

“Defending Our Father’s Honor”
Logikos Apologetics

His-story

Part 3 of 7

“History verifies Scripture”

(Updated 7.5.11)

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“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had accurate understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

Luke 1:1-4

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“Defending our Father’s Honor” - Outline

Introduction: Why should you be able to defend your beliefs about both our **good God** and **suffering**?

1. **Logic** verifies **God** (John 1:1)
2. **Science** verifies **Creation** (Romans 1:20)
3. **History** verifies **Scripture** (Luke 1:1-4)
4. **Religion** verifies **Christianity** (Romans 3:28)
5. **Prophecy** verifies **Jesus** (Luke 24:25-27)
6. **Time** verifies **Judgment** (Hebrews 9:27)
7. **Action** verifies **Faithfulness** (James 2:20)

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This 7 part, 500 slide presentation is just an **introduction**



... to encourage your own further study

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How to use this Power Point

First Section - Condensed for a 1hr Summary Talk

- This subject, like most, cannot be covered **exhaustively** in the time or space available.
- Yet, it can and should be covered **comprehensively**.
- So, first is a **summary** section of slides for my “presentation” of the key concepts & conclusions.

2nd Section - Appendix for you & for my extended talk

- This section includes **extra** information for:
 - further **verification** of my presentation’s content
 - further **study** by you and others at home.
- Feel free to email questions: sid@soulcare.org

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Good Shepherd Initiative

Education, Counseling

Logikos Apologetics

“De Oppresso Liber”



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My Story – depends on - “His-story”

- **Angry Atheist** → Agnostic → ID → **Christ**
- **Questions** - Origin, Purpose, Suffering, Destiny
- **Search** - Science, Philosophies, Religions...
- **Evidence** - Logical belief, not blind faith
- **Conclusion** - “In the beginning, **God (LOGOS)**”

NOW - Not an “expert”, just a **translator** of experts ...

- **30 years** serving the One who alone is worthy
- Just a teacher, family counselor, (still a “zookeeper”)
- Just a **sheepdog** of the **GOOD SHEPHERD**

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*** Simple Questions for Skeptics ***

- When confronted, Jesus often started His “answers” with questions. (Matthew 12:9-12; 22:17-20; Luke 10:25)
- It encouraged “questioners” to think carefully and critically about their own questions.
- Learning this communication skill can serve us well.
- Practice asking thought provoking questions, especially as your first response to a skeptic.
- **#1 Question to ask after most claims of a skeptic:** “Can you please help me understand the **evidence** that you trust for that **belief**?” (MORE EXAMPLES →)

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SAMPLE Questions you can practice:
for *History verifies Scripture*

- Can you please help me understand the evidence for why you doubt that the Bible is from God?
- If God does exist and did communicate to man, what evidence do you think would show it was from the Creator who transcends this space/time creation?
- What if there was a book claiming to be from God, containing 100’s of accurately fulfilled predictions about the future?
- Have you ever examined the historical and statistical evidence supporting the Bible’s prophetic proofs?

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What about the many other "writings" claiming to be the "Truth"

- Science? (Last session)
- Hindu?
 - Gita, Vedas, Upanishads
- Buddhist?
 - Dhammapada, Zen
- Muslim?
 - Koran
- "Christian" Cults?
 - Mormon, J. Witness
- Philosophers"?
 - Plato, Neitzche, Fromm
- So many in man's history

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What Authority do you Trust?

Kindergarten kids' debate . . .

"Oh yeah, how do you know if that's true?"

** This question is for us too.*

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My Authority is worthy of my trust -

"The **wolf** and **lamb** shall **feed together**,
The **lion** shall **eat straw** like the ox,
....They shall **not hurt** ...
in all My holy mountain,"
Says the LORD....
the heaven is my throne and the **earth** is **My footstool**..."
Isaiah 65:25-66:1

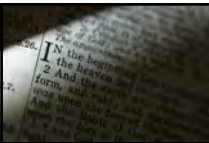
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Rational NOT Blind Faith

Do NOT Believe anything I say
Until you are sure the evidence makes it worthy of your faith!

