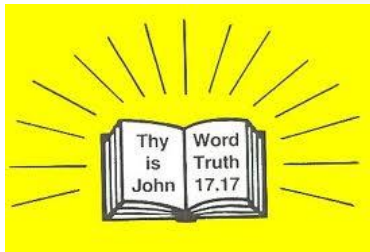
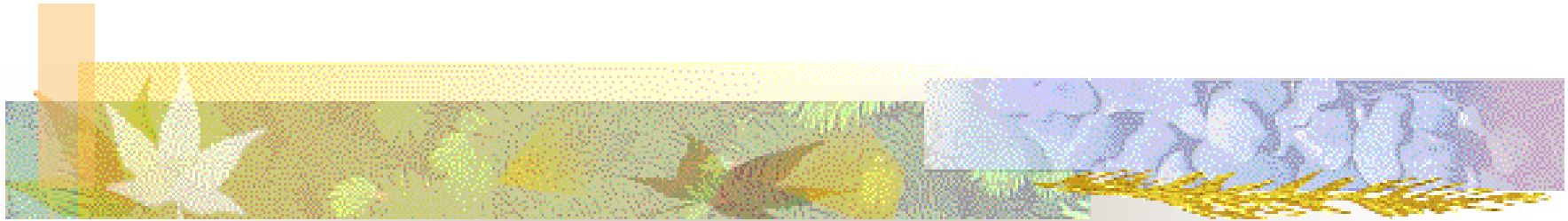


How To Defend Your Faith



Dr. Heinz Lycklama

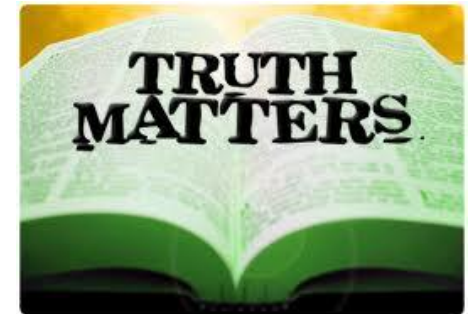
heinz@osta.com

www.heinzlycklama.com/messages



Defending Your Faith

- Roadblocks to Faith
- What is Apologetics?
- Determining What's True
 - Essential Principles of Knowledge
 - Three Views of Truth
 - What is Truth?
- Is the Bible True?
 - Does Our Truth Match Reality?
- Evidence for Our Faith
 - Examples From Science
- Confidence in Our Faith





Roadblocks to Faith in Christ

1. Lack of intellectual knowledge of God
2. Other Christians – their perceived hypocrisy
3. Sin: accepting Christ would require turning away from sin
4. If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain, suffering, and evil?
5. Perceived conflict between Science and the Bible, e.g. Creation v. Evolution
6. No answers from the church to the hard questions



The Statistics!

- According to pollster George Barna:
 - Only 9% of “born again” teenagers believe that absolute truth even exists
 - At least 60% of the children from evangelical homes are estimated to leave the church once they leave home
- Reasons:
 - No answers from the church for the hard questions asked by our youth
 - Indoctrination of our youth in secularism and evolutionism



Some Questions People Ask

- How come Genesis chapters 1 and 2 contradict each other?
- Were the days of Creation literal days?
- Where did Cain get his wife?
- Was the Flood global?
- Could God have used Evolution?
- Why did Jesus have to die for our sins?
- How do we know the Bible is God's Word?

What Is Apologetics?

- *Apologia* (Greek) – speaking in defense
- Apologetics is a defense of beliefs by arguments, evidences, and reasons for why we believe what we believe
- Why Apologetics?
 - Explain basic Christian beliefs
 - Defend beliefs from those who attack them
 - Defend beliefs from heretical beliefs



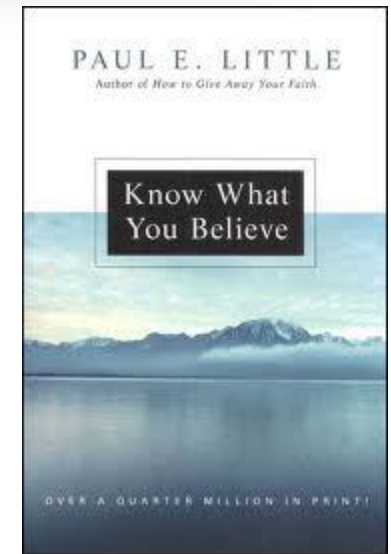
Why Apologetics?

