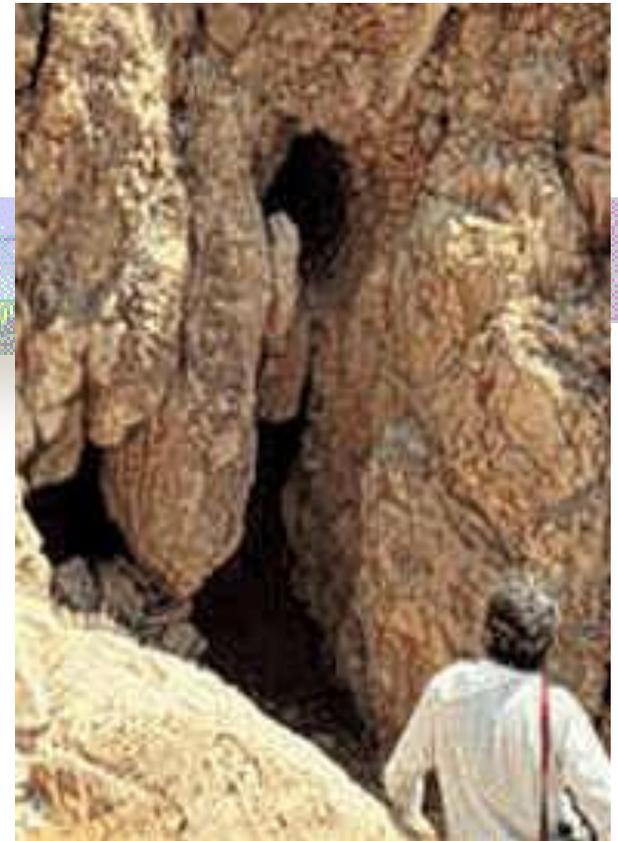


Archaeology and The Bible

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Overview

- What is archaeology?
- The Dead Sea scrolls
- Evidence for the accuracy of the Bible
 - Internal, copy comparison, archaeology
- The Ebla tablets
- Genesis and Origins
 - Creation, The Flood, languages
- Archaeology and the OT
- Archaeology and the NT
- Archaeology confirms accuracy of the Bible



What is Archaeology?

- Studies human cultures through the recovery, documentation and analysis of material remains and environmental data
- Explains the origins and development of human cultures for societies of the past
- Discovered ancient monuments
- Systematic study of the past through its physical remains began seriously in the early 1800's

Ancient Rome, Italy



- 2000 year old remains of Ancient Rome, Italy are being excavated and mapped by the archaeologists

Roman Theater



- Roman Theater found and excavated in Alexandria, Egypt

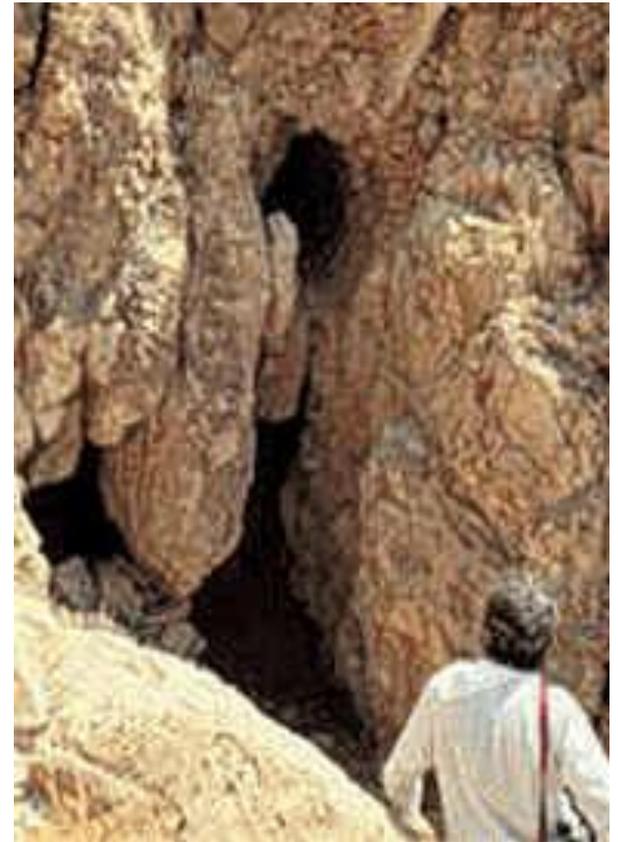
Stonehenge



- Stonehenge found in United Kingdom

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 led 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