From Logical (logikos) Inferences

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"In the beginning was the Word"
(John 1:1)

"And God said"
(Genesis 1:3)

• **Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (300 scholars)**
• "The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded,"
• Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy with Exposition (<http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/creeds/chicago.htm>)

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Beliefs have consequences

• **Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (300 scholars)**
• "We are conscious too that great and grave **confusion results** from **ceasing to maintain** the **total** truth of the Bible whose **authority** one professes to acknowledge. The **result** ... is a Bible **reduced** ... to the demands of one's critical reasoning This means at bottom **independent reason** now has authority, as opposed to **Scriptural teaching**. They have moved ... to an **unstable subjectivism**."

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Sincere Questions – about the Bible

- I. How do you **know** if the Bible we have today is the same as the original?
- II. Assuming that the translation/copying is accurate, how do we know if the writers did not **fabricate** the stories?
- III. How do we know that the Bible was not **changed** by translators over the centuries?

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Various reasons some doubt the Bible:

- Some people have sincere, **intellectual** questions for which they have not yet seen the evidence that sufficiently answers them.
- For other people, their questions are merely smoke-screen covers for **moral** conflicts with the authority of the Bible.

-For ME it was BOTH

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What does "Inspired" mean?

"God-Breathed"
Θεό-πνευστος / *theo-pneustos*
2 Timothy 3:16
He said what He meant, and meant what He said.

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All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Above all, you must understand that **no prophecy of Scripture** came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy **never** had its **origin** in the will of **man**, but men spoke **from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

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From my GSI Doctrinal Statement ...

- I teach that the Word of God is an objective, propositional revelation verbally inspired in every word (plenary), absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed....
- Absolutely unique among all written religious documents, the Bible demonstrates its divine authorship by hundreds of prophetic proofs....
- Psa 19; 119; Pro 30:5-6; 1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 1 Thes 2:13; 2 Ti 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21
- www.soulcare.org/gsinew_beliefs.html#theholyscriptures

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MacArthur on "Inspiration"

- "Now the process God used to put down this revelation is called inspiration. ... It defines a means. And we can understand something of this means...and by the way, it is a supernatural means. It is not natural. We might say, "Well somebody wrote a beautiful song, they really were inspired".... We're talking about a human level of excellence that's very different than what we're referring to here. When we talk about inspiration in a biblical sense we're talking about a technical way in which God uses a supernatural miraculous process to reveal His own Word."
- <http://www.gty.org/search/resources/inspiration>

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Passages showing God's guidance through His spokesmen & their affirmation of one another:

- **Old Testament affirmed as God-breathed**
Moses - Deu 18:18; Isa 5; Jeremiah - Jer 1:9; David - 2 Sam 22:31; Pro 30:5-6 ...
- **Jesus affirmed OT as God-breathed**
Mat 22:31-32, 43-44;
- **New Testament affirmed as God-breathed**
Acts 4:25 - Peter views Psa 2 as inspired
Acts 28:25 - Isalah is viewed as inspired
see also Rom 3:2; 9:17; Gal 3:8, 16; Heb 1

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How & when did WE get the final "Book"??

- Oral Transmission
- Written Transcription
- Usable Translation

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How was God's Word passed along to us?

- **OT Oral** Transmission First (*Adam 930 years old*)
 - OT Pentateuch written by Moses (1500 BC)
- **NT Oral** Transmission First (Jesus/Apostles)
 - Acts 1:21-26; 15:6-16:5; 1 Cor. 4-5; 9:1-12; Gal. 1:1-12
 - NT earliest books/letters written within few years of events
- **Library** of 66 books (39 OT / 27 NT)
 - Includes historical records, personal letters, teaching, etc.
 - Written over 1,500 years by over 40 very different men
 - OT in Hebrew and the NT in "Common" Greek
 - Original manuscripts GONE / no one can "worship" them
- **Transcribed** OT & NT with **meticulous** accuracy

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How were books chosen as "God's Word"??

- **OT 39 books** - accepted by Jews & Jewish Leaders
 - Historically accurate based on impeccable records
 - Jesus accepted the Jewish "Bible" as authoritative
 - First Christians accepted OT as authoritative
- **NT 27 books** - criteria for acceptance by Christians
 - Not blind-faith, but critical/logical/evidential evaluation
 - Apostolic eye-witness (*or by an apostle's secretary*)
 - Consistent with the teachings of Jesus & the OT
 - Widespread agreement among believers by 1st century
 - 4th century council merely ratified what was already agreed

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"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]"
Ephesians 2:20

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Eyewitnesses - Did the Writers Use Primary Sources?

