in 10).

Location of old Tyre used by fishermen to spread nets for centuries!

7. (:14) - Old Tyre never to be rebuilt (1 in 20).

Excellent source of drinking water - springs of Raselain

Yet, never rebuilt!

8. Combined odds of all seven prophecies happening if just guesses.

1 in 75,000,000!

Or if each prophecy had just 1 in 2 chance = 1 in 128!

9. Sources:

- a. "Cambridge Ancient History," Vol III, S.A. Cooke article on rise and fall of Judah.
- b. "General History Book," P. V. Meyers.
- c. "History of the Ancient World," George V. Goodspeed.
- d. "Outline of History," Vol 1, p. 286, H.G. Wells, Alexander's part.
- e. "Encyclopedia Britannica," Tyre, Vol. 22, p. 652 ff.

- B. Golden Gate of Jerusalem to be closed up - Ezek. 44:1-3 (590 BC).

1. Sultan Suleiman - 1543 AD - destroyed city.

2. Had walls rebuilt - built gate back, but closed it up!

3. Probability - 1 in 1,000!, or 1 in 8.

- C. City of Samaria - Micah 1:6 (750 BC) - 5 prophecies:

1. Samaria to be destroyed (1 in 4).

2. Samaria would become as a heap in a field (1 in 5).
3. Vineyards would occupy its site (1 in 100).
4. Its stones would be poured down sides of hill (1 in 10).
5. Its foundation to be dug up (1 in 2).
6. If each of these prophecies were just guesses, probability would be (1 in 40,000)!

Or if the probability of each prophecy was just 1 in 2, the combined probability would be (1 in 32)!

D. Gaza and Ashkelon (Palestine) Zeph. 2:4-6 (630 BC); Amos 1:8 (787 BC); Jer. 47:5 (600 BC) - four prophecies:

1. Philistines to perish (Palestine) (1 in 5).
2. Ancient Gaza to become bald (1 in 100).
3. Ashkelon to become desolate (1 in 5).

4. Area of Ashkelon to become dwelling place of shepherds (1 in 5).
  5. Probability of all coming true if just guesses - (1 in 12,500).  
Or, if odds of each prophecy were just 1 in 2 = (1 in 16).
- E. Zion to be plowed - Micah 3:12 (750 BC) - (1 in 100).  
Or 1 in 2.
- F. Jerusalem to be enlarged - Jer. 31:39,40 - (600 BC).
1. Told exact order in which it would occur (9 points).
  2. Odds - 1 in 80 billion!  
Or if just allow each prophecy 1 in 2 chance = (1 in 512)!
- G. Palestine - Lev. 26:31-33 (1400 BC); Ezek. 36:33-35 (590 BC) - seven prophecies:
1. Cities to become waste (1 in 10).
  2. Sanctuaries to become desolate (1 in 2).
  3. Land to become desolate (1 in 10).

4. Enemies shall inhabit land (1 in 2).
5. Jews shall be scattered (1 in 5).
6. Sword go out after Jews (1 in 10).
7. Jews return to Palestine (1 in 10).
8. Combined total probability if all seven were just guesses - (1 in 200,000)!

Or if just allow 1 in 2 for each prophecy = (1 in 128)!

H. Moab and Ammon - Ezek. 25:3,4,9,10 (590 BC); Jer. 48:47; 49:6 (600 BC).

1. Shall be taken by men of the East; they will eat fruit of the land (1 in 5).
2. Men from the East shall build palaces in Ammon (1 in 10).
3. Moabites and Ammonites returned; land returned (1 in 20).
4. Probability if not inspired prophecies = (1 in 1,000).

Or if allow just 1 in 2 for each prophecy = (1 in 8).

I. Edom - Jer. 49:16-18 (600 BC).

1. Edom shall be conquered (636 AD) (1 in 10).
2. Edom shall become desolate (1 in 10).
3. Edom shall not be reinhabited (1 in 100).
4. Probability if just guesswork = (1 in 10,000).

Or if allow just 1 in 2 for each prophecy = (1 in 8).

J. Conquering of Babylon - Isa. 13:19-21 (720 BC); Jer. 51:26,43 (600 BC).

(In Isa. 43-45, Isaiah prophesied that it would be a man named Cyrus who conquered Babylon. Cyrus had not even been born when Isaiah made the prophecy!) What odds would you put on that?

