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# 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 Archaeology & Science
- Confidence in Our Faith









## Roadblocks to Faith in Christ

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

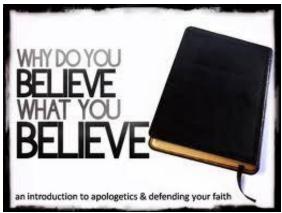
- No answers from the church for the hard questions asked by our youth
- Indoctrination of our youth in secularism and evolutionism

## 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?

- <u>Apologia</u> (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

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# Why Apologetics?

- Why?
  - Know what you believe
  - Know why you believe
  - Defend what you believe 1 Pet. 3:15
- How?



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Know What You Believe

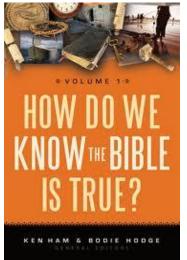
- Rightly divide the word of truth II Tim. 2:15
- Be a Berean, search the Scriptures daily Acts 17:11
- Look for evidence of the Truth
- Answer the questions of believers & skeptics alike
  - Acts 17:17, "Therefore he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, ...

## Why Christian Apologetics?

- 1 Pet. 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and <u>always be ready to give a defense</u> 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 <u>mind</u>."
- **1 Th. 5:21-22**, "<u>Test all things</u>; 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

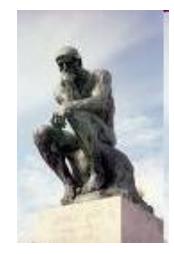
- Your "truth" is what you believe to be true
  - How do you know it is true?
    - Based on presupposition?
    - Verified by credible evidence?
  - Is the Christian Truth true?
    - Looking at the evidence



- Does the evidence support Christian Truth?
- What about Atheism? Evolution? Creation?
- What about Mormonism? Hinduism? Buddhism?

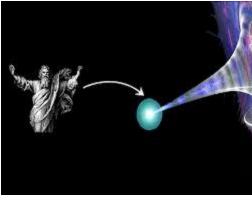
## How Do We Determine Truth?

- 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

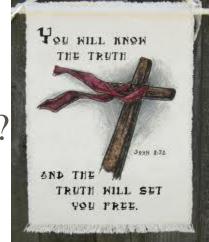
- The universe exists
- Universe cannot be infinitely old
  - Would have entered into state of disorder long ago
  - Universe is not in a state of disorder
  - Therefore not infinitely old
- Universe had a beginning
  - Universe could not have brought itself into existence
- Something before the universe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



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## **Questions About Truth**

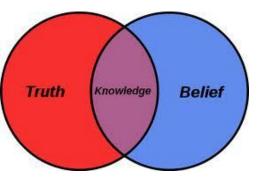
- Do we know because of the evidence:
   From science, history or archaeology?
   OR
- Do we believe because of:
  - Revelation, e.g. Holy Scripture?
  - Authority, e.g. Church tradition?
  - Human reason, i.e. logic?
  - Human experience?



## Knowledge and Truth

#### Epistemology

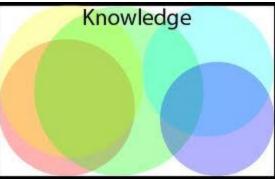
- Nature and scope of knowledge
- How we know what we know



- Relation between <u>belief</u>, <u>truth</u>, <u>knowledge</u>
- 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

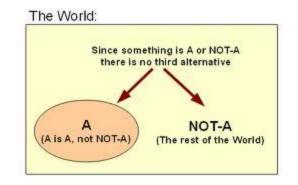
- Basic epistemological premises
  - 1. The law of non-contradiction
  - 2. The law of causality
  - 3. The basic (although not perfect) reliability of sense perception



- 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 <u>A</u> and <u>Not-A</u> at the same time and in the same sense or relationship



- Truth cannot be contradictory
- I 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



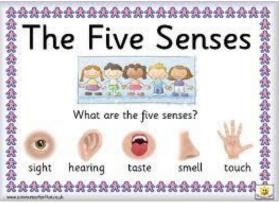
- John 3:2, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
- Without this law, no miracle in Scripture can occur or be of evidential value – from Creation to Resurrection



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# 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.

