

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 7-26-15 PM NOTES
"THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE STAND"
PART 3

Review:

- I. What the Bible Claims About Itself
- II. The History of the Bible
- III. The Bible's Accuracy Compared to Archeology

- IV. The Bible's Scientific Accuracy

A. The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Psalms 102:25-27 (NKJV) "25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens *are* the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. 27 But You *are* the same, and Your years will have no end."

Isaiah 51:6 (NKJV) "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished."

B. Astronomy

Jeremiah 33:22a (NKJV) "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered..."

Psalms 19:6 (NKJV) "Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat."

Job 26:7 (NKJV) "He stretches out the north over empty space; *He* hangs the earth on nothing."

Isaiah 40:22 (NKJV) "*It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in."

C. Hydrology

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NKJV) "10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

Job 36:27-28 (NKJV) "27 For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, 28 which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man."

Psalms 135:7 (NKJV) "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures."

D. Medicine and the Human Body

Leviticus 17:11, 14 (NKJV) "11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul..."14 for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'"

Leviticus 13:46 (KJV) "All the days wherein the plague *shall be* in him he shall be defiled; he *is* unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp *shall* his habitation *be*."

V. The Bible's Prophecies

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (NKJV) “¹ If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--which you have not known--and let us serve them,' ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. ⁵ But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn *you* away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.”

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (NKJV) “²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'-- ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

A. Messianic Prophecies

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”

Isaiah 53:9-12 (NKJV) “⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked-- but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Zechariah 11:12 (NKJV) “Then I said to them, "'If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain.' So they weighed out for my wages thirty *pieces* of silver.”

Psalms 16:10 (NKJV) “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”

B. Prophecies Among the Nations

Isaiah 44:26-28 (NKJV) “²⁶ Who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' and I will raise up her waste places; ²⁷ Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'; ²⁸ Who says of Cyrus, '*He is* My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, 'You shall be built,' and to the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'”

Ezra 1:2 (NKJV) “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.”

C. Prophecies Concerning the End Times

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Picture with me a Baseball game. The batter hits a grounder that passes 5 feet to the left of the third base bag. The runner runs to 1st base, then 2nd, 3rd, and then home. The umpire talks a moment to the batter and then gives the safe sign and instructs the official scorer to award a point to the batting team. The opposing

manager storms out of the dugout onto the field screaming, “That was a foul ball”. The umpire responds, “To you it may have been foul, but when I spoke to the batter at home plate he sincerely believed that he hit the ball in good faith and it should be allowed to be in play and his score should count. Who are you and who am I to tell him he’s wrong?” The next batter gets up and swings and misses at 3 straight pitches but stays in the batters box. He says something to the umpire and then the umpire instructs the pitcher to keep pitching to him. The manager of the defensive team again charges out of the dugout and screams, “That’s three strikes; he’s out!” The umpire says, “Calm down. He sincerely believes he should be allowed four strikes. Who am I and who are you to tell him he is wrong?” The opposing manager pulls out his copy of the official rule book and says, “Look right here. It says that a ball that goes to the left of 3rd base is a foul ball. Each batter is given only 3 strikes and then he is out.” The umpire says, “Yes, that’s what the rule book says and if it works for you and you believe it that’s OK but the other team doesn’t accept the rule book and you nor I have the right to force our belief about the rule book on the other team.” I realize that this is a rather dumb illustration, but is it really that different from the relativism of our culture. Our culture will accept the baseball rule book, but they won’t accept the life rule book – the Bible. Our culture says that there is no truth standard for moral or ethical decisions; there is no authoritative guide for what is morally right and wrong. We are the first generation to live in an American culture that has by and large rejected the Bible as the truth source and the moral authority. The game of life is played with each participant making up his own rules. When it comes to issues of moral and behavioral standards and authority, the only absolute truth our culture accepts is that there is no absolute truth or authoritative moral standards. Even the church (to fit in with the world around us) has largely surrendered to pressure from the culture and backed off from proclaiming the Bible as the inspired, authoritative, infallible word of God, our truth standard and moral authority.

