

Jim Martin
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2022 REVIVAL NOW! CONFERENCE

Our conference this year will be held Sunday, April 24 through Friday, April 29. Service times are: Sunday 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM, Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM (no evening service on Friday). There will be 45 minutes of pre-service worship before every service. All services will be held at our church:

Grace Christian Center
4184 East Patterson Road
Beavercreek, Ohio 45430

There is no charge to register or attend. Please send an email to PastorJimGCC@gmail.com if you are planning to attend. Our host hotel is:

Country Inn and Suites, Fairborn South
3971 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Beavercreek, OH 45324
(937) 429-2222

The nursery for babies will be open but unattended. Parents will need to stay with their children. The services will be streamed live into the nursery on a large screen TV. Each service will also be streamed live from our website. Please email if you have any questions about the conference. We look forward to having you join us for a conference filled with God's glory and presence.

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April 2022 "DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE?"

Dear Friends,

Something I find both very frustrating and extremely perplexing is a person who sincerely professes to be a Christian, yet at the same time questions the Bible's reliability. It is beyond my understanding how someone can claim to have faith in Jesus for salvation, but doubt the accuracy of scriptural passages unless they can be proven by secular science. That is beyond foolish and, quite frankly it is blatant hypocrisy.

In Matthew 4:4 Jesus said we are to live by every word that proceeds from God. Doing so is impossible if you don't believe every word is absolute truth. Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie. Hebrews 6:18 states it is impossible for God to lie. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we're told that all scripture is profitable for our spiritual growth so we can become fully mature spiritually and equipped to fulfill every aspect of God's will. If a person questions the integrity of any part of the Bible, it would be impossible to experience the spiritual growth required in order to know and fulfill the will of God.

Christians who rely on secular science to confirm whether or not the Bible is true reveal their absolute ignorance. In Genesis chapters 1 and 2 we learn that God created a universe – including planet Earth – that was absolutely perfect in every way and met His standards of excellence (Genesis 1:31). But when Adam sinned, all of creation was cursed and began to degenerate (Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 5:12, Romans 8:18-23). This planet and the entire universe are now in a state of ongoing corruption and deterioration. This means that secular science can only study what is corrupted and has no original standard to which the present can be compared.

Furthermore, it is equally amazing when Christians doubt that certain events recorded in scripture actually took place unless archeologists can discover the records of those events. It's the old, "I'll believe it when I see it," attitude that reveals no genuine belief in what is recorded in the Bible.

For untold centuries, people believed that the Earth is flat until science proved otherwise. However, the round Earth had already been documented sometime between 700-740 BC when Isaiah wrote the following:

18To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? 21Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: (Isaiah 40:18, 21-22)

The word "circle" in verse 21 comes from the Hebrew word "chûg" which means, "circle, circular horizon." Another way to state "circle of the Earth" could be, "roundness of the Earth." It is true that, scientifically, Isaiah could have had no way of knowing the Earth is round. But upon reading the entire book of Isaiah we learn that he had numerous encounters with God during which God showed him much about this world and Heaven.

In Judges chapters 6-8 we read the story of Gideon and how God used him to defeat the armies of Midian which had been invading and plundering the Jewish people for seven years. Joash, Gideon's father, gave him the nickname "Jerubbaal" (Judges 6:31-32). Many "experts" have claimed the entire story is just an analogy and that it is not really true because there is no historical record that a person named Gideon or Jerubbaal ever existed.

However, in 2021, several publications, including the Jerusalem Journal of Archeology revealed a fascinating discovery. In 2019, in the region of Khirbet al-Ra'I, a centuries-old piece of pottery was unearthed which had the name Yrb'l inscribed. Yrb'l, when translated is "Yerubbaal" (Jerubbaal). The piece of pottery on which this name was inscribed was from the handle of a clay pitcher. According to scripture, the three items of warfare Gideon and his army used against the Midianites were a trumpet (ram's horn), a lamp (lantern), and a clay pitcher in which the lantern was placed (Judges 7:15-20).

Another interesting passage of scripture is Job 38:35,

Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

Admittedly, this is a rather odd verse because it presents the image of lightning, or light, being able to speak and relay a message. No doubt many people would scoff at such an idea. However, in 1965, German physicist Manfred Borner demonstrated the first working fiber-optic data transmission system. What is a fiber-optic system? It is a cable containing optical fibers which transmit various types of data in the form of light. This data can include sound: the original signal can be any sound, including voice, it is “converted” into light, transmitted to the destination point anywhere in the world, then ‘reconverted” back into voice so the person receiving the signal can clearly distinguish what is being said. It would seem the image presented in Job 38:35 doesn’t sound so far-fetched after all.

One of the greatest follies ever accepted by humanity is that of evolution. The word “evolution” implies something in a lower state of existence evolving into one that is improved and better. In spite of the truth revealed in the Bible that God created everything with His words and that there is no evolution of any kind mentioned in scripture, some Christians believe that He used evolution to bring the world – and man – into existence. This is such rubbish! Secular science even contradicts itself by teaching evolution along with the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics says, in short: everything is in a constant state of degeneration, all ordered systems will devolve into disorder, and that even the universe will eventually decay. In other words, there is not now, nor has there ever been, evolution. Not only was this truth confirmed in verses I referenced earlier (Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 5:12, Romans 8:18-23), but it is also revealed in Psalm 102:24-27,

²⁴I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations. ²⁵Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. ²⁶They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: ²⁷But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

The change spoken of in this passage is the new heaven and new Earth described in 2 Peter 3:7-13 after the existing universe and Earth are totally consumed by fire.