Luke 1:1-4 says,
"In as much as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word have handed down to us, it seemed fitting for me as well, **having investigated everything carefully from the beginning**, to write [it] out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught."

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Eyewitnesses – Did the Writers Use Primary Sources?

2 Pet. 1:16 says,
 “For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of His Majesty.”

1 John 1:3 says, “**What we have seen and heard** we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

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Eyewitnesses – Did the Writers Use Primary Sources?

John 19: 35 says,
 “**And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.**”

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How do we know the Bible’s contents are accurate?

- **Bibliographical Evidence**
 * *Biblical Manuscripts (MSS)*
- **Internal Evidence**
 * *No Contradiction or Collusion*
- **External Evidence**
 * *Historians & Archaeology*

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Bibliographical Evidence for OT

- * **Example: Dead Sea Scrolls**
- A scroll of Isaiah that was copied about 100 BC.
- It is virtually identical to our book of Isaiah, except for **minor spelling** variations.
- Of all the MSS pieces for the various Bible books
- **NONE** of the major doctrines are in **doubt**.

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Bibliographical Evidence for the NT

Author	Book	Date	Earliest Copy	Gap in Years	# of Copies
New Testament		50 to 100 AD	130 AD (fragments)	50	5686
			200 AD (books)	100	
			250 AD (most of NT)	150	
			325 AD (complete NT)	225	
Homer	Iliad	800 BC	400 BC	400	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 BC	900 AD	1350	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Plato		400 BC	900 AD	1300	7
Demosthenes		300 BC	1100 AD	1400	200
Julius Caesar	Gaulic Wars	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Livy	Hist of Rome	59 BC-17 AD	4th C (partial)	400	1 partial
			10th C (almost complete)	1000	19
Tacitus	Annals	100 AD	1100 AD	1000	20
Pliny	Nat History	61-113 AD	850 AD	750	7

Adapted from - Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 38

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Dr. Albright on Eyewitness Verification

Couldn't the Bible's stories about Jesus be a myth due to distortion over a long period of time?

“Rephrasing the question, I would answer that, in my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and the eighties of the first century A.D. (very probably sometime between 50 & 75 A.D.)”

Wm. F. Albright, *Toward a More Conservative View*, Christianity Today, Jan., 1963, p. 359

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Dr. Montgomery on the - Internal Evidence

- “One must listen to the claims of the documents under analysis, and **not assume** fraud or error unless the author disqualifies himself by contradictions or known factual inaccuracies”
- Montgomery, John W. *History and Christianity*, Intervarsity Press Downers Grove, IL, 1971, p. 29. *Legal Evidence Expert, Philosopher, Theologian* 10 Degrees including Ph.D. (Univ. of Chicago), and the Doctorat d'Universite from Strasbourg, France
- Quoted by Dr. Ravi Zacharias, <http://www.rzim.org/jostthinking/volubid/602/articleid/29/chmoduledid/1374/default.aspx>

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Dr. Morris on the - Internal Evidence

- “Evidences of **collusion** are notably **absent** in the writings themselves. **Each** writer give his **own perspective**. Often, in fact, they appear on the surface to **contradict** each other, and such contradictions are resolved only by very **close and careful examination** and **cross-examination** of their testimonies.”
- “.... The crowning **proof of sincerity** is, of course, the fact that the NT authors were **willing to suffer and die** for their convictions. ... It is **impossible** that all these would gladly **sacrifice** their lives for what they knew to be a gross **deception**.” (Electronic kindle version)

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Even Liberal – “US News & World Report”

“In **extraordinary ways**, modern **archeology** has **affirmed** the historical core of the Old and New Testaments - corroborating **key portions** of the stories of Israel’s patriarchs, the Exodus, the Davidic monarchy, the life and times of Jesus.”