■ Why?

- Know what you believe
- Know why you believe
- Defend what you believe – **1 Pet. 3:15**

■ How?

- Rightly divide the word of truth – **II Tim. 2:15**
- Be a Berean, search the Scriptures daily – **Acts 17:11**
- Look for evidence of the Truth
- Answer the questions of believers & skeptics alike
 - **Acts 17:17**, “Therefore he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, ...



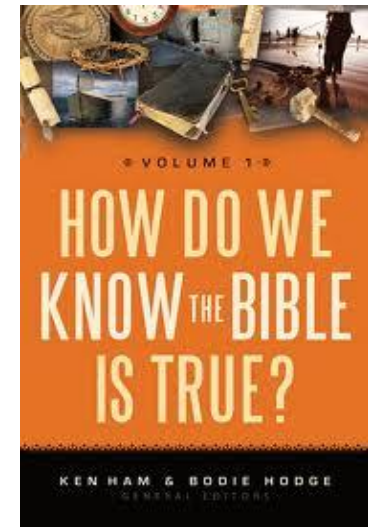


Why Christian Apologetics?

- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”
- **Matt. 22:37**, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- **1 Th. 5:21-22**, “Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”
- **2 Cor. 10:5**, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”

Determining What's True

- Your “truth” is what you believe to be true
- How do you know it is true?
 - Based on presupposition?
 - Verified by credible evidence?
- Is the Christian Truth true?
 - Looking at the evidence
 - Does the evidence support Christian Truth?
- What about Atheism? Evolution? Creation?
- What about Mormonism? Hinduism? Buddhism?



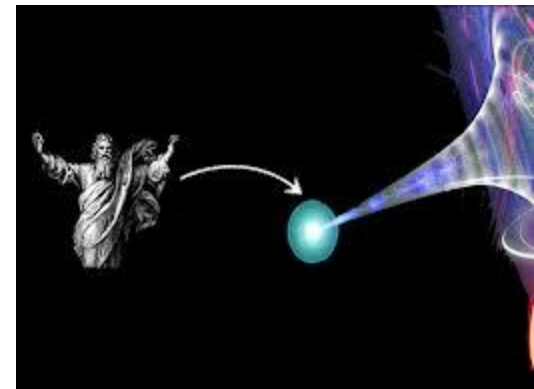
How Do We Determine Truth?

- Tradition – church, passed on
- Authority – expert, appointed
- Revelation – special, general
- Our five senses – hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, touching
- Human reason – logical arguments
- Science – evidence
- Presuppositions



Use of Logic in Apologetics

- The universe exists
- Universe cannot be infinitely old
 - Would have entered into state of disorder long ago
 - Universe is not in a state of disorder
 - Therefore not infinitely old
- Universe had a beginning
- Universe could not have brought itself into existence
- Something before the universe brought it into existence
- That something is God



Questions About Truth

- Do we know because of the evidence:
 - From science, history or archaeology?

OR

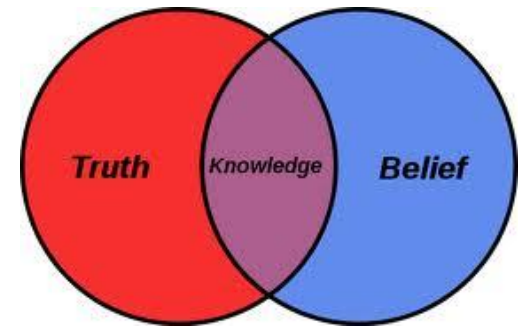
- Do we believe because of:
 - Revelation, e.g. Holy Scripture?
 - Authority, e.g. Church tradition?
 - Human reason, i.e. logic?
 - Human experience?