Let me try to do away with a very damaging misconception so many have concerning God’s moral standards. Our God is not a “killjoy” who simply desires to take away everything that is enjoyable and force on us that which makes life boring and monotonous. Every “you shall not” in the Bible is God saying “stay away from this; it will harm you.” Every “you shall” is God saying, “Do this (or do it this way) and discover the joy of obedience and true fulfillment.” You can apply this truth to every area of life. Joy comes in heterosexual sexual relations inside a covenant marriage. Sexual promiscuity results in emotional damage. Homosexuality is against God’s design and results in bondage and all sorts of other negatives. Living a single life in sexual purity when surrendered to God and His plan can be a joy filled life. God’s way revealed in His word is best in every area of life – ethics, morals, relationships, family, work, health, on and on – every area of life.

Where do we find God’s plan for all of these areas? We find it in the Bible. If we are going to base all that we do in every area of life on the Bible; if we are looking to the Bible as our authority, are we sure that it can be trusted? That is why we are doing this series entitled, “The Foundation on Which We Stand” before we look at what God says about many areas of life and ethics. Can we trust the Bible?

We said in part 1 that in order to find the Bible totally trustworthy, we would need to demonstrate several things (10 in all). Thus far we have looked at 3 reasons the Bible is absolutely trustworthy: 1) The Bible’s own claims to be the very word of God, 2) The Bible’s history in showing how the canon (the list of accepted books) was determined and the overwhelming evidence that the manuscripts we have today are accurate. In this message, we are going to look at two more reasons that the Bible is trustworthy and thus should be accepted as our authority in every area.

IV. The Bible’s Scientific Accuracy

In the last message, we saw that the Bible is not a book of science that uses scientific jargon, but when the Bible speaks to matters of science it is totally accurate and trustworthy. We also saw last week that what is accepted in culture as “scientific truth” is in a constant state of flux. I am absolutely convinced that in the future even the scientific community will look at the theory of evolution and laugh at it as much as we look back at the “science” of the dark ages that said the earth is flat and laugh at it. When the Bible was written, it contradicted much if not most of the accepted science of its time. My approach to

this point is to look at several areas where science has “caught up” with what the Bible stated long ago. [Most taken from “Ready with an Answer” by John Ankerburg, page 336 and following].

A. The Second Law of Thermodynamics

This law (also called the law of entropy increase) basically says that while the total amount of energy remains unchanged, the amount of usefulness and availability that the energy possesses is always decreased. We now know that our universe is wearing out. There had to have been a beginning for the creation when it was “wound up” but now it is growing old and wearing out. Was that in the Bible before science discovered it? Yes, it was. **Psalms 102:25-27 (NKJV)** “²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens *are* the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. ²⁷ But You *are* the same, and Your years will have no end.” **Isaiah 51:6 (NKJV)** “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished.” We know that the Lord is going to create a new heaven and a new earth, but long before science discovered it, the Bible taught that this universe is wearing out.

B. Astronomy

The prophet Jeremiah wrote in the 8th Century BC when the astronomers believed it was possible to number the stars. Jeremiah wrote in **Jeremiah 33:22a**, “As the hosts of heaven cannot be numbered...” Today we know that there are at least 100 billion stars in our galaxy and probably several hundred billion galaxies in the universe. It would be impossible for anyone to find and number the stars.

Some 3000 years ago the Psalmist wrote in **Psalms 19:6 (NKJV)** about the sun, “Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.” That certainly is true. Today we know that the sun does move in a “circuit” at speeds of close to 600,000 miles per hour.

At the time Job and Isaiah wrote, the prevailing “science” said that the earth was flat and that it had to rest on something. Over the years there were various theories of what the earth rested on. Some said a giant elephant, some a giant turtle, and some on the back of Atlas. Listen to Job (possibly the earliest book of the bible written) in **Job 26:7 (NKJV)** “He stretches out the north over empty space; *He* hangs the earth on nothing.” Isaiah wrote in about 700BC in **Isaiah 40:22 (NKJV)** “*It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.” The Hebrew word for “circle” could better be translated “sphere”.

