



CREEKSIDE

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

A Basic Course in Christian Apologetics
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WEEK 2

- Are There Any Errors in the Bible?
 - Common Objections to Inerrancy
 - Considering the Evidence: M.A.P.S.
- How Old is the Earth, How Big Was the Flood, and How Much Does It Matter?
 - YEC vs. OEC
 - Global Flood vs. Local Flood
- Why Is There So Much Evil and Suffering in the World?
 - Would we be satisfied with less?
 - Why is there any at all?

CREEKSIDE
CHURCH

Are There Any Errors In The Bible?

Inerrancy: The Inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not _____ anything that is contrary to fact. This does not mean that the Bible tells us every fact there is to know about any one subject, but everything it does say about any subject is _____.

Admission: We do not have the _____ manuscripts that are inerrant.

Common Objections:

1. The manuscript copies we have _____.

Answer: Through a process called _____, where we compare the various copies of the manuscripts, we know what the original manuscripts said for over 99.5% of the words in the Bible, and the rest is negligible.

Admission: There's a few places that do not appear in the earliest and best manuscripts, such as:

- John 7:53-8:11 - the story of the woman caught in adultery
- Mark 16 – Jesus' post-resurrection appearances
- I John 5:7 – Added to help with the concept of the _____.

None of these 3 situations are significant and we can be confident that the words in the manuscripts are the same as in the originals.

2. Some skeptics say that the biblical writers _____ their messages in minor details to the false ideas current in their day, and affirmed or taught those ideas in an incidental way.

Example: Jesus claimed that the Mustard seed is the smallest seed, when we now know that the Orchid seed is smaller. If Jesus in his omniscience knew that the Mustard seed wasn't the smallest seed, wasn't he telling a "white lie" to accommodate the understanding of the day?



Answer: No. God used _____ to communicate perfectly without any false ideas. This objection really implies God is a lying God.

3. Inerrancy _____ the divine aspect of Scripture and neglects the human aspect.

Answer: Scripture has both a human and a divine aspect, but that does not mean it has errors just because it has the human element. God was overseeing the process of the writing of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21).

4. There are some _____ in the bible

Answer: Show me one! In which specific verse or verses do these errors occur? The small number of problem texts shouldn't lead anyone to believe there are errors. Not everything recorded in the Bible is true, but everything "affirmed as true" is true. For example, Cain said "am I my brother's keeper?" The implication is he is not. The Bible doesn't affirm his attitude though.

GOD'S PUBLISHING PROCESS

Use M-A-P-S to guide you through Biblical reliability:

Manuscripts, Archaeology, Prophecy, Statistics (Hank Hannegraff)

Is our Preset Bible Reliable? Consider the Manuscript evidence:

3 Tests:

1. The **B** _____ test considers the quantity of manuscripts and manuscript fragments, and also the time span between the original documents and our earliest copies.

_____ = better able to work back to the original.

_____ between the copies and the original = less likely that serious textual error would creep in.

Old Testament Manuscript Evidence:

- Approximately _____ from the Cairo Geniza (storeroom) find of 1897, dating back as far as A.D. 895.
- About _____ from the Dead Sea Scrolls find of 1947-1955, the oldest dating back to 250-200 B.C.
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls gave us a Hebrew text from the 2nd to 1st century B.C. of all but one of the books (Esther) of the O.T. These provided a much earlier check on the accuracy of the Masoretes, and proved their translations to be extremely accurate.
- At least _____ assorted other copies.

The short time between the original Old Testament manuscripts (completed around 400 B.C.) and the first extensive copies (about 250 B.C.) — coupled with the more than 14,000 copies that have been discovered — ensures the trustworthiness of the Old Testament text. The earliest quoted verses (Num. 6:24-26) date from 800-700 B.C.

New Testament Manuscript Evidence:

- We possess over _____ Greek manuscripts or portions of the New Testament — almost 800 copies before A.D. 1000. The total number of N.T. manuscripts in all languages before the printing press is over _____! The time between the original composition and our earliest copies is an unbelievably short _____ years or so.
- We have so many good copies of the N.T. and many of them are early. A.D. 125 to the 8th century cover parts of 25 of the 27 books and about 40% of the text.
 - Codex Sinaiticus (4th century)
 - Codex Vaticanus (4th century)
 - Codex Alexandrinus (5th century)
 - 2,000 lectionaries (church service books with Scripture portions)
 - 86,000 quotations of N.T. in the church Fathers dating from the 3rd century
 - Jerome's Latin translation (A.D. 435)
- Rylands Papyrus fragment of John 18 dates back to A.D. 125. Chester Beatty Papyri 46 dates to 200 A.D. at the latest, possibly late 1st century. That's early!

