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Week 2 – October 8, 2017

Six Realities Which Make It Reasonable To Believe That The Bible Is God's Word



1. The Bible's Historical Reliability

Louis Markos, Apologetics for the 21st Century, p. 146

In order to substantiate the basic claims of Christ and the essential doctrines of Christianity, the apologist need not prove the inspiration or inerrancy of the Bible; he need only show the Bible to be reliable in its account of Jewish and Christian history.

- Dates, Places, People, Storyline
- Archeological Discoveries

William F. Albright

Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of the innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.

Nelson Glueck, Rivers in the Desert, p. 136

It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.

A.H. Sayce

Time after time the...assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archaeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently pronounced to be mythical have been shown to be historical, and the older writers have turned out to have been better acquainted with what they were describing than the modern critic who has flouted them.

- Extrabiblical Writings

Jefrey Breshears

Viewed merely as an ancient text, it would be regarded by all serious & honest scholars as probably the most reliable historical text of the ancient world.

2. The Bible's Scientific Reliability

Jeffrey Breshears, An Introduction To Bibliology, pg. 122

Not only does the Bible support modern cosmology (including an instantaneous creation and the constant expansion of the universe), but it did so more than 3,000 years ago in stark contrast to all other ancient cosmological theories and long before Moses and other writers of the texts would have known the truth about such phenomena. Indeed, the Bible describes features of the universe that would not be discovered until recent times. This knowledge is only explicable in terms of supernatural revelation.

- Now admitting – outside power required to start the universe
- No evidence to show living creatures produce outside own kind

Stephen J. Gould

Species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they finally disappear.

3. The Historicity Of The Resurrection

- Flavius Josephus – Jewish Priest and historian (1st century)

Flavius Josephus

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

- Historical writings of disciples' martyrdom

4. The Bible's Unified Theme
 - 1500 years
 - 40 authors
 - 3 different languages
 - Different continents & cultures
 - Absence of contradictions

5. The Bible's Fulfilled Prophecies
 - Over 300 Old Testament prophecies
 - New Testament prophecies
 - Mathematical Improbability

6. The Bible Manuscripts' Preservation
 - Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Plato – 1200 years later – 7 manuscripts
 - Aristotle – 1400 years later – 7 manuscripts
 - New Testament – same time period – 14,000 manuscripts

Questions from the Book of John, Chapters 1-5

1. To whom does the "Word" refer? Why is the name used? (John 1:1,14)
2. How did the world receive the Word? Why? (John 1:10)
3. Why was Christ called the Lamb of God? (John 1:29)
4. What is the significance of Christ's words, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days"? (John 2:19)
5. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus he must be born again? (John 3:3)
6. What did Jesus say was necessary to have eternal life? (John 3:15)
7. What is the significance of Christ's claim to be the Messiah? (John 4:26)
8. How did Jesus describe His relationship with the Father? (John 5:18-24)
9. Can someone be right in relationship with God without being right in relationship to Christ? (John 5:23)



TO SUBMIT A QUESTION ELECTRONICALLY:
Text your question to: 678-829-8879
Email your question to: ifgod@perimeter.org