Jeffrey Shelter, “Is the Bible True?”, *US News and World Report*, Oct. 25, 1999, p. 52

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R. Wilson PhD - OT External Evidence

- Scholar, Dr. R.D. Wilson, professor of Semitic philology at Princeton Seminary, was proficient in some **45 languages** and dialects **especially Hebrew**. He contributed over **50 years** of scholarly research.
- "In **conclusion**, we claim that the **assaults** upon the integrity and trustworthiness of the Old Testament along the line of language **have utterly failed**."
A Scientific Examination of the Old Testament, p. 130, Moody Press, 1959

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Dr. Albright on - OT External Historicity

"There can be **no doubt** that **archaeology has confirmed** the substantial **historicity of the Old Testament** tradition."

William Albright was a world renowned archaeologist, professor of Semitic Languages at John Hopkins Univ., Director School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem. *Archeology and the Religions of Israel*, p. 176. 1956

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Dr. Montgomery on - NT External Attestation

"... no documents of the ancient period are as **well attested** bibliographically as the **New Testament**."

Montgomery, John W. *History and Christianity*. Intersarsity Press Downers Grove, IL, 1971, p. 29. *Legal Evidence Expert, Philosopher, Theologian* 10 Degrees including Ph.D. (Univ. of Chicago), and the Doctorat d'Université from Strasbourg, France.

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Sir Wm. Ramsay - NT External Trustworthiness

"I **began** with a mind **unfavorable** to it (Acts),...."

"... but more recently I **found myself** often brought in contact with the **book of Acts** as an **authority** for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor."

"It was **gradually borne in upon me** that in various **details** the narrative showed **marvelous truth**."

Sir Wm. Ramsay, *St. Paul the Traveller and the Roman Citizen*, Baker Books, 1982, p. 8. Dr. Ramsay studied under the liberal German critics and became one of the most respected archaeologists of his day.

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Skeptc Dr. Kenyon Convinced - NT Accuracy

Conclusion from bibliographical and external evidence

"The **interval** then **between** the dates of the **original** composition and the **earliest** extant evidence becomes **so small** as to be in fact **negligible**, and the last foundation for **any doubt** that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has **now been removed**. Both the **authenticity** and the general **integrity** of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as **finally established**."

Sir Frederic Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, p. 288 Director of the British Museum, 1940

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Skeptc Dr. Glueck Convinced - Bible Accuracy

"As a matter of fact, however, 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 exact detail historical statements in **the Bible**."

"And ... proper evaluation of biblical descriptions has often **led to amazing discoveries**."

".... vast mosaic of the Bible's almost **incredibly correct** historical memory."

Rivers in the Desert, p. 31, 1959. Dr. Glueck was a renowned Ancient Near East archaeologist, president of the Hebrew Union College (a "liberal" scholar)

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Jewish historian Josephus confirmed that:

- Jesus was a **wise and virtuous man**
- Jesus was called "**Christ**" (Messiah)
- Jesus was a worker of **miraculous deeds**
- He was executed by **Pilate** by **crucifixion**

Roman historian Tacitus confirmed that:

- "Christ" was **crucified in Judea** by **Pilate**
- His **followers, "Christians"**, were falsely accused by Emperor **Nero** and **persecuted**

Other important historical sources: Pliny, Thallus, etc

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A Testable Hypothesis about God & Prophecy:

God in Isaiah 41:23 challenged false IDOLS:
 "Tell us what the **FUTURE** holds, so we may **KNOW** that you are **gods**."

If a transcendent Creator God exists (*transcendent means not limited by TIME/space*), **then** evidence of such a God should include: Predictions of the **FUTURE** transcending **TIME** that have proven to be **100% accurate**.

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"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, ...
 'I am the First and I am the Last;
 ... who can proclaim as I do?
 ... the things that are coming and shall come.'
 Isaiah 44:6-7

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Prophetic "Proofs" – Beyond Reasonable Doubt

These books are scholarly (PhD) examinations. - Not the common hype -

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Dr. Gitt - Universal Information & the Bible

- "... many different texts [religious books] that are claimed to have divine origin."
- "Is there an absolute test that can verify if a text is divinely inspired? Yes, there is such a test."
- "... Scientific laws allow mankind to predict future events but only within a very limited range in time and space."
- Werner Gitt PhD, *WITHOUT EXCUSE*, pp. 207-208

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Gitt - Universal Info. & the Bible – cont. ...