Knowledge and Truth

- Epistemology

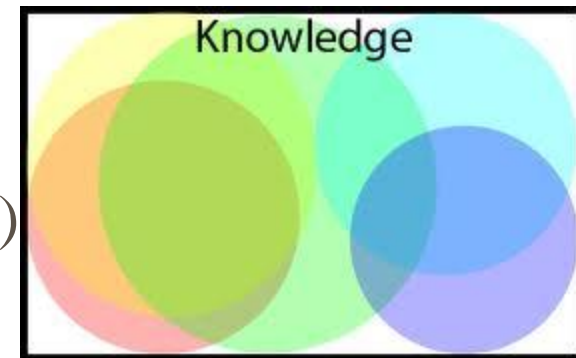
- Nature and scope of knowledge
- How we know what we know



- Relation between belief, truth, knowledge
- **Ps. 100:3**, “Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. ... ”
- If God made us, He would not deceive us about the nature of our existence

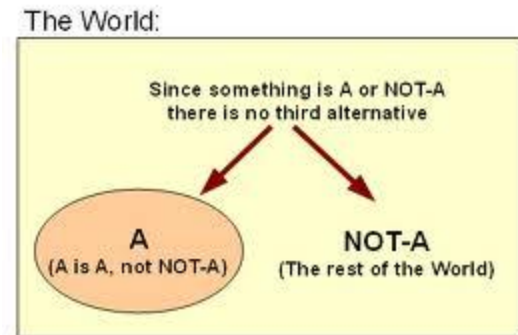
Four Essential Principles of Knowledge

- Basic epistemological premises
 1. The law of non-contradiction
 2. The law of causality
 3. The basic (although not perfect) reliability of sense perception
 4. The analogical use of language
- All presupposed in Scripture
 - Found in God Himself
 - Endowed to His creatures (made in His image)
- Foundational laws/grounds of obtaining knowledge



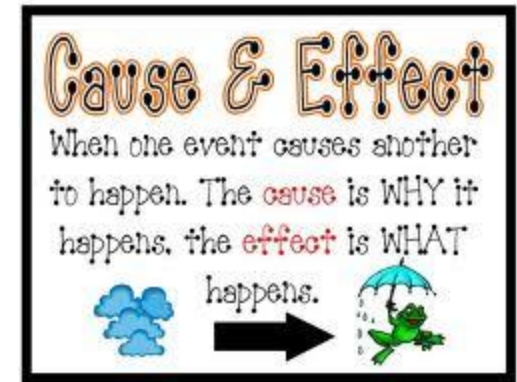
1. Law of Non-contradiction

- A cannot be A and Not-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship
- Truth cannot be contradictory
- **1 John 2:22**, “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”
- Scriptures assume difference between truth and lie, righteousness and unrighteousness, etc.
- Nothing would be understandable without this law



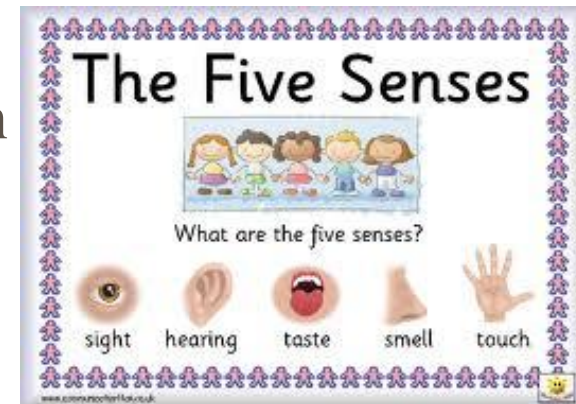
2. Law of Causality

- Every effect must have a cause
- Every miracle assumes this law
- Nicodemus affirmed the divine cause behind the works of Jesus
- **John 3:2**, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”
- Without this law, no miracle in Scripture can occur or be of evidential value – from Creation to Resurrection



3. Reliability of Sense Perception

- Our senses are essentially trustworthy
 - See, hear, touch, taste, smell
 - There are limits to our perception
- Knowledge of external world impossible if our senses not basically dependable
- John and Peter saw the glory of Jesus, **John 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:16**
- Christ appeared to Peter, then to the twelve, and to the 500, **1 Cor. 15:5-6**
- These arguments would be useless without reliable human senses





4. Analogical Use of Language

- Two things can be partly alike and partly different
 - One thing is analogous to another
- God is so entirely different from us
- God is a Spirit and transcendent
- Thus there does not appear to any way to say anything meaningful about God
- God is described in Scripture using analogical language in comparison with human attributes
- **Gen. 1:26**, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”



Views About Truth

- Absolute or relative?
- Correspondent or coherent?
- Determining truth
 - Revealed in Scripture
 - Using our five senses – dependable?
 - Using logic
- Is truth knowable?
 - Agnosticism, skepticism, etc.

