

# WitnessKit Class 7

## Archaeology and Prophecy

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Have you ever wanted to know

What the earliest New Testament fragment says?

# The John Ryland Fragment

- The earliest fragment of a New Testament manuscript dates to the very early 100s, AD.
- It may be as close as 15 years to the actual writing of the Gospel of John.
- The fragment is called The John Ryland Fragment, MS P52 The manuscript (handwritten copy) is called MS P52 for papyrus number 52.
- Are you curious to know what the fragment says?
- The verses located on the front and back of the fragment, translated from the Greek, are the following.

# The John Ryland Fragment, MS P52

**Front:** John 18:31-32

Pilate therefore said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

# Explanatory Notes

(An interpretive note about the word “Jews” in the Gospels—The word denotes local political leadership in Israel, in contrast to the Roman conquerors.—See John chapter 7, and trace the designations of speakers in the chapter. The political leaders feared violent reprisal from Rome if Jesus gained more followers. We really cannot imagine their fear level in our free society. The Romans were brutal toward perceived threats.—John 11:47-53.)

# **The John Ryland Fragment, MS P52, Back of the fragment: John 18:37-38**

**Pilate therefore said to Him, “So You are a king?”**

**Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”**

**Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in Him.”**

## The John Ryland Fragment, MS P52

A book from God, under His protection and preservation, might reveal a hint of His concern for us by having an important oldest fragment.

How clearly the fragment focuses on the key event in all human history—the death of the innocent King to be followed by His resurrection.

How clearly this fragment speaks to our generation who are so in doubt of the existence of truth!

## The John Ryland Fragment, MS P52

It speaks of the truth of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the truth of His own words, and the existence of timeless truth in a doubt-filled age.

It also holds out the promise to those who love truth that they will be able to learn the truth of Jesus' identity.

“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

# The Bible was written in the past.

- Many people hold it to be the true word of God, written, as it says, under the inspiration of His Holy Spirit.
- The people who study it the most tend to believe it the most.
- In this skeptical age, can we back up belief with data? Does the Bible have historical support for the claim of inspiration?

# Looking at the Distant Past: The further back, the less certainty.

- Even in the “hard sciences” one sees more and more speculation the further into the past one looks.
- We can calculate how much gasoline our car used yesterday with a fair degree of certainty, but...
- String theory borders on science fiction.

# Did God Give Us Any Way

to See Truth in the Distant Past?

Are we restricted to blind faith?

Can we find truth?

# We should have confidence in the distant past as reported in the Bible

## CLUES IN TIME

because of clues the Bible gave us

1. ahead of time in prophecy plus fulfillment,
2. after the events in the finds of archaeology
3. With extra weight because of the diverse sources of information.

# But first we must overcome 2 difficulties.

The 2  
Difficulties  
are--

- Difficulty #1: Critics sometimes throw out prophecies fulfilled in the Old Testament.
- Difficulty #2: Critics influence archaeologists and other Bible specialists.

Difficulty #1: Critics sometimes throw out prophecies fulfilled in the Old Testament.

Many skeptical critics believe miracles such as fulfilled prophecy are impossible, because they **assume** the universe is a closed system where miracles do not happen.

They try to “get around” fulfilled prophecy in the Bible by assuming late dates for the writings, so that the prophecies are assumed to be written “AFTER THE FACT.”

# Faith in the Non-intervention of God

- Throughout our course, we will keep running into the brick wall of the assumption of a closed universe. This assumption closes off inquiry into truth. Assumptions are faith statements – in this case faith in the non-existence or non-intervention of God.
- Based on this assumption, critics go to extreme measures to deny predictive prophecy.
- (Yet the real God is able to know more than we can know—including the future.)

# Because the Hebrew Scriptures

Were written long before the era of the Roman Empire, the critics often “get away with” late dates for the writing of the books. We will spend some time today and in another week’s lesson seeing why they should NOT get away with that.

Today we look at prophecies which cannot have been written after the fact. In a later lesson, we will tear apart the Documentary Hypothesis, which is the theoretical foundation for some late dates.

One way to counter the critics' claims

is to look at prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament

# The date of prophecy issue...

We know the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures were complete before the New Testament Greek Scriptures were written. We even know when the OT Hebrew was translated into Greek – in the Septuagint—285 to 246 BC.

**If a series of OT Hebrew prophecies were fulfilled in the NT Scriptures, both are validated!**

This form of validation also proves that the closed universe assumption is NOT correct.

# The date of prophecy issue and the linked-chain of reason...

We will look at two sets of Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament.

This will validate **both** the Old Testament **and** the New Testament **and** the possibility of miracle.

