

Basic Facts of the Faith

信仰的基本課程

The Origin of the Bible

聖經的來源

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確認這個故事的真實性（太 12:42）。大約在一百年前、有兩個歐洲人到阿拉伯南部去，且在馬利城的城牆上發現了刻文。這城就是古示巴國的國都。考古學也證明了尼尼微的存在地點。考古學也可以支援聖經的道理。有些人說在徒 2:41、耶路撒冷中並沒有足夠的水池來施浸這三千人。然而、考古學卻發現一個又一個的池子於耶路撒冷城中。有一個池子甚至有兩個足球場的長度及一個足球場的寬。

結論

假如沒有聖經的話、我們便無法知道人的起源、神的本性、罪的起源，及人在死後會如何等等。

耶穌基督、神、聖經三者都有關聯的。我們不能僅篤信其中之一、卻又否認其他二者。有些人也許會說：『我信奉神、但否定耶穌基督或是我信靠神但否認聖經是神所賜予的禮物』。也有人宣稱：『我相信聖經是神所賜予的、但創世紀的前十一章不足置信』。假如我們不相信前十一章是由神而來的、我們便是對耶穌的話語有所懷疑。耶穌常常提到創世紀頭十一章（太 19:4-6；路 17:26-27）。希伯來書跟猶大書都提到創世紀頭十一章（來 11:4-7；猶 14）。我們在信仰生活中有可靠指南。那就是由神所默示的聖經（提後 3:16-17）。

About one hundred years ago, two Europeans traveled to South Arabia and found writing on walls in the city of Marib. That city was the capital of ancient Sheba. Archaeology also proved the location of Nineveh. Archaeology has supported Bible doctrine. Some claim there were not enough pools of water in Jerusalem to baptize 3,000 people as recorded in Acts 2:41. Yet, archaeologists have found pool after pool in the ancient city. One pool was longer than two football fields and wider than one football field.

Conclusion

If we did not have the Bible, we would know nothing of the origin of man, the nature of God, the origin of sin, what happens to man after death, etc.

Christ, God, and the Bible all go together. We cannot believe in one without believing in the other. Some will say, "Oh, I believe in God, but I don't believe in Christ. Or, I believe in God, but I do not believe He gave us the Bible." Others will say, "I believe the Bible is from God, but I don't believe the first eleven chapters of Genesis are true fact." If we do not believe the first eleven chapters are from God, we cast doubt on the words of Jesus. Jesus often referred to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Matthew 19:4-6; Luke 17:26-27). The Hebrew writer and Jude also refer to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Hebrews 11:4-7; Jude verse 14). We have a reliable guide for our religious lives. It is the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

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From where did the Bible come? It did not come from man. The Devil would not write it either. If man had written the Bible, many of the facts would have been left out. If man had given us the Bible, we would not read of the weaknesses and sins of people. If the Devil had written the Bible, he would not be described as "the evil one." The Bible came from God.

No Contradictions

The Bible was written by about forty different writers over a period of about 1600 years. The writers of the Bible were men who lived in different periods of time, having different occupations, living in different places. In many cases, the writers did not know each other. Yet, there are no contradictions in the Bible. No other book can make this claim. This could not have happened by accident.

Scientific Facts

We can also consider the scientific facts found in the Bible. The Bible is not a science book, but it has scientific facts in it. Columbus and Magellan proved the earth is round. That was just 500 years ago. The Bible told us the earth was round thousands of years before anybody ever heard of Columbus or Magellan. "*It is He who sits above the circle of the earth*" (Isaiah 40:22). "*When He prepared the heavens, I was there: When He drew a circle on the face of the deep*" (Proverbs 8:27).

The Bible also tells us we are not able to number the stars. In 1940, astronomers finally came to the conclusion they were not able to count all of the stars in the universe. Almost 2,500 years ago, Jeremiah recorded: "*As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me*" (Jeremiah 33:22). Almighty God cannot only count the stars, He can call them by name (Psalm 147:4).

Fulfilled Prophecies

There are more than 1,000 prophecies in the Bible. The fact that every prophecy is fulfilled is further proof that the Bible is from God. In addition to the prophecies concerning Christ, we note a few others. The prophecy and fulfillment concerning the city of Jericho (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34). We could also mention the prophecy made by the prophet Isaiah concerning Cyrus, king of Persia (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; Ezra 1). There were also many prophecies about the church that were fulfilled (Isaiah 2:1-4; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 2:31-46; Acts 2:14-47).

Archaeology

Archaeology confirms the facts of the Bible. It is also a young science. It wasn't until about AD 1840 that archaeology began to be used to prove that the Bible record is true. Archaeology has established the location of Bible places. The location of Sheba. The Old Testament records the story of the Queen of Sheba traveling to visit king Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-3). Jesus tells us this story is true (Matthew 12:42).

聖經是從那裏來？聖經不是由人而來的。撒但也不會寫聖經。如果人寫聖經的話、有很多事實便無法記下來。假如人類賜給我們聖經的話、我們就不會念到人的罪跟軟弱的地方。如果撒但寫聖經的話、在聖經形容撒但時、不會叫他『那惡者』。因此聖經是由神而來的。

無矛盾、無衝突

聖經是由大約四十個作者，在約一千六百年的時間內所寫成的。聖經的作者是活在不同時代的人，有不同的職業、且住在不同的地方。從許多情形中我們知道、這些作者彼此間並不認識。然而在聖經中卻沒有矛盾。其他的書也都沒有這樣地宣稱的。聖經如此宣稱，也不可能是個意外的說法。

科學的根據

我們也可以考慮到在聖經中的科學的事實。聖經不是一本科學書、但在這裏面卻有科學的事實。從哥倫布及麥哲倫的探險中、我們知道地球是圓的。這也是在大約五百年前才知道的事。在人們聽說有哥倫布或麥哲倫發現地球是圓的幾千年前、聖經已經告訴我們說地球是圓的。『*神坐在地球大圈之上*』(賽 40:22)。『*他立高天，我在那裏；他在淵面的周圍，劃出圓圈*』(箴 8:27)。

聖經也記錄我們無法數算星星。在一九四〇年時，天文學家終於得到結論說他們無法算清楚在宇宙裏的星星。大約在二千五百年前、耶利米就這麼記錄著：『*天上的萬象不能數算、海邊的塵沙也不能鬥量。我必照樣使我僕人大衛的後裔、和事奉我的利未人多起來*』(耶 33:22)。全能的神不只能數算星星，且能『*一一稱他們的名*』(詩 147:4)。

已經應驗的預言

在聖經中有超過一千個的預言。每一個預言都應驗了、這可以進一步證明聖經是由神而來的。除了有關基督的預言之外、我們也會看到其他的、如耶利哥城的預言及應驗 (書 6:26; 王上 16:34)。我們也可以提到關於古列、也就是波斯王的預言、這是由以賽亞所說的預言 (賽 44:28; 45:1; 拉 1)。同時、也有很多是關於教會的預言、且已經應驗了 (賽 2:1-4; 耶 31:31-34; 但 2:31-46; 徒 2:14-47)。

考古學

考古學證明了聖經中的事實。考古學是一門相當新的科學。一直到西元後一八四〇年以後、考古學才被用來證明聖經中的記錄是正確的。考古學有助於確認聖經中的地點、如確認示巴的地點。舊約中記載了示巴女王去拜訪所羅門王的故事 (王上 10:1-3)。耶穌也