Comparison to Secular Works:

No classical scholar would listen to an argument doubting the authenticity of Herodotus or Thucydides, based on the fact that the earliest MSS of their works of any use are over 1,300 later than the originals!

But if we had original documents...would people give them too much reverence...even worship???

- The Jews kept the bronze serpent Moses set up in the wilderness to save the Israelites from the snake plague and worshipped it until good King Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:4).

Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings				
Author	Written	Earliest Fragment/copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D. 950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000

Information in this chart can be found in various sources. This chart was adapted from: *Christian Apologetics*, by Norman Geisler, 1976, p. 307; and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pp. 42,43.

2. E _____

O.T.

N.T.

Circulation and Eyewitnesses

“When the N.T. accounts of Jesus began to be circulated, which would have been during the lifetimes of those who were alive at the time of Jesus’ life, these people could have confirmed or denied the accuracy of these accounts. The disciples could not risk inaccuracies because of all of the friendly and unfriendly eyewitnesses that could verify or expose the truth or error of the letters.” – Hank Hannegraff

3. E _____

- Historical accuracy - cities, people, events
- Comparison to the Book of Mormon
- Affirmation of secular historians and early church leaders

A _____

Examples:

- The Tel Dan Stele (950-850 BC) – “House of David.”
- The Meesha Stele (846 BC) – The “Moabite Stone” details Omri, David, Yahweh
- The Nabodinus Cylinder (550 BC) – confirms King Belshazzar in the Book of Daniel
- Caiaphas Ossuary – confirms existence of Caiaphas the High Priest at Jesus’ trial
- Pilate Dedication Stone – confirms existence of Pontius Pilate, “Prefect of Judea”

Archaeological evidence thus confirms the _____ of the Bible.

P _____

The Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense.

The many predictions of Christ’s birth, life and death (see below) were indisputably written more than a century before they occurred as proven by the Dead Sea Scrolls of Isaiah and other prophetic books, as well as by the Septuagint translation, all dating from earlier than 100 B.C.

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Virgin Birth	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22, 23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:3-6
Betrayal	Matthew 26:24-25	Matthew 26:47-50
Peter’s Denial	Matthew 26:34	Matthew 26:69-75
Suffer, be killed, rise on 3 rd day	Matthew 16:21; 17:22, 23; 20:17-19	Last chapters of all 4 gospels
Rejection and sufferings of the Messiah	Isaiah 53:3-7; Psalm 22:1-18	Last chapters of all 4 gospels in precise detail.
Died with the wicked, buried by the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:38, 57-60
Resurrection	Psalm 16:8-10	Acts 2:25-31; 13:35-37
Ascension	Psalm 68:18	4 Gospels, Ephesians 4:8
Coming of the Holy Spirit	Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8	Acts 2
Destruction of Jerusalem	Luke 21:20-24	AD 70 to Roman general Titus

_____ is a principle of Bible reliability that often reaches even the most hardened skeptic!



S _____

Internally consistent - ~ _____ years, _____ authors, _____ true contradictions!

Influence on human history more than any other book

Conclusion: We have an _____ and _____ copy of the Bible.

Personal Reflection:

1. Do you know of any Scripture texts that seem to contain errors? What are they? Have you tried to resolve the difficulties in those texts? What further steps might you try to resolve them?
2. Do you know of any proven fact in all of history that has shown something in the bible to be false? Can the same be said about the Book of Mormon or the Qur'an?
3. In heaven, do you think you will believe the Bible is inerrant? Will you believe it just as firmly now?
4. Should belief in inerrancy be a requirement for church membership? Teaching a Sunday school class? Being an Elder or Deacon? Being the full-time elder? Teaching at a seminary?
5. Did you realize the Bible is now printed on paper in many versions and languages, and is also on CDs, MP3s, and apps for phones and tablets? Are you thankful for the year you live in, in light of the history of the Bible?

How old is the Earth? How big was the Flood? How much does it matter?