- *Satisfaction with the honesty* of the Old Testament then supports a belief in
  - Old Testament prophecies *fulfilled in the Old Testament*—no reason to assume late dates and “prophecy fudging.”
- The same power of God was present within the writing of the Old Testament as between the writings of both Testaments.

# For general reference:



The translation of the Hebrew scriptures into Greek – the Septuagint – took place between 285-246 BC.

The Hebrew scriptures at that time did not have vowels, so were a bit ambiguous, but the Greek language is extremely precise.

The translated Greek text gives us a precise view of the Hebrew text by scholars of the Old Testament at that time.

We also have an early Hebrew portion of much of the Old Testament from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

# For general reference:

The Masoretes were scribes who added vowel symbols to the Hebrew text between 500 AD and 950 AD. Their manuscripts are used for most English translations because of their great precision. They followed detailed rules designed to preserve a perfect text each time they made a copy.

McDowell includes a description of the techniques of the Masoretic scribes to preserve the text to perfection, on pages 74-77 of *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*.

# We should have confidence in the distant past as reported in the Bible

## Clues in Time

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1. ahead of time in prophecy plus fulfillment,
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# Daniel chapter 2

- We studied this example (in the homework) from the perspective of how to know truth during the first week of our course. Now we want to look at the prophetic aspects.
- A review: The king did not want his counselors to lie to him, so he demanded that they tell him what his dream was before telling what the dream meant, under fear of death.
- Daniel prayed, and God revealed what the dream was, and what it meant. This dream was from God, and its meaning was important to God and to us.

# Prophecy Clue #1: Prophecies of Daniel and the Sweep of History

## The Prophecy during Babylon's Empire

- Daniel 2 – Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation—a sweep of **world empire history** told ahead of time.

## The Fulfillment: A series of empires

1. Daniel proved the truth of the dream by revealing its content to the King after prayer.

# Prophecy Clue #1: Prophecies of Daniel and the Sweep of History

The Prophecy during Babylon's Empire

The Fulfillment: A series of empires

The Dream:

- The statue was of gold for the head,
- silver torso,

The Meaning:

1. Then-Current events: Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire
2. Then future, now past Mede-Persian Empire – during the OT period

# Prophecy Clue #1: Prophecies of Daniel and the Sweep of History

## The Prophecy during Babylon's Empire

- bronze midsection,
- iron legs and feet,

## The Fulfillment: A series of empires

- Then future, now past  
Greek Empire
- Then future, now past  
Roman Empire
- These events took place between the OT and the NT. The Roman Empire continued for 400 more years in the West.

# Prophecy Clue #1: Prophecies of Daniel and the Sweep of History

## The Prophecy during Babylon's Empire

- with toes of iron mixed with clay.
- A large stone from a mountain, cut without hands, destroyed the statue and became a great mountain which filled the earth.

## The Fulfillment: A series of empires

- Still Future: Roman Empire reestablished – but in a weaker or more brittle form.
- Still Future: Messiah's Reign

Symbolism in Scripture is not  
arbitrary.

Symbolism fits into a pattern set  
earlier in the Scriptures. Scripture  
interprets Scripture.

# Cross References to Symbols:

- A good cross reference for the stone that became a mountain is **Isaiah 2:1-4**, which was written generations earlier than Daniel. The mountain symbolism probably relates to the mountain in Jerusalem where Messiah's throne will be established.
- All the prior empires were frauds by comparison, as the metal statue implies. A metal statue would be a fraudulent god. The rule of a human world emperor is a fraudulent rule compared to Messiah's rule.

# Isaiah 2:1-4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now it shall come to pass in the latter days

*That the mountain of the LORD's house*

Shall be established on the top of the mountains,

And shall be exalted above the hills;

And all nations shall flow to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say,

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the  
LORD,

To the house of the God of Jacob;

# Isaiah 2:1-4 (NKJV)

He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in  
His paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

# Cross References to Symbols in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar:

- The stone cut without hands shows that only God's power produces Messiah's rule. (Human tools were not allowed to touch stones used for God's altars, or they would profane them—**Exodus 20:25**.)
- This clue helps people recognize the true Messiah when He comes to earth to reign as King. His reign will **not** be set up through human actions—a world dictator /human being who sets up his own rule is an imposter.

# Cross References to Symbols in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar:

Thus, Nebuchadnezzar's dream ALSO confirms Isaiah's prophecy about the eventual rule of Messiah.

God honored Nebuchadnezzar's search for truth. That long ago search for truth has value for us today if we are searching for truth.

The clue matches Zechariah 14:4, describing King Messiah's miraculous appearance directly from heaven, and Psalm 110, where Priest-King Messiah is seated at the right hand of the Father until that time of His return as King.

