



Christian Evidences

Lesson 6:

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

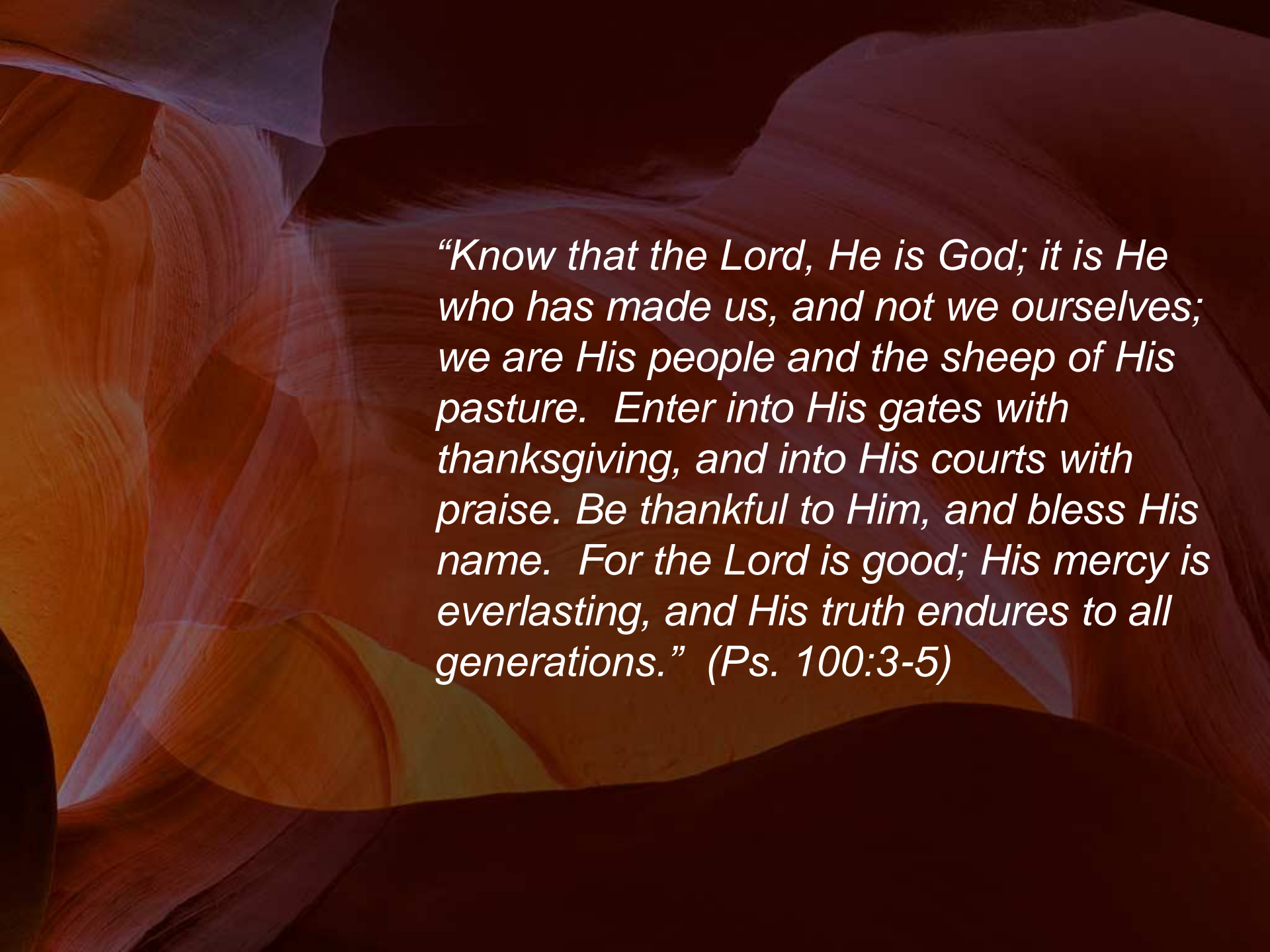
Is the Bible merely a “good” book?

What would it take to convince someone otherwise?

Something miraculous?

What do we find?

- *Numerous prophecies of future events were given and later fulfilled in detail.*
- *Scientific concepts are referenced that were not understood until centuries or millennia later.*



“Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” (Ps. 100:3-5)

What is prophecy?

