

The Bible is the word of God, because history always backed up the Bible while archeologists, historians, critics, and mankind contradicted history or did not discover the historical facts before the Bible.

- The Bible said there were Hittites existing (Ex. 33:2; Deut. 7:1, 20:17; Josh. 3:10, 24:11). “Higher critics” used this as one of their best attacks against the Bible. However, Hugo Winkler of Berlin in 1906 discovered an ancient Hittite capital at Boghazkoy and found numerous clay tablets inscribed in cuneiform characters of the Hittite language (Bible Doctrines by Michael C. Bere, p. 42).

- The Bible said Belshazzar was the king of Babylon during the Persian conquest (Dan. 5). For years, historians confirmed Nabonidas was the king, not Belshazzar, during the Persian conquest. However, archaeology has proven that Nabonidas was away from Babylon while his son Belshazzar was in charge of ruling Babylon (Science and the Bible by Henry Morris Ph.D., University of Minnesota, p. 104). This explains why Belshazzar could only give Daniel the position of “third ruler in the kingdom” (Dan. 5:16, 29).

- The Bible shows that writing was possible in 1500 B.C. since Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible during that time. Skeptics doubted that writing could have been possible during that time. However, the deciphering of the famous Sinai script in 1948 proved that the Hebrews or their fellow Semites had invented the first alphabet well before 1500 B.C. In fact, the Code of Hammurabi shows that cuneiform writing had been invented during the time of Abraham, which is 500 years before Moses (Bible Doctrines by Michael C. Bere, p. 43).

- The Bible said that oil was in Egypt, “...daubed with slime and with pitch” (Ex. 2:3). One of

the directors in the Standard Oil Company read that verse and sent out Charles Whitshott (its geologist and oil expert) to check if there really was oil in Egypt. In the end, there was indeed oil in Egypt, and the company today is known for operating oil wells in Egypt (Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations by Paul Lee Tan, p. 191).

- Dr. Nelson Glueck (widely recognized as the dean of Palestinian archaeologists) confirmed, “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries. They form tesserae (small rectangular tiles) in the vast mosaic of the Bible’s almost incredible correct historical memory” (Rivers in the Desert, p. 11).

- Millar Burrows (Professor of Archaeology at Yale University) confirmed, “On the whole, however, archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine...Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown, in a number of instances, that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development. This is a real contribution and not to be minimized.” (What Mean These Stones? p. 1)

- William Ramsay (acclaimed archaeologist from Glasgow) attempted to prove the Book of Acts was filled with errors, but after vastly researching through many archaeological findings, he became converted and said, “Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense ... In short this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians” (The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament, 1953, p. 80).

- The Gezar Calendar, the Samaria Ostraca, the Siloam Inscription, the Lachish Letters, numerous Phoenician and Aramaic inscriptions, the Rosetta Stone, the Tell el-Arnarna Tablets, and the Behistun Inscription all confirm Biblical characters of Israel in the Old Testament. Also, we have inscriptions of the Assyrian kings Sargon II and Sennacherib describing their sieges of Samaria in 721 and Jerusalem in 701, respectively, as well as inscriptions relating the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar’s conquests of Jerusalem in the latter years of Judah’s

existence before the exile. (Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament by James B. Pritchard, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University, 1955, pp. 284-88, 320-24; 3rd ed., 1969, pp. 563-64, 653-62. "Archaeological Supplement" from the Thompson Chain Reference Bible).

- The Bible says that Jesus was an actual Person performing miracles. Historians and critics have considered the story of Jesus to be a legend. But history proves them wrong:

(a) The Roman pagan historian Tacitus writing between 115-117 A.D. recorded, "They got their name from Christ, who was executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. That checked the pernicious superstition for a short time, but it broke out afresh-not only in Judea, where the plague first arose, but in Rome itself, where all the horrible and shameful things in the world collect and find a home"; (From his Annals, xv. 44).

(b) Jewish Rabbinical writings from what is known as the Tannaitic period, between 70-200 A.D, stated in Sanhedrin 43a, "Jesus was hanged on Passover Eve. Forty days previously the herald had cried, 'He is being led out for stoning, because he has practiced sorcery and led Israel astray and enticed them into apostasy. Whoever has anything to say in his defence, let him come and declare it.' As nothing was brought forward in his defence, he was hanged on Passover Eve."

(c) Non-Christian historian named Josephus born in 37 A.D. recorded, "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day" (Jewish Antiquities 18.3.3).

In conclusion, let me say that no other religious or scholarly book can ever match with the Bible. The Bible is the word of God which is far more reliable than any other statement or

"proof" from mankind. That is why I confidently believe everything the Bible says. The Bible does not have to prove history is right. History always proves the Bible is right.

(Please click on this link for Part 3: http://bbcenglish.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=312:the-authority-of-the-bible-part-3-scientific-facts&catid=53:doctrine&Itemid=88).