C. Hydrology

Hydrology is basically the science that deals with the waters of the earth. Water is evaporated into the atmosphere, collected in clouds and re-deposited in the form of rain or snow (that’s a huge simplification). The precipitation waters the earth and thus plants grow while some flows into rivers and other bodies of water and the process repeats itself. It wasn’t until the 17th century that “science” began to understand the hydrological cycle, but the Bible described it hundreds of years earlier. Look at **Isaiah 55:10-11 (NKJV)** ¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it. **Job 36:27-28 (NKJV)** “²⁷ For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, ²⁸ which the clouds drop down *and* pour abundantly on man.” **Psalms 135:7 (NKJV)** “He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”

D. Medicine and the Human Body

[Some from “What Every Christian Should Know” by Adrian Rogers, Page 11 and following]

We take for granted that our blood is flowing through our body as what some have called, “a red river of life”. It wasn’t however until 1628 that William Harvey (a Medical Doctor) discovered that the blood circulates through the body. Today we know that the blood carries fuel to the cells, oxygen to burn that fuel, and carries out waste, and fights disease, and maintains a constant temperature in the body. In the

olden days before modern medicine, when someone was sick, the diagnosis would be “bad blood”. The treatment would be to drain the blood. Many times they would take sick people to a barber who would “bleed them” as a treatment for their sickness. That’s why the “Barber’s pole” is red and white striped. It was to represent a bandage because that’s where people went to have some blood drained. Another method was to put a leech on the sick person to suck the blood out. A little known fact is that when George Washington (our first president) died it was tied in to this. He was sick so his physicians bled him. When he didn’t get better, they bled him again. He didn’t improve so they bled him a third time. It is widely thought that the physicians bled him to death. Someone wondered if ever since that time politicians have been bleeding us to death to get even (just a thought). In about 1400 BC, however, Moses (being inspired by the Holy Spirit) wrote in **Leviticus 17:11, 14 (NKJV)** “¹¹ For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul”. “¹⁴ for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'”

Dr. S. I. McMillen, (a medical doctor) in his book “None of these Diseases” tells about the black plague in the Dark Ages in Europe. In the 14th century, the black plague killed an estimated 1 of every 4 persons (estimated at 60 million people). It was the greatest disaster ever recorded in human history. How were these plagues brought under control? The physicians had no clue because nothing had worked. They turned to the church which turned to the Bible. They read Leviticus 13:46 (KJV) “All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.” They learned to quarantine from the word of God. If time allowed, we could talk about geology, meteorology, biology, physics, and other branches of science. While the Bible is not a science book, there is nothing in true science that contradicts the Bible. Someone summarized it like this, “The Bible was not written to tell us how the heavens go, but to tell us how to go to heaven.” However when the Bible speaks to science it is accurate.

When we look at the Bible’s scientific accuracy, we see one more piece of evidence that the Bible is totally trustworthy.

V. The Bible’s Prophecies

In my opinion, this is the most convincing evidence of all that the Bible is trustworthy. In all the writings of Buddha, Confucius, and the Hindu “holy books”, there is not a single instance of predicted prophecy. In the Koran there is one “self-fulfilling” prophecy where Mohammed wrote that he would return to Mecca. He did. That’s quite different from the prophecy of Jesus that he would raise from the dead. There are however many examples of prophecy outside the Bible. The question is “How accurate are they?” A “prophetess” of the late 20th century was Jeanne Dixon. She was notorious for her predictions. She got some of them correct. There’s an old saying, “Even a blind hog finds an acorn every now and then.” During the presidential elections of 1952, 1956, and 1960 she prophesied who the candidates would be for each party and which candidate would win. How did she do? She missed all the candidates, all the parties, and all the winners of the elections! Perhaps the most famous “prophet” outside the Bible was Nostradamus. This “prophet” would sometimes put himself in a trance by sitting on a brass tripod with his spine erect. The tripod’s legs would be placed at the same degree as the pyramids of Egypt. He said of those times, “I emptied my soul, brain, and heart of all care and attained a state of tranquility.” Then, staring into a bowl of steaming water he recorded his predictions. His prophecies were voluminous. Although he died in 1566 many believe that he predicted events until the year 8000! Nostradamus was trained in the occult and astrology. Some say he predicted the rise of Hitler some 360 years after his death. Let me read you one of the writings of Nostradamus that “prophecy” is taken from, “In the year that is to come soon, and not far from Venus, the two greatest ones from Asia and Africa, shall be said to come from the Rhine and Ister, crying and tears shall be at Malta and on the Italian shore.” I must have missed Hitler in all that. I have read his writings that some say predict the death of Hitler and the assassination of President Kennedy. They are so vague, you could almost apply them to anything.

