

## BIBLIOLOGY (35)

John Garstang headed an expedition at Jericho from 1930-36. He was fully supported financially by Sir Charles Marston. Garstang discovered that the city of Jericho had been surrounded by a double wall, an outer wall six feet thick and an inner wall twelve feet thick. He discovered that the city was so crowded that houses were built upon the walls, which completely coincides with Rahab's house situation (i.e. Josh.2:15). But perhaps the most amazing discovery of all was that pertaining to the walls of the city. Garstang discovered that instead of the walls caving into the city, they had fallen down flat out away from the city. Garstang writes: "As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over the ruins into the city." (John Garstang, p.146) This discovery of John Garstang agrees precisely with what was stated and described thousands of years ago in Joshua 6:20: "...and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city."

Discovery #2 - The amazing discovery that proved the remarkable statement found in II Sam. 5:8. (II Sam.5:6-8/I Chron.11:4-8)

It is very clear from these passages that the Jebusites believed that they were so secure that the blind and the lame could stop David from getting into the city. David said the way into the city would be "through the water tunnel" (II Sam.5:8). Sir Charles Warren discovered that there was no natural water supply within the walls of ancient Jerusalem. Therefore, a water channel had been cut leading from a point inside the walls to a spring or fountain on the outside of the walls. Dr. Howard Vos writes: "More specifically, a horizontal tunnel leading from the spring had been dug into the hill on which the city was located; this ended in a cave that served as a cistern. Above the cave rose a 52-foot vertical which connected with a sloping passageway 127 feet long." (Vos, p.61) Kathleen Kenyon, in her excavations in this area from 1961-67 said: "Therefore, if Joab and his men had ascended the channel of the city water supply in their conquest of Jerusalem, they would have been able to enter the strategically important parts of the town." (Ibid. p.62) Again, archaeology confirms the specific accuracy of the Bible.

(Factual Example #2) - The example of the Earth.

Another example of agreement between true science and the Bible is found, believe it or not, in discoveries concerning the universe. During Biblical times there were many varied, bizarre, speculative "scientific" theories pertaining to this earth. For example, the Egyptians believed that the earth was supported by five great pillars. The Greeks believed that the earth was bore on the neck and shoulders of Atlas. The Hindus believed that the earth was held up by an elephant. Even in the 15th century, when Christopher Columbus was about the begin his voyage to explore new lands, the prevailing scientific opinion was that the earth was flat and if someone went far enough out into the ocean, he would drop into oblivious eternity.

The Bible, however, gave specific information that contradicted all of these theories and revealed specific data that was remarkable:

## BIBLIOLOGY (36)

### 1) Isaiah 40:22

The word translated "vault" (NASV), "circle" (NIV & KJV), is a word that most definitely refers to the sphericity of the earth. The actual Hebrew word is one that refers to a sphere or a circle (William Gesenius, Hebrew Lexicon, p.263). In fact, the NASV translates this word this very way in Job 26:10 and Proverbs 8:27.

To simply state the Biblical point in Hebrew, God's word says the earth is round. God's word says the earth has a sphericity to it. The Bible claims that the earth is not flat.

### 2) Job 26:7

The Scriptures clearly state that **nothing** is used to hold up the earth, but that God "hangs the earth on nothing." When we see pictures of the earth from space, we clearly see that exactly what the Bible says is exactly the way it is.

### 3) Job 38

Here are a series of 40 questions, most of which are very scientific in nature, many which scientists are still trying to answer today.

Science has already refuted the concept that the world is flat and it has already refuted the idea that something holds up this universe. In reality, all science has done is to finally come to the same and true conclusions of the scientific data found in the Bible. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer accurately stated: "...the Divine Records have been so framed that there is no conflict with true science in this or any age of human history. It is impossible for human authors to write as the Bible is written in matters of science." (Vol.1, p.34)

Any logical thinker must ask, prior to the existence of satellites capable of sending back pictures to the universe, how did Isaiah know enough to write the earth is round? How did Job know that there was nothing holding up the earth? These views certainly went against the prevailing "scientific" concepts, opinions and theories of their day. How could these men write these things and have these conclusions? There is **only one** answer to these questions. What these men wrote, which today has been completely verified by science, was information inspired by God. Only God knew the shape of the earth was spherical. Only God knew that the earth was suspended on nothing. These scientific realities only prove exactly what the Bible says over and over again- it is the inspired living word of the living God.

An important point for a person to always remember is this- **true science is that which is based on true facts and true science based on true facts will NEVER disagree with the Bible.** You can be absolutely certain of this reality. When scientific theory (not fact) disagrees with the Bible facts, always stick with the Bible facts because in the end Bible facts will prove to be true scientific fact.

## BIBLIOLOGY (37)

**QUESTION #9** - What is meant by the term "revelation"?

The Apostle Paul, in referring to all information he had received concerning the Grace of God, wrote that these mysteries were made known to him "by revelation." (Eph.3:3) In this same verse, he states that he put this information into writing. The obvious implication is that Paul's writings are in fact the revelation of God.

The purpose of this section is to understand the term revelation as it specifically relates to the Bible. Since this doctrinal study is Bibliology, it is only logical that we would attempt to understand the term "revelation" as it relates to the Bible.

Webster defines "revelation" as "God's manifestation of Himself to man, something revealed to man by God." (The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary Of The English Language, p.851)

The word "revelation" is apocalupsis (ἀποκάλυψις) which we get our English word "Apocalypse." This particular word means to reveal, to disclose or to uncover. When it is used in the context of God and man, it refers to the idea of God revealing, uncovering and disclosing His supernatural Truth to man (G. Abbott-Smith, Greek Lexicon, p.50)

Dr. Chafer made a very significant point concerning "revelation" when he states that it has to do with God revealing to man what man would not otherwise know: "In its theological usