



Week 6 - NOTES

Is the Bible God's Word? Part 3

Historical Proof

December 28, 2003



Small Group Questions

- 1) Why is it important to understand the historical proof of the Bible?
- 2) Read the following scriptures and discuss the implications of the scriptures with the authorship of the Bible
 - Matt 8:4 Mark 7: 10 Luke 20:37 John 3:14 John 6:32
 - Matt 19:7 Luke 16:31 Luke 24:27 John 5:39 John 7:19
- 3) Discuss the Dead Sea Scrolls and their implication on the Historical Proof of the Bible.
- 4) Discuss the comparison made between popular manuscripts accepted as true and valid (*Homers Illiad, etc.*), and the Holy Bible.
- 5) How would you explain the Historical proof of the Bible to a non-believer?



Small Group Announcements

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. “

Sunday Services

January 4, 11 and 18th, we will be meeting at The Mission Valley Marriott located at 8757 Rio San Diego Drive.

Rock University presents a unique class on

The Ten Commandments

A thoughtful and thorough examination of the Ten Commandments and their relevance to the Old Testament, the New Testament, and our lives today. Join us as we connect history to the reality of our today culture. This class is Free!!! 4 Thursdays starting January 15th from 6:30- 9:00 p.m. To sign up contact AshleyH@therocksandiego.org or call 858-455-7625 ext. 260

Small Groups



Did you know...The following things began in Genesis?

- The Beginning of Creation
- The Beginning of Relationships
- The Beginning of Sin and Death
- The Beginning of Murder and Strife
- The Beginning of Prophecy
- The Beginning of the End
- The Beginning of the Races
- The Beginning of Redemption
- The Beginning of Redemption

Our Next session of Small Groups will begin on January 4 entitled “Genesis...Foundations”. For in-depth discussion and teaching about these things, you need to get into a Small Group. For more information, go to the Small Groups table, or check out the website at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/smallgroups/>.





Review

How is it that we as Christians can claim that our Book is better than everybody else's?

Introduction

Some will argue that Jesus was only a myth – not a real person

HISTORICAL Proof

Josephus

- “Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”

Tactius

- “Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”

The remaining argument deals with the manner of the translation of the text – How did we actually get it? Is it just man's words and it's been edited and changed over the years

1. IMAGINE LIFE BEFORE THE PRINTING PRESS

1450 the invention of the printing press by Guttenberg

Today we text message, e-mail, fax, we got KINKOS ... think about it





Bulletin, bible

Before 1450 EVERYTHING was handwritten copies

What did some of these ancient manuscripts look like?



scrolls
papyrus
vellum
codex
animal skins

2. EXTERNAL EVIDENCE - TORAH

Exodus 24:4-7 ⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

If you study the formation of the OT there are a lot of critics of Moses as the sole author but if we look carefully at the following passages we can see that Jesus quoted from every book of the Torah and he ascribed the words to MOSES. So, if you



believe that Jesus is God then the authorship of the Torah is settled – if you don't believe that Jesus is God you got bigger problems than who wrote the torah

Matt 8:4 Matt 19:7 Mark 7: 10 Luke 16:31 Luke 20:37
Luke 24:27 John 3:14 John 5:39 John 6:32 John 7:19

3. INTERNAL EVIDENCE - ELS
TAV / WAW / RESH / HEH - TWRH

בראשית Genesis

- 1 ¹ בְּרֵאשִׁית יֵת בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:
- 2 ² וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתְּהָ תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ הָיָה וַחֹשׁ הָאֲדָמָה עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:
- 3 ³ וַיֵּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר:
- 4 ⁴ וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאוֹר כִּי־טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשׁ וַיִּשׂ דָּ:
- 5 ⁵ וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאוֹר יוֹם וּלַחֹשׁ לַיְלָה וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשׁ וַיִּשׂ דָּ:

ויקרא Leviticus

- 1 ¹ וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאוֹר יוֹם וּלַחֹשׁ לַיְלָה וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשׁ וַיִּשׂ דָּ:

YOD / HEH / WAW / HEH





4. EXTERNAL EVIDENCE - DEAD SEA SCROLLS

DSS – discovered in 1947

Until this discovery the oldest copies were 9th and 10th centuries

Over 600 scrolls and 1000's of fragments have been discovered in the Qumran caves - Fragments of every biblical book except Esther

The greatest find THE BOOK OF ISAIAH and yes chapter 53 is center stage!