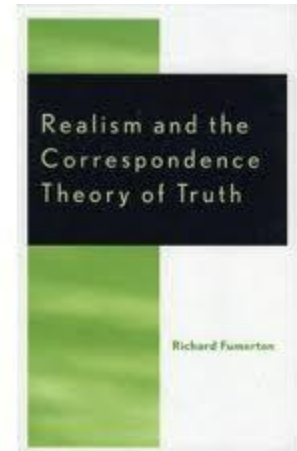
Three Views of Truth

- What does it mean for a statement to be true?
- Three different views on what truth is:
 1. Correspondence/Traditional view
 2. Relativism/Postmodern view
 3. Practical/Useful view
- The Test
 - Does your “Truth” match reality? i.e. Does “what you believe to be true” match reality?



1. Correspondence/Traditional View

- Any statement is true if and only if it corresponds to or agrees with factual reality
- Declarative statements are subject to verification and falsification
- A statement can be proven false if it can be shown to disagree with objective reality
- Truth is not a matter of subjective opinion, or majority vote, or cultural fashion
- Truth is objective and knowable, e.g. photo from outer space showing the earth as a blue sphere





Law of Non-Contradiction

- We live by the law of non-contradiction (P, not P)
 - Can't both be true in the same way, at the same time
 - Two contradictory statements cannot both be true
 - Can't be true that there both is and is not X in my room
- If I say XXX and my wife says not-XXX
 - One of us is wrong
 - We both can't be telling the truth
- Christians historically (traditionally) have affirmed the correspondence view of truth
 - Supports the concept of absolute truth
 - Logically self-consistent and supportable

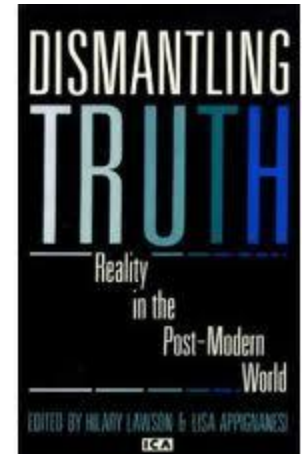


An Example From the Bible

- There are good historical reasons to believe that Jesus rose from the dead in space-time history, showing His divine authority:
 - **Rom. 1:4**, “and declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead.”
 - **1 Cor. 15:1-11**, “... the gospel which I preached to you ...”
 - Factual evidence of Christ’s Resurrection (provided by Paul)
 - **1 Cor. 15:14**, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”
- Illustrates the concept of “absolute truth”

2. Relativism/Postmodern View

- Statements about scientific facts, religious realities, or moral principles cannot be known to refer to objective states of affairs
- Language is contingently constructed through communities
- Language cannot transcend its own context and refer to realities outside itself
- All language fails to describe objective conditions because of its embeddedness in various cultures
- The truth of a statement depends on the views of persons or cultures, not on whether statements correspond to objective reality





More on Relativism

- For a statement to be true just means that a person or culture believes it to be true
 - “Well, if that’s true for you ...”
 - “We can’t judge other cultures ...”
- Accordingly, one can say “Jesus is Lord” and another “Allah is Lord”, and both statements will be true – NOT



Putting the Statements to the Test

- This is illogical and fails the law of non-contradiction
- The statements are mutually exclusive
 - **John 1:14**, Christians believe that Jesus is “God made flesh”
 - Muslims deny that Allah can or did incarnate
- The two statements cannot both be objectively true



Summary of Relativism View

- Relativism offers no means of verifying or falsifying any belief
- Relativism does not support the concept of “absolute truth”
- This view is self-refuting and logically unsupportable
- This view often referred to as postmodernism



Conclusion on Relativism View

- Relativism is false
 - It does not correspond to reality
- When truth is deemed to depend on a person or culture holding the belief, anything can become “true”
 - Which is absurd
- This attitude/view cannot be applied to medicine or science
 - Would be deemed ridiculous



3. Practical/Useful View

- This view holds that a belief is true only if it works for a particular person
 - Christianity may be “true for me” if it helps me, but false for another person if it does not help him
- This view confuses usefulness with truth
 - e.g. “mismanaging money” <-> “misplacing money” (belief) <-> “stolen money” (reality)
→ results in diligent management of his money



Truth v. Use Value

- The “truth value” of a belief is different than its “use value”
- Does not support the concept of “absolute truth”
- This view is self-refuting and logically unsupportable

