

## **Question: What are some good reasons for believing the Bible is from God? (#3)**

This is the third in a series of articles meant to give logical reasons for believing that the Bible is THE one and only book of God. Thus far we have noted the Bible's honesty in its depiction of characters, its power of preservation, the internal claims of its writers to be directed by God, and its record of the miracles He performed to validate its testimony. Today we present two more "good reasons" for believing the Bible is God's book.

### **5) Its Unity or Consistency:**

Forty different authors writing over a period of 1,600 years penned the 66 books of the Bible. Four hundred silent years separated the writing of the 39 books of the Old Testament from the 27 of the New Testament. Yet, from Genesis to Revelation, the Bible unfolds a unified and consistent message, and gives us answers to the most important questions we can ask:

How did we come into being (Gen 1-2)?

Why are we here (Ecc 12:13)?

Why do we have fears and grief (Gen 3; 4:4-8)?

How can we get along with our fellow man (Mt 7:12; 22:37-39)?

What will happen when we die (Ecc 12:7)?

Where will we go then (Lk 16:19-31; Ro 2:5-11)?

Will this world come to an end (2Pe 3:10-12)?

The Bible's consistent answers to these questions show that the Scripture is not many books but one book. From Genesis to Malachi, a Savior is coming (Deut 18:15-18). From Matthew to Acts 1, the Savior, the Son of God is here (Mt 1:18-25)! From Acts 1 to Revelation 22, God's Son is coming again (2Th 1:7-10)!

### **6) Its Historical And Geographical Accuracy:**

Down through time, skeptics have doubted the historical and geographical accuracy of the Bible. Yet modern archaeologists have repeatedly unearthed evidence of the people, places, and cultures described in the Bible, (sometimes when the existence of those things had been doubted). The following are recent archaeological discoveries of interest to Bible students:

A cuneiform tablet fragment mentioning the name Jabin was found at Hazor in 1992. The tablet dates from the 18th/17th centuries B.C. The kings of a kingdom often continued to take the same name. Thus the name Jabin mentioned in the tablet predates the Jabin King of Hazor who fought against the Israelites (Josh 11:1) and the Jabin King of Hazor who was defeated in the time of Deborah and Barak (Jud 4:2, 17; 23-24; Psa 83:9 - Source: *The Jerusalem Post* International Edition, Aug. 15, 1992:5.). The city of Hazor was burned by the Israelites at the time of the Conquest (Josh 11). Solomon rebuilt Hazor during his reign as king of Israel (1 Kings 9:15). Casemate walls from that period have been discovered and reconstructed at Hazor.

An inscription with the name and title of Herod the Great was found at Masada in early July 1996. Archaeologists unearthed fragments of a clay wine amphora while sifting through a 2,000-year-old garbage dump near the synagogue. The Latin inscription says "Herod, King of Judea" or "Herod, King of the Jews" (Source: *Jerusalem Post International Edition*, July 20, 1996). See Matthew 2 for the New Testament account of this Herod.

Ekron is mentioned more than 20 times in the Old Testament as one of five Philistine cities: Ashdod, Gath, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gaza (1 Sam 6:17). A five-line inscription in Phoenician script was uncovered in early July 1996, at Tel-Mikne (already thought to be the site of the city of Ekron). The stone block containing the name of the city is the first conclusive evidence of the city from archaeological sources. The inscription mentions Achish, son of Padi, king of Ekron (Sources include *Jerusalem Post International Edition*, July 20, 1996).

The Bible tells us about real people and real places, and these references serve as partial proof of the validity of God's book. The people who visit the Bible lands and their museums cannot help but be impressed by the consistency between human discovery and the biblical text. We may even suggest that the Jews, who aren't particularly interested in the Bible and especially the New Testament, accept the Old Testament message of what happened to their ancestors as historical facts. We will have more for you next week. Thanks for reading!