- "... if a text incorporates many predictions of future events that do occur despite intervening decades, centuries or even millennia of time, then that would be a clear sign of supernatural omniscience."
- "... The one striking feature that distinguishes the Bible from all other world literature is, without doubt, the many prophecies that have already been fulfilled in time and space. ... [over] 3,000 prophetic statements ... fulfilled.... The Bible is peerless as will be shown in this section...."
- [The statistical] "probability, P = 1.7 x 10⁻⁹⁸⁴"
- Werner Gitt PhD, *WITHOUT EXCUSE*, pp. 207-212

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Daniel:

Example of Prophetic Proofs

Neb's Dream Ch 2 Statue	Dan's Dream Ch 7 Animals	Fulfillment History
Gold (head)	Lion	Babylonian
Silver (chest/arms)	Bear	Medo-Persian
Brass (belly/thighs)	Leopard	Greek
Iron (2 legs)	Beast / Iron Teeth	Roman
PROPHETIC TIME GAP		
Iron/Clay (Toes)	Ten Horns	Antichrist
Stone	Son of Man	Jesus Messiah

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Predicted Preservation of the Jews & Israel's Rebirth

- 1948/1967 after 2,000 years -

(Amos 9:14-15; Isa 37:10-14; Zech 12:10-14; etc ...)

- Jeru-Shalom = City of Peace
- Center Stage Spotlight of God's Revelation
- Current Rebirth of Israel
 - Prepares the way for the Great Tribulation
 - The second coming of Messiah
 - The full restoration of Jewish Israel under His care
- ...

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Evidence for Israel/Jerusalem's Prophetic Significance

- Friends of Israel Ministries - <http://www.foi.org>
 - Many resources available
- John MacArthur – www.gty.org
 - Books, Articles, Audio, Video
- Randall Price - <http://www.worldofhebrew.com>
 - Modern State of Israel Prophetically Significant (Article)
 - Jerusalem in Prophecy (Article)
 - *Jerusalem in Prophecy* (Book through Amazon)
- Many more resources linked from these sites

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More Prophetic Proofs will be demonstrated in a later session (#5)

"Prophecy verifies Jesus"

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"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were true." Acts 17:11

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Building a Practical Theology

1. **Authority** - Trustworthiness of God's Word
(Cornerstone must be Creator/Creation)
2. **Hermeneutics** - Interpretative Method
3. **Exegesis** - Drawing out the book's meaning
4. **Doctrine** - Topics taught throughout the book
5. **Systematics** - Connecting all of the topics
6. **Application** - Doing biblical counseling
7. **Goal of Glorifying God Character**

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Defending our Father's Honor

Introduction: Why should you be able to defend your beliefs about both our good God and suffering?

1. Logic	verifies God	(John 1:1)
2. Science	verifies Creation	(Romans 1:20)
3. History	verifies Scripture	(Luke 1:1-4)
4. Religion	verifies Christianity	(Romans 3:28)
5. Prophecy	verifies Jesus	(Luke 24:25-27)
6. Time	verifies Judgment	(Hebrews 9:27)
7. Action	verifies Faithfulness	(James 2:20)

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For more resources to study on your own, please see the links on my website:

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Appendix

This section includes *extra* information slides for:

- * My extended talk on this subject
- * **Further study by you at home.** (homework 😊)

Feel free to email questions:
sid@soulcare.org

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My Personal Search for "Truth"

- ~~Intellect?~~ (IQ, reason, philosophy, science ...)
- ~~Feelings?~~ (Experience, circumstances ...)
- ~~Religions?~~ (Buddhism, Sufism, New Age ...)
-  **Bible!** (I didn't like it's answers, but ...)

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My Past Non-logikos Thinking

- I once trusted *only parts* of the Bible as *really* coming from *God*.
- I believed that parts of the Bible were *errors* introduced by *man*.
- I chose which parts to trust or not trust.
- Then an atheist friend asked me:
"Sid, if you get to choose what parts you throw out, then you're the judge so none of it's trustworthy."

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Why study the Bible?

Answer: For personal . . .

- **Problems**
- Answers
- Evidence
- Response

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Problems - We all have them!