1. Babylon to be conquered (1 in 10).

Some historical facts about Babylon (Herodotus, "Book 1," para. 178-180):

- a. Had walls around it (311 ft. high, 90 ft. thick).
- b. 30 ft. moat on other side of wall.
- c. Another wall on other side of moat.
- d. 250 watchtowers on wall (another 100 ft. tall).
- e. 100 gates of solid brass.
- f. Walls were 14 miles long on each side of city - grew all needed food inside the walls!
- g. Euphrates River runs under walls - had all water needed!



2. Never be reinhabited (1 in 100).
3. Arabs not pitch tents there (1 in 100).
4. No sheepfolds (1 in 5).
5. Wild beasts to occupy (1 in 5).
6. Stones not taken away for buildings (1 in 100).
7. Men not to be taken by ruins (1 in 10).
8. Probability of all seven prophecies if "guesses" = (1 in 5,000,000,000)!

Or if just 1 in 2 chance of each prophecy = (1 in 128).

- K. Probability of all ten of these prophecies coming true = (1 in  $13 \times 10$  to the 54th power)!

Or if just allow 1 in 2 for each prophecy = (1 in 140,737,000,000,000)!

- L. Some objections against these probabilities.

1. Estimates are too high - make your own!
2. Prophecies are not dated correctly - really just history written after the fact.
  - a. All of these prophecies were written in the Old Testament which was completed by 400 BC.
  - b. Old Testament was translated into Greek by 180 BC.

- c. Total of forty-seven prophecies - only thirteen fulfilled in Old Testament times. All others fulfilled after Jesus' time.
- 3. Many other prophecies of this kind (Sidon, Capernaum, Egypt, Assyria, etc. - thirty others).
- 4. Over 300 prophecies about Jesus as the Christ fulfilled in the New Testament.

M. Comparison of figures:

- 1. 10 to the 54th power silver dollars would make 2 X 10 to the 21st power silver balls the size of our sun (1,000,000 times the mass of the earth)!
- 2. 100 billion suns (stars) in Milky Way galaxy - average is size of our sun.
  - a. Estimated 1.5 - 2 trillion galaxies averaging 100 billion stars.
  - b. 10 to the 54th power of silver dollars would make every star of the largest possible number and have many left over!
- 3. Mark one of 200 sextillion stars with an "x" and blindfold a person.
  - a. Give them one chance to pick the marked star.
  - b. Would take 3,000,000,000,000 years to touch each star at one per second.
  - c. Their chance of choosing the marked star the first time is the same chance these prophecies had of being fulfilled exactly, if done by mere guesses!!!

- N. The Bible is an evidenced book!
- O. God's challenge (Isa. 41:23).
- P. "Guesswork" and "chance" are impossible!
- Q. The Bible is God's inspired, authoritative word!!



## **Class # 4 - The Uniqueness of the Bible Proves Inspiration**

- I. The unity of the Bible.
  - A. Unity of theme - redemption.
    - 1. Gen. 1 & 2 - redemption planned.
    - 2. Gen. 3-11 - redemption required.
    - 3. Gen. 12-Mal. 4 - redemption prepared for.
    - 4. Gospel accounts - redemption effected.
    - 5. Acts - redemption shared.
    - 6. Epistles - redemption explained.
    - 7. Revelation - redemption realized through prophecy..
  - B. Organic unity.
    - 1. Starts at the beginning and ends at the end.
    - 2. Complete view of life in this world.
  - C. Unity of style.
    - 1. Condenses history.
    - 2. Restraint in recording amazing things.

3. Simplicity and depth.

D. Unity amid diversity.

1. Try this with forty seminary students in same place and time!

## II. Influence of the Bible.

A. Anthropologist's discovery (Dr. Casagrande - professor of anthropology - University of Illinois).

B. Liberal, Missouri.

C. "The Best Book" - Dr. Sam Morris.

1. Homer -

2. Shakespeare -

3. Tolstoy -

4. The Bible -

D. What about all of the wars which were fought by "Christians"?

1. 2,000 years - 3 million killed.

2. 40 years of people like Marx - 57 million killed.