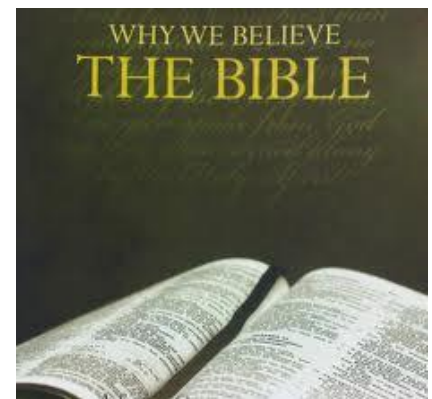
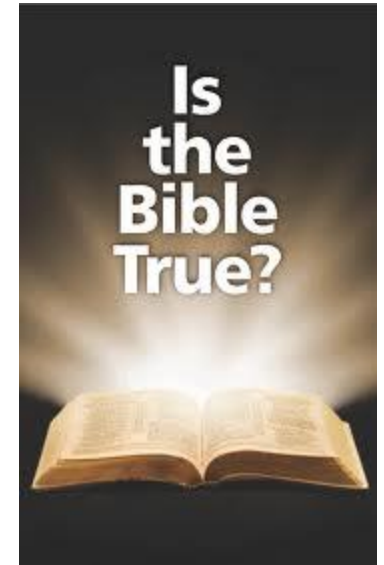


What is Truth?

- Truth is that which corresponds to reality
 - Thought applies to reality
 - Knowledge is possible
 - Logic is a necessary presupposition of all thought
 - It is undeniable that logic applies to reality
 - Self-evident principles cannot be denied
- Truth is absolute, correspondent, knowable, logical
- The Bible claims to be the Word of God & true
- Does the Bible correspond to reality?
 - Is the Bible true?

Is The Bible True?

- Some people say the Bible is full of errors or contradictions
- For most this is just an excuse for not believing
- Few who claim these errors have read the Bible and analyzed any of these alleged errors
- Many books written to address alleged errors





Alleged Errors in the Bible

1. Law of non-contradiction
 - Fails truth test
2. Mistranslations
 - Not true to original language
3. So-called scientific errors
 - Authors used language of the day



1. Law of Non-Contradiction

- Bible was written
 - By 40 authors from many walks of life
 - Over a period of 1500 years
- Bible has ONE author – God
 - God is perfect, holy, true
- There are no contradictions in His Word, no matter what it seems at first
- Many supposed contradictions



Example of Non-Contradiction

- Many supposed contradictions result by placing two passages in false opposition to each other, e.g.
 - **Eccl. 7:29**, “God made man upright.” – Talking about Adam and Eve, who God originally created upright
 - **Ps. 51:5**, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity.” – Here King David is speaking of his personal situation, as a fallen descendant of Adam
- There is no contradiction here



2. Mistranslation

- Translation of the books of the Bible can be a real challenge
- We have many translations
 - KJV, NKJV, AS, NAS, NIV, etc.
- Most translation problems have simple explanations
- You should always look at the original Hebrew and Greek words used

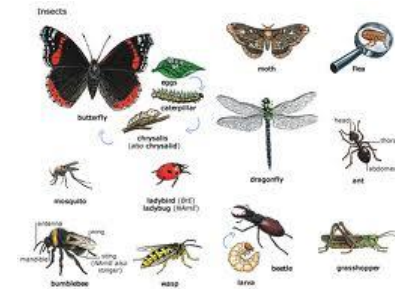
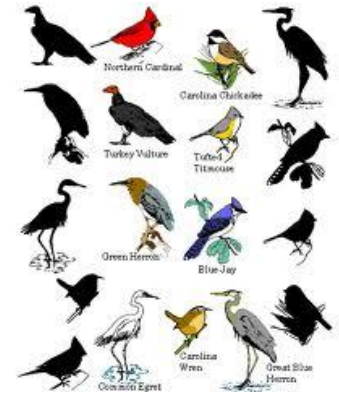


Example of Mistranslation

- **Lev. 11:13,19**, “And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ... and the bat.” (NKJV)
 - Bats are not birds (a questionable word)
- The KJV uses the word “fowls” instead of the word “birds”
- The KJV used the word “fowls” in **Lev. 11:20** to describe “insects”

Explanation of Mistranslation

- The Hebrew word used is “*owph*,” which can mean anything that “has a wing,” i.e. a winged creature
- The Hebrew word “*owph*” includes birds, flying insects, and bats
- Going back to the Hebrew word explains the supposed translation problem



3. Alleged Scientific Errors

- Authors used the language of their day
 - The sun rising in the morning
 - The sun setting in the evening
 - The sun does not “rise” and “set”
 - The earth actually rotates
 - Our talk of the sun rising and setting is not “scientifically correct”
 - Spoken from perspective of the observer



Does Our Truth Match Reality?