# The Bronze Mid-Section of the Dream

Representing the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great

has further description in Daniel's book.

- The further description occurred BEFORE the Greek Empire began, yet matches very precisely with the events.

# Prophecies Clue #1: Daniel and the Sweep of History

The transition between the Greek and Roman Empires was a division of the empire of Alexander the Great among his four generals after his death.

This is described prophetically – before the events – in Daniel 8:8 and 8:21-22.

# Prophecies Clue #1: Daniel and the Sweep of History

Daniel 8:8 and 8:21-22--<sup>8</sup> Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. Dan 8:8 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And the male goat *is* the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that *is* between its eyes *is* the first king. <sup>22</sup> As for the broken *horn* and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power. Dan 8:21-22 (NKJV)

# Prophecies Clue #1: Daniel and the Sweep of History

The male goat represents Alexander, whose Greek world empire lasted a very few years. His early death was followed by his empire's being divided among his generals, with three of them taking geographic divisions (3 kingdoms), and one taking charge of his heir (described in Encyclopedia Britannica). Out of the western division of his empire, the Roman Empire—the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom—arose. Daniel chapter 8 predicted that and much more related to a future Roman Empire.

# Prophecies Clue #1: Daniel and the Sweep of History

Daniel wrote during the Babylonian captivity after Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel predicted that the city of Jerusalem would be rebuilt, and also destroyed again.

He even predicted a time schedule, described in sets of seven years, for those events, and he predicted that Messiah would come and “be cut off”—meaning killed—prior to the second destruction of Jerusalem.

These were events that came true, with Jesus Christ’s death prior to Jerusalem’s destruction by the Romans in AD 70. See Daniel 9:24-26.

# Prophecies Clue #1: Daniel and the Sweep of History

The Old Testament canon was established by 444 BC, and the Greek Empire did not begin until 425 BC, meaning that Daniel's prophecies took place **before those events**. The Roman Empire began to be consolidated in Julius Caesar's reign, 45 BC.

Daniel's empires-prophecies are important because they are **provable as occurring before the events**, since the Greek and Roman Empires came after the OT was complete.

# Prophecy Clues **Set 2**: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Isaiah 7:14	740-680 BC	Messiah born of a virgin	Matthew 1, Luke 1 & 2	7 to 4 BC
Micah 5:2	735-710 BC	Messiah born in Beth- lehem	Luke 2	7 – 4 BC

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Isaiah 35:5-6, 32:3-4, 7:33-35	740-680 BC	Messiah's ministry of humanly impossible healings	Matthew 9:32-35, 11:4-6, John 5:5-9, 9:6-11, 11:43-47	AD 28-32
Isaiah 60:3, 49:6	740-680 BC	Messiah brings Gentiles Salvation	Acts 13:47-48, 26:23, 28:28	After AD 32— through the efforts of His

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Zechariah 11:12-13	520-518 BC	Messiah valued at 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 27:5-7	Around AD 32
Psalms 22:16 Zechariah 12:10	Around 1000 BC, 520-518 BC	Messiah's feet and hands pierced	Luke 23, John 20	Around AD 32

# God's Foreknowledge of Events

- Valuation of Messiah at 30 pieces of silver and the piercing of His hands and feet were done by OTHER people. These were not under Jesus' human control.
- The prophecy about **piercing of hands and feet** was written before crucifixion was invented as a form of capital punishment. It matches Genesis 3, where the Seed of the Woman takes a bruise in His heel in order to crush the serpent's head.



## The Romans Ruled by Fear of Crucifixion

Physical evidence for crucifixion: the ankle bones of a crucified man found in an ossuary in Israel. Photo of a plaster cast from a museum in the Netherlands, original in Israel. — used by permission

# The bruising of the heel of Messiah

Is foretold in one of the earliest passages about Messiah—in Genesis chapter 3.

- The Seed of the Woman will crush the serpent's head. The serpent will bruise the Messiah's heel. Messiah is Seed of the Woman—born of a Virgin.
- God told Adam and Eve that the serpent—the evil one—would one day be defeated by the Seed of the Woman, whose heel would be injured by the serpent. This prediction is in process and was proved true by Jesus' triumph over death.
- Messiah will totally triumph over evil—yet He did suffer in His heel.

