

Foundations Of Faith

I. SCIENCE OF THE BIBLE

A. The Bible is not a science book, but everywhere it speaks in the realm of science, it is correct. Many of its scientific statements have only recently been proven to be valid. Often they were not in accord with the scientific knowledge of the times in which they were uttered. Furthermore, men did not have the technology available to learn these scientific truths on their own. There are some examples of “accommodative” or “phenomenal” language such as in the book of Joshua and the account of the sun standing still. God sometimes uses accommodative language to speak to man in a way he will understand best. Accommodative language is the language of God used to express phenomena as man sees them.

1. Genesis 2:7 says man was formed of the dust of the ground:
 - a) Modern science has discovered almost every element in man is found in the dust of the ground.
 - b) Man could only have known this through divine revelation.
2. Genesis 3:15 talks of woman having “seed.”
 - a) It was thought that man produced the seed and woman was comparable to the soil in which the seeds grew.
 - b) This truth has been discovered with the advent of modern science, yet it was in the Bible all of the time.
3. Leviticus 17:11 says “the life of the flesh is in the blood.”
 - a) Until about 100 years ago, people were bled when ill and it was in this manner that George Washington was bled to death.
 - b) Modern science has only recently learned this truth.
4. Job 26:7 “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”
 - a) There is a place in the northern sky that is void of stars. Job could not possibly have traveled there and could not have known of it by experience.
 - b) Nowhere in ancient literature is it taught that the “earth hangeth upon nothing.” The only way Job could have known was by divine revelation.
5. Job 38:6 talks of the springs of the sea
 - a) Only with modern deep sea diving equipment has this been substantiated.
 - b) It was recorded as fact *thousands* of years before man was able to explore the floor of the ocean.
6. Job 36:27-28 explains the Hydrologic cycle of the Earth.
 - a) The water cycle was not fully understood until about 30 B.C. by a Roman engineer named Marcus Vitruvius. Yet every aspect of the water cycle was fully revealed to mankind in 1600 B.C.! The Bible's description is in perfect harmony with modern science. (See also, Eccl 1:6-7; 11:3; Job 26:8; Amos 9:6.) Vitruvius was 1600 years too late!

7. Psalms 8:8 speaks of the “paths of the seas”:
 - a) **Matthew Fontaine Maury** was ill in a hospital bed and has his son read to him from the Bible. When his son read this passage, Mr. Maury decided to find those paths. He found them and charted them. They are known as the **shipping lanes** which all sea-going vessels follow to this day.
 - b) The Jews were not a sea-faring people and could not have learned this on their own.
8. Isaiah 40:22 “It is he that sitteth upon the circle (also, “sphere”) of the earth.”
 - a) This is an obvious reference to the round shape of the earth.
 - b) The predominant theory of that time was a flat earth.
9. Leviticus 13:45 commands that leprosy be controlled by isolation.
 - a) Spreading of the disease by communication is a relatively modern discovery.
 - b) This truth was taught centuries before science learned it.
 - c) How could these men tell of things they could not possibly have known?
 - d) They could not have accidentally guessed all of these.
 - e) They did not have the technology to learn them.
 - f) They made scientific statements that would not be proven for thousands of years
 - g) There is only one answer: God

II. ARCHEOLOGY

- A. Modern archeological research has done a great service in proving the accuracy of the Bible. Towns, nations, and the names of prominent men are recorded in the Bible which were found recorded nowhere else. Doubters pointed to this as proof of the inaccuracy of the Bible. But every turn of the spade has only helped to prove the Bible to be accurate in the smallest detail.
 1. Jericho: the walls did fall down flat.
 2. Ur of Chaldees has been uncovered.
 3. The cities of Haran and Nahor have been found.
 4. The store cities of Pharaoh have been located.
 5. Hezekiah’s tunnel has been discovered.
 6. The Hittites:
 - a) Even the archeologists could find no trace of them.
 - b) Skeptics claimed the Hittites never existed.
 - c) Finally in Egypt and Assyria records of them were found and showed they were everything the Bible had said.
 7. Belshazzar, King of the Chaldeans:
 - a) The only record of his existence was the Bible.
 - b) The Archeologists found a complete list of the Babylonian kings, but his name was not listed and it showed that Nabonidus was king during the time period the Bible said Belshazzar was.

