Facts for Those Who Trust in Fiction

 The Bible is counted as the book most rejected and pushed aside due to its “lack of accuracy with history and science”. Historians and scholars claim that, due to incorrect translation work, the Bible has been twisted to meet present day Christians needs. However, the Bible is also the number one bestselling book in history. These two contradicting facts must imply that not all truly is what it seems. There are those that reject the Bible even though they have never touched it before, and there are people who accept it even if they don’t know anything about it. Contrary to prior belief, the Bible’s historical and scientific accuracy is infallible and indisputable.

 First and foremost, there are numerous amounts of archaeological evidence which show immense support for the Bible. In fact, Matthew Elton, a highly acknowledged philosopher, says it best. “Ask any archaeologist and he'll tell you this is wrong. The Bible has not been twisted at all. It's the same today as it was when it was first written. Archaeological evidence proves the Bible's historical accuracy. In fact, no archaeological discoveries have ever contradicted the Bible.” In Genesis Chapter 40, Joseph interprets the dream of an Egyptian wine-maker, and explains to him what it means. According to Herodotus, an ancient philosopher, the Egyptians neither drank wine nor grew grapes, which would obviously contradict this biblical passage. Then, archaeologists discovered Egyptian paintings found in tombs of several pharaohs depicting Egyptians not only growing grapes and extracting their juice to make wine, but also show many scenes of drunken men and women. In Exodus 5, it says that the children of Israel built cities for the Pharaoh from bricks first consisting of straw, and then consisting of no straw because of the lack of availability of straw towards the end of the building process. In two different excavations, during 1883 and 1908, at Pithom, one of the treasure cities built, the lower bricks in the buildings had straw in them, and the upper bricks were made solely of clay. In Scripture, a tribe of people named the Hittites are mentioned 48 different times. Within all the historical records found, the Hittites are mentioned only in the biblical text. Based on that fact, skeptics began to claim that the Hittites must only be an imaginative society. Then in 1876, archaeological digs in Asia Minor discovered records of the ancient empire called Hatti, whose people are in fact called the Hittites. In fact, historians now consider the Hatti Empire to be one of the larger empires in ancient times. Isaiah 20:1 says “In the year that the commander in chief, who was sent by Sargon the king of Assyria…” (The Holy Bible, ESV Translation). This is the only mention of King Sargon in the Bible, and also the only mention of his name in all of literature. As can be expected, his place in history ended up being questioned. Unsurprisingly, in 1842, archaeologists uncovered the immensely extravagant royal palace of Sargon. Found in this palace were also texts that supported other Biblical passages. The flood is also a large piece of evidence that the Bible is true. One scholar devised a list of 88 different ancient groups that had composed a flood “myth” as part of their beliefs. The now famous Babylon flood tablets, discovered in 1872, depict a story of a worldwide flood that is almost identical to the Biblical account of the flood. Different ancient cities across the globe have been found to have a rock layer five feet thick between two distinct and separate civilizations. In the city of Ur, originally the home of Abraham, a similar rock layer eight feet thick was found. Joshua 6:20 tells that “As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat…” (IBID). This portion of the text refers to the great city of Jericho, which Joshua led his people to capture. Whether the walls of the city truly fell or not was disputed amongst theologians, until an archaeological site at the Jericho site found precisely what the Bible describes; the walls did in fact fall outwards down the hill. The House of King David is mentioned several times in Scripture, and yet there are skeptics who deny that David ever even existed. However, a stele was found containing the words “House of David”, an obvious reference to the King David in the Bible. A tablet referring to the name of Yahweh, which means God of Israel, was discovered, which also confirms different events between Biblical societies mentioned in Scripture. Several artifacts referring to Biblical kings and kingdoms have been found, including a tablet speaking of Pilate, the man who gave Jesus over to the crowds to be crucified. Archaeological evidence for the historical accuracy of the Bible is immense, and that doesn’t even scratch the surface of the evidence for Scriptures.