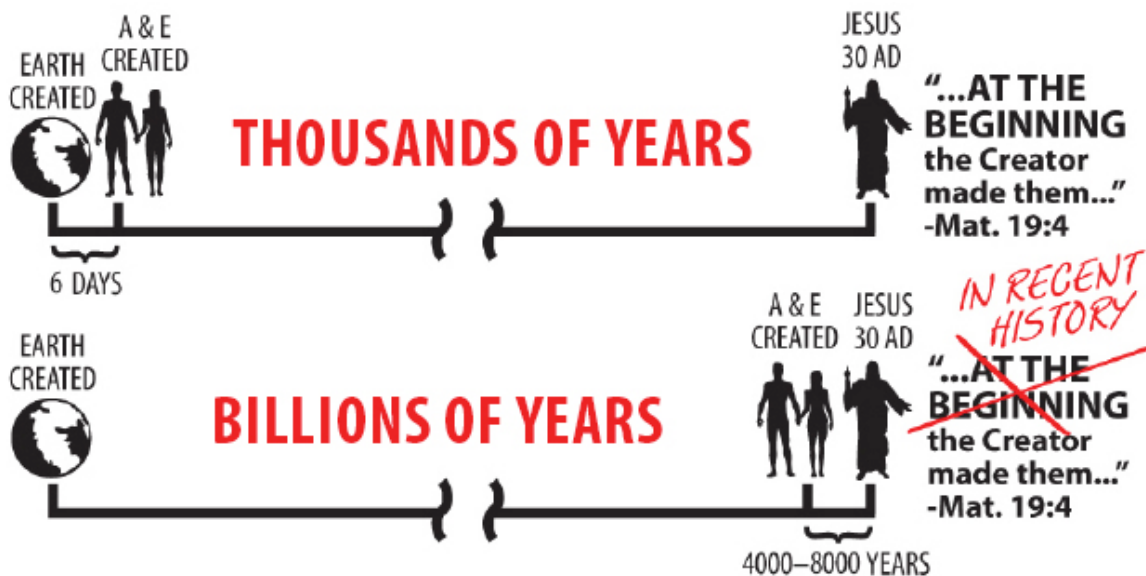
The Age of the Earth: YEC vs. OEC

Old Testament testimony

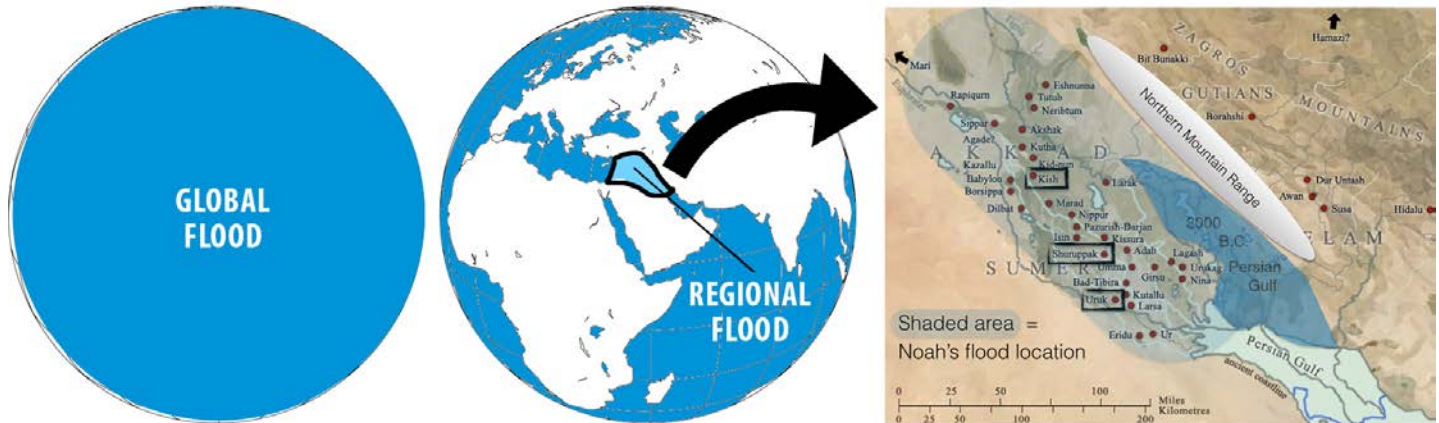
- From a straightforward reading of _____, creation is young (happened in 6 literal “days”)
- Hebrew word for “day” (yom) with a number means a literal 24 hour day
- Genesis 1 “days” included an “evening” and a “morning”
- Genealogical gaps (Ge.4,5,11, Ex.6, Ez.7, 1 Ch.26, Mt.1, Lk.3) can’t add many thousands of years
- “Adam’s sin brought death” (Rom. 5:12), and OEC puts death before sin

New Testament testimony

- _____ and _____ were created “from the beginning of creation” (Jesus, Mat. 19:4, Mark 10:6)
- Human suffering began at “the beginning of the creation which God created” (Mark 13:19 NASB)
- Blood has been “shed since the beginning of the world” (Jesus, Luke 11:49-51 NIV)
- Man has been around to see God’s work “since the creation of the world” (Paul, Rom. 1:20 NIV)



How old is the Earth? How big was the Flood? How much does it matter?