- c) In 1854 Archeologists found an inscription written by Nabonidus in which he said Belshazzar was his oldest son. In 1876 Archeologists found a tablet written by Cyrus saying that Nabonidus was taken prisoner and lived a long time, but that the king of Babylon died the day Babylon fell. The king who died was Belshazzar. Thus, Belshazzar and Nabonidus were reigning together. That is why Daniel was offered third place in the kingdom instead of the second place, because Belshazzar had second place. (Dan. 5:29)
- B. **William F. Albright**, one of the foremost archeologists of modern time, entered his work as a liberal. He believed there were many errors in the Bible. After a lifetime of work, he has become a staunch conservative and believes the Bible is correct word for word.
- C. **Sir William Ramsey** set out to prove archeologically that the *Book of Acts* was incorrect. He thought it was a second century document and that it contained many errors, but his findings led him to the conclusion that it is not in error and that it is a first century document.
 - 1. Luke, the author of Acts, is now considered one of the greatest historians of the ages.

III. GEOGRAPHY:

- A. As a science, Geography is relatively new. Most Geography books contain mistakes which must be corrected with each new edition.
- B. The Bible abounds in geographical references and it is always right:
 - 1. Cities, towns, plains, deserts, hills and mountains are exactly where the Bible locates them.
 - 2. "Up" is always up and "down" is always down.
- C. The men God selected to write the Bible were, for the most part, unlearned and you would expect one of them to slip up, especially if they were trying to falsify something, but they never do.

IV. PROPHECY:

- A. If I were to tell you five things were going to happen to you tomorrow but only three of them came true, you would think I am a prophet.
- B. The Bible is filled with prophecies and never misses **one** time.
- C. The destruction of Babylon:
 - 1. Babylon was at the height of its glory.
 - 2. It did not fall until 182 years after this prophecy.
 - 3. The prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter.
 - 4. God said Babylon would *never* be rebuilt.
 - 5. In the early 1980's Saddam Hussein set out to rebuild Babylon. He and his army were wiped out by the Americans right before he could start the rebuilding. Who will be next to spit in God's face?
- Babylon will *never be rebuilt!*
- D. The four kingdoms of Daniel 2:

1. Daniel did not live to see this prophecy come true.
 2. It happened exactly as he foretold.
- E. There are about sixty Messianic prophecies. One of the more forceful is that of the crucifixion in Psalms 22:
1. It was written at least a thousand years before its fulfillment
 2. Crucifixion was not even practiced at this time.
 3. It was fulfilled to the letter.
- F. The great falling away, I Timothy 4:1-5:
1. Many scholars believe that this refers to the Catholic church. Catholicism was the first and greatest departure from the original teachings.
 2. This passage also has a wider meaning; that of anyone who abandons the Truth, throughout history. Denominationalism or “division” of the Truth is considered a great falling away, as well. Denominationalism is also known as sectarianism.

V. THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE

- A. **FORTY** different writers were used to write the Bible
1. They were of varied backgrounds.
 2. They lived in different countries.
 3. They wrote in different languages.
 4. Most of them never met the other writers.
 5. They wrote over a period of about 1500 years.
 6. How could there be any unity under those circumstances?
 7. There is no other way all of this information found its way into the Bible other than by God.
- B. The result is an incomparable unity:
1. There are no contradictions.
 2. Each book compliments the others.
 3. Each book fills a special need.
 4. There is one main purpose: the glorification of God and the salvation of man through Jesus Christ.
 5. There is one central theme: the coming of the Christ.
- C. It is the only book that carries man from eternity to eternity.
- D. Compare the writings of any one religious group on one subject and you will find that they are not unified on it.
- E. Compare the sacred writings of the other religions as you will find:
1. They consist of jumbles of material, loosely pasted together without order, continuity, or unity.
 2. There is no order, no progress, no purpose, and no theme in other writings.
- F. When forty different writers over a period of 1500 years write upon the same theme and there are no contradictions and all the books form a perfect unity, we are forced to conclude that God is behind it.
- G. Consider other books as well:
1. Shakespeare. This is one author. The Bible has 40 authors and yet is unified.
 2. Book of Mormon. One author and an amazing amount of disunity.

3. Koran. One author and an amazing amount of disunity.
4. The Bible is a very special book among books.

VI. BREVITY OF NARRATION:

- A. Men do not write with the restraint characterized by the Biblical writers
 1. Volumes have been written about Abraham Lincoln, Napoleon, etc.
 2. The records of WWII would probably fill a library.
- B. The Creation
 1. It is one brief chapter of 31 verses.
 2. The average sports writer takes more space to tell about a football game.
- C. The fall of man is recorded in just 24 verses.
 1. It explains the origin of: Sin, Suffering, Sickness, Death, Disease, Childbirth, Toil, etc....
 2. It also tells us why we need a redeemer.
- D. The life of Enoch is recorded in four verses
- E. The account of Jesus' life here on earth is told four times in 129 pages.
- F. The Transfiguration is told in eight verses
- G. The Crucifixion is told four times in 59 verses.
- H. The Resurrection of Jesus is told four times in 100 verses.
- I. The death of the first Apostle is told in eleven words.
- J. We are not even informed of the fate of the rest of the Apostles.
- K. Men do not write with such restraint, on their own.
- L. The brevity of the Bible is a Master Piece.
- M. Enough is told for us to:
 1. Carry us from eternity to eternity;
 2. Tell us *who we are*, why we're here, where we are going, and what we can do about it.