Dead Sea Scroll Facts - 2

- 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 that are 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 Ebla texts of the pre-patriarchal age
- Excavation of key cities in the Holy Land
- Discoveries that have a bearing on the New Testament



The Accuracy of The Scriptures

- There are no historical, geographical or scientific errors in the Bible
- This can be verified by a number of different external means:
 - History, geography, archaeology and science
- Extra-biblical writings by believers and non-believers alike have verified the accuracy of the Holy Scriptures
- Archaeology has also verified the accuracy of transmission of the Holy Bible over the centuries



Transmission of the Holy Bible

- Originals have been lost or destroyed
- Only “extant” copies of the books of the Bible exist today
- How do we know that the copies mirror the originals?
- Determined through a process called “textual criticism”
- Involves two major steps:
 - All existing copies are analyzed and compared with each other for contextual consistency
 - Time between compilation of the original and the extant is considered. The shorter the time span, the greater the reliability of the extant text
- No other literary work in history compares with the Bible
- Earliest NT manuscripts go back to 125 AD

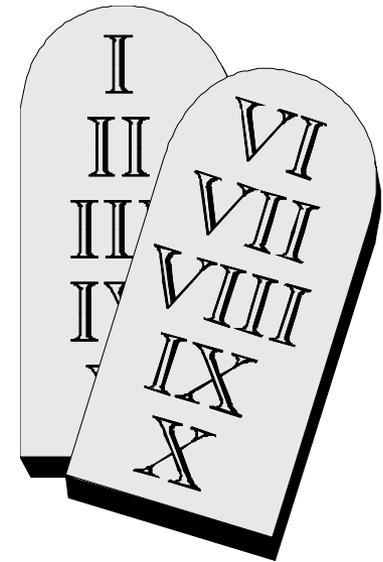


Testing A Document's Validity

- Internal evidence:
 - What the document claims for itself
- Bibliographic evidence:
 - From the original documents to the copies we possess today
- External evidence:
 - History - how the document aligns with facts, dates, persons from its own contemporary world
 - Archaeology

Internal Evidence

- Old Testament:
 - “Thus saith the Lord”
- New Testament:
 - Jesus’ words were considered God’s words
 - Prophecy fulfilled
 - Consistent with OT





Bibliographical Evidence

- Two important questions:
 - How many manuscript copies do we have?
 - How close are the copies to the original?
- The New Testament (NT):
 - Over 5600 Greek manuscripts extant
 - Over 10,000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate
 - Over 9200 other translations

Manuscript Reliability

Work/Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Years Elapsed	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1300	7
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1500	49
Iliad (Homer)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
New Testament	40-95 AD	125 AD	30	24,000



External Evidence

- Historical records
 - Biblical
 - Extra-biblical
 - Dead Sea scrolls
 - Ebla tablets
 - Greek, Roman, Jewish historians
- Archaeology
 - Old Testament (OT)
 - New Testament (NT)

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





The Ebla Tablets - 2

- 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



The Ebla Tablets - 3

- 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



Moses Wrote Genesis

- Contemporary of the Egyptians
- Moses had no telescope or microscope
- **Gen. 1:1 -> Gen. 2:3** are the words of Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Bible contains no absurd statements or ridiculous stories
- If Bible was not accurate in scientific, historical and geographic matters, it could not be believed on other matters
- Genesis agrees exactly with findings of scientists and archaeologists



Archaeology & Creation

- **Gen. 1-11** authored by Moses
- Moses educated in Egypt
- Familiar with creation accounts of Babylonians and Sumerians
- Similarities and differences in creation accounts with the Genesis account
 - Creation result of war between gods in the pagan accounts
 - Creation by God in Genesis account
 - Sun, moon, stars already existed in pagan accounts
 - Sun, moon, stars created by God in Genesis account