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Psalm 22:17	Around 1000 BC	Messiah's bones showing enough to be counted, stared at while dying	Luke 23, John 20	Around 32 AD
Psalm 22:18	Same	His garments divided and lots cast	Same	Same

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

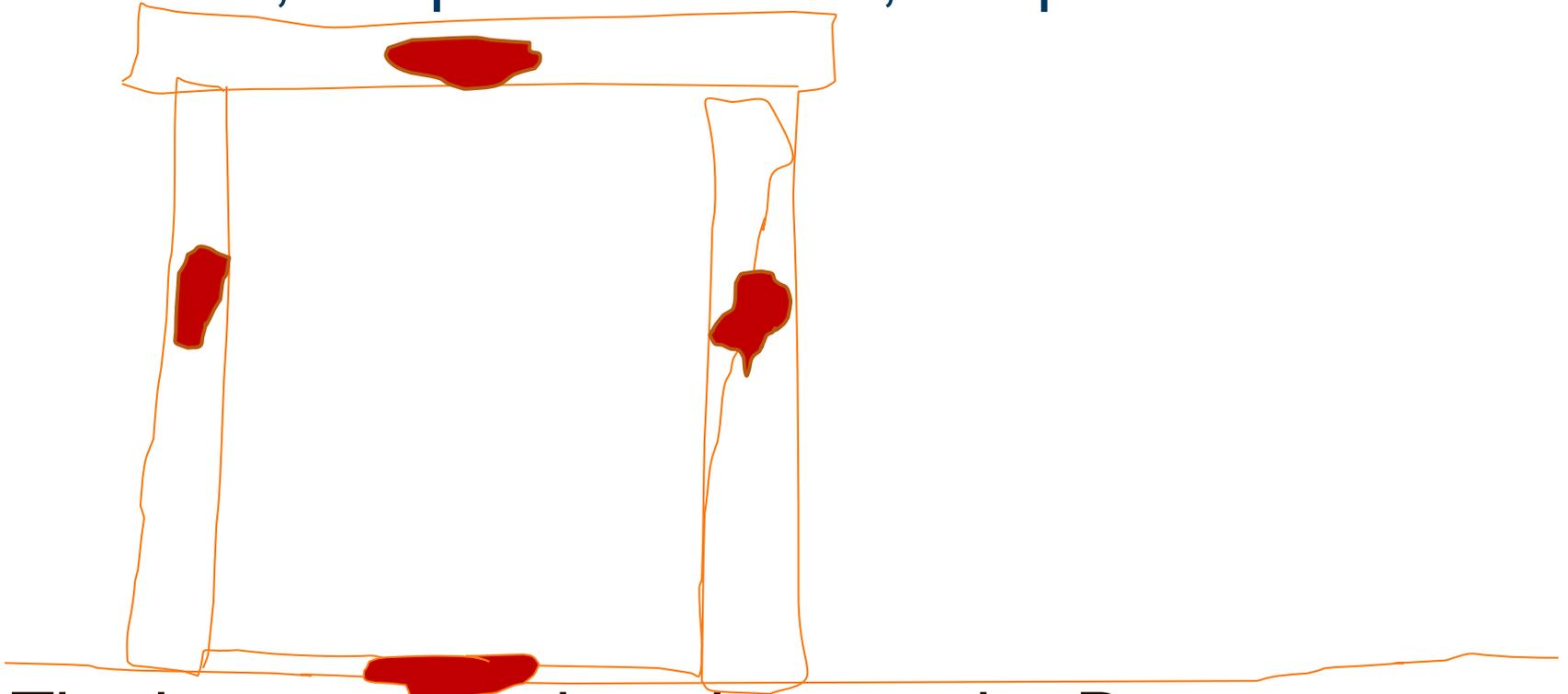
O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Psalm 69:21	~ 1000 BC	Messiah given Vinegar and gall to drink, by enemies.	John 19:28-29	~ AD 32
Psalm 34:20	~ 1000 BC	No bones broken	John 19:33	~ AD 32

# God's Foreknowledge of Events

- That no bones were broken was significant. The Romans broke the prisoners' bones to hasten death, by making it impossible to push up to breathe. Jesus was already dead when they came for that purpose. SO the exact sequence of crucifixion events was foretold in the Psalms.
- This sequence of events was foreshadowed even earlier in the Passover lamb, Exodus 12:46, whose bones could not be broken.

# Passover Door: Instructions to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintel.

- The location of the blood matches the crown of thorns, the pierced hands, the pierced feet.



The hyssop matches the way the Romans gave Him vinegar to drink.

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT

## Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Psalm 22:14 Zechariah 12:10	~ 1000 BC 520-518 BC	Pierced with evidence of heart rupture	John 19:34	~ AD 32
Amos 8:9	767-753 BC	Darkness on day of death, ~noon to 3PM	Matthew 27:45	~AD 32 (attested by secular authors as well—Thallus AD 52, Julius Africanus reported in AD 221.)

# Cause of Darkness at Midday

- The darkness on that day was reported by secular historians, who tried to explain it as an eclipse of the sun.
- Since the Passover feast took place at the full moon, an eclipse of the sun was not possible.
- When the moon is between the earth and the sun, necessary for an eclipse, the moon is in the opposite, dark phase.