## III. The Bible still exists despite all efforts to destroy it.

A. Jer. 36 - King Jehoiakim.

- B. Antiochus Euphron IV (1 Maccabees 1:27,28).
  - 1. Decreed that all Jewish religious books to be destroyed.
- C. Diocletian - March, 303 AD.
  - 1. All Scripture to be burned.
  - 2. The name "Christian" has been destroyed!
- IV. Bible miracles and their effects on people.
  - A. Ten plagues - two million Jews released.
  - B. Feeding the five thousand - Jn. 6:14,15 - tried to make Jesus a King!
- V. Doctrinal superiority of the Bible.
  - A. Record of creation.
  - B. The flood.
- VI. Conclusion.
  - A. 1750 - Voltaire predicted the Bible's demise.
    - 1. He died fifty years later.
    - 2. Geneva Bible Society bought his house.
    - 3. They used his printing press to print Bibles!!
  - B. Bible - by inspiration or Jewish myth?!





## **Class # 5 - The Resurrection of Christ Proves Inspiration**

- I. Significance of this study.
  - A. Jesus' resurrection is the most important doctrine of Christianity!
  - B. The whole Christian system depends upon the resurrection of Jesus.
    - 1. Mentioned 104 times in the New Testament.
    - 2. Paul's emphasis upon the resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:12-19).
    - 3. If Christ was not raised from the dead:
      - a. Preaching is vain.
      - b. Your faith is vain.
      - c. You are yet in your sins.
      - d. Those asleep in Christ have perished (1 Pet. 1:3; Phil. 3:20, 21).
    - 4. All hope of being raised from the dead is based upon Jesus' resurrection.
    - 5. If Jesus was raised, then He is the unique Son of God (Rom. 1:4; Acts 2:36).
- II. How do we know that Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter and Paul told the truth about Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament?
  - A. We must put them on trial! We must test their testimony!

B. Tests of historical witnesses:

1. Honesty.

- a. Is there any contrary evidence?
- b. Did they have any impure motives?
  - (1). Fear?
  - (2). Money?
  - (3). Ambition?

2. Competency.

- a. Did they have opportunity to know whether Jesus was raised from the dead?
- b. Were they mentally capable? (Note the greatness of the New Testament).
- c. Were they gullible? (Lk. 24:11; 19-25).

3. Number of witnesses - enough, but not too many (over 500).

4. Are their documents reliable?

	<u>Written</u>	<u>Earliest Manuscript</u>
History of Thucydides	420 BC	900 AD
History of Herodotus	450 BC	900 AD
Caesar's "Gallic Wars"	50 BC	900 AD
Roman History of Livy	20 BC	350 AD
"Histories" of Tacitus	100 AD	850 AD
"Annals" of Tacitus	100 AD	1050 AD
New Testament books started about 50 AD, completed about 100 AD		
Codex Sinaiticus	100 AD	350 AD
Codex Alexandranus	100 AD	425 AD
Codex Vaticanus	100 AD	350 AD
Codex Ephraemic	100 AD	450 AD
Codex Bezae	100 AD	500 AD

Over 5,000 Greek manuscripts of part or entire New Testament.

There is too much evidence to discard, and it is historically sound!

III. Objections to the resurrection (remember - the tomb was and is empty!)

A. Jesus did not die. He just fainted or swooned. The coolness of the tomb revived Him!

1. Historical customs of crucifixion.

a. Jesus was scourged before His crucifixion.

- b. He was without food, water and medical care for at least thirty-six hours.
- c. The stone in front of the tomb was very large and heavy (Mk. 16:3, 4).

3/21/86 Journal of American Medical Association report on crucifixion.

- d. What happened to Jesus' body after His "real" death??
- e. How did Jesus get out of His burial wrappings? (Jn. 11:44; 19: 39ff).
- f. How could one so weakened convince His followers and others that He had "all power"?
- g. Jesus' own claims. He is either a liar, lunatic or Lord! (See Appendix A).

B. Jesus' friends stole the body while the soldiers slept (Mt. 28:13-15).

- 1. Would not all sleep under penalty of death (Acts 16:27).
- 2. Would His disciples support a known lie to the point of death?

3. How accurate can sleeping witnesses be?

IV. Conclusion - If the resurrection of Jesus is a fact, then:

A. Miracles did occur, of which this is chief.

B. The truth of Christianity is established as the one true religion.

1. Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

2. No one comes to the Father except through Him (Jn. 14:6).

3. **ALL** of the Bible is **TRUE!!**

- a. Jesus confirmed the Old Testament was God's word while He was on earth.

- (1). Lk. 24:44 - Law of Moses, prophets, Psalms.