The Scroll of Isaiah on Display

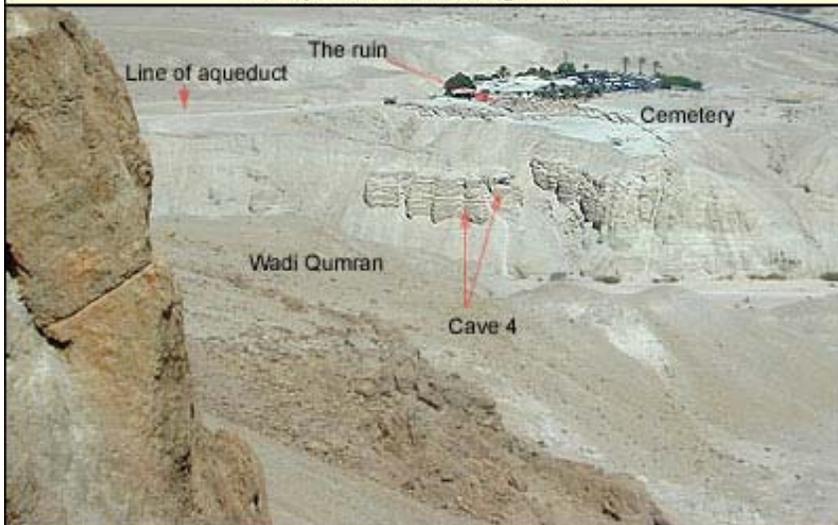
When the two texts were compared to each other, the text dated 150 BC proved to be VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL to today's standard Hebrew text – the 5% difference can be explained by obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.

FROM DISCOVERIES SUCH AS THESE CHRISTIANS TODAY HAVE UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE OT THEY READ IS THE SAME THAT WAS WRITTEN 1000'S OF YEARS AGO!



The fourth cave in which scrolls were found
(some 15,000 fragments!)

Photo by Lowell Williams, touring with NET



The "modest ruin" of Qumran
(Looking NNE. Just beyond is the visitors' center with trees.)

Adapted from a photograph by Bible Places (www.bibleplaces.com)



5. THE NEW TESTAMENT

Over 20,000 known manuscripts document the NT text. This makes the NT the most reliable document of antiquity (a document written before the printing press) These manuscripts vary in size from a part of a page to an entire Bible.

Some professors who are considered intellectual, readily accept the authorship, philosophical content, and in some cases the literal historical accuracy of Homer's *Illiad* yet scoff at the integrity of the Bible.

But consider this. The *Illiad* was written in 900 B.C., with the earliest known copy of it coming from 400 B.C. This means that of the more than 643 earliest copies or portions of copies of the *Illiad* which exist today, none were made earlier than 500 years after the original was penned by Homer himself. On the other hand, the books which comprise the New Testament were written between, 40 AD and 100 AD, with the earliest copies or fragments of copies in existence today, coming from 124 A.D. That gives us a span of only 25 years from the original to the existing copies as compared to 500 years for the *Illiad* Now I ask you, "Which one has the greatest chance of containing transcription error?"

Furthermore, there are over 24,000 ancient copies or portions thereof of the New Testament as opposed to only 643 copies or portions thereof of the *Illiad*. Yet the *Illiad* is considered to be the most authenticated piece of ancient literature (aside from the Bible) that was ever written..

| Writer | Church and Manuscript Comparisons | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| | Original | Oldest Copy | Time Distance | Copies |
| Aristotle | 384-322 BC | 1100 AD | 1400 years | 5 |
| Herodotus | 480-425 BC | 900 AD | 1300 years | 8 |
| Plato | 427-347 BC | 900 AD | 1200 years | 7 |
| Homer – Iliad | 900 BC | 400 BC | 500 years | 643 |
| New Test. | 50-90 AD | 120-350 AD* | 30-300 years | 6000 |



CONCLUSION – Soul Winner, So What

The Bible is not a science book but it is scientifically accurate

It can be stated categorically that No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.

Neither Islam, nor any other world religion or cult can present any authenticated prophecies concerning the coming of their prophets. However, in the Bible we see hundreds of fulfilled prophecies extending hundreds and sometimes over a thousand years into the future.

Can we really PROVE it?
Ultimately a step of FAITH is required

We need to BE THE BIBLE

Revelation 12:11

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Let's DO This – Study to show thyself approved a WORKMAN ...