



Christian Evidences

Lesson 5:

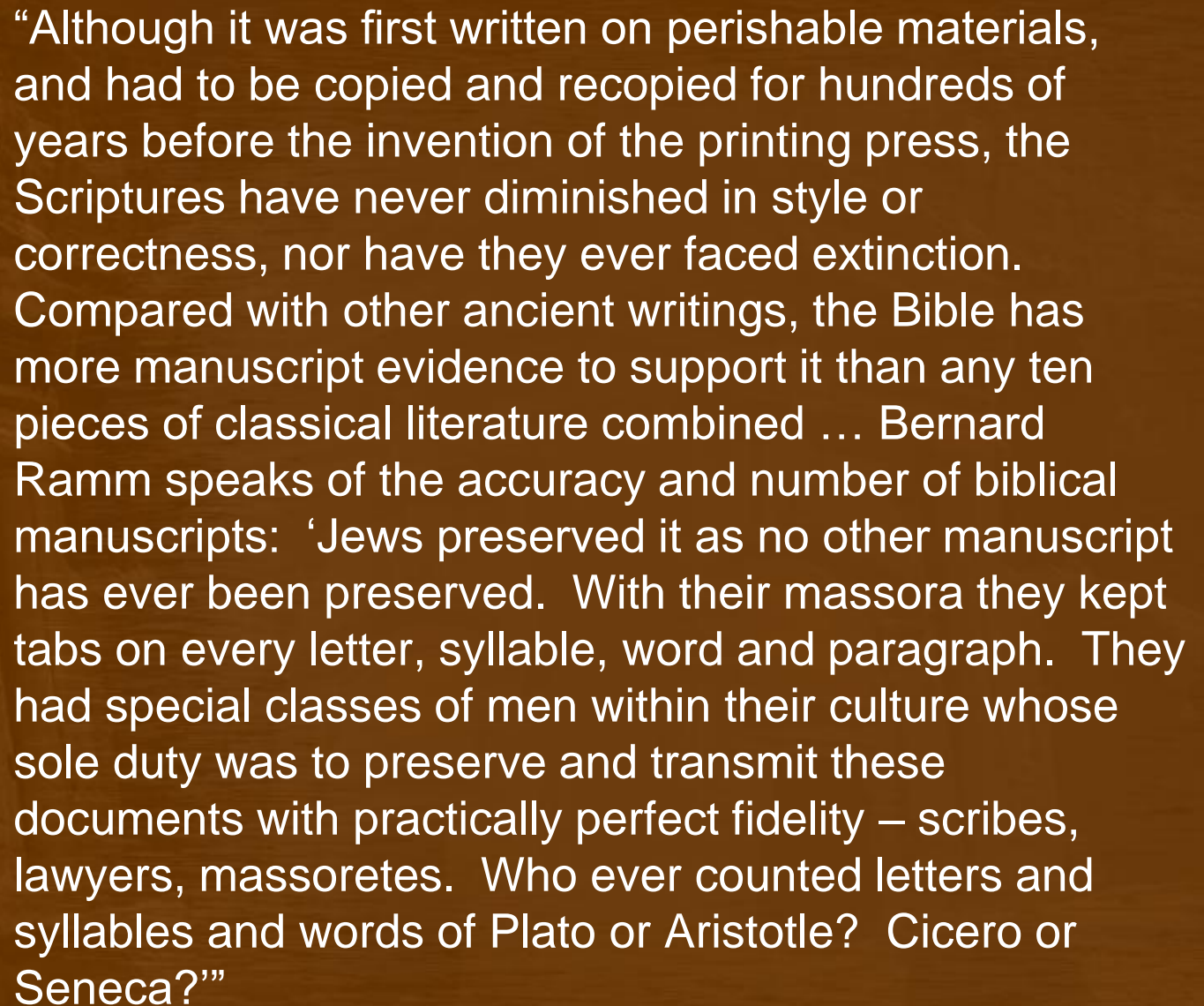
Evidences for the Bible as
God's Word (Part II)

The Bible – Truly Unique

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

- Number of Bibles sold reaches into the billions
- In 2011 alone, 32.1 distributed worldwide (this is just the number of printed copies)
- No other book has seen such circulation
- Parts or all available in 3,589 of world’s estimated 6,500 languages
- What is it about the Bible that has created such a demand?

*“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day ...
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:97,105)*



“Although it was first written on perishable materials, and had to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press, the Scriptures have never diminished in style or correctness, nor have they ever faced extinction. Compared with other ancient writings, the Bible has more manuscript evidence to support it than any ten pieces of classical literature combined ... Bernard Ramm speaks of the accuracy and number of biblical manuscripts: ‘Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. With their massora they kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity – scribes, lawyers, massorettes. Who ever counted letters and syllables and words of Plato or Aristotle? Cicero or Seneca?’”

