

PROVING THE BIBLE

Lesson One

Proving What the Bible Says – Scientific Foreknowledge

The Bible says it is from God and is the word of God. How do we prove it?

We can look at the Bible using evidence (things we can know and prove) to show that belief in the Bible is not a fairytale belief, but an evidence-based faith.

We can see and know this by looking at:

1. **Scientific Foreknowledge** – Information in the Bible that is based on science but was unknown at the time it was written.
2. **Archeological Evidence** – Findings from people who discover old things in the ground that show the events, places, names, and times written in the Bible are actually true and real.
3. **Prophecy** – Things said or written that happen years later exactly as stated. A prediction of what will happen in the future. For example, in the book of Micah 5:2 it tells where Jesus would be born hundreds of years before.
4. **Historical Evidence** – We can look at historical evidence from those who saw and wrote of the events that happened in the Bible. Some of these people didn't like Christians, but what they said and wrote still confirms the Bible is true when writing about them. In fact, all experts agree that Jesus really did live, did amazing things, died, and his body was never found after.
5. **Jesus' Miracles** – His ability to do things supernaturally, like heal the sick or raise the dead. These miracles were seen and known by other people. They were admitted by others who did not believe Christianity.

When we look at all this evidence, we can see that the Bible true and correct 100%. We would expect this if the Bible was truly written by God. Let's look at some examples.

Scientific Foreknowledge

Writers of the Bible wrote down things that no one of that time could have known about, yet they are 100% correct and were not officially proven until thousands of years later. We are going to look at what the Bible said and then compare it with science today.



Quarantine (To keep away from others when you are sick)

The Old Testament, which is part of the Bible, told how people should be quarantined. The book of Leviticus in the Old Testament tells how the people could avoid getting sick. Those who were sick were instructed to “live outside the camp” away from healthy people.

Leviticus 13:45-46

“People with a disease must warn other people. They must shout, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ They must tear their clothes at the seams. They must let their hair grow wild, and they must cover their mouth. 46 They are unclean the whole time that they have the infection. They are unclean and must live outside the camp.

Questions:

What do we know about how germs spread today? Why would someone cover their mouth?

Based on Covid recently, what do we do when someone is sick?

The Bible says that if and when a sick person got close to others, he should cover his mouth, and cry, “Unclean! Unclean!” Covering the mouth would prevent spit and spray from spreading, much like covering your mouth during a cough.

Back then, in the neighboring (surrounding) countries, “doctors” would put donkey dung into people’s wounds; they would not wash their hands, nor would they isolate a person who was sick.

There are, however, especially in the first five books of the Old Testament, many rules for cleaning, quarantine, and other medical instructions that were to be done in the daily lives of the Israelites. And what we are reading was written over 3,000 years ago. Interestingly, the harmful cures and ingredients used by other nearby countries and cultures are not in the Bible at all. In fact, the Bible shows an understanding of germs and disease that the



“modern” medical community did not understand until recently. How soon? Let’s look to see.



Germes, Labor Fever, and The Bible’s Rules for Cleaning

In 1847, an obstetrician (a doctor who delivered babies) named Ignaz Semmelweis was the director of a hospital in Vienna, Austria. Many pregnant women went in, but 10-18% of those women never left. About one out of every six that received treatment died of labor fever. If a woman delivered a baby at home with the help of a midwife, then the death rate fell to only about 3%. Yet if she chose to use the most advanced medical knowledge and hospitals of the day, her chance of dying increased six times!

Semmelweis had tried everything to stop the deaths. He turned all the women on their sides in hopes that the death rate would drop, but with no results. He thought maybe the bell that the priest rang scared the women. So, he made the priest enter silently, yet with no drop in death rates. As he thought, he watched young medical students perform their routine tasks. Each day the students would conduct autopsies (surgery to find the cause of death) on the dead mothers. Then they would rinse their hands in a bowl of bloody water, wipe them off on a shared, dirty towel, and immediately begin internal examinations of the still-living women. This is less than 200 years ago!

Now we are disturbed to hear of this. What doctor would touch a dead person and then touch living patients without first washing their hands? But 200 years ago, even doctors did not understand germs.

Semmelweis then ordered everyone in his ward to wash his or her hands thoroughly in a chlorine solution after every visit with a patient. In three months, the death rate fell from 18% to 2%. Semmelweis had made a groundbreaking discovery ... or had he? Almost 3,300 years before Semmelweis lived, Moses had written in

Numbers 19:11-12

“He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean”.

The Bible tells us to wash after touching a dead body.

Germes were not a new discovery in 1847; the Bible recorded ways to prevent the spread of germs as far back as 1500 B.C.

Ignaz washing his hands, approximately 3000 years after Moses had already written about how to prevent disease in the book of Leviticus.



Antibacterial Soap

God gives the recipe for antibacterial soap.

Numbers 19:1-3,5-7

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: ²“This is a requirement of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer (young cow) without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke. (never worked) ³Give it to Eleazar the priest; it is to be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. ⁵While he watches, the heifer is to be burned—its hide, flesh, blood and intestines. ⁶The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer. ⁷After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean till evening.



Red Heifer



Cedar Wood



Hyssop



Scarlet Wool

Question:

What ingredients do you see listed in verse 6 besides the ashes of a heifer?

The Israelites were told to prepare the “water of purification” that was to be used to wash any person who had touched a dead body.

When you first see this, the water of purification sounds like a random mix of items including the ashes of a young cow, hyssop, cedar wood, and scarlet. But this formula is a wonderful example of the Bible’s brilliance, since the recipe is for antibacterial soap.

When we look at the ingredients individually, we begin to see the value of each.



Antibacterial Soap

Questions:

Have you ever made soap? Or, seen how soap is made?

If so, what were some of the ingredients you used or saw?

Let’s look at the Bible's recipe for soap.



Ashes: The chemical known as lye is one of the main ingredients in many soaps today. Various lye-soap recipes say that to obtain lye, water often is poured through ashes. The water gathered from pouring it through the ashes contains a concentration of the important chemical.



Hyssop: A plant that contains the antiseptic thymol, the same ingredient that we find today in some brands of mouthwash.



Cedar wood: Has long been used for storage cabinets because of its ability to repel insects and prevent decay. In oil form it kills germs, kills insects, and more.



Scarlet Wool: The Israelites were instructed to use “scarlet,” which most likely was scarlet wool. Adding wool fibers to the recipe would have made it very similar to Lava soap that is sold today.

Thousands of years before any formal studies were done to see what type of cleaning methods were the best; and long before Semmelweiss discovered hand washing, Moses taught the Israelites to make a very effective recipe for soap. If used properly in hospitals in Vienna, it would have saved thousands of lives.

Conclusion

So what can we see from this? This is one way we can recognize that the Bible is more than just a good story book. There are scientific facts in the Bible that the writers of the time could not have understood or come up with on their own.

We have seen three examples of scientific foreknowledge – the idea that the Bible writers were writing things that had not been proven until years later and was against the current practices of the time.

Questions

What were a few of the examples we looked at?

What did you think of the examples shown today?

Did any of these examples surprise you to know that they came from the Bible?

Did it surprise you that people actually didn't use soap, know about germs, or wash their hands?

Any questions or comments?

Proving the Bible – Scientific Foreknowledge

Match the item to the right picture by drawing a line



Cedar wood Hyssop

Ashes Scarlet Wool

Draw a Picture of Washing Your Hands

What three things did you learn about the Bible being scientifically accurate today?

What was your favorite and why?