- **Physical Problems** How can we overcome them?
 - Financial, Health, Sexual
- **Social Problems** - Horizontal love & neighbors
 - Personal peace, joy, fear, bitterness,
 - Family, friends boy/girlfriends, communication
- **Spiritual Problems** - Vertical love & God
 - Know God, share God, be sure & secure ...

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We are created & called to be Protectors & Providers

NOT

- **Predators**
- **Parasites**
- **or prey**

*Cruel should **NOT** be Cool*



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The Good Shepherd's
GOAL = To Turn the Focus from Self to God & Others



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The Good Shepherd's
Goal of Paideia (παιδεία) is Character
Self-sacrificial Protector Not a Predator

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The Good Shepherd's Goal . . .

- Is to help develop a powerful passion to glorify their Creator until they forget about self and eagerly fight to rescue, protect, and provide for others in greater need.
- It's the opposite of competition and "survival of the fittest"

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Why study the Bible?
 ... for personal . . .

- Problems
- **Answers**
- Evidence
- Response

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Answers (from some Authority)

- Every set of answers has an Author-ity
- What = Intellect, Feelings, Religions, . . .
- Who = Is the Bible really God's Word?
 - If only part is from God, then who decides?
 - If only part, then you are the authority over it
 - ALL OR NONE is worthy of your trust
 - It must be inerrant and sufficient or it's useless

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John Warwick Montgomery

- "Christianity does indeed offer the most comprehensive solution to the human dilemma, but apart from the marshaling of brute fact to prove this, the claim is worth no more than that of any other religion."
- "... to deny this is to open the floodgates to metaphysical nonsense . . . and to remove Christianity's most powerful cognitive weapon [to rescue people] – the factually attestable sword of the Spirit, the Word of God."
- (p. xi, *Faith Founded on Fact*)

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Why study the Bible?

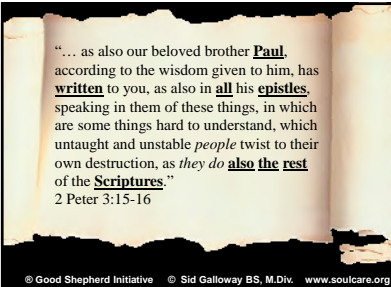
- Problems
- Answers
- **Evidence**
- Response

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MORE Evidence – Worthy of Trust

- **Bible** – Paul, Matthew, Peter, etc . . .
 - Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
 - 1,500 years, over 40 secretaries
- **"Graphae"** (the writings),...
 - NOT Independent intellectual reasoning
 - NOT Fickle feelings or impressions
 - NOT Spooky coincidental circumstances
- **Canon** – (Greek = κανόν) means "the standard"

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"... as also our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has **written** to you, as also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable **people** twist to their own destruction, as they do **also the rest** of the **Scriptures**." 2 Peter 3:15-16

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Evidence – Worthy of Trust

- **Personal** – Every religious person has a testimony
- **Prophecy** – ONLY the Bible has prophetic support
 - Shows Divine Author transcends time & place
 - 100's & 100% accuracy (stats beyond doubt)
- **Jesus** - ONLY the Bible has Him to back it up.
 - Claimed to be YHWH (or Liar, Lunatic, Legend?)
 - Resurrection was predicted & witnessed by 100's
 - Claimed OT & coming NT as God's pure Word
 - Claimed 12 Apostles to be authors of NT Canon

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Extra-Biblical Christian Sources

Quotations from early Church Fathers re: the New Testament

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline	General	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement (Alex)	1,107	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,992
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Apollonius	734	42	387	27	168	1,378
Eusebius	9,259	211	1,532	88	27	5,173
Grand Totals	19,369	1,352	14,035	870	654	36,289

ADAPTED from Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 43

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NT's . . . Degree of Accuracy

"If comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the the article [*the*] with proper names, and the like are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the New Testament."

B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort, *The New Testament in the Original Greek*, Vol. 1, p.2

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NT's . . . Degree of Accuracy

Renowned expert, A. T. Robertson, agrees that the only real concerns of textual criticism are merely a "thousandth part of the entire text."

A. T. Robertson, *An Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, 1925, p. 22

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External Evidence Test

- Do other historical materials confirm or deny the internal testimony of the New Testament?
- The test asks: What other sources are there, apart from the documents under analysis, that substantiate its accuracy, reliability and authenticity

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External Evidence Test

"Indeed so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament."