Many of his “prophecies” are too vague and obscure to interpret. Even Nostradamus followers admit that he was often wrong [From “Seven Reasons you can Trust the Bible” by Erwin Lutzer, Page 88-91]. Compare all these so called “prophets” to the prophets in the Bible. The Biblical standard for determining a true prophet was two-fold: 1) If the prophet said things that did come to pass but led the people away from God, He or she was to be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 13:1-5), 2) The standard for prophecies coming true was that the true prophet was accurate every time – 100% (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Unlike Nostradamus, biblical prophecy is not written in riddles and hard to understand language. There are more than 600 direct references in the Bible to prophecy and prophets. Only 4 of the 66 books of the Bible are without prophecy [Ankerberg Page 216].

There are three kinds or categories of prophecy in the Bible:

A. Messianic – Prophecies concerning the Messiah.

B. The Nations – There are many prophecies about the nations and their rising and falling.

C. End Times

Let’s look at a few examples from each category.

A . Messianic Prophecies

In the Old Testament, God so intricately predicted the Messiah and how to identify Him that anyone really searching for the truth would find it. There are some who ignorantly say “Yes, He knew the prophecies and fulfilled and fulfilled them. It was rigged.” Listen to some things he would have to have arranged. First, He would have to have arranged the place of His birth. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

Second, He would have to arrange to be crucified on a cross. Psalm 22 was written by David about 1,000 years before Christ was born. It gives a description of crucifixion like a man standing at the foot of the cross describing what he saw. It talks of piercing his hands and feet, the gambling for His garments and even the reality of His being separated from the Father while He bore our sins. This one psalm contains 33 direct prophecies fulfilled at Calvary. Here’s the amazing thing. When David wrote Psalm 22, crucifixion wasn’t even known as a type of capital punishment! Third, He would have to arrange to be crucified between 2 thieves as Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 53:9-12. Fourth, He would have to have arranged for Judas to betray Him for 30 pieces of silver which Zechariah prophesied in Zechariah 11:12. Fifth and here is the most amazing thing He would have to have arranged. He would have to have arranged His resurrection from the dead! It had been prophesied in Psalm 16:10. Most all of the prophecies (300 of them) were not fulfilled with the help of His friends but by his enemies.

B. Prophecies concerning the Nations

There are so many but here are 2 examples. First, Cyrus, King of Persia – How would you like to try to predict who the president of the United States will be 150 years from now? In addition, could you predict what one of his executive decisions would be concerning the captives of another nation? That’s exactly what the prophet Isaiah did. Isaiah was writing 700-680 BC and predicted that Babylon would take Judah captive. That was accomplished about 100 years later. He went on to prophesy that that Babylon would be conquered by the Persians. At the time Isaiah wrote this, Persia wasn’t even a powerful country. He said that the leader of the Persians would release the Jewish captives and then he even names the Persian king! **Isaiah 44:26-28 (NKJV)** “²⁶ Who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers; who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' and I will raise up her waste places; ²⁷ Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'; ²⁸ who says of Cyrus, '*He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure,*' saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’” Ezra gives the fulfillment of that prophecy in **Ezra 1:1-2 (NKJV)** “¹ Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying, ² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.”

If we had the time we could detail fulfilled prophecies related to Tyre (amazing), Sidon, Egypt, Nineveh, and others.

C. Prophecies concerning the end times – Most of these have not yet been fulfilled, but the God who has 100% accuracy can be trusted to be accurate in giving details about the second coming of Christ. One of the ones we have seen in our day is the return of Israel to the land. There are multitudes of things the Bible says will happen as the end comes that we see today beginning.

CONCLUSION

After many years of studying the Bible I am more convinced than ever that it is God's breathed out word and totally trustworthy. What a hypocrite I would be if I said that but I didn't study and apply it to my moral life and to judge what is true and what is false from the bible. I want to know the word and I want to apply the word. What a treasure we hold in our hands in this book.