

# Is the Bible Reliable?

## The Evidence from History, Archeology, Science, and Life

### I. THE TESTIMONY OF \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. This testimony is especially important to the Christian.

*John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.* (The words of Jesus)

1. Jesus personally affirmed portions of the Scripture that today even some Christians find to be the parts most difficult to believe. He affirmed the \_\_\_\_\_ account quoting from both Gen. 1 & Gen. 2.

*Matthew 19:4-5 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' ?*

2. Jesus affirmed the account of \_\_\_\_\_ and the whale and the city of Nineveh.

*Matthew 12:39-41 39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.*

3. Jesus affirmed the account of Noah and the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 24:37-39 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

The point is this. If you believe that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, and you have made Him your Lord (master) then you must reckon with the fact that Jesus affirms the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture, at its most difficult points.

## II. THE TESTIMONY OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Sir William Ramsey

1. In the late 1800's the eminent British Scholar Sir William Ramsey had come to disbelieve the accuracy of the \_\_\_\_\_ accounts of the NT. He set out to examine the \_\_\_\_\_ records of the book of Acts with a predisposition to disbelieve them. By \_\_\_\_\_ examination, he began his investigation. After years of searching and researching, he never found an inconsistency or error in all of the references of \_\_\_\_\_ to the first century AD. He later said, "Luke's history is \_\_\_\_\_ in respect of its trustworthiness."
2. Ramsey went on to search for the seven churches of the \_\_\_\_\_. He found the remains of them all and wrote what remains today the most definitive work on these seven \_\_\_\_\_ churches.

### B. More challenges to Luke

Luke was attacked for many years regarding his description of a \_\_\_\_\_ under Augustus during the time of Jesus' birth. More discoveries however showed that Augustus did order a \_\_\_\_\_ census throughout the empire. Records of how the census was to be conducted have been found requiring that people return to their ancestral \_\_\_\_\_ to be registered.

### C. Jericho

Skeptics have also ridiculed the story of the fall of the city of Jericho. Between 1930 and 1936, the British Archaeologist Garstang excavated the ruins of the ancient city. He found something so startling that he had members of his team sign a written statement concerning their discovery. Normally, the walls of cities fall \_\_\_\_\_ when they are besieged. In the case of Jericho, the walls fell \_\_\_\_\_, leaving a virtual stairway for its attackers to enter the fallen city. Why is that significant? Because Joshua 6:20 says, **So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man \_\_\_\_\_ before him, and they took the city.**

Bryant Wood in *Biblical Archaeology Review* offers a list of additional \_\_\_\_\_ between the biblical account and the archeological evidence found at Jericho.

1. The city was strongly \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The attack occurred just after \_\_\_\_\_ time in the spring.
3. The inhabitants had no opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ with their food stores.
4. The siege was short.
5. The walls were \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The city was \_\_\_\_\_ plundered.

7. The city was burned.

#### D. Recent evidence

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Around 2013, a team of archaeologists digging at the foot of the southern part of the wall that surrounds Jerusalem's \_\_\_\_\_ City came across a refuse dump dating to the \_\_\_\_\_ century before Christ.

As the New York Times told its readers, it's "an area rich in relics from the period of the first of two ancient Jewish temples." Among their findings were thirty-three \_\_\_\_\_ imprints or seals, known as *bullae*. These seals were catalogued and stored.

It wasn't until 2018 that these bullae were examined more closely, and what the closer examination revealed is rocking the archaeological world. One of the bullae bore the inscription "Belonging to Hezekiah (son of) Ahaz king of \_\_\_\_\_."

2. \_\_\_\_\_

About 10 feet away from the seal of Hezekiah, they found one that read "Isaiah \_\_\_\_\_" with the last letter of the word prophet in Hebrew missing because the clay seal was broken off at that point. Wow! The seal of Isaiah, counselor to the king, found very close to the seal of Hezekiah!

### III. THE TESTIMONY OF \_\_\_\_\_

A. Often there is conflict between scientific \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible. But there is never conflict between scientific \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible.

B. The Bible has affirmed scientific facts ages \_\_\_\_\_ they were discovered by empirical science.

1. In 1492, many still thought the world was \_\_\_\_\_. But in 700 \_\_\_\_ Isaiah wrote in **Isaiah 40:22** *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in*

2. The understanding that the earth is \_\_\_\_\_ in space is a recent discovery, but it is mentioned in Job. **Job 26:7** *He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.*

3. Unearthing the remains of \_\_\_\_\_ is a recent development, but they are also described in Job 40 & 41.

a. Behemoth of Job 40:15 cannot be a hippopotamus or an elephant as often suggested. Look at Job 40:17: He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

**Job 40:15–17** *15 "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 See now, his strength is in his hips, And*

his power *is* in his stomach muscles. 17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

Behemoth is a \_\_\_\_\_, probably a Brachiosaurus.

- b. Leviathan of Job 41 cannot be a crocodile either. He shoots fire from his nostrils. Read Job 41:18-21 18 His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes *are* like the eyelids of the morning. 19 Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out. 20 Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As *from* a boiling pot and burning rushes. 21 His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth.

Leviathan is also a \_\_\_\_\_. He is one of the “sea creatures” or “dragons” created in

Genesis 1:21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.

His capacity to shoot \_\_\_\_\_ from his nostrils may have been similar to the present day capacity of the Bombardier \_\_\_\_\_ to shoot fire out the other end!

4. Genetic research and the discovery of DNA has shown us why every living kind of plant and animal can only reproduce after its \_\_\_\_\_. But Gen. 1 said centuries ago that this was true.
5. Linguistic research indicates that all languages originated out of \_\_\_\_\_ language. Exactly what Gen. 11 says.
6. Time reported several years ago of very conclusive research in the area of mitochondrial DNA that every living person could be traced back to a \_\_\_\_\_ female ancestor. They named her the primeval EVE.

On and on we could go. But one of the greatest evidences I could share with you is

#### IV. THE TESTIMONY OF \_\_\_\_\_ LIVES

- A. **The \_\_\_\_\_** – If Jesus did not really rise from the dead and appear to the apostles as the Bible declares, why would these men give the rest of their lives to serve Him and to spread the gospel? What did they have to gain in this world? They all died a \_\_\_\_\_ death for their faith in Christ as the Risen Lord with the exception of John. He was exiled for his faith, but later returned to Ephesus where he died a natural death.

#### B. People throughout history

Time and again have the helpless and destitute picked up this book, read it, believed it, trusted Christ, and had their lives \_\_\_\_\_.

So much so that throughout the ages men have died for it rather than deny it.  
One man said,

*I do not know if Jesus turned water into wine. But when I asked Him into my heart, He turned beer and booze into furniture for our home and food for my family.*

**C. People in our church**

I could tell of people of the most \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle—transformed.

I could tell of people of \_\_\_\_\_ convictions—transformed.

I could tell of people in utter and total \_\_\_\_\_ near taking their own life—transformed.

CONCLUSION: What the Bible says is true. You can believe it.