In 1947, a young shepherd boy was grazing his sheep in a mountain valley, when one of his sheep got loose and ran into a mountainside cave. The boy, wisely knowing that anything might have lived in the cave, picked up a rock and threw it into the cave in an attempt to scare his lost sheep out of the cave. Instead of hearing the cluck of the rock against the ground, he heard a crash like when pottery is dropped. Curious, he went inside the cave, and discovered what come to be one of the most important finds for those who believe in the Bible. The sound he heard was in fact the sound of pottery vases breaking, which contained the Dead Sea scrolls, the oldest documented translation of the Old Testament known, dating back to 250 BC. Extensive research was done on the text, and scholars were amazed to find out that there was hardly any difference between the scrolls and the modern day Scripture.H

There are also confirmations of Biblical texts from historians and theologians. One such occurrence is the ancient historian Flavius Josephus. He was a Pharisee in the time of Christ’s life, and he could not deny what he saw with his own eyes. He writes, “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 principle 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" (www.newtestamentchurch.org). These statements parallel the Scriptures perfectly, showing that Christ was a legitimate historical figure. Cornelius Tacitus was a Roman historian and the Governor of Asia. Again, in reference to the Scriptures, he says, “But not all the relief that could come from man, not all the boundaries that the prince could bestow, nor all the atonements which could be presented to the gods, availed to relieve Nero from the infamy of being believed to have ordered the conflagration, the fire of Rome. Hence to suppress the rumor, he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also” (IBID). A man named Lucian, who was a Satirist of the second century, completely rejected Christ and His followers. He refers to Christ as “...the man who was crucified in Palestine because He introduced this new cult into the world...” (IBID). While the scorn of this statement is obvious, there is no denying that Christ did physically walk the earth. There is also the testimony of Frank Morrison, an author and lawyer who had been brought up in an atheistic home which counted the story of Jesus as a fairy tale. He set out to write a book that would once and for all acknowledge the crucifixion as what he saw it as; a tragic death of a heroic man, but nothing more than that. After studying the facts, however, he conclusively denied what he had once accepted, and transformed his book into a story of the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The biggest fallacy about the Bible is that even if it may not contradict history, it has been proven to contradict science. The thought that science and religion cannot coincide is incorrect, because from a scientific standpoint, the Bible is once again completely accurate. However, the astonishing part about the Bible’s scientific accuracy is that it mentions scientific facts written before the fact itself was even proven. In other words, the Scripture has prophetic accuracy as well.

 First, the Bible is very consistent with medical science. Doctors have recently discovered that a newborn baby’s blood peaks at the eighth day, which is astonishing because the Bible consistently explains that a child must be “…circumcised on the eighth day…” (Philipians 3:5, The Holy Bible, ESV Translation). On the subject of blood, the Scripture speaks about the importance of blood to the physical body, a discovery recently proven by medics. In Leviticus 17:11, it is written, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood…” (The Holy Bible, ESV Translation). Again, in Leviticus 13, it speaks of diseases spreading through the air, a very modern discovery which has led to several medical advances. Leviticus 15:13 speaks of the importance of washing hand to stop the spreading of germs, and in Acts 17:26, the Bible explains how all humans have common blood and came from one man and one woman, an obvious reference to Adam and Eve. The subject of common blood has been disputed over several times, and has been come to be known as the ‘Eve’ syndrome.

The Bible shows consistency with astronomy, such as in Job 26:7, where it says, “He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing.” (IBID), explaining that earth rests on an invisible axis. Job 38:12 asks, “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?” speaking of the rotation of the earth on a daily basis (IBID). Luke 17:34-36 says, “I tell you, in the night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. There will be two women working in the fields. One will be taken and the other left.” (IBID). This verse speaks of the rapture, and explains how some people will be awake and some will be asleep when the rapture of Christ’s church occurs. This shows the fact of a revolving earth, pointing out that while it is day in one place on earth, it is night in others. Job 38:7 tells of a time “…when the morning stars sang together…” (IBID). Astronomers recently discovered that stars emit radio waves which are perceived on earth a high pitch tones. In essence, the morning stars sing together. Christopher Columbus was inspired by Isaiah 40:22 “It is he who sits above the circle of the earth…” (IBID), which is where he got his belief in a round earth.