- Prophecy – a declaration of future events, such as no human wisdom or forecast is sufficient to make
- By its very nature, prophecy must be divine revelation
- Not a guess, a forecast, a calculation, a mere conjecture, a vague generalization, or an educated analysis of a forthcoming situation
- Nor making a lot of predictions with a few coming to pass
- In Biblical prophecy, everything that has been predicted has come to pass

What is prophecy?

- True prophecy:
 - a) the event must be beyond the power of man to foresee
 - b) it must be demonstrated that the prediction was written before the event
 - c) the language of the prediction must be unambiguous and unmistakable
 - d) the prediction must have a clear and demonstrable fulfillment
- “prophet” (Hebrew “nabhi”) – to speak or to announce
 - One who spoke directly for God; sometimes foretelling future events

What was the test of a true prophet?

- Deut. 18:15-22
 - *“... if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken ...”*
- Whether or not the thing came to pass
- Jer. 28:1-17
 - Hananiah prophesied falsely; Jeremiah exposed him, and he died

Evidence from Prophecies

- Fulfilled prophecy provides evidence - God has spoken
- Jesus used it to show that He was from God
 - *Jn. 5:39, 46 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify of Me** ... For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me.**"*
 - *Lk. 18:31 "Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and **all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.**"*

Evidence from Prophecies

- Purpose of fulfilled prophecy
 - *Jn. 14:29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, **you may believe.**"*
 - *2 Pet. 1:19-21 "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which **you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*

Israel in Prophecy

- Begins with conditional prophecy; blessings or cursings
 - Deut. 28:1-3,15-16
- Israel to have a king – fulfilled in Saul 1050 B.C.
 - Deut. 28:36
- Defeated and carried away into bondage – fulfilled in Assyria (722 B.C.), Babylon (597 B.C.)
 - Deut. 28:25, 36, 41, 49-50
- Cities to be besieged and destroyed (28:52) – happened many times
- Great sufferings would accompany siege (Deut. 28:53-57)
 - Other prophecies of this: Jer. 19:9; Ezek. 5:10
 - Syrian siege (2 Ki. 6:24-29)
 - Babylonian siege (Lam. 2:20; 4:10)