(Josh McDowell)

The Bible – Truly Unique

*“Heaven and earth will pass away,
but My words will by no means pass away.” (Mt. 24:35)*

- It has survived countless attacks by its enemies
 - Persecutions from the Romans to the communists
 - Have tried to ban it, burn it, and outlaw its followers
 - Diocletian ordered the razing of churches to the ground and the destruction by fire of the Scriptures
- Infidels and skeptics have attempted to refute and discredit the Bible
- How has it survived?
- Could it be that this book is indeed from God?
 - Acts 5:34-39

Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence

- If the Bible is inspired, it should be accurate
- Human works are always characterized by mistakes
- If Bible accuracy were lacking, one could go no further with the unbeliever
- Archaeology – a systematic study of ancient people as can be learned by what they left behind
- Archaeology always corroborates the Biblical record
- Many of ancient cities took the form of ‘tells’ – a hill or mound; may represent as many as 20 to 25 cities, one built on top of the other

Tell Lachish



A Model of Lachish



Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence

- Hittite people were of doubtful existence by critics
- 26 references to the Hittite people (e.g. Deut. 20:16-18)
- In 1906, the Hittite capital at Boghazkay was excavated
- ~ 10,000 Hittite and Akkadian texts were found
- Now, you can earn a graduate degree in Hittite civilization



Ancient Relief of a
Hittite Warrior

Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence

- Solomon noted for his many building projects
- Fortress cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer
 - Gateways, walls and other buildings from the period of Solomon have been found in these three cities
 - Gates and walls follow the same architectural plan
- What were some of the other building projects of Solomon, as recorded in Scripture?
 - The temple, his palace, the House of the Forest of Lebanon, Hall of Pillars, Hall of the Throne, Stables, Agricultural Cities and areas (1 Kings 7)



Ruins of Gates at Megiddo

Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence

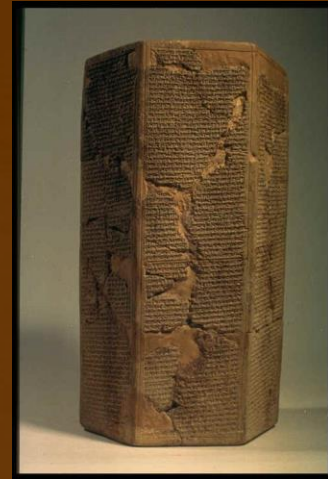


- Pharaoh Sheshonk I of Egypt invaded Jerusalem in days of Rehoboam taking away treasures (1 Kings 14:25-26)
 - Confirmed by a triumphal relief on a wall in the temple of Amun at Karnak in Egypt
- Conduit cut by Hezekiah



2 Ki. 20:20; 2 Chr. 32:30

Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence



- Hezekiah and the Assyrians
 - 2 Kings 18:13 - 19:37
- 26,000 tablets found in the palace of Ashurbanipal
 - Sennacherib recorded the siege of Jerusalem
 - Found a way to make himself sound good without admitting defeat
 - ‘As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke ... himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage.’
- What actually happened to Sennacherib’s army when he laid siege to Jerusalem?
 - An angel of the LORD killed 185,000 in one night
 - Sennacherib departed and returned home

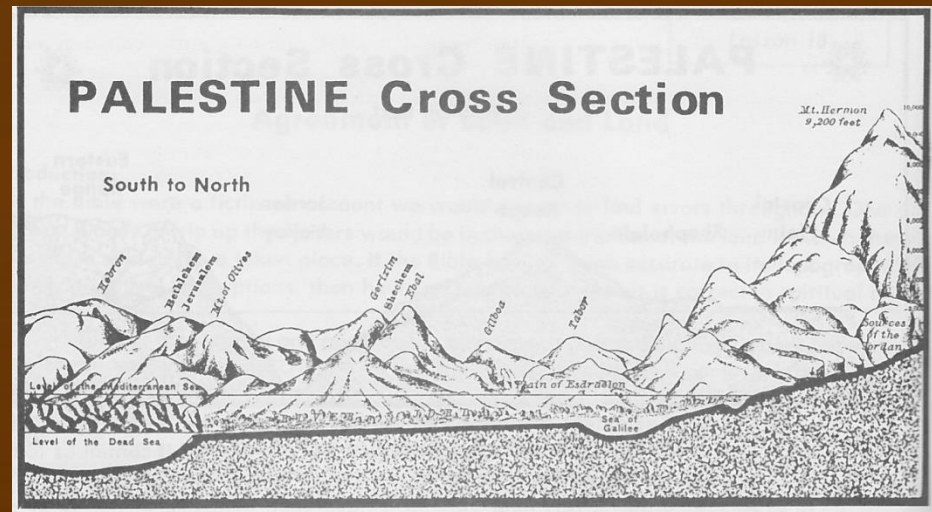
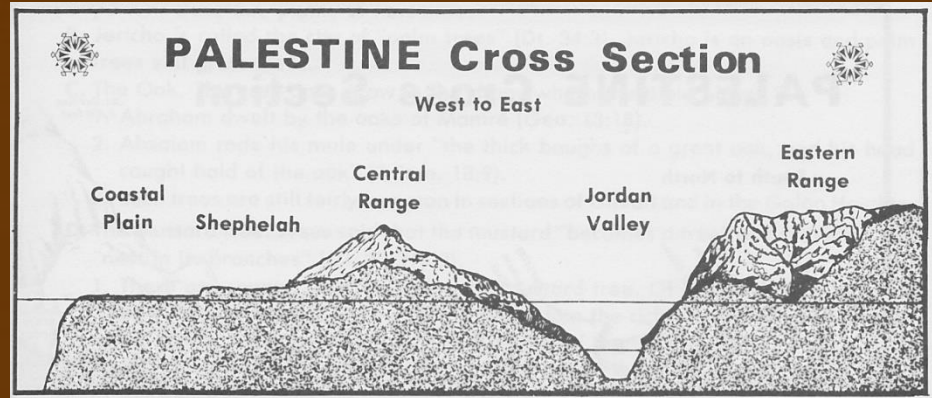
Bible Accuracy – Archaeological Evidence