# Prophecy Clues Set 2: OT and NT Confirm Each Other

O. T. Location	Date Written	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Date Fulfilled
Isaiah 53:9	740- 680 BC	With criminal and rich man in death	Matthew 27:38, 57- 60, Mark 15:27-28	~AD 32
Isaiah 53:8-12 Psalm 16:10	740- 680 BC ~1000 BC	<b>Resur- rection</b>	Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 14, John 20, Acts 2 and 13	~AD 32

# The odds

This set of fulfilled prophecy defies a chance explanation. God gave these prophecies to help us know for sure that Jesus is the true Messiah.

Each rare event has a fractional possibility of happening by chance. The fractional odds of a string of events multiply together, producing ever smaller fractions as the string gets longer.

One fulfilled prophecy could easily be a chance event. 16 rare events in a row—which match ancient predictions exactly—cannot be due to chance.

Many other prophecies were also fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

# Prophecy Clue 3: Daniel 9:26 and the time for the suffering Messiah

“Then, after the sixty-two weeks **the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”

To fulfill this prophecy, the Messiah had to suffer and be cut off before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70.

Therefore, the suffering Messiah has to have already been on earth.

# Prophecy Clue 3: Daniel 9:26 and the time for the suffering Messiah

The “people of the prince who is to come” must be the Romans – and they destroyed the city and the sanctuary in 70 AD.

This further demonstrates that *Jesus and No One Else* is the True Suffering Messiah.

# Sometimes

- ❑ People are doubtful about Jesus' identity because He suffered such a terrible death.
- ❑ It was terrible.
- ❑ It shows us that sin is terrible, and the penalty for sin is terrible.
- ❑ It shows us that God cares about people so much, He is willing to take that penalty in our place.
- ❑ It shows us that no sin is too hard for Him to forgive.

# His suffering is called a curse—to rescue us from a curse: Galatians 3:10-14

<sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*" <sup>11</sup> But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "*the just shall live by faith.*" <sup>12</sup> Yet the law is not of faith, but "*the man who does them shall live by them.*"

<sup>13</sup> Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*" ), <sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:10-14 (NKJV)

# The result for us is freedom from the curse of sin and death.

- That freedom is ours for the asking.
- If we are willing to accept His payment for our sins, He is ready and willing to forgive us and to send His Holy Spirit into our lives to empower us for good deeds.
- It would be impossible to make it more clear and definite that a Holy, Righteous, Perfect God cares about sinful human beings—from here and now to eternity.

# We should have confidence in the distant past as reported in the Bible

## CLUES IN TIME

because of clues the Bible gave us

1. ahead of time in prophecy plus fulfillment,
2. **after the events in the finds of archaeology**
3. With extra weight because of the diverse sources of information.

## Difficulty #2: Critics influence archaeologists.

Many archaeologists are uncomfortable with the conclusions of the critics of the Bible. Critics debunk the Scriptures because of a disbelief in miracles.

Scholarship forces archaeologists to accept what is published and work within its framework. Others accept the skeptics' conclusions.

They often report such conclusions even when they find artifacts that validate the Scriptures.

Readers of Archaeological Reports  
must account for assumptions.



Here is a wonderful quote that reveals  
both the truth of the Hebrew  
Scriptures as revealed in archaeology  
AND the critics' disavowal of the  
same scriptures.

# Eilat Mazar, in BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW, J/F 2006

- “One of the many things I learned from my grandfather was how to relate to the Biblical text: Pore over it again and again, for it contains within it descriptions of genuine historical reality. ...
- (Eilat Mazar, granddaughter of a founding father of Israeli archeology – Benjamin Mazar– who was a president of Hebrew University and a Bible scholar.)

Eilat Mazar, in BIBLICAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW, J/F 2006

...It is not a simple matter to differentiate the layers of textual sources that have been piled one atop the other over generations; we don't always have the tools to do it. But **it is clear** that concealed within the Biblical text are grains of **detailed historical truth.**" — Eilat Mazar, "Did I Find King David's Palace?" BAR Vol. 32 #1, 2006

# Eilat Mazar, in BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW, J/F 2006

The entire referenced article is worth reading. The archeologist exercises extreme care to keep from claiming *more than is reasonable* for her find, and her find definitely supports the historical reality of the Biblical account of King David's era. Because skepticism is so strong in Biblical studies, people who verify Biblical data are often extremely careful in the way they express their finds.

The finds support **I Chronicles 15:1-3, 16:1-3, and II Samuel 5:1-10 & 17, and 6:12.**

They support the *potential* of **Jeremiah 30:18.**



# The Task Before Us: Reading Appropriately

Separate assumptions from data  
and data from conclusions.