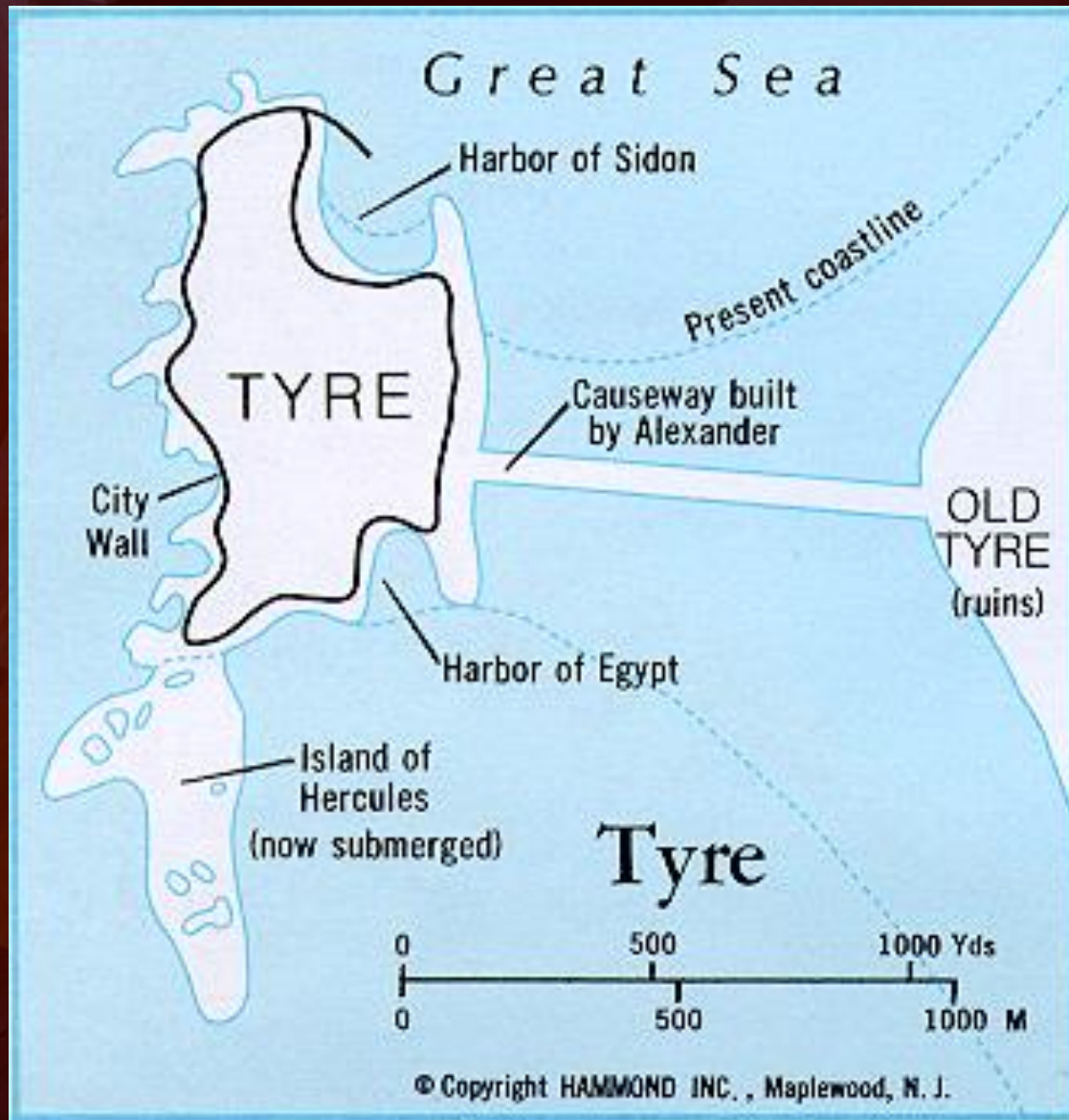
Israel in Prophecy

- To be scattered and sold again into Egypt (Deut. 28:64, 68)
 - Josephus tells of Jews sold into Egypt and a glutted market (*Wars, Bk. 6, Ch. 9, Par. 2*)
 - “... but of the young men he chose out the tallest and most beautiful, and reserved them for the triumph; and as for the rest of the multitude that were above seventeen years old, he put them into bonds, and sent them to the Egyptian mines ...”

Tyre in Prophecy

- Ezek 26:1-14
 - Written in about 592-570 B.C.
- Fulfillment continues to this day
- Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre for 13 years
 - After siege, some fled to the island city nearby
 - Nebuchadnezzar left the mainland city in ruins
- Alexander (332 B.C.) built a causeway to the island city using the ruins of mainland Tyre
 - After 7 month siege, they breached the 150 foot high wall on the island and took the city
- The island city has had a small population over the centuries consisting mostly of fishermen
- The ruins of the mainland city remain to this day

Tyre in Prophecy



Tyre in Prophecy



Babylon in Prophecy

- Dan. 4:28-30
- Isa. 13:17-22
 - Written 740-700 B.C., long before Cyrus lived and long before the Babylonian empire
 - Cyrus the Mede captured the city of Babylon in 539 B.C.
 - Alexander the Great (331 B.C.) intended to make it the capital of a new commercial empire
 - However, he died at Babylon
 - City's decline continued; Parthians stripped it (124 B.C.)
 - Last mention of Babylon - a tablet dating from 10 B.C.
 - Today only desolate ruins



Babylon in Prophecy



“And as we wandered over the lonely mounds, silent except for the hum of the wild bee and hornet, I thought how literally Isaiah’s prophecy of the fall of Babylon had been fulfilled. It is, indeed, overthrown as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.” (H.V. Morton, 1938)