Bruce Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament*, p. 86

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Extra-Biblical Secular Sources

Writer	Date	Subject
Corn. Tacitus	112	Death of Jesus at the hands of Pilate
Lucian	2nd C	The new cult of Christianity
Flav. Josephus	66	Life/Death of Jesus
Suetonius	120	Christ = reason for Jews expelled from Rome
Pliny	112	Christians bound not to sin - Jesus
Thallus	52	Histories-Darkness at Christ's death (eclipse)
Philegon	1st C	Darkness (Eclipse)

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Ancient verification: Josephus

Josephus (ancient Jewish/Roman historian) says,
 "At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly He was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders."

As cited in Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, p. 85 (Arabic text, 10th Century)

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The Significance of Josephus

- Makes reference to Jesus' claim to be the Christ
- Speak of His miracles
- Points out that people perceived Jesus' teachings as the truth
- Indicates the historicity of Pilate and the event of the cross
- Records claim by His disciples that Jesus was resurrected
- Documents that Jesus had many converts

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Jewish Source: The Talmud

"On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'he is going to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover."

The Talmud, Sanhedrin, 43a (cf. John 11:8, 16)

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The Significance of the Talmud

The significance of Jewish writings about Jesus:

- Confirms the historicity of Jesus' life.
- Confirms His death by the method of crucifixion (*Jewish method of execution would have been stoning*)
- Indicates that Jesus did do miraculous things but attributed his power to the devil (similar to Mark 3:22; Matthew 9:34; 12:24)
- Indicated that Jesus gathered many converts from the Jewish community

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External Evidence

1. "No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible."
2. "Thousands of archaeological finds support the Bible."

Dr. Norman Geisler

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Dr. Geisler on the Biblical Verification

- "The Bible is the only known book in the world that both claims to be and proves to be the Word of God.... The testimony of science that demonstrates it, of the scrolls that transmit it, the scribes who wrote it, the supernatural that confirms it, the structure that manifests it, the stones that support it, the Savior who verified it, the Spirit that witnesses to it, and the saved who have been transformed by it. These combined testimonies confirm that the Bible is what it claims to be – the divinely inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God" (*Systematic Theology, Vol. 1, p. 561*).

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Archaeology (O.T.)

Archaeological Discoveries:

- Pharaoh Shishak's attack on Israel (1 Ki 14:25-26) confirmed by the walls of the Temple of Amun

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Archaeology (O.T.)

Archaeological Discoveries:

- Moab's revolt against Israel (2 Ki 3:4-27) confirmed by the Mesha Inscription.

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OT (Old Testament) Archaeological Discoveries:

- In the 19th century, some accused some of the Bible of being fiction because no non-Biblical texts have been written about the Hittites. In 1906, digs at Hattushash proved that it was the capital city of the Hittites, silencing the sceptical scholars and archaeologists. p. 173 *International Dictionary of Historic Places: Middle East and Africa*, By Ring and Salkin

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NT - "Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea"

26-37 AD (Discovered 1961)

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More from Dr. Albright

"Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history." (*The Archaeology of Palestine*, p. 127-128).

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Expert Testimony

Roman Historian, A.N. Sherwin-White says,

“For Acts the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming... Any attempt to reject its basic historicity must now appear absurd.”

A. N. Sherwin-White,
Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament, p. 189

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Why study the Bible?

... for personal . . .

- Problems
- Answers
- Evidence
- **Response**

How we should “respond” will be covered in session #7: “Action verifies Faithfulness”

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“After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many **convincing proofs** that he was alive.”
Acts 1:3

“Be ready always to give an **answer** to every man that ask you for the **reason** of the hope that is in you, yet with humility and reverence.”
1 Peter 3:15

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“Defending our Father’s Honor” - Outline

Introduction: Why should you be able to defend your beliefs about both our good God and suffering?