VII. THE OMISSIONS OF THE BIBLE:

- A. We do not have a record of the childhood of Jesus, the most important personage in the Bible.
- B. There is no physical description of Jesus:
 1. *Every biography* contains a physical description of the principal characters.
 2. The men who wrote about Jesus loved with an intensity that has been unsurpassed and yet there is no physical description of Him.
- C. What happened to Joseph, Jesus' step-father?
- D. What happened when Paul came before Nero?
- E. The unnecessary things are omitted, and yet there is smooth flowing narrative from beginning to end.

VIII. THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE SCRIPTURES:

- A. Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation:
 - 1. His great faith in God is declared.
 - 2. His weakness is also revealed in Genesis 12 and 20.
- B. David was Israel's greatest king:
 - 1. We thrill to read of his victory over Goliath.
 - 2. He was also guilty of lying, adultery, and murder.
 - 3. We read of his failure with his children.
- C. Solomon was Israel's most glorious and glamorous king:
 - 1. He had great wisdom, power and wealth.
 - 2. But he allowed his foreign wives to lead him away from God.
- D. The losses of the kings of Israel are recorded along with their wins.
 - 1. The kings of the other nations never recorded their losses and greatly exaggerated their victories.
 - 2. Simon Peter had enough faith to walk on water, but was also so weak that he denied Jesus three times.

IX. THE NON-EMOTIONAL NATURE OF THE SCRIPTURES:

- A. Even though the writers of the Bible were deeply involved in the events about which they wrote, the ordinary and the sublime are described in the same calm, unemotional manner.
 - 1. The death of John the Immerser
 - 2. The miracles of Jesus.
 - 3. The betrayal of Jesus and his capture in Gethsemane.
 - 4. The Transfiguration of Jesus. He was seen by more than **500** people at once. (1 Corinthians 15:6)
 - 5. The betrayal of Jesus and his capture in Gethsemane.
 - 6. The death of the Son of God on the cross.
 - 7. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.
 - 8. Men do not write that way when they are describing things they want people to accept, believe, and obey.

X. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS:

- B. There is no refutation of it by his enemies.
 - 1. If there had been a body, they would have produced it.
 - 2. There is not even a written refutation of it.
- C. The remarkable change which came over the Apostles can only be explained by the Resurrection of Jesus:
 - 1. They went into hiding when Jesus was taken and killed.
 - 2. They refused to believe the reports of those who claimed to have seen Jesus after He was raised from the dead.

3. On the Day of Pentecost, AD 33 they stood in the heart of enemy territory and boldly proclaimed the Resurrection. (Acts chapter 2)
- D. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus can only be explained by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead:
 1. He persecuted the Christians because he thought Jesus was an impostor.
 2. He was trained for and totally dedicated to Judaism.
 3. Why would he turn from his religion, profession, family, and friends to proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus if it were not true?
 4. Why would he subject himself to the trials and tribulations he himself had inflicted if there were no Resurrection?
 5. No one can accuse him of being insane or deranged, because his writings and the records about him show otherwise.
- E. The dedication of the Apostles can only be explained in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus:
 1. They never denied Jesus' Resurrection even though they suffered and died for it.
 - a) There is no record in history of anyone dying for something in which they did not believe.
 - b) They could have avoided persecution, prison, beatings, shame, and death if they would have denied Jesus' Resurrection.
 - c) There was no earthly advantage for them to preach the Resurrection.
 - d) They gave up everything men hold dear to proclaim the Resurrection.

XI. THE BIBLE ALONE PROVIDES THE PLAN OF SALVATION:

- A. Its purpose is the salvation of man and the glorification of God through Jesus.
- B. No other religious writings provide a plan of salvation.
 1. If God was so concerned about man to write him, He would tell him how to live forever in heaven.
 2. God would also tell man how to live on earth so he could enjoy the best of this life.
 3. The Bible gives us both these answers.
 4. What has Zoroaster, Mohammed, Buddha, or Socrates done to change the world the way Jesus has?
 5. Even if men could've come up with the Bible, they never would have, since the Bible is completely restrictive to him and condemns everything he likes to do.
- C. Jehovah God alone is portrayed as being totally just.
 1. As just God, He must punish sin.
 2. Jesus paid the price for our sins if we will accept it.