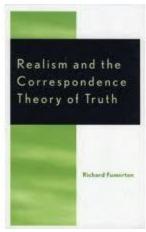
## Three Views of Truth

- 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

- TRUTH?
- <u>Does your "Truth" match reality</u>? i.e. Does
   "what you believe to be true" match reality?

#### 1. Correspondence/Traditional View

- Any statement is true if and only if it <u>corresponds</u> 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

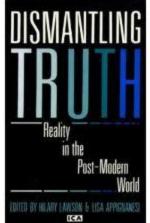
- We live by the law of non-contradiction (P, not P)
  - Can't both be true in the same way, at the same time
  - Two contradictory statements cannot both be true
  - Can't be true that there both <u>is</u> and <u>is not</u> X in my room
- If I say XXX and my wife says not-XXX
  - One of us is wrong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

# 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" (<u>belief</u>) <-> "stolen money" (<u>reality</u>)
    → results in diligent management of his money

## Truth v. Use Value

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

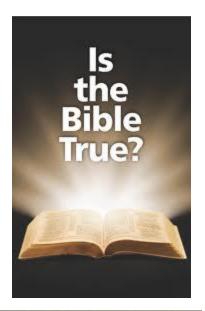
## What is Truth?

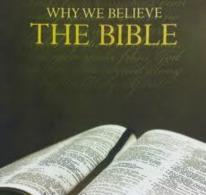
- Truth is that which corresponds to reality
  - Thought applies to reality
  - Knowledge is possible
  - Logic is a necessary presupposition of all thought
  - It is undeniable that logic applies to reality
  - Self-evident principles cannot be denied
- Truth is <u>absolute</u>, <u>correspondent</u>, <u>knowable</u>, <u>logical</u>
  - 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

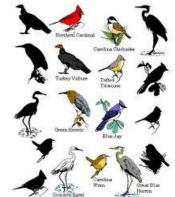
• Lev. 11:13,19, "And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ... and the bat." (NKJV)

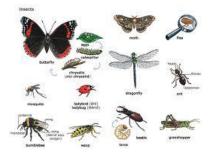
Bats are not birds (a questionable word)

- 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

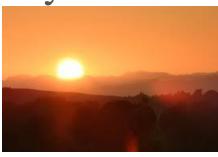






### 3. Alleged Scientific Errors

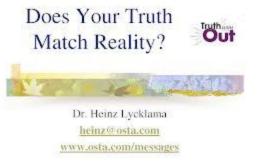
- Authors used the language of their day
  - The sun rising in the morning
  - The sun setting in the evening
  - The sun does not "rise" and "set"
  - The earth actually rotates
  - Our talk of the sun rising and setting is not "scientifically correct"
  - Spoken from perspective of the observer





# Does Our Truth Match Reality?

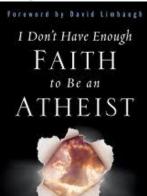
- Does the Bible's Truth match reality?
  - We apply certain tests to biblical Truth
  - History, geography, archaeology, prophecy have confirmed the Bible
  - What about biblical <u>scientific</u> statements?
- Does what you believe (your truth) match reality?
  - What happens when we apply the same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



#### 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?





Norman L. Geisler Frank Turek

### 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

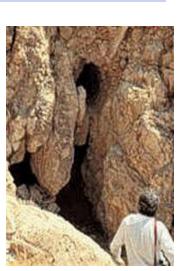
- Prophesied in the OT
- Prophesied by Christ Himself in the NT
- Pertinent data to be considered
- Historical facts to be considered
- Accounting for the empty tomb
- More than a dozen appearances of the risen Lord
  - Includes more than 500 witnesses at once
- Paul teaches the importance of the Resurrection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