Archaeology & Creation – 2

- Similarities in accounts superficial
- Hebrew account not based on ancient legends
- Pagan accounts are embellishments of the original biblical account found in **Gen. 1-11**
- Moses showed God as superior to any other deity
- Discovery of Creation accounts at Ebla confirm this
 - 17,000 clay tablets predate Babylonian account by about 600 years
 - Creation tablet very close to Genesis account
 - Speaks of one who created the heavens, stars, earth
 - Speaks of creation from nothing





Archaeology & The Flood

- Bible speaks of a global flood
 - Gen. 6-9; 2 Pet. 3:5-7
- Flood stories similar in many cultures – Greece, Middle East, China, Mexico, Hawaii, Algonquin
- List of Sumerian kings treats Flood as real event
 - Lists 8 kings who lived “10’s of thousands” years
- All flood stories have a common origin
 - Survivors spread over the earth
 - Tale of the Flood went with them
 - Superficial similarities between tales
 - Point to historical core set of events

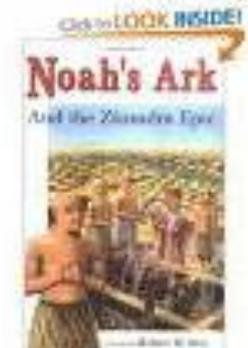
Archaeology & The Flood – 2

- Basic Flood stories are the same
 - Noah in the Bible
 - Ziusudra in Sumerian account
 - Utnapishtim in Babylonian account



- Similarities

- A man is told to build a ship to certain dimensions
- Man builds boat and rides out the storm
- Man offers sacrifice on leaving the boat
- Deity (ies) makes covenant with the man



Archaeology & The Flood – 3

■ Genesis account

- Year of the Flood given
- Chronology relative to Noah's life
- Diary/ship log provided
- Ark dimensions ideal for floating
- Long rainfall recorded
- Noah sinned, realistic story



■ Other accounts

- Cubical Babylonian ship not flood worthy
- Seven days of rainfall inadequate
- Hero granted immortality and exalted

The Origin of Languages

- **Gen. 11:9** “Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”
- Evolutionists believe that languages simply evolved from grunts and growls
- Believers in the Bible believe that languages originated in an area of Asia near where the Ark of Noah landed
- Early investigators had said that European languages developed in Europe





The Origin of Languages - 2

- A March 1990 article in Scientific American concluded that European languages actually had their start in a general area of Asia near where the Ark of Noah landed
- The completeness of the research involved in this study means that historians can no longer ignore the Bible's account of history
- Sumerian tablets record the confusion of language as recorded in **Gen. 11:1-9**:
 - There was a golden age when all mankind spoke one language
 - "Speech was confused by the god Enki, lord of wisdom"
- Babylonians had a similar account in which the gods destroyed a temple tower and "scattered them abroad and made strange their speech"



Archaeology and the OT

- Did the Hittites exist?
- The walls of Jericho
- First temple digs
- Belshazzar a historical figure?
- Assyrian King Sargon II
- King Sennacherib
- Falls of Nineveh & Jerusalem
- Other OT archaeology findings

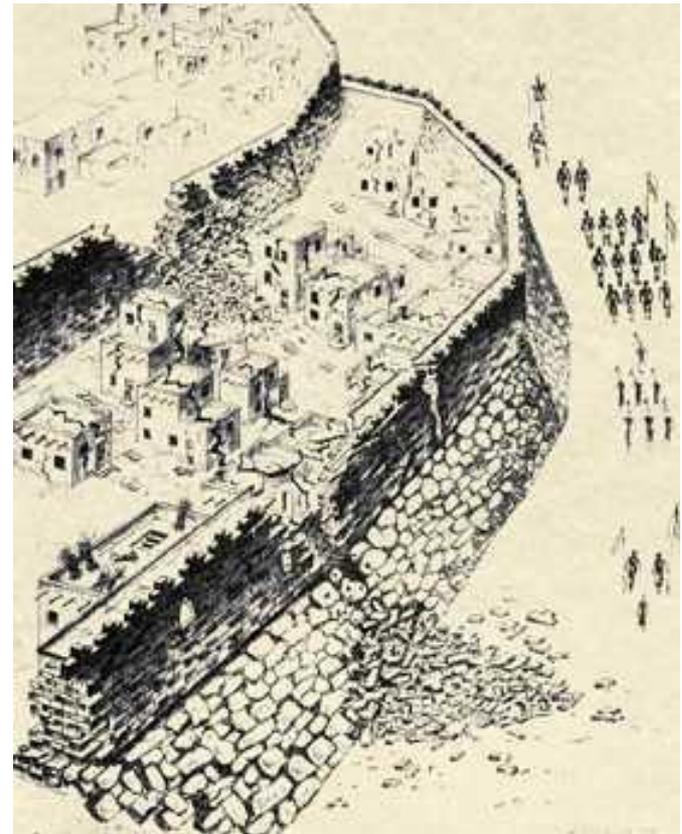
Did The Hittites Exist?