Messianic Prophecies

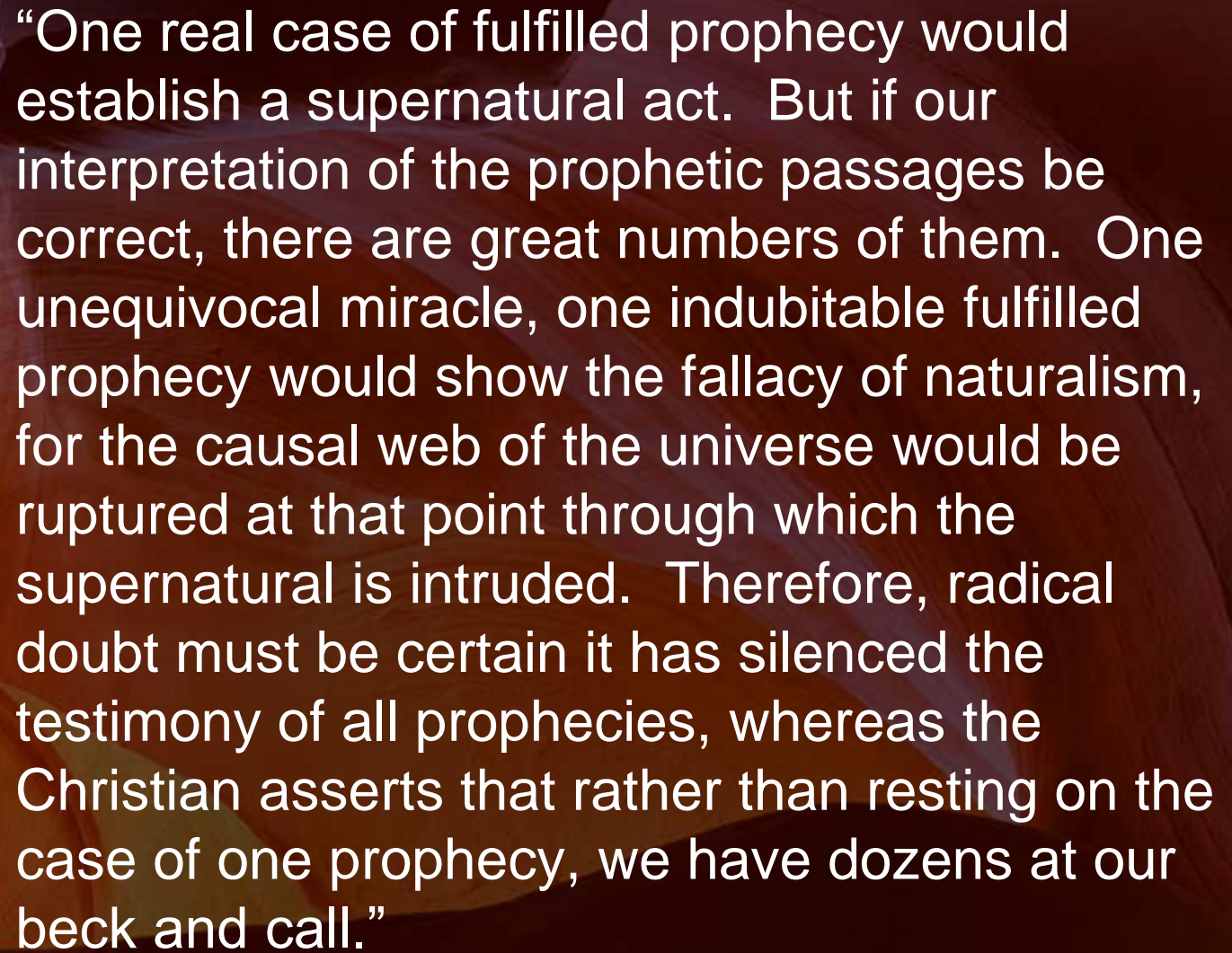
- 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ
- The mathematical probability of all of these being fulfilled in one person is 1 in 84×10^{123}
- Written centuries before He walked the earth.
 - The Septuagint (a Greek translation) was started around 280 B.C.
 - Dead Sea scrolls include Messianic texts dated at 200 – 100 B.C. (e.g. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53)
 - Beyond the power of man to foresee.

Messianic Prophecies

- Micah 5:2 – Mt. 2:1-6
 - **Place of birth**
- Gen. 49:10 – Heb. 7:14
 - **Of tribe of Judah**
- 2 Sam. 7:12-14 – Lk. 1:32; 3:31
 - **Of the seed of David**
- Isa. 7:14 – Mt. 1:21-25
 - **Born of a virgin**
- Zech. 9:9 – Mt. 21:1-9
 - **To enter Jerusalem in triumph, riding on a donkey**

Messianic Prophecies

- Zech 11:12 – Mt. 26:14-15
 - Sold for 30 pieces of silver
- Ps. 22:16 – Lk. 23:33; Jn. 20:25,27
 - Hands and feet would be pierced
- Zech. 12:10 – Jn. 19:34,37
 - Side to be pierced
- Isa. 53:9 – Mt. 27:57-60
 - Buried in a rich man's tomb
- Ps. 16:10 – Acts 2:24-32
 - Resurrection

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of an open book. The pages are a warm, golden-brown color, and the binding is visible in the center. The lighting is soft, creating a sense of depth and texture. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, in a white, sans-serif font.