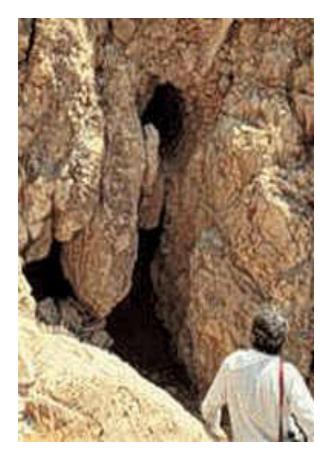


# Evidence From Archaeology

- Confirms historical accuracy of the Bible
  - Ancient sites, civilizations, characters
  - Improves our understanding of the Bible
    - Nuances and use of biblical words
- Illustrates/explains Bible passages
  - Events, time, culture, society, politics
- 1000's of archives discovered, but
  - Alexandria Library (1M+ MS) lost in 7<sup>th</sup> century fire
- Many archaeological sites yet to be excavated
  - Our knowledge is still limited

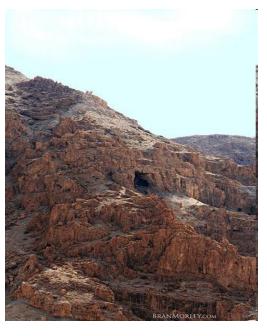
## The Dead Sea Scrolls

In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd boy, searching for a lost goat, threw a stone into a cave opening in Qumran by the Dead Sea and heard the sound of shattering pottery. His inquisitiveness lead him to investigate and discover the first of what was to become known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The world found out about them about one year later in 1948. The impact of this find on verifying the reliability of our Holy Scriptures cannot be overemphasized.



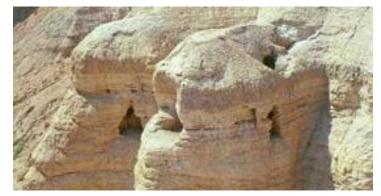
#### Where Is The Dead Sea?







#### Dead Sea Scroll Facts



- 40,000 scroll fragments were found in jars in eleven different caves
- 35,000 scroll fragments from 400 manuscripts were found in Cave #4
- All scrolls were produced prior to 67-73 AD (time of first Jewish-Roman war)
- Literary remains of a Community that lived at Qumran from ~135 BC to ~67 AD
- Scrolls contain samples of all OT books except Esther
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#### More Dead Sea Scroll Facts

- Complete scroll of Isaiah (dated about 125 B.C.) was found in Cave #1
- No NT book scrolls found (too early)
- Large number of Jewish non-canonical writings
- Largest scroll, the Temple Scroll, was 27 feet long



William F. Albright, the dean of American archaeology, called it "the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times."

# Results of Dead Sea Finds

- Extant copies of books more than 1000 years older than the extant copies previously known to exist
- Significantly increased our knowledge of what happened to the Hebrew text from 1000-800 BC, from which time we trace our present Hebrew Bible
- Hebrew text has undergone much less change than previously thought
- Hebrew Bible text is treated with greater respect by scholars today than it has been for a long time
- Brought to light much knowledge about the Jewish sect of the Essenes

#### More Findings Over Next 50 Years

- Consolidation of ancient chronology
- Findings of texts bearing on the history of writing
- Discovery of ancient texts that shed light on biblical history
- Discovery of ancient biblical manuscripts
  - Discovery of <u>Ebla texts</u> of the pre-patriarchal age
- Excavation of key cities in the Holy Land
- Discoveries with a bearing on the New Testament

# The Ebla Tablets

- Discovered in Northern
   Syria beginning in 1964
- Excavations made at the site of Tell Mardikh, ancient Ebla