Use better assumptions to look at  
the data.

See how that changes the  
conclusions.

# How to Read Well:



- One of the most important skills for keeping the faith is to learn to read well. When reading anything, it is important to use this process to examine the DATA. Often articles from the most skeptical critics will reveal nuggets of data that are very supportive of faith.
- If we do not apply this technique, we will get discouraged when we read material from skeptics. Usually this simple process blows away the fog of the skeptic's conclusions.

# A Matter of Balance: Reasonable Faith

- We must approach these issues in a balanced manner – choosing a path between the extremes—
  - ▣ On the one hand of enthusiastic gullibility, that would accept claims without merit –
  - ▣ and the opposite extreme of being skeptical of the Biblical text even when “details of astonishing clarity” fall into place.

# The Biblical Text Deserves the Benefit of the Doubt.

When details of astonishing clarity fall into place, **they give weight to the general honesty of the text.** An honest text gives weight to perception of the goodness of God.

# The Biblical Text Deserves the Benefit of the Doubt.

- Consider the house where you grew up. Would you find many artifacts there now to prove you lived there a while ago? If you wrote your memoirs, would your childhood residence support your story now?
- When archaeologists find artifacts thousands of years later that support the details of Scripture, think how amazing that is.
- A good source for archeology studies in harmony with the Bible is the Associates for Biblical Research website and magazine *Bible and Spade*—[www.BibleArchaeology.org](http://www.BibleArchaeology.org)—PO Box 144, Akron, PA 17501.

# The Biblical Text Deserves the Benefit of the Doubt.

- The writers of the Biblical text were people of sterling character. They were not charlatans out to make money for themselves by tricking the public. Often such a caricature prevails in spite of the evidence to the contrary.
- The prophets in the Old Testament were often persecuted, as were the authors of the New Testament, for telling the truth. They persisted in spite of persecution, even persecution to death, because their message was so important.

# Archaeology Clues Era by Era

Era	OT Books or Chapters	Approximate Years	Archaeological Finds	Bible References
Abraham & Patriarchs	Genesis 11 - 50	2100 BC	Nuzi Tablets describing Hurrian culture, Names of the kings who fought Sodom	Genesis 12 -31, Genesis 14
Egyptian Slavery	Exodus	1900-1450 BC	Joseph's tomb with mummified body and Egyptian sword	Genesis 50:24-26, Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32

# Archaeology Clues Era by Era

Era	OT Books or Chapters	Approximate Years	Archaeological Finds	Bible References
Conquest	Joshua	1405-1398 BC	Jericho excavations: "Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho," BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW, Mar/Apr 1990	Joshua 2 - 6
Judges	Judges, Ruth, I Samuel 1-9	1398-1043 BC	King Eglon's palace has been excavated**Archaeological Study Bible page 248	Judges 3

# Jericho: Red and Black Painted Pottery is the Key to the Date.

Some of the “discrepancies” between the Bible and the era of conquest are matters of dating of pottery. The article, “Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho” shows some of the difficulties of obtaining correct dates, **and** reveals that, when correct dates are obtained, **the Biblical text is vindicated.**

Those who believe in a late date of the Exodus disregard the match of the 1400 BC city ruins with the Joshua account.

# Archaeology Clues Era by Era

Era	OT Books or Chapters	Approximate Years	Archaeological Finds	Bible References
United Kingdom	1 & 2 Samuel, I Kings 1-14, I and II Chronicles	1043-931 BC	Temple at Bet Shean, & Water Spout/Tunnel	I Samuel 31:7-13, I Chronicles 10:8-12, 2Samuel 5:6-10,
Divided Kingdom North	I & 2 Kings, Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Nahum	931-722 BC	All Assyrian Kings' names verified, possible find of Jezebel's seal-BAR Mar/Apr 2008	Tiglath Pileser, 2K 15-16, Shalmanezzer III, 841BC, 2K 17-18, Sargon, Is 20:1 Sennacherib, 701BC, 2K18-19

# Archaeology Clues Era by Era

Era	OT Books or Chapters	Approximate Years	Archaeological Finds	Bible References
Divided Kingdom South	Isaiah, 2 Chronicles, Joel, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,	931-586 BC	Hezekiah's Tunnel, Lachish letters	II Chron 32:30, 2 k 20:20,
Babylonian Captivity	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel,	595-586-temple destroyed - 539-Babylon fell BC	All Babylonian Kings' names verified—Belshazzar was regent in his father's absence	Dan 1-7

# Archaeology Clues Era by Era

Era	OT Books or Chapters	Approximate Years	Archaeological Finds	Bible References
Mede-Persian Era and Restoration	Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	538-425 BC, 536 BC, 516-temple, 444 BC-walls, OT canon	A possible mention of Mordecai has been found on a tablet from the correct era, where an official is named Marduka.	Esther. Also, Cyrus' memo has been found in his royal archive that matches Ezra 1:2-4.
Greek Era – Alexander the Great, Empire divided by 4 of his generals	Septuagint translated 285-246 BC	425-168 BC	Dead Sea Scrolls – 250 BC -68 AD	New Testament quotes use Septuagint

# When diverse sources validate the documents—

## Archaeology and Fulfilled Prophetic Events in Time—

- They carry more weight **together** than either one would carry separately.
- They cannot be “in collusion” so they represent **independent confirmation**.