Local/Regional Flood proponents limit deluge to the region of Mesopotamia

Noah's Flood: Global vs. Regional

What the Bible says

“The waters...rose greatly on the **earth**, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.” (Genesis 7:18,19 NIV)

“...there was water over all the surface of the **earth**... (Genesis 8:9 NIV)

The Hebrew word for 'earth' (erets) can also mean 'territory'



Problems with a Regional Flood

- No reason to save the land animal and bird kind (Gen. 6:20) if populations can later be replenished from outside the flood zone
- God's _____ is inadequate: No reason for 120 year warning (Gen. 6:3) if flood was avoidable by moving outside the flood zone
- Ark's picture of Christ's _____ is inadequate if there are many escape routes from the flood
- One year (Gen. 8:13-16) seems excessively long to be aboard an ark in a flood that was only regional
- Ark landed “on the mountains of Ararat” (Gen. 8:4), requiring flood level to exceed mountain height

Occam's Razor
(Law of Parsimony) says that the simplest answer—the one with the least amount of assumptions—is usually the correct answer.

How old is the Earth? How big was the Flood? How much does it matter?

How much does it matter?

Age of the earth and Flood debate is not a Gospel issue, but...

- An _____ issue: Do we accept man's word over God's?
- An _____ issue: Do we believe that God's word is truly without error?
- An _____ issue: If we interpret Genesis as allegory, how do we view the Gospel?

**Views on non-essential doctrines matter
when we are called to reconcile them with the Gospel.**

The Gospel is the main thing, and what we don't know shouldn't be a stumbling block to the Gospel we do know. Non-essential doctrines matter more when we study them and consider the implications they may have on the Gospel. Is this a reason to avoid these kind of issues? We are not called to a willful ignorance of everything outside of the Gospel. Thank God we only need to know a small amount of Biblical truth to be made right with Him. But we shouldn't go forward content with small amount of knowledge ("...we are to grow up in all aspects into Him..." Eph. 4:15 NASB). Christ is enough, but the more we deepen our theology, the more confident and cohesive we can be in leading others to Him. Christian apologetics is more effective when the case for it is tight and ALL the pieces fit.

More reading on these topics

God Breathed: The Undeniable Power and Reliability of Scripture (2015) by Josh McDowell
Is The Bible True...Really? (2011) by Josh McDowell
When Skeptics Ask (2008 version) by Norman Geisler
How We Got the Bible by Rose Publishing
How The Bible Came To Us by Meryl Doney
Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem
Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie
Answers Magazine published by Answers in Genesis (AIG.org)
Genesis: From Creation to a Nation by Ken Fleming
The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis
Making Sense Out of Suffering by Peter Kreeft
www.GodAndNeighbor.net (Mike Johnson's blog)

Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?

*Christians understand sin's curse on creation brought evil and suffering. But couldn't a loving God spare His children from **so much pain**? **Couldn't we have a little less**?*

If the amount of evil and suffering in the world were HALF its current level, would you be content?

Yes No

If the amount of evil and suffering in the world were ONE TENTH its current level, would you be content?

Yes No

If the amount of evil and suffering in the world were ONE PERCENT its current level, would you be content?

Yes No

(God is _____)

"...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:12,17 (ESV)



We don't know **how much more** evil and suffering there would be in the world **without the restraining hand of God**.

Why is there ANY evil and suffering in the world?

Defending God's goodness in the face of evil in the world is called a _____.

- Sin (See Rom. 5:12 above)
- Free will means freedom to _____ good or evil
- God preventing our sin means He prevents our freedom
- How much freedom would we be willing to do without?

The problem of pain has 2 kinds of answers

1. Finite minds cannot know the infinite mind of God
2. God is with us in our pain

Creation _____ but God _____! (Rom. 8:18-23; Ps. 97:1)