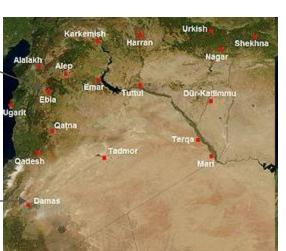


- Ebla was at the height of its power in 2300 B.C. with a population of 260,000, with 11,000 civil servants
- Names of 5000+ cities mentioned
  - Includes names of many Biblical cities such as Salem, Gaza, Lachish, Ashdod, etc.
- Destroyed in 2250 B.C. by a grandson of Sargon the Great

#### Where is Ebla?

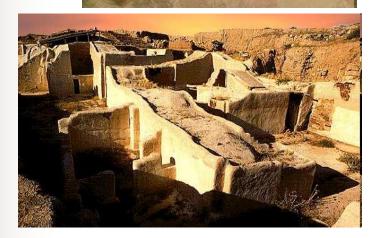


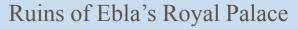
Ebla













Clay Tablet at Ebla

# The Ebla Tablets Data

- 17,000+ tablets unearthed from era of Ebla Kingdom since 1974
- Early critics did not think that writing was prevalent at the time of Moses
- Recent digs in northern Syria (Ebla in mid 1970's) have verified that man had writing skills early on, even at the time of the patriarchs (~ 2500 BC)
- Patriarchs were able to record events on tablets
- Most writing was in Sumerian language, some in Eblaite, their own Semitic language using the same Sumerian script

# More Ebla Tablets Data

- Shows evidence of writing 1000 years before the time of Moses
- Customs and events were recorded in writing in the same area of the world where Moses and the patriarchs lived
- Gen. 14 refers to the five cities of the Plain (Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Zoar), verified by Ebla archives
- The area flourished before the catastrophe recorded in Genesis 14
- We now know about early writing systems such as Egyptian hieroglyphics, Ugartic cunieform script, proto-Siniatic hieroglyphic script, and Hittite hieroglyphic system

# Discoveries in Archaeology

- Important finds over the last 150 years have resulted in better understanding of history
- Finds have resulted in better understanding of ancient chronology
  - Important finds at land of Ur, Sumerian King lists, astronomical texts in Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Dates of earliest historical dynasties in Egypt and Mesopotamia have been reduced over the years, from seventh millennium B.C. to 3000 B.C.

# **Evidence From Science**

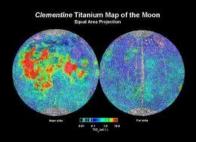
- We trust the Bible for <u>spiritual</u> truth
- Prophecy, history, geography, and archaeology confirm the truth of the Bible



- Do we trust the Bible for truth in <u>science</u>?
  - 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 <u>bind</u> the cluster of <u>Pleiades</u>, or <u>loose</u> the belt of <u>Orion</u>?"
  - 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 [20<sup>th</sup> century] that the stars of Pleiades are gravitationally bound and the stars of Orion are not

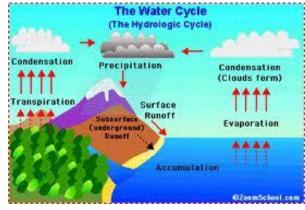


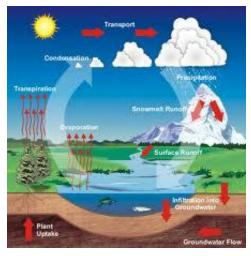


# Hydrology

**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.*]

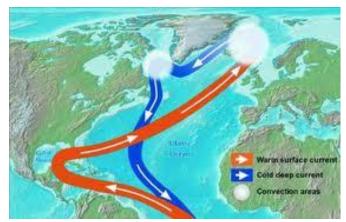
- The <u>hydrologic cycle</u> was understood by man only in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- 1100 billion gallons of water per hour flow into the sea – sea does not fill up
- **Is. 55:10,** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth 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 <u>paths of the seas</u>."
- Matthew Maury undertook research project based on this Scripture verse (1841-1861)
  - There are <u>paths in the sea</u>
  - Also aware of "<u>wind circuits</u>" in **Eccl. 1:6-7**
  - Concluded that there must be "currents in the ocean"
  - Plotted <u>wind circuits</u> and <u>ocean currents</u> 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**."