- Does the Bible's Truth match reality?
 - We apply certain tests to biblical Truth
 - History, geography, archaeology, prophecy have confirmed the Bible
 - What about biblical scientific statements?
- Does what you believe (your truth) match reality?
 - What happens when we apply the same tests to your truth?
- Does the evidence match up?
 - Tests must be objective

Does Your Truth
Match Reality?

Truth
Out

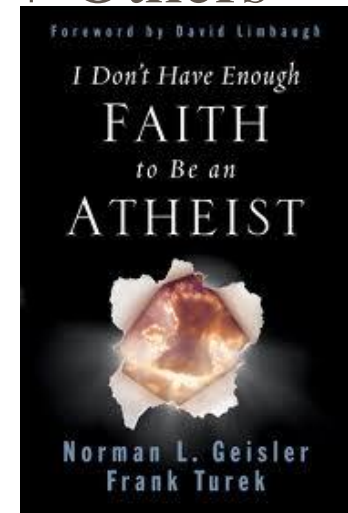
Dr. Heinz Lycklama

heinz@osta.com

www.osta.com/messages

Evidence For Our Faith

1. Jesus' Credibility – He Is God
2. Prophecies Come True – Messianic + Others
3. Christ Rose From the Grave
4. The Bible is God's Word
5. Archaeology Verifies the Bible
6. Science Supports Creation
7. The Bible Is Reliable Scientifically
8. If God is All-Loving and All-Knowing, Why Do We have Evil and Suffering?





1. Jesus' Credibility – He Is God

- Evidence of Jesus' life on earth
 - Biblical, Roman, Jewish
- Jesus in His humanity
- Jesus claimed to be God
- Jesus' attributes
- Jesus' actions (miracles)
- The Apostles taught the deity of Christ
- Four possibilities – which one was He?
 - Liar, lunatic, legend, or the Truth
- What are Jesus' credentials?



2. Prophecies Come True: Messianic + Others

- What is prophecy?
- Test of a true prophet
- The importance of prophecy
- Messianic prophecies
- The significance of messianic prophecies
- Messianic prophecy issues
- Probability of fulfillment of prophecies
- Other Old Testament (OT) prophecies
- End Time prophecies



3. Christ Rose From The Grave

- Jesus' Resurrection
 - Prophesied in the OT
 - Prophesied by Christ Himself in the NT
- Pertinent data to be considered
- Historical facts to be considered
- Accounting for the empty tomb
- More than a dozen appearances of the risen Lord
 - Includes more than 500 witnesses at once
- Paul teaches the importance of the Resurrection
 - Its significance to the Christian faith

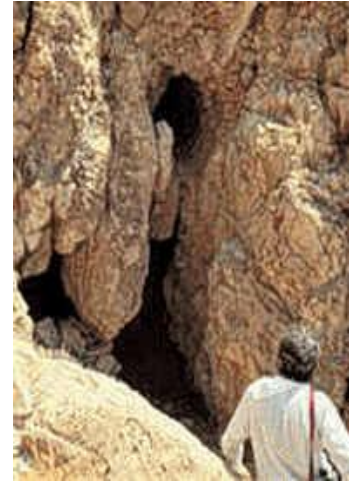


4. The Bible Is God's Word

- The Bible is unique
- How we got the Bible
- Is Scripture inspired?
- Christ's teaching on the OT
- Christ's view of the NT
- Historical reliability of the OT
- Historical reliability of the NT
- Supernatural wisdom of the Bible

5. Archaeology Verifies the Bible

- What is Archaeology?
- The Dead Sea Scrolls
- Evidence for the Accuracy of the Bible
 - Internal, Copy comparison, Archaeology
- The Ebla Tablets
- The Divisions of Genesis
- Genesis and Origins
 - Creation, The Flood, Languages
- Archaeology and the OT
- Archaeology and the NT
- Archaeology Confirms Accuracy of the Bible



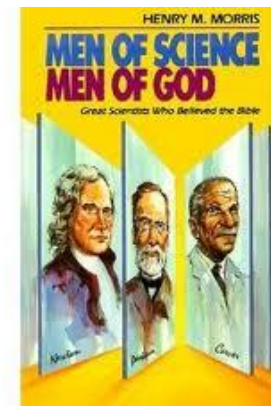


6. Science Supports Creation

- What Does the Bible Say About Creation?
- What Do Jesus And The Apostles Say About Creation?
- What Does Science Say About Creation?
 - The Creation and Evolution Models of Origins
 - Which Model Best Fits The Scientific Evidence?
- Challenges to Evolutionism
- Does It Matter What We Believe About Creation?

