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## YOUR BIBLE IS RECOMMENDED

I have survived longer than any other piece of literature in all the world. No fragment of any army ever survived so many battles; no citadel ever withstood so many sieges; no rock was ever battered by so many hurricanes and so swept by storms and yet I stand.

While nations, kings, philosophers systems and institutions have died away, I engage the keenest of intellects and stand revered before the highest tribunals. I am assailed, defended and more denied than any other book the world ever saw. I survive all changes, and yet am unchanged. I move all minds and yet am moved by none. I see all things decay and yet am incorruptible. I see myriads of other books engulfed in the stream of time, yet I am borne along till time shall be no more.

I am the most widely distributed book in the world. Portions of the Bible have been published in thousands of languages and dialects. Each year the circulation of the Bible runs into the tens of millions copies.

My message is for all mankind everywhere. I am not some fetish to transform your life, if your mind be elsewhere while you mumble my words, I will speak to you of something more than bread and clothing and the physical wherewithal of life. I will lift your soul from the muddy vista of life's low level and fix it upon the upper sunlit peaks of faith and higher living. I will put a dream and a purpose in your life.

If you would be happy here and hereafter, I recommend that you read, study, believe and obey my principles.

— Anonymous

# DOES SCIENCE CONTRADICT THE BIBLE?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1.1). The first sentence in the Bible declares something that cannot be proven or disproven by science. Despite scientific accomplishments, the field of science has limitations.

## SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE



Has science proven that the Bible cannot be trusted and naturalism alone can explain our world? For science to explain away the God of the Bible, at least three things are required:

**First, it must establish a beginning for the universe through natural cause.** Unfortunately, this is something science can never do. If the earth were created as expressed in Genesis 1, what scientific test could disprove it?

**Second, it must establish that life can originate from non-living material.** Many experiments have been conducted in an effort to show that life can come from non-life. However, science has yet to provide any evidence of such a thing. Instead, we see every day that life reproduces its own kind – as taught in God’s word (Genesis 1.24-31).

**Third, it must show that any scientific statement in the Bible is nothing more than the cultural wisdom of that time.** If biblical writers were not guided by the earth’s Creator, their lack of scientific understanding would be evident. But this is not the case. There are no glaring inconsistencies between what the Bible teaches and what science has proven to be true. The Bible even lacks medical superstitions common for writings of its age.

There are some questions which science can never answer. *Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going?* Is it any wonder that many scientists believe in a supernatural Creator and a miraculous origin for our world? Science has not contradicted Psalm 119:160: “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

-- Robert Berghorst, Associate Minister  
Church of Christ, Manchester, Connecticut

# IS THE BIBLE JUST ANOTHER ANCIENT BOOK?



**A 400 year old Bible, stolen from the Carnegie Library in the 1990s - one of more than 300 items taken over the course of more than two decades, was found at a Dutch museum and is now back in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Source: Pittsburgh's NPR News Station 4/25/2019**

Our culture's view of the Bible has changed dramatically from positive to negative in a relatively short period of time. In the not too distant past the Bible was generally regarded as the authoritative word of God, useful for finding the answers to life's great questions. What is man's origin? Does my life have a purpose? Is there life after death? Does God exist? The culture has increasingly rejected the answers the Bible gives to these questions. There is a growing acceptance of the view that: man is the product of a mindless process of evolution, right and wrong are totally subjective, there is no God, there is no after-life, and truth itself is relative. Your truth is not my truth. We are no more than a complicated combination of chemicals, and thus our actions totally determined by physical forces making free will only an illusion. Science has successfully ex-

plained everything and thus there is no need for the God hypothesis.

Unfortunately for the materialist, science is a poor source for investigating the really important things in life such as truth, beauty, love, and right and wrong. It must be somewhat disconcerting to those who believe that science is the source of all truth to see the amazing evidences of exquisite design from science itself that show the hand of an incredible mind behind the natural world. The elegant, sophisticated programming buried in our DNA is just one of a host of examples.

However, non believers are not impressed by the phrase "the Bible says....." To them it is just an ancient book written by men long ago whose ideas are no longer

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## JUST ANOTHER ANCIENT BOOK? Continued from Page 3

relevant to a modern world. Or is it perhaps much more than that? What is so special about the Bible that we should pay any attention to it? Actually, anyone, regardless of his world view, should be interested in it because the Bible claims to record the most incredible event in the history of planet Earth. It claims that the Creator of our universe appeared on this planet in the person of Jesus of Nazareth as God in human form. If true that should be of supreme interest to everyone. Jesus was the most intriguing and shocking person in history. He said things about himself that if they were not true would make him the greatest con man in history, or a candidate for the insane asylum.