- **Hittites** are mentioned in the Bible in **Gen. 26:2; 15:20; Ex. 33:2; Deut. 7:1; Judges 3:5; 1 Kin. 10:29**, etc.
- Only 100 years ago historians viewed the biblical references to the Hittites as ridiculous
- Archaeology has uncovered evidence for the existence of this group of people
- Now we have volumes of information on the Hittites
- Their existence was verified in 1906 by excavations 90 miles East of Ankara, Turkey
- Hittite empire collapsed in 1200 B.C.



The Walls of Jericho

Artist's reconstruction of the north side of ancient Jericho, based on the German excavations of 1907-1909. Note the houses built against the mud brick city wall, which rests on top of the stone retaining wall. The Bible says that Rahab's house was built against the city wall (**Joshua 2:15**).





Did the Walls of Jericho Fall Down?

- **Josh. 6:20** “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 straight before him, and they took the city.”
- John Garstang excavated Jericho in the 1930’s; found walls of Jericho as they had fallen in Joshua’s time
- Kenyon, a British archaeologist in the 1950’s, declared that the walls of Jericho did not fall down because she dated the destruction of the city 150 years before Joshua could have arrived



Did the Walls of Jericho Fall Down? - 2

- Kenyon based her date for the destruction of Jericho on pottery fragments
- Dr. Bryant Wood, a Bible-believing archaeologist, showed that the destruction of Jericho did happen the way the Bible said
- He said that Kenyon misdated Jericho because she failed to find a certain type of pot
- Bushels of grain found at the site provide further evidence that Jericho was conquered rapidly
- The walls did fall outward

First Temple Digs

- March 8, 2008 report on new discovery:
 - First Temple period (800-586 BC) near Western Wall of the Temple Mount
 - Seal from signet ring, pottery, jar handles with inscription in ancient Hebrew



Belshazzar a Historical Figure?

- **Dan. 5:1,30** “Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords ... That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.”
- **Belshazzar** was mentioned as a ruler in **Dan. 5:1,22,29,30**
- Historians 70 years later never mentioned him
- Other rulers at the time were mentioned
- At one time, historians scoffed at the Bible for listing Belshazzar as the last king of Babylon



Belshazzar a Co-Ruler

- Scholars said that Nabonidus was the last king
- In the mid 1800's archaeologists unearthed tablets in Babylon ruins that listed Belshazzar, son of Nabonidus, as co-ruler in Babylon
- Nabonidus, who ruled the empire of Babylon from 555-538 BC, mentions his firstborn son Belshazzar on an inscription found in the city of Ur in 1853. The inscription reads:
 - "May it be that I, Nabonidus, king of Babylon, never fail you. And may my firstborn, Belshazzar, worship you with all his heart."