Concerning the new universe and new Earth, Revelation chapter 21 describes a new Jerusalem descending from Heaven to the new Earth. The size of this city is staggering:

¹⁵And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. ¹⁶And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.
(Revelation 21:15-16)

Twelve thousand furlongs comes out to roughly 1,400 miles (2,253 km). World-minded Christians would declare that it is impossible for a city of such size to exist on Earth, especially one that is 1,400 miles high. At that height, there would be no oxygen, no gravity, and no way to stay alive. But such logic is severely flawed because those people are basing their assumptions on what worldly science teaches. Consider this: the existing universe and Earth will be destroyed and God will make a new universe and Earth; where in the Bible does it state that the new universe and Earth will be the same size? The new Earth could be ten times the size of what we now know, existing in an entirely different type of solar system.

In the book of Jonah, we read the story of how the book's namesake refused to obey God and preach in the city of Nineveh. Instead, he turned away from Nineveh and boarded a ship bound for Tarshish. During the trip, a huge storm arose and Jonah told the sailors it was because he was running from God. He had them throw him overboard whereupon he was swallowed by a great fish (Jonah 1:17; a whale as described by Jesus in Matthew 12:40). After spending three days and nights in the belly of the great fish, Jonah repented and told God he would obey and preach in Nineveh. The whale then vomited Jonah onto dry land (Jonah 2:10), He preached in Nineveh, and the citizens repented before God for their sin.

Christians who exalt secular science over scripture tell us such an event could never have taken place: Where would Jonah have gotten oxygen to breathe? How could Jonah have survived the digestive acids in the whale's stomach? I admit, those are valid questions. However, even Jesus referred to the event as being a fact; are those skeptical Christians calling Jesus a liar? The world says Jonah was never swallowed by a whale; God says he was. Therefore, Jonah was, indeed, swallowed by a whale even if there is no scientific way to prove it could happen. God cannot lie!

In 2 Kings 6:1-7, Elisha and some of his students were at the Jordan River cutting down trees to get lumber for the building of what we would call a dormitory. The iron axe head on one of the axes became dislodged and fell into the water. Elisha took a stick, threw it in the water where the axe head had fallen, the axe head began to float, and it was retrieved. Science – and common sense – tells us that there is no way an iron axe head could ever float, and that throwing a stick into water will not cause anything made of iron to float. Yet, scripture says it floated. Can I give you some kind of formula to prove an iron axe head can float? Absolutely not. But the Bible says it floated, therefore, it floated. God cannot lie!

Exodus chapter 3 details the event where Moses saw a bush that was on fire yet wasn't being consumed by the flame. In the natural, this is an impossibility. But God said it happened, therefore, it happened. God cannot lie!

In Acts chapter 8:26-40, the Holy Spirit directed Philip to go to the desert region of Gaza. While there he met a man who was the treasurer for Candace, the queen of Ethiopia. After leading the treasurer to accept Jesus as Savior and then baptizing him in water, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit instantly transported Philip to Azotus, about 24 miles (38 km) away. That sounds like something out of a science fiction movie, pure fantasy that could never happen. Personally, I don't understand how it happened, but it was an actual event because God said so, and God cannot lie!

From Genesis to Revelation there is one example after another of events science says could not have happened and of people archeologists tell us never existed. But if an event or person is identified in the Bible, that event took place and that person existed. I don't need to experience a healing to believe healing is for today. I don't need to see a miracle to believe miracles still happen. I don't need science to confirm that something the Bible describes really happened. I don't need archeological discoveries to confirm the existence of people or places the Bible identifies. God cannot lie! If it's in the Bible, it is truth no matter what anyone chooses to believe.

If you are truly born again, you have received a very unique conscience that came with your born again life, a conscience which is directly connected to the life and nature of God. That conscience will stand in agreement with that which is of God (Romans 2:13-15). Since that

conscience was given to you from God it will always bear witness to the fact that what is in the Bible is irrefutable truth. What this means is that the moment you start questioning and doubting the veracity of any part of scripture, you are exalting your opinion and world-influenced thinking above God, Who cannot lie, and what He has said. Quite honestly, that is an extremely dangerous thing to do. If everything in the Bible cannot be believed, how can you even trust that Jesus is alive and that salvation is real?

God is real, He cannot lie, and everything in the Bible can be accepted as truth. This is an anchor for life. It is the Matthew 7:24-25 rock of stability that will see us through to the return of Jesus. God's Word cannot fail, and we cannot fail when we accept it in its entirety. Praise the Lord for His eternal faithfulness!

In His Grace,

Jim

P.S. – Secular science tells about something called “The String Theory.” Very simply stated, part of that theory says there is an “energy string” that connects everything. It is referred to as a theory because science has been unable to prove its existence. But what if I were to tell you that the Bible confirms the existence of the String Theory? To learn more about this, use the form below to request a CD of my sermon, *The String Theory and Scripture.*

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