

Old Testament Reliability

- I. Review – NT reliability and Archaeology
- II. The Old Testament (OT) – The history of God dealing with man and the nation of Israel in particular.
 - A. Israel was in direct contract with many of the great nations from history who had their own histories and records – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- III. Reliability from Documents – The 3 “S's”
 - A. Scrolls – Dead Sea Scrolls
 - i. Found in 1947
 - ii. Oldest manuscripts of the OT before this were from 1008 A.D.
 - iii. The Dead Sea Scrolls are dated from 250 B.C. To 70 A.D. (up to 1250 years older!)
 - iv. Qumran and the Essenes
 - B. Scribes – Copiers of God's word
 - i. Materials
 - ii. Rules
 - iii. Counting
 - iv. Clothing
 - v. Numerology
 - C. Septuagint – The Greek translation of the OT written 280-250 B.C.
- IV. Archaeology – The science of studying and examining the past.
 - A. Modern Archaeology began with Napoleon's army in 1798 when they went to Egypt
 - i. Tells and Digs
 - ii. Dating
 - B. How is Archaeology important to us?
 - a) It verifies Biblical events that people have denied.
 - b) It fills in our picture of Biblical times.
- V. Some Important Finds Related to the OT Records.
 - A. Over 25,000 places have been found which the Bible speaks of.
 - i. Many of these places are ancient cities which are many thousands of years old.
 - a) Jerusalem is 4800 years old.
 - b) Damascus is 5000-6300 years old.
 - c) Jericho is the oldest continually inhabited city in the world and is reported to be approximately 11,000 years old.

B. Ebla Tablets

- i. Since 1974 over 17,000 tablets have been found there. Dated to before 2,300 B.C.
- ii. They used to say that Moses lived before writing was invented, but these tablets are almost 1,000 years older than Moses (1,400 B.C.)
- iii. Also, there are 5 cities of the plain listed in Genesis chapter 14 are listed in the same order as in the Bible (before this, people thought they were a fable).

C. Gold of Ophir – 1 Kings 9:11-28

D. Story of Noah and the Flood - almost every ancient tribe and nation has record of a massive flood.

- a) H.S. Bellamy in *Moons, Myths and Men* estimates that altogether there are over 500 Flood legends worldwide.
- b) Ancient civilizations such as (China, Babylonia, Wales, Russia, India, America, Hawaii, Scandinavia, Sumatra, Peru, and Polynesia) all have their own versions of a giant flood.
- c) <http://www.nwcreation.net/noahlegends.html>

E. Book of Daniel

- i. Critics attack Daniel frequently because of his superb accuracy. They claim Daniel must have been written AFTER all these things happened because it is just too precise.
- ii. Balshazzar and Nabonidus
 - a) Daniel 5:29
 - b) School for captive princes
 - c) Furnace which is inscribed to say that it was for cooking those who didn't believe in their gods.

VI. Conclusions

A. No one has ever found anything which proves the Bible wrong (Ten Wonders of the Bible, page 51)

B. What about other religions? Can they say that?

- i. Jehova's Witnesses -- Greek Septuagint
- ii. Mormons -- Archeology
- iii. Hindu Vedas -- Physical World

C. Limits of Archaeology

- i. You can't force someone to believe through archeology or historical.
 - a) Noah's Ark – Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31
 - b) John's story of the Israeli archaeologists.

VII. How would you answer these questions or statements?

- A. The Bible is full of mistakes.
- B. The Bible has been changed a lot since it was first written.
- C. The Bible is just a bunch of fables!
- D. Jesus never existed.