Belshazzar – 2nd In Command

- Another piece of evidence for Belshazzar's reign in the city of Babylon comes from an inscription where he is referred to as the son of Nabonidus and is given authority to rule.
 - "Putting the camp under the rule of his oldest son . . . His hands were now free; He entrusted the authority of the royal throne to him."
- He was the second-in-command at the time of Nabonidus
- That's why Daniel was promised a position as the third highest ruler, not the second highest ruler
- Archaeology again confirms the Biblical record



Other Archaeology Findings

- The Mount Ebal altar referred to in **Josh. 8:30** “Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in Mount Ebal.” has most probably been identified
- Nazareth inscription found during 1962 excavation of Caesarea - important find because the name of Nazareth was not found any where outside of the NT
- Defeat of Ashdod by Sargon II (**Is. 20:1**), as recorded on his palace walls



Assyrian King Sargon

- Known only from **Is. 20:1** for a long time
- Ruins of Sargon's palace at Khorsabad found with inscriptions about his rule
- Sargon now one of the best known Assyrian kings
- **2 Kings 17:6**, "In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and then led Israel into exile."
 - A Sargon inscription confirms this
 - [*enemy inscriptions do not record defeats*]



King Sennacherib

- Sennacherib records his victory over King Hezekiah, making him a prisoner
- He does not record his failure to conquer Jerusalem and his retreat because 185,000 of his soldiers were killed, **2 Kings 18:13-19:36**
- Assassination of Sennacherib by his own two sons recorded in **2 Kings 19:37**
 - Babylonian records mention only one son
 - Biblical record confirmed to be true by recent discovery of the annals of his son Esar-haddon



Falls of Nineveh & Jerusalem

- Fall of Nineveh as predicted by the prophets **Nahum** and **Zephaniah (2:13-15)**, as recorded on the Tablet of Nabopolassar
- Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (**2 Kings 24:10-14**), as recorded in the Babylonian Chronicles



More OT Archaeology Findings

- Bricks with and without straw (**Ex. 1:11; 5:7-19**)
- The vast and important city of Hazor (**Josh. 11:10**)
- Saul's fortress at Gibeah (**1 Sam. 10:26; 14:2**)



More OT Archaeology Findings - 2

- The Pool of Samaria (**1 Kings 22:29-38**)
- Ahab's House of Ivory (**1 Kings 22:39**)
- The water tunnel beneath Jerusalem dug by King Hezekiah to provide water during the Assyrian siege (**2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chron. 32:30**)
- The Pools of Heshbon (**Song of Sol. 7:4**)





Archaeology and the NT

- The NT census
- Luke's writings
- Date of John's Gospel
- NT sites verified
- Paul's shipwreck



The NT Census

- Historical accuracy of census in Luke
 - **Luke 2:1-5**, “And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ... ”
 - Herod’s census is to be distinguished from that of 6 AD when Quirinius was in charge of the census, **Acts 5:37**
 - Fragment of stone discovered at Tivoli near Rome in 1764 AD contains inscription in honor of Roman official who was twice governor of Syria [Quirinius]
- Archaeology attests to accuracy of Luke’s record



Luke's Writings

- Luke ascribed unfamiliar titles to authorities and named unknown governors
 - Gallio, proconsul of Achaea, **Acts 18:12-17**
 - Delphi inscription confirms him
 - Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene, **Luke 3:1**
 - Inscription recording temple dedication
 - Erastus, co-worker of Paul, **Acts 19:22**
 - Inscription found in excavating Corinth
- Luke's records confirmed by secular historians
 - Tacitus, Suetonius, Josephus, [the Talmud]

Date Of John's Gospel

- Was thought to be have been written at about 400 A.D.
- Fragments of John's gospel were found in Egypt, dated 90 A.D.
- Verified an earlier date for John's gospel





NT Sites

- The existence of Jesus as recorded by Josephus, Suetonius, Thallus, Pliny the Younger, the Talmud, and Lucian
- The foundation of the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus cured a man with an unclean spirit (**Mark 1:21-28**)
- The site of the Crucifixion (**Mark 15:22**)
- Forcing Jews to leave Rome during the reign of Claudius (41-54 AD) (**Acts 18:2**), as recorded by Suetonius