This demonstrates that the Old Testament record and the New Testament record are honest and trustworthy.

# When diverse sources validate the documents-

This demonstrates the mercy and justice of God. He holds us accountable to love truth, and He makes possible a successful search for truth about Himself and about the Real Messiah.

Our search for truth about Him PLEASES Him.

<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

# Conclusion:

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1. The ancient words of the Bible are unique.
2. Abundant evidence says those words are trustworthy. We can say the Bible is true based on evidence as well as faith.
3. A true Bible agrees with the idea that God inspired it,
4. And that God is good, honest, worthy of trust.

# So what should our response be?

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- Trust – with our lives, souls, future, eternity.
- Worship
- Love
- Respect
- Joy
- Study!

Psalm 19:7-11—The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the LORD are true, they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than the honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned. In keeping them there is great reward.

# Homework: Class 7 Set 1

- Read Job 28:25. What does this verse say the wind has?
- If you compare this concept with the “earth, air, fire, and water” idea of the elements in ancient Greece, which is more scientific?
- Read chapter 8 in **THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT**. Review the chart on page 158 of a previous chapter. If Jesus is Messiah, we would expect God to want to make that fact clear to us.

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Earlier in this course, we looked at the way people know things. We thought about the value of multiple facts from different directions and different areas of knowledge coming together to validate truth.
- In the arena of fulfilled prophecy, God took that approach to make us certain of Jesus' identity.

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Remember that the Old Testament was written over about one thousand years by many different authors, and there was a gap of approximately 400 years between its completion and the events of the New Testament. Remember also that the complete Old Testament was translated into Greek, the Septuagint, around 250 BC, during that 400 year gap. We have manuscripts in both languages and are sure of the content of those books. We have historic certainty that the Old Testament writings were complete before Christ's birth.

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Therefore, if God motivated many different people to write predictive facts about Messiah long before His birth, over a thousand year period, and then those facts came true in one life, those facts would demonstrate that individual's identity as Messiah.
- Has any other individual in history been acclaimed as the one for whom the Old Testament prophecies came true?

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Since many of the prophecies describe death by crucifixion and resurrection in vivid terms, is it likely that another individual will fulfill these same prophecies in the future?
- Chapter 8 in McDowell's book describes many of the major prophecies that came true for Jesus. The chapter explains a little about the second advent which will complete the rest of the prophecies in the future.
- (The prophecies that have not yet come true for Jesus have not yet come true for anyone. They describe His return from heaven as King over the whole earth. They are far beyond what an ordinary human being could do.)

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- One of the earliest descriptions of Messiah in the Bible is found in Deuteronomy 18:18, in the Torah. “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you (Moses) from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command them.”
- In the New Testament, the people of Israel recognized Jesus as a prophet, as seen in Matthew 21:11, Luke 7:16, John 6:14, 7:40.
- In Acts 7, Stephen compares Moses and Jesus this way. Moses was rejected by his people when he was forced to flee into Midian after killing the Egyptian to protect the Israelite slave. Though rejected, Moses was their deliverer and so was Jesus. On page 177, McDowell compares Jesus to Moses in 4 ways. What are they?

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

A special comparison may be found in Exodus 32:30-35, where Moses offered to give up his own name's place in the Book of Life, if only God would forgive the people their sin. God rejected Moses' offer, but a similar willingness to make atonement for others' sin at great cost to Himself is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us, as described in John 10:11-18.

- Jesus' willingness to do so involves the Book of Life as seen in verses 25-30 of that same chapter. Note the description of the final judgment where the Book of Life plays a critical part, Revelation 20:11-15.

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Jesus Christ was able to make atonement for us because He is without sin, whereas Moses had his own sins to atone. Moses could not qualify to atone for others, as Jesus could, but both were alike in their willingness to do so.
- Because Jesus is God-with-us, He could atone for us and conquer death in the process.
- (I Corinthians 15:20-26, 54-57)

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- How can the objection that “Jesus must have arranged to fulfill the prophecies to establish His credentials” be answered?
- How could one answer the objection that fulfilled prophecy was just a coincidence?
- What about the predictions of psychics that come true? Are fulfilled Bible prophecies the same sort of thing? Explain why they are not.