- Sir William Ramsay in late 1800's set out to disprove the historicity and accuracy of Luke's narrative in Acts
 - He was forced to conclude that Acts was historically accurate
- In Acts, Luke mentions
 - 32 countries
 - 54 cities
 - 9 Mediterranean islands
 - 95 persons (62 of which not named elsewhere in N.T.)
 - These references, where checkable, always correct
- Truly remarkable – political / territorial situation was in a state of almost constant flux
- How does one account for Luke's precision?
 - Inspiration!

Bible Accuracy – Agreement of Book & Land

- The Bible has an amazing correspondence in:
 - The land, customs, geographical references, nations and people – all are accurate
- J.W. McGarvey on his visit to Palestine in 1879:
 - Plains, mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, cities, and deserts correctly named and located
 - Political divisions known to exist invariably recognized
 - Changes of government correct
 - In not a single known instance is there a failure in any one of these particulars

The land of Palestine



Bible Accuracy – Agreement of Book & Land

- Trees
 - References or allusions to the trees of different locations are always accurate
 - E.g. Judg. 9:7-21 - olive, fig, vine, bramble, cedar; all indigenous to Palestine
 - Oak tree found to grow in the places mentioned (Gen. 13:18; 2 Sam. 18:9)
 - Sycamore grows only in the Jordan valley and along the coast; references place it only there (1 Ki. 10:27; Lk. 19:4)
- Climate
 - Mediterranean Sea on the west and the desert on the east largely influence the weather
 - Rains coming off the sea (1 Ki. 18:43-45; Lk. 12:54)
 - East wind called the Sirocco (Gen. 41:23; Jonah 4:8)

Bible Accuracy – Agreement of Book & Land

- Manners and customs
 - Sheep following the shepherd (Jn. 10:4)
 - Rock-hewn sepulchers from the first century found around Jerusalem, some with stones rolled in front (Mt. 27:60)
 - Animal skins used as containers (Mk. 2:22)
 - Threshing grain on a threshing floor can be found in the Bible; still observed today (Ps. 1:4)
 - Vineyards with winepresses cut in the rock are common
 - Rock walls and rock towers (Mt. 21:33)
 - Heaps of rock for the purpose of marking the fields still seen throughout Palestine (Dt. 19:14; 27:17; Prov. 23:10)

- The evidence from archaeology and the agreement between land and book show the Bible to be completely accurate and trustworthy
- Would we expect anything less from a book that is Divinely given?
- Some have tried to use archaeology to refute the Bible, but it has vindicated itself every time.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God!

*“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.”
(1 Pet. 1:22-25)*

Review

- Apologetics - systematic argumentative discourse in defense (as of a doctrine)
- Why study apologetics?
 - Commandment
 - Conviction
 - Communication

Two Means of Revelation

- General (natural)



- Special (communication – written word)



Review

- Evidences for the existence of God (natural revelation)
 - Cosmological argument (cause and effect)
 - Teleological argument (argument from design)
 - Anthropological argument (the moral argument)
 - Aesthetical argument (the existence of beauty)

Review

- The inspiration of the Bible
 - Claims it makes of that
 - What kind inspiration – verbal and plenary (full, complete)
- Evidences from the Bible of its inspiration
 - Unity of the Book
 - Archaeology
 - Agreement of Book and Land