- (2). Mt. 5:17 - Law and prophets.

- b. He sent the Holy Spirit to inspire His apostles and prophets to write the New Testament.

- (1). Jn. 17:7 - had to go to Heaven to send the Holy Spirit.

- (2). Jn. 14:26 - the Holy Spirit brought to the minds of Jesus' apostles and prophets all that Jesus taught on earth.

(3). Jn. 16:12 - the Holy Spirit taught them things they could not bear while Jesus was on the earth.

(4). Jn. 16:13 - the Holy Spirit guided them into all truth.

C. Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves the inspiration of the Bible!

## **Class # 6 - Archaeology Proves Inspiration**

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Archaeology shows God's providence, "every time they turn a spade"!
- B. Inductive reasoning gives us answers for challenges to the Bible's inspiration.
- C. If we know that certain circumstances produce a particular answer,  
  
and we have another set of circumstances like the first set which produces a particular answer,  
  
and we have a third set of circumstances like the first two which produces a particular answer,  
  
and we have a fourth set of circumstances like the first three which produces a particular answer,  
  
and we have a fifth set of circumstances, but don't have the answer, we can conclude, by inductive reasoning, that the answer will be the same as the others.
- D. Throughout history, people have claimed the Bible is wrong in various areas and have made various challenges against the inspiration of the Bible.
  - 1. Then archaeology has proved the challengers wrong and the Bible right!
  - 2. This happened many times over and proved the challengers wrong each time.

3. Therefore, we can conclude by inductive reasoning that every time someone challenges the Bible as not right, inspired or accurate, then when the final answer comes, the Bible will be proved right!

## II. Challenges against the Bible.

### A. The writing.

1. It was said that Moses could not be the author of the Pentateuch since writing was too primitive in his day (1400 BC).
  - a. In 1902, archaeologists discovered the Code of Hammurabi (1750 BC).
  - b. In 1889, 50,000 tablets were discovered in Nippur (2500 BC).
  - c. In 1975, the Ebla tablets were found (2250 BC).

### B. Places.

1. They used to say that Abraham was a fictional character because there was no "Ur" of the Chaldees.
  - a. In 1922 AD, Ur was discovered and recognized as a highly developed city even 500 years before Abraham's time.

### C. Doctrine.

1. They used to say that the book of Deuteronomy was not written before the 6th century BC since no law code was heard of before that time.
  - a. Code of Hammurabi (1750 BC).
  - b. Code of Uranammu (2200 BC) (Discovered in 1954).



- c. Ebla tablets (2250 BC) (Discovered in 1975).

D. The Gospel story.

- 1. They said it was too advanced for a first century writing. They claimed it must have developed only after decades.
  - a. John Ryland Papyri (containing John 18) discovered in 1920 AD - (written in 125 AD).

E. Customs and practices.

- 1. They used to say that no teacher ought to tell students of an actual Abraham, Isaac or Jacob because there is no proof that their actions depict those of their supposed time.
  - a. In 1931, the Nuzi tablets (about 1500 BC) were discovered and shed light on matters of everyday life of the times.
    - (1). Barren wife will provide concubine for husband.
    - (2). Childless couple may adopt a slave.
    - (3). A man without a dowry works for a bride.
    - (4). Teraphim (idol) was title to property.

F. Historical events.

- 1. They claimed that Gen. 15:20 was a myth because the Hittite nation never existed.
  - a. In 1906, archaeologists discovered remains of the highly developed nation of the Hittites.

- G. Gen. 40:10,11.
  - 1. They claimed it was an error because no grapes were grown in Egypt during Joseph's time.
    - a. Paintings found in tombs of ancient Egyptians proved grapes to be known and used (despite claims of Herodotus and Plutarch).
    - b. George Rawlinson, Professor of ancient history at Oxford University, documented in "Historical Illustrations of the Old Testament," p. 52 that cultivation of grapes, making wine and drinking it were well known in Egypt from at least the times of the pyramids.
  
- H. They said there was no record of a census in the Roman Empire. Therefore, Luke 2:1-3 must be wrong.
  - 1. The Edict of Gaius Vibius in Egypt shows that a census occurred every fourteen years!
  
- I. They claimed that there is no "historical evidence" that Nebuchadnezzar ever conquered Judah.
  - 1. In 1930, a brick tablet from Nebuchadnezzar's palace said that Jehoiachin of Judah, a prisoner, was receiving royal rations of grain and oil.
  - 2. 2 Kings 25:29,30 said exactly this!
  