1. **Logic** verifies **God** (John 1:1)
2. **Science** verifies **Creation** (Romans 1:20)
3. **History** verifies **Scripture** (Luke 1:1-4)
4. **Religion** verifies **Christianity** (Romans 3:28) (Next session)
5. **Prophecy** verifies **Jesus** (Luke 24:25-27)
6. **Time** verifies **Judgment** (Hebrews 9:27)
7. **Action** verifies **Faithfulness** (James 2:20)

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Defending our Father’s Honor

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** Next session -

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APPENDIX

Recommended Resources:

Creation Websites -
www.AnswersInGenesis.org
www.creation.com
www.icr.org

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A Top Evolutionary Web Resource

is www.TALKorigins.org – however . . .

- It is refuted at every point by creation scientists sites:
- www.TRUEorigin.org (creationists)
- <http://Creation.com> and www.ICR.org (creationists)
- www.AnswersInGenesis.org (creationists)

YES, there is too much data (*it seems overwhelming*), BUT relax, you don’t need to be an expert to understand the foundational issues involved.

* Macro-evolution cannot answer **7 Key Questions** →

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Website: www.creation.com

Creation Ministries International

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Website: www.AnswersInGenesis.org

Answers in Genesis

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Recommended Website: www.icr.org
ICR – Inst. Creation Research

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Russian Creation Ministries

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Ukrainian Creation Ministry

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Journal of Creation

Technical Journals:

- Journal of Creation www.creation.com
- Answers Research Journal www.answersingenesis.org

Answers Research Journal

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Answers

Popular Magazines:

- Answers Magazine answersingenesis.org
- Creation Magazine creation.com

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1000's of Online ARTICLES
(every conceivable topic – every educational level)

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1000's of Resources: Articles DVD's, Books, Journals

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New Book
by Sarfati PhD
Chemist, Genius Chess Master


THE GREATEST HOAX ON EARTH
 REFUTING DARWIN'S EVOLUTION

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An updated classic book
by Sarfati PhD
Chemist, Genius, Chess Master
 12 games at the same time,
 while blind-folded


REFUTING COMPROMISE

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Books / DVDs
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 Sandia National Laboratories, Retired
www.creation.com
 Also see YouTube

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Cosmology
Books / DVDs
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 Research Professor
 University Western
 Australia
www.creation.com
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Astrophysics
Cosmology
Books / DVDs
Lisle MS, PhD
 Colorado of University.
 BS summa cum laude
www.answersingenesi.com
 Also see YouTube

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U.S. News World Report:
 "the world's pre-eminent expert in the design of computer models for geophysical convection"
Geophysics
Books / DVDs
Baumgardner PhD
 Los Alamos Laboratories
 Ph.D., Geo/Space Physics
 University of California
 M.S., Geo/Space Physics
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Geology
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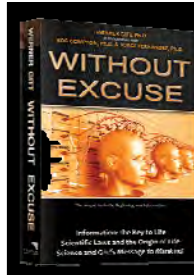
Biochemistry
Book s/ DVDs
Wilder-Smith
3-PhDs Science
 His last Golden Apple professor award was inscribed,
 "He made us not only better scientists, but also better men."
www.wildersmith.org

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John Sanford PhD
 Professor 25 years,
 Cornell University.
Inventor:
 Gene Gun &
 many patents
 for genetics
 research
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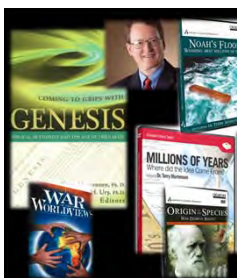
Bio-Info
New Book
Werner Gitt PhD
 Head of the Department of Information, Later Director & Professor at Technology at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology.
More Books / DVDs
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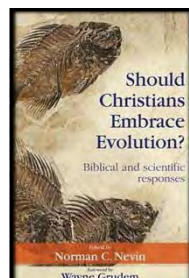
Anatomy
Books / DVDs
Menton PhD
Associate Professor Emeritus of Anatomy at Washington University School of Medicine
AnswersInGenesis.org
 Also see YouTube

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Theology
Books /DVD's
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 Also see YouTube

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Should Christians Embrace Evolution?
 Biblical & scientific responses

- **2009** - Edited by Norman C. Nevin PhD
- Professor Emeritus of Medical Genetics, Queen's University of Belfast and Head of the Northern Regional Genetics Service.
- See many **quotes** in the **APPENDIX** below

Norman C. Nevin
 Wayne Grudem

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