# Homework Class 7 Set 1

- Daniel 9:26 states that Messiah had to come and be cut off (meaning physical death) before another historical event would occur. What was that other event, and when did it occur?
- Explain how this shows that Jesus is the **ONLY** suffering Messiah.

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- Read Ephesians 5:13. What does this verse say about all that is visible?
- Is this a primitive scientific concept or a sophisticated one?
- Is it a true concept?
- Read Chapter 9 in THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT.
- Why does the resurrection of Christ matter?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- Page 210 lists references where Jesus predicted His resurrection before the crucifixion occurred. The point is made that those predictions would be foolish statements, if, in fact, He had not risen from the grave. His followers did not understand what He meant, with the possible exception of Mary at the house of Simon the Leper. What were the locations in Scripture where Jesus made these predictions?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- Ignatius of Antioch, AD 50-115, lived within the lifetime of the apostles. He was bishop of the church that sent Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. When were his epistles (letters) written?
- Did he affirm the resurrection of Christ under those circumstances?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- Scholars assign dates to the writing of the books of the New Testament by looking at internal evidences in those books. The Epistles to the Galatians, I and II Corinthians, and Romans can be compared to Roman Empire history. That comparison shows those books of the New Testament were written between AD 55 and AD 58. This places their writing within 25 years of the resurrection. Do they affirm the historic reality of the resurrection of Christ?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- What reason does Ambrose Fleming give for believing the miracle stories of the New Testament described actual events?
- What reason did Simon Greenleaf give for believing the miracles were true?
- For the resurrection to be true, Jesus first had to die. List some of the evidence from Scripture showing that He died.
- Why do scholars believe the guards at the tomb were Roman soldiers rather than the temple guard?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- Why was the guards' testimony important?
- The first witnesses of the resurrection were women. How does their testimony support the truthfulness of the accounts?
- Approximately how many eyewitnesses saw Jesus after the resurrection, according to I Corinthians chapter 15? How does this match Psalm 22:22?
- How does the disciples' change of heart from cowardice to courage support the truth of the resurrection?

# Homework Class 7 Set 2

- ❑ What is the message of the grave clothes?
- ❑ Did the authorities arrest or question the disciples about stealing the body?
- ❑ Did the character of the disciples make them likely candidates for grave robbery?
- ❑ Did anyone else have motive to take the body, un-wrap the grave clothes, leave the grave clothes, and steal the body?
- ❑ What are some problems with the mass hallucination or vision theory of Christ's appearances after the resurrection?
- ❑ What is wrong with the wrong tomb theory?

# Homework Class 7 Set 3

- Read Colossians 1:15-18. List some reasons Jesus should have preeminence, according to these verses.
- Read Chapter 10 of THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT.
- What is “the great proposition?”
- In the box on page 285, what are seven of those characteristics?
- Why would God become man?

# Homework Class 7 Set 3

- If God became Man, we would expect Him to have an unusual birth. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. Regarding the virgin birth, no human biological father or sexual relationship was involved at all. The pregnancy was a pure miracle accomplished in the creative power of the Holy Spirit, just as “the first Adam” was a miraculous direct creation. It is important to realize in contrast that *Jesus was not created by the virgin birth*. He has always been alive. The virgin birth was merely His entrance into the world of humanity. This type of birth is unique in the history of all creation, never done before, never repeated.

# Homework Class 7 Set 3

- God verified the virgin birth in a way that was clear to the public. Here is how.
- The birth of John the Baptist was obviously miraculous, along the same lines as Isaac's birth in the Old Testament. John's parents were obviously too old to produce children. Elizabeth's obvious-miracle pregnancy made her the perfect witness of God's communication to the public that Mary's pregnancy was miraculous, as well – See Luke 1:1-45, and 65. Who were the other witnesses in the Bible to the fact of the miraculous birth of the Messiah?

# Homework Class 7 Set 3

- If God became Man, we would expect Him to be morally perfect. Explain how the record of Jesus' life fulfills that requirement, in His own testimony, His friends' testimony, and His enemies' testimony.
- If God became Man we would expect Him to have supernatural power. List some of the miracles Jesus did.
- If God became Man, we would expect Him to be a great communicator. Does Jesus Christ match this description?

# Homework Class 7 Set 3

- If God became Man, we would expect Him to have a lasting influence on people. Did Jesus' life meet this test?
- If God became Man, we would expect Him to meet the spiritual needs of people. Did Jesus do that?
- If God became Man, we would expect death to have no power over Him. Did Jesus meet this test?