“One real case of fulfilled prophecy would establish a supernatural act. But if our interpretation of the prophetic passages be correct, there are great numbers of them. One unequivocal miracle, one indubitable fulfilled prophecy would show the fallacy of naturalism, for the causal web of the universe would be ruptured at that point through which the supernatural is intruded. Therefore, radical doubt must be certain it has silenced the testimony of all prophecies, whereas the Christian asserts that rather than resting on the case of one prophecy, we have dozens at our beck and call.”

Bernard Ramm

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- Found in caves near the ancient ruins of Qumran
- 19 fragments of Isaiah, 25 fragments of Deuteronomy and 30 fragments of the Psalms
- Isaiah Scroll - 1,000 years older than any previously known copy



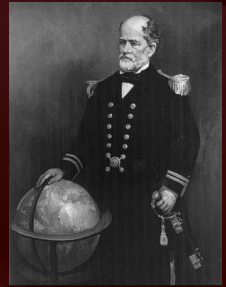
The Isaiah Scroll

- Written during the period from about 200 B.C. to 68 A.D
- Many crucial biblical manuscripts (such as Psalm 22, Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 61) date to at least 100 B.C.

Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- A great number of scientific truths hidden within its pages for thirty centuries or more
- Given in nonscientific language, but substantiate the claims of authenticity of the Holy Scriptures
- In some, scientific concepts known through the ages mentioned in a unique manner in Scripture
- In others, scientific topics mentioned hundreds or thousands of years before man discovered them

Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge



- **Ocean Currents**
 - Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) – famous captain
 - Read from the Bible – Psa. 8:8
 - “... *The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.*”
 - Using this verse, he decided to find the ‘paths of the sea.’
 - Found just that!
 - The first to recognize seas were circulating systems
 - Authored book on physical oceanography – still considered a basic text
 - How did the Psalmist know about the ‘paths of the sea’? Just a lucky guess?

Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- **Fresh water springs in the oceans**
 - Job 38:16 – *“springs of the sea.”*
 - Earliest secular reference – Strabo (a Roman geographer, 63 B.C. - A.D. 21)
 - Now known that fresh water springs exist in a number of places (e.g. off the coasts of Greece, Italy, Syria)
- **Hydrologic cycle**
 - Eccl. 1:7 – *“All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again.”*
 - Eccl. 11:3 - *“If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth”*
 - Amos 9:6 - *“He who builds His layers in the sky, and has founded His strata in the earth; Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth-The LORD is His name.”*
 - Idea of the hydrologic cycle was not completely understood until late 16th and early 17th centuries

Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- **Blood necessary for life**
 - Lev. 17:11-14 – *“the life of the flesh is in the blood.”*
 - Moses scientifically correct
 - Red blood cells carry oxygen and make life possible
 - We understand this today, but not in the time of George Washington (whose doctors bled him to death)
- **Best blood clotting on 8th day after birth**
 - Gen. 17:12 – *“He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised...”*
 - Why the eight day?
 - Vitamin K and prothrombin necessary for proper blood clotting.
 - 5th – 7th days after birth vitamin K begins to be produced
 - Only on the 8th day is the level of prothrombin above 100% of normal. A mere coincidence?

Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- **Second Law of Thermodynamics**
 - *Isa. 51:6* – “... the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner ...”
 - *Psa. 102:26* – “... they will all grow old like a garment ...”
 - *Heb. 1:11* – “They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment.”
 - 2nd Law says same thing – everything is running down or wearing out
 - The Bible writers spoke of this, but we did not understand it until recently in history