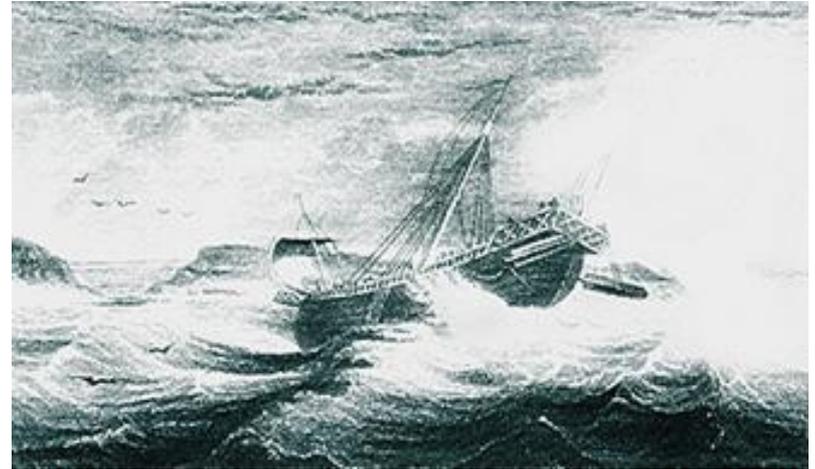
More NT Sites

- Jacob's Well where Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman (**John 4**)
- The court where Jesus was tried (**John 19:13**)
- The marketplace of Athens [Areopagus] (**Acts 17:19,22**)
- The Roman theater at Ephesus (**Acts 19:29**)
- Herod's palace at Caesarea where Paul was kept under guard (**Acts 23:33-35**)



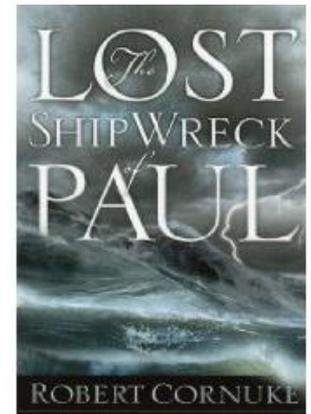
Paul's Ship Wreck – Malta

- Recorded in **Acts 27**
- 14 days at sea
- 15 fathoms – **v.28**
- “Dropped 4 anchors from the stern” – **v.29**
- “Observed a bay with a beach” – **v.39**
- “Let go the anchors and left them in the sea” – **v.40**



Bob Cornuke's Expedition

- Led a group to search for St. Paul's ship in 2003
- Used the details in **Acts 27** as a guide
- Tradition placed the site on north side of island of Malta [Bay of St. Paul]
- South side of island matched details in Acts 27 better [Bay of St. Thomas]
 - Where two seas meet
 - Water 15 fathoms deep
- Anchors previously discovered by two Maltese spear fishermen in 1973





Archaeology and the Bible

- Many Biblical figures and man-made structures have been verified by archaeology
- Archaeology verifies Holy Scripture
- Archaeologists now use Holy Scripture as a guide



Archaeology Confirms the Bible

- Nothing has been found to disprove the historical accuracy of Biblical events, places, or people
- Archaeology experts say:
 - “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference” (**Glueck** - Jewish archaeologist)
 - “Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details [of the Bible]” (**Albright** - one of the great archaeologists)



Full Glueck Quote

“As a matter of fact, however, it may be clearly stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

Nelson Glueck, Archaeologist



The Bible

- Book of Special Revelation
- Agrees with general revelation
- 40 authors, written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek
- $39 + 27 = 66$ books
- Written over 1600 years
- Unchanged for 2000 years
- Accurate in all historic, geographic and scientific details
- One unified story of creation and a plan of redemption



The Uniqueness of the Bible

- Alone among religious books in its scientific accuracy
- Other ancient religious books abound in obvious scientific errors, e.g. Hindu, Greek, Muslim, Babylonian, Mormon sacred books
- The Bible is in accord with modern history, geography, archaeology and science
- No superstitions have corrupted the Bible, e.g.
 - Astronomy -> astrology
 - Chemistry -> alchemy
- No other ancient book has this accuracy
- No other ancient religious book could withstand this scrutiny



More Information

- ICR – Institute for Creation Research
 - www.icr.org
 - Acts and Facts articles on Creation
- Answers in Genesis
 - www.answersingenesis.org
 - Books, seminars, articles on Creation
- Creation Research Society
 - www.creationresearch.org
 - Publication of peer-reviewed creation articles
- Dr. Heinz Lycklama's Lectures
 - www.osta.com/creation & www.osta.com/apologetics
- True Origin Archive
 - www.trueorigin.org
 - Exposing the myth of evolution



**Thank you
for your
attention!**

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