He said: “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even if he dies” (John 11:25). “I am the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

He performed great miracles: healing the blind and the paralyzed, raising the dead, calming a storm, turning water to wine, walking on water and forgiving the sins of a man, which only God can do. The interesting thing about his miracles is that even his enemies admitted he did them. They were forced to claim he did them by the power of the devil because they couldn’t deny he did them. He predicted his own death and resurrection on the third day after his death.

Why should we believe this account of his life? The documents recording these words and events were written by eyewitnesses who saw and heard them. We can be confident that the copies of the original New Testament writings faithfully preserve the original writings because there are thousands of manuscripts dating back to the first and second centuries that agree in all but minor copying errors. The men who wrote them died as martyrs refusing to recant their story. As the apostle Peter said “We did not follow cleverly devised myths...but were eyewitnesses to his majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). The ultimate proof that he was who he said he was is his resurrection. Dead men don’t come out of the grave days after their death.

We need not believe in the divine inspiration of the New Testament to realize who he was, but merely see that this is a reasonably accurate account from history which is telling an amazing story of God revealing himself in the person of Jesus. His purpose in doing so was to reveal that he loves us and brings good news of our redemption through him.

If we decide that this Jesus was who he said he was then we will look to his words to answer the great questions of life. Interestingly, one of the things we learn from him is that “scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Thus our view of scripture should be as great as his. It is God’s word. That’s as special as it gets. He beckons us to “Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... come learn of me” (Matt. 11:28-30).

— Jim Hopper, Elder  
Church of Christ, Danbury, Connecticut



# BENEFITS OF BIBLE READING

“Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits” (Psalms 103:2). Everyone will benefit spiritually as they desire the instructions of the Bible (1 Peter 2:2).

In the Scriptures, Timothy was taught to give attention to reading, exhortation, and teaching (1 Timothy 4:13). Christians benefit from the pure, simple devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).



We can all be blessed by reading the Bible. The apostle Paul wanted the church to grow and profit from his instructions and to imitate his manner of life, service, humility, trials and tears. He wanted them to follow his teaching from house to house, his message of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Reading these biblical accounts gives direction to us as well.

We benefit by observing Paul’s life commitment to Christ. “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” he wrote (2 Corinthians 9:16). The primary goal of his life was to finish the spiritual race with joy and the ministry he received from Jesus Christ to testify of the gospel of the grace of God. He preached the message of the kingdom to everyone. He was innocent of the blood of all men, because he did not hesitate to declare “anything that was profitable.” He taught the “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:20,27).

We will be made stronger by becoming acquainted with our Bible. Paul encouraged church leaders to shepherd the flock (the church) which Christ purchased with his blood. In this way, they would protect it from false and perverted doctrines.

Church leaders (elders) in the first century were commended “to God and to the word of his grace” which was able to build them up spiritually (Acts 20:32). When we read the word of God, we are able to understand and to become spiritually mature. This is the path that leads to “the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

Reading the word of God will be a great blessing for you and your family!

# “Let Scriptures Be Available to Everyone”

Erasmus, the most famous theologian of his time, lived in an era when his hopes and wishes for the Bible were in conflict with powerful religious authorities. Catholic clergy did not encourage the “laity” to read the Bible; saying that if they had questions about the Scriptures they should ask a priest. Those who dared to translate the Bible into the vernacular of the people were put to death. Erasmus defied church authorities. He wanted everyone to be able to read the Scriptures in his own language. Erasmus’ *Greek and Latin New Testament* was largely responsible for the Bible being translated into English. Here is one of his courageous and remarkable statements:



**Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus  
(1466-1536)**

Statuette displayed with the 1522 edition of  
Erasmus’ *Greek and Latin New Testament* at  
Freed-Hardeman University

**“I disagree very much with those who are unwilling to allow the Holy Scripture to be translated into common languages so that they can be read by the uneducated, as if Christ taught such complicated doctrines that they could only be understood by a few theologians, as if the strength of Christianity lay in people’s ignorance of it. Christ wants his mysteries to be published as openly as possible.**

**“I wish that even the lowliest peasants read the gospels and the Pauline epistles. And I wish that they were translated into all languages so that they could be read and understood not only by the Scots and Irish but also by the Turks and Saracens (Arabs).**

**“I wish that as a result of translation the farmer could sing some portion of them at the plough, the weaver could hum some parts of them while working the shuttle, and the traveler could lighten the weariness of the journey with stories of this kind. Let all the conversations of every Christian be drawn from this source.**

**“Only a few can be learned, but all can be Christians, all can be devout. And I shall boldly add, all can be theologians.”**

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