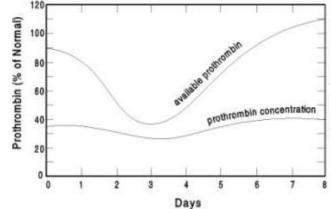




## The Immune System

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
- <u>Christian Apologetics</u> is crucial for
  - Reaching new believers
  - Discerning the Truth
- <u>Creation Apologetics</u> is important for
  - Establishing the Truth from the very 1<sup>st</sup> 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."

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# **Reference Books**

- 1. Norman Geisler & Ronald Brooks, When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences, 2008.
- 2. Norman Geisler & Frank Turek, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist, 2004.
- 3. Ken Ham (AIG), The New Answers Book, 2006.
- 4. John Ashton & Richard Westacott, The Big Argument: Does God Exist? 2006.
- 5. Paul E. Little, Know Why You Believe, 1999.
- 6. Howard Vos, Can I really Believe? 1995.
- 7. Josh McDowell & Don Stewart, Answers to Tough Questions, 1993.
- 8. Josh McDowell, The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict, 1999.
- 9. Phil Fernandes, No Other Gods, 2002.
- 10. Phil Fernandes, The God Who Sits Enthroned, 2002.

#### More Reference Books

- 1. Phil Fernandes, Contend Earnestly for the Faith: A Survey of Christian Apologetics, 2008.
- 2. Lee Strobel, The Case For Faith, 2000.
- 3. Lee Strobel, The Case For a Creator, 2004.
- 4. Don Batten, The Creation Answers Book, 2008.
- 5. Ray Comfort, Scientific Facts in the Bible, 2001.
- 6. Peter Stoner & Robert Newman, Science Speaks, 1976.
- 7. Creation Moments, 101 Scientific Facts & Foreknowledge.
- 8. Ralph Muncaster, Can Archaeology Prove The NT? 2000.
- 9. Siegfried Horn, Biblical Archaeology, 1985.
- 10. Timothy Keller, The Reason For God, 2008.

# Yet More Reference Books

- 1. Charles Colson & Harold Fickett, The Faith Given Once, For All, 2008.
- 2. Ken Ham & Britt Beemer, Already Gone, 2009.

# Some Useful Websites

- 1. <u>www.greatcom.org/resources/areadydefense/default.htm</u> A Ready Defense by Josh McDowell
- 2. <u>www.carm.org</u> Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry
- 3. <u>www.reasonablefaith.org</u> William Lane Craig Apologetics Resources
- 4. <u>www.leestrobel.com</u> Investigating Faith by Lee Strobel
- 5. <u>www.josh.org</u> Josh McDowell Ministry
- 6. <u>www.icr.org</u> Institute for Creation Research
- 7. <u>www.answersingenesis.org</u> Answers in Genesis
- 8. <u>www.creation.com</u> Creation Ministries International
- 9. <u>www.nwcreation.net</u> Northwest Creation Network
- 10. <u>www.osta.com/apologetics</u> Lectures on Christian Apologetics by Heinz Lycklama
- 11. <u>www.osta.com/creation</u> Lectures on Creation by Heinz Lycklama

# More Apologetics Websites

- 1. <u>www.summit.org</u> Summit Ministries
- 2. <u>www.probe.org</u> Probe Ministries
- 3. <u>www.comereason.org</u> Come Reason Ministries
- 4. <u>www.arcapologetics.org</u> Apologetics Resource Center
- 5. <u>www.rzim.org</u> Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
- 6. <u>www.bethinking.org</u> Thinking Apologetics
- 7. <u>www.str.org</u> Stand To Reason Ministries