The Scriptures are also correct in their reference to earth science. For instance, it is common knowledge that the continents of the world were all combined into one large land mass called Pangaea. The Bible also agrees with this. In Genesis 10:25, it says, “…and to him was born one named Peleg, for in his day the land was divided…” (IBID) The name Peleg literally translates ‘division’. Job 38:16 asks, “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked into the recesses of the deep?” (IBID). This verse correlates with the sea floor springs and caverns that explorers have recently discovered. The air cycles are pointed out in Ecclesiastes 1:6, where it is written, “The wind blows around to the south and goes around to the north…” (IBID). Job 38:19 talks about light moving in waves, and there are three different references to dinosaurs in the book of Genesis and in Job (IBID).

Since all of the evidence proves the accuracy of the Bible, that must say something about the writer of the Bible. Many critics say the Bible was written by several different people over a long space of time, which is true. However, since the Bible also shows prophetic evidence about scientific facts that hadn’t been discovered yet, there must be a piece of the puzzle missing, because if normal men really came up with the Bible, how could it be so accurate even in the modern world? The only answer is that there must be an all knowing someone behind it who spoke the words to the men who wrote it; someone who has power and control over everything in the universe. The first two verses in the Bible paint a very clear picture of an omnipotent and omnipresent being. Genesis 1:1-2 says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (IBID). Scientists divide up the make-up of the universe into five different categories: time, power, space, matter, and motion. Taking a look at Genesis 1:1-2, it is obvious of God’s supreme authority: “In the beginning (*time*) God created (*power*) the heavens (*space*) and the earth (*matter*). The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering (*motion*) over the face of the waters.” Accordingly, if an all-powerful and all-knowing God wrote the Bible, it must conclusively mean that the Bible is 100% correct, which it has proven to be.

Since the accuracy of the Bible is proven, there is one conclusion that needs to be made. 2,000 years ago, a man was buried in a tomb after he was crucified on a cross, because he was accused of blasphemy. He suffered and died a terrible death, and was buried, but miraculously rose again on the third day after his death, and from that point on, the Christian faith came into existence, and its teachings have split the world apart. However, the life, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has been denied and extinguished time and time again. Backtracking to the beginning of the story, observe the facts as historical and, ultimately, the conclusion is astounding.

The crucifixion was regarded as so gruesome and violent, that only the worst criminals were sentenced to die this terrible death. When Christ was sentenced to crucifixion, he was first whipped with what is called a cat-of-nine-tails, pieces of leather strap with shards of broken pottery and nails tied to the ends of it. He was scourged so badly, that after the whipping, his rib cage was exposed, and one could hardly recognize him as a human because of all the blood. Christ then had to carry his own cross, weighing approximately 110 pounds, to the site of execution. Being that he had been so badly scourged, someone was made to help him carry the cross. At the execution site, the condemned man was nailed to the cross with wrought-iron spikes that pierced through the main veins of the wrists and ankles. When the cross was risen upwards, the body had to support its own weight, and the lungs were crushed so that the victim had to push himself up to breathe. When the guards decided it was time to die, they usually broke the legs of the victim, causing lack of oxygen and death by asphyxiation. Since Christ had already died, they did not break his legs, but they instead stabbed a spear through his side to make sure he was truly dead. The death of Christ cannot be questioned, because he was very plainly dead after the crucifixion.

Jesus was buried in a tomb fifteen minutes away from Jerusalem. A one and a half ton stone was rolled in front of the entrance, and Roman guards were placed nearby to stand watch, so as to hinder anyone from stealing Christ’s body. The tomb was virtually inaccessible, so the thought of thievery was not an option. Yet, on the third day, some of Christ’s disciples went to visit the tomb, and the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty! Looking at all that had occurred, there is only one true option of what had happened. First, the Roman government had decreed that Christ was to be killed and buried. The punishment for breaking a Roman decree was death. Second, the immovable stone had been rolled away, an impossible feat to accomplish by a couple of men. Also, the Roman guards, some of the toughest, most rigid soldiers, had fled the scene, implying that something must have occurred that frightened them. Probably the biggest evidence was the grave clothes, lying neatly in the tomb, completely undisturbed. Christ even appeared to over 300 witnesses after his resurrection.

The Bible’s historical and scientific accuracy is not in question, which says something about the rest of the Scripture. God spoke it, men wrote it, and those who claim to be Christians live their life by it. When surrounded by a world that sees the facts as fiction, it’s easy to see why there are so many problems. The answers are there, and all it takes is a look at the Book of Truth to understand them.