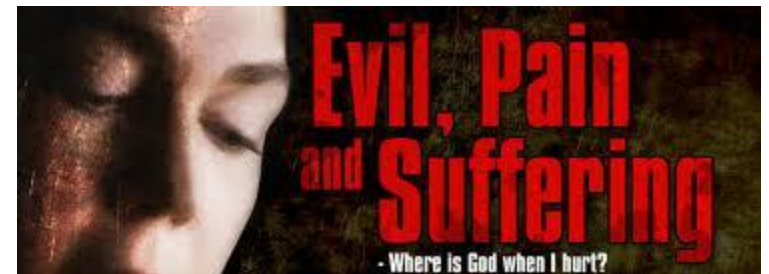
7. The Bible Is Reliable Scientifically

- Scientific statements in the Bible accurate?
- Reliability of the Bible established by:
 - Prophecy, history, geography, archaeology
- Laws of science consistent with the Bible
- Scientific statements/anticipation in the Bible
 - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology
 - Meteorology, oceanography, physics, biology
- Alleged scientific errors in the Bible
- Scientific disciplines established by Bible-believing scientists
- Conclusions



8. Evil & Suffering Are Explained

- Pain & Suffering – The Issues
- Atheist/Evolutionist's View of History and God
- The Biblical View of History and God
- The Role of Man's Free Will
- The Nature of Death and Suffering
- God's Purposes In Our Suffering
- Is God Doing Anything About Death & Suffering?
- Our Source of Hope



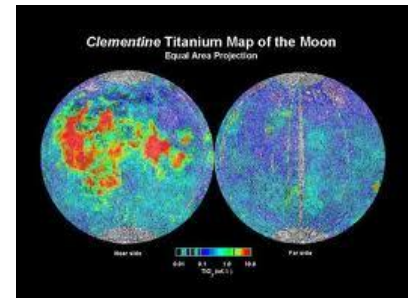
Evidence From Science

- We trust the Bible for spiritual truth
- Prophecy, history, geography, and archaeology confirm the truth of the Bible
- Do we trust the Bible for truth in science?
 - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, physics, biology
- There are many Biblical references to nature and natural processes
 - Authors use everyday language
 - Amazingly accurate
 - Anticipatory scientific insights in the Bible



Astronomy – The Moon

- **Job 25:5**, “If even the moon does not shine ...”
 - The moon itself is not a source of light
 - Moon rocks filled with titanium, a better reflector than diamonds
- **Ps. 89:37**, “It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.”
 - The moon itself is not a source of light, but a reflector of light from the sun
- The moon is not a source of light



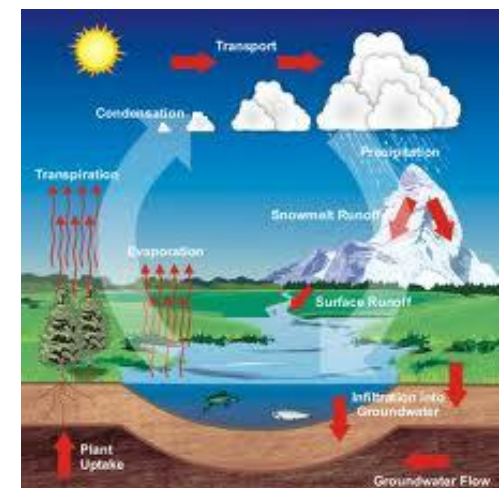
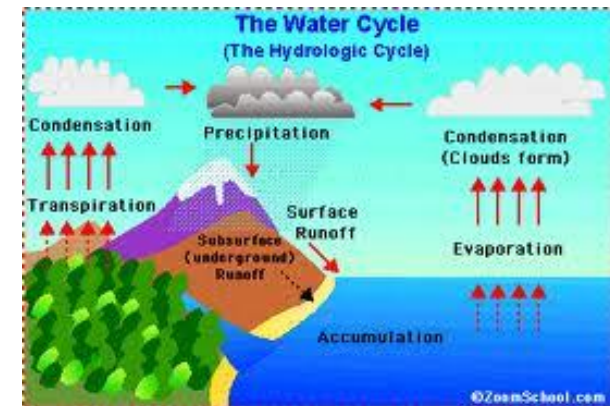
Constellations

