

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 1/10/2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, January 11 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for swift reduction in the spread of COVID and especially the Omicron variant. Ask God to limit and end this pandemic. Pray for support and protection for those who work in medical fields and as first responders as they deal with this virus.*

A number of people view science and religion as being incompatible. Yet they forget that science is one of God's creations. More than this, science can and has confirmed that many parts of the Bible are true. Here are some:

1. The earth is round. Isaiah 40:22 says of God, "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth."
2. The earth floats in space. Job 26:7 says, "*He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing.*"
3. Stars vary in brightness or magnitude. I Corinthians 15:41 says, "*The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.*"
4. The ark would have worked. Genesis 6:13-22, the ark was to be built three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. According to calculations made by physics students at the University of Leicester in 2014, the ark would have floated and could have safely carried pairs of animals through the flood.
5. David could have actually defeated Goliath. A sling might not be that powerful a weapon, but stones from the Elah Valley where David and Goliath's battle was fought are made of barium sulphate. Barium sulphate is extremely dense and stones such as these would easily hurt or killed Goliath. More than this, Goliath, as a giant, probably suffered from acromegaly or overproduction of growth hormone. This condition can lead to difficulty in vision, especially peripheral vision which would have been an advantage for David.
6. The Book of Joshua says that the sun stopped moving. Joshua 10:12 says, "*On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: 'Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.'*" Researchers have dated an eclipse back to October 30, 1207 BCE, coinciding with the time Joshua and the Israelites fought the Amorites.
7. Even our practices around viruses like COVID have origins in the Bible. Leviticus 13:1-5 instructs that if someone has evidence of what would be a viral disease that they should "*isolate the affected person for seven days.*" If they are not better, they should "*isolate for another seven days.*"

Archaeology also has helped to confirm a great deal of what we read in the Bible:

1. The Dead Sea scrolls, discovered in 1947, include a complete Isaiah scroll and almost every book of the Old Testament is contained in the fragments found. Some of these scrolls go back to the mid-third century BCE, and most the first or second centuries BCE. Differences between the Dead Sea scrolls and the Old Testament texts that have passed down through the centuries are minimal.
2. In 1993, excavators at Tel Dan found an inscription with the word BYTDWD on it and dated to before 733-722 BCE. King David's rule was from the ninth to eighth centuries BCE and the inscription found is generally accepted as referring to the House of David.
3. Two recent finds reveal the method by which Romans performed crucifixion with an iron nail driven the largest tarsal bones of the foot and then bent.
4. The Annals of Sennacherib, found in 1830, detail the rule of this Assyrian king and tell how the kingdom of Judah in 701 BCE paid tribute to Assyria. II Kings 18-20 and Isaiah 36-39 record how King Ahaz decided to become a vassal of Assyria, and act that was condemned by the prophets as showing a lack of trust in God. When Ahaz's son Hezekiah decided to assert Judah's independence, the Assyrians laid siege to Jerusalem, as recorded in both the Annals of Sennacherib and the Old Testament.
5. Many archaeological sites support the conquest of the Promised Land recorded in the Book of Joshua. One such site is Tel Hazor which consisted of around 20,000 people.

There are many other scientific and archaeological discoveries that, rather than refuting the Bible, support it. Science in many ways fulfills the testimony of Scriptures. The truth of the Bible is consistent with what we continue to find using the God-given gifts of science and its disciplines.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jeffrey