- III. How do we know that what we have in the Bible is anything like what they had 2,000 years ago?
  - A. The Dead Sea Scrolls (Qumran community).
    - 1. In 1947, two Bedouin shepherds were looking for lost sheep.

2. They found some clay jars in a cave, filled with manuscripts.
3. It was determined that the manuscripts dated to 150 BC.
4. It is believed that the manuscripts were put in jars about 67 AD, and no one touched them until found in 1947.

B. Significance.

1. The manuscript (great Isaiah scroll) found in cave one dates to 100 - 200 BC.
2. This manuscript is 1,000 years older than manuscripts previously used to translate Isaiah which were dated 930 AD.
3. There were no significant differences between the manuscripts!
4. The RSV translators adopted only thirteen different readings from the ASV of 1901 and the KJV.
5. These differences do not affect any fact, teaching or history!
6. Most of the changes were just stylistic.
  - a. In Isa. 53, there were 17 letters out of 166 words which were different.

- b. Ten of those letters were just different in spelling.
  - c. Four of those letters were just differences in spelling.
  - d. The other three letters comprise the word “light” in verse 11.
- 7. The thirteen references which were changed between the RSV and the KJV and ASV were as follows: 3:24; 14:4; 14:30; 15:9; 21:8; 23:2; 33:8; 45:2; 45:8; 49:24; 51:19; 56:12; 60:19.
- 8. We can see God’s providence in preserving His word!
- C. Between 1975 and 1980, archaeologist Gabriel Barkay made excavations in the southern area of Jerusalem.
  - 1. He discovered an Israelite tomb dating back to the era before the Babylonian Captivity (606 - 536 BC).
  - 2. He found two tiny scrolls with inscriptions on them.
  - 3. One inscription was from Numbers 6:24-26.
  - 4. Dr. Siegfried Horn, retired professor at Andrews University said these were the earliest inscriptions ever found in Jerusalem that contain the name of Israel’s God, Yahweh and the earliest copies of a Bible text in existence.

5. These scrolls predate the earliest Biblical copies of the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years and bring them back to the period before the Babylonian Exile.
6. This find refutes scholars who claim the books of Moses had not been written until the Babylonian Captivity or later.
7. That is true because in this inscription, small portions of the 5 books of Moses are literally quoted well before the destruction of Jerusalem and deportation of Judah to Babylon.

#### IV. What do archaeologists believe about the Bible?

- A. Dr. William F. Albright, director or archaeological adviser of expeditions to Shiloh, Gibeah, Bethel and Bethzur said in "The Archaeology of Palestine," p. 229:

"Biblical historical data are accurate to an extent far surpassing the ideas of any modern critical students, who have consistently tended to err on the side of hypercriticism."

- B. Nelson Glueck, Hebrew Union College, said in "Rivers in the Desert," p. 31:

"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological finds have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. ... the Bible's almost incredibly accurate historical memory."

- C. G. Ernest Wright, chairman of the Old Testament department of Harvard Divinity School, said in "Biblical Archaeology," p. 18:

"For the most part, archaeology has substantiated and illuminated the Biblical story at so many critical points that no one can seriously say that it is little but a congeries of myth and legend."

- V. A problem is not automatically a proven error!
  - A. We may not be able to answer every question about the Bible, but that is not a proven error!
  - B. We may not have an answer now, but inductive reasoning shows us which way to choose.
  - C. As we have seen, Bible challengers have been wrong every time so far and the Bible has been right!
  - D. In 1900, some French atheists claimed there were eighty-two errors in the Bible which would destroy faith in the inspiration of the Bible.
  - E. Because of archaeological discoveries, none of those claims stands today!

### Liar, Lunatic or Lord?

Jesus claimed to be God - Jn. 5:16-18

#### Two Alternatives

His claims were FALSE  
(Two alternatives)

His claims were TRUE  
(Two alternatives)

He knew His  
claims were  
false

He did not know  
His claims were  
false

You can  
Accept

You can  
Reject

He made a deliberate  
misrepresentation

He was seriously  
deluded

Count the  
COST

Count the  
CONSEQUENCES

He was a LIAR

He was a LUNATIC

He was a FOOL  
(because He died  
for it)

#### Appendix A