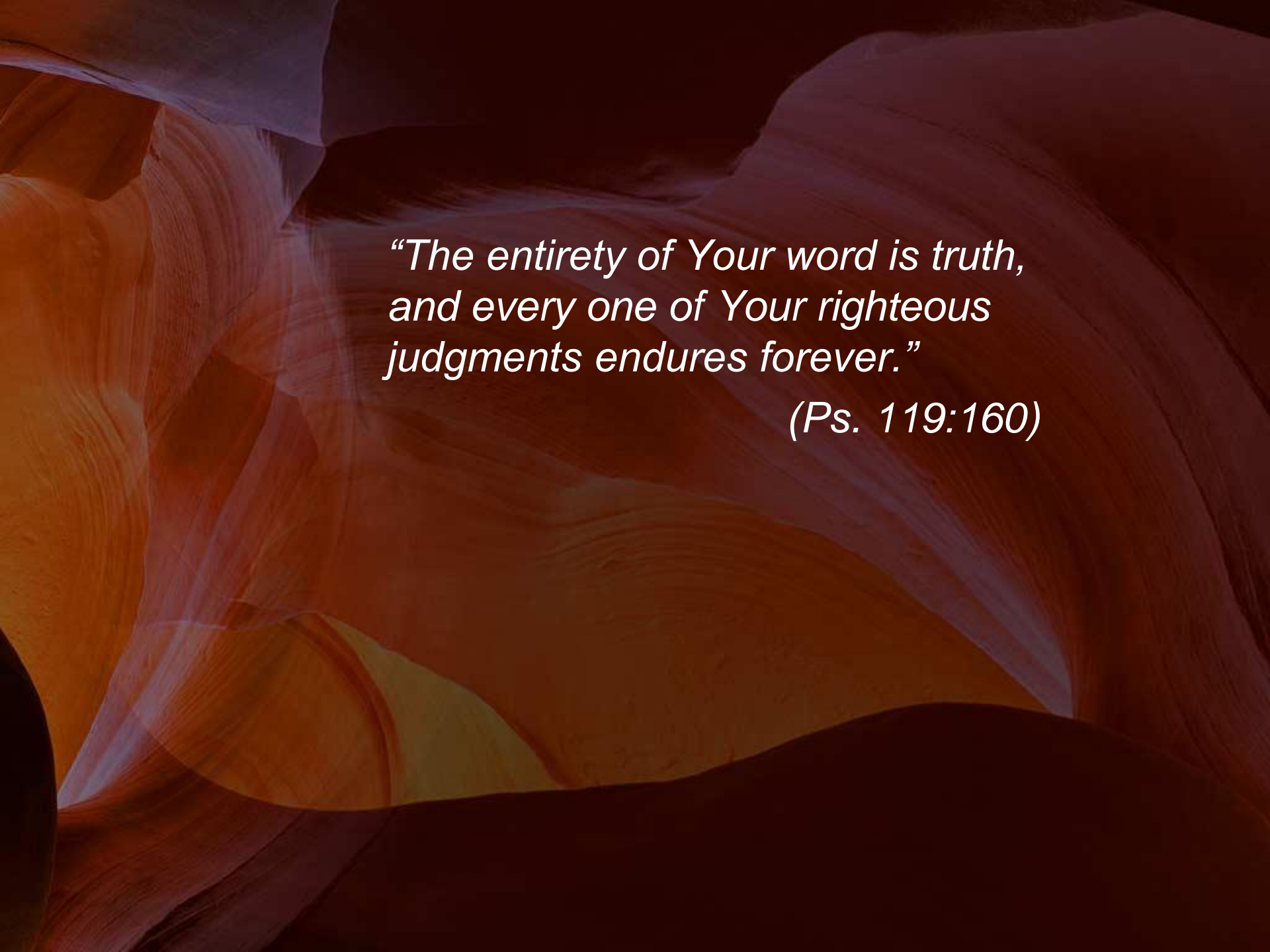
Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- **The earth is round**
 - Isa. 40:22 – *“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...”*
 - Hebrew word for “circle” is “khug” – literally, something with roundness or sphericity
 - People of Isaiah’s day and even centuries later thought the earth was flat



Evidence from Scientific Foreknowledge

- Many other examples of scientific foreknowledge
- A good reference: “*Has God Spoken?*” by A.O. Schnabel
- No doubt, there is scientific foreknowledge in the Scriptures
- How could these writers have understood such concepts?
 - They could not have
 - Many of these principles were not understood until hundreds or thousands of years later
 - Only one answer is sufficient.
 - God was behind it all.
 - The Bible is the very Word of God.



*“The entirety of Your word is truth,
and every one of Your righteous
judgments endures forever.”*

(Ps. 119:160)