- **Job 38:31** “Can you bind the cluster of Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?”
 - God told Job in ~ 2000 BC that the seven stars of Pleiades were bound together and the stars of Orion are not
 - Pleiades used to be called the “seven sisters”
 - We learned [20th century] that the stars of Pleiades are gravitationally bound and the stars of Orion are not



Hydrology

- **Eccl. 1:7**, All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. [*Solomon in 935 B.C.*]
 - The hydrologic cycle was understood by man only in the 17th century
 - 1100 billion gallons of water per hour flow into the sea – sea does not fill up
- **Is. 55:10**, For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 - World's food supply is made possible by the distribution of water



Oceanography

- Ps. 8:8, “The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.”
- Matthew Maury undertook research project based on this Scripture verse (1841-1861)
 - There are paths in the sea
 - Also aware of “wind circuits” in **Eccl. 1:6-7**
 - Concluded that there must be “currents in the ocean”
 - Plotted wind circuits and ocean currents as an aid to navigation of the seas



Maury and Oceanography

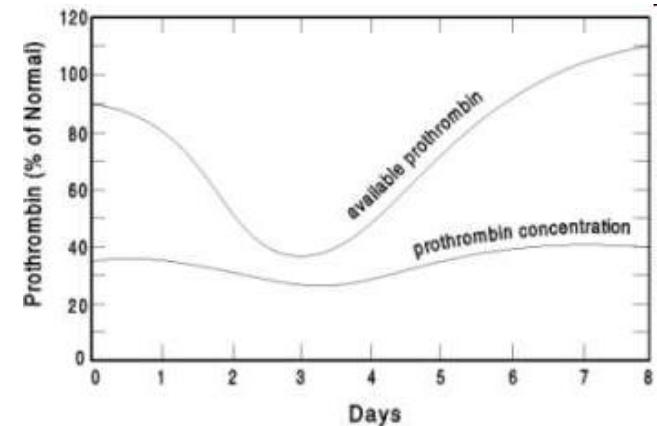
- Gulf stream is a “path in the sea”
 - 40 miles wide, 2000 feet deep
 - Flows from Gulf of Mexico up through the Atlantic
 - More paths in the sea discovered since
- Monument erected in Maury’s home state of VA

“Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the Genius Who First Snatched from the Ocean and Atmosphere the Secret of Their Laws. His Inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8, Psalm 107:23-24, and Ecclesiastes 1:6.”



The Immune System

- **Gen. 17:12**, “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.”
 - Eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%
 - Medical science has discovered that this is when the immune system is at its peak





Confidence In Our Faith

- We do have supporting evidence
- The Truth of the Bible matches reality
- The Christian faith is rational
- Believers can be confident in their faith
- Believers can defend their faith boldly
 - Know what you believe
 - Know why you believe what you believe
 - Learn how to defend your faith



The Importance of Apologetics

- Defense of the Faith is essential for
 - All church leaders
 - All believers
- Christian Apologetics is crucial for
 - Reaching new believers
 - Discerning the Truth
- Creation Apologetics is important for
 - Establishing the Truth from the very 1st verse
 - Explaining why Jesus came to Earth and died for our sins
 - Providing answers to the hard questions



**Thank you
for your
attention!**

2 Tim. 2:22, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Dr. Heinz Lycklama

heinz@osta.com

www.heinzlycklama.com

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7. www.answersingenesis.org – Answers in Genesis
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9. www.nwcreation.net – Northwest Creation Network
10. www.heinzlycklama.com/apologetics - Lectures on Christian Apologetics by Heinz Lycklama
11. www.heinzlycklama.com/creation - Lectures on Creation by Heinz Lycklama



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2. www.probe.org - Probe Ministries
3. www.comereason.org - Come Reason Ministries
4. www.arcapologetics.org - Apologetics Resource Center
5. www.rzim.org - Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
6. www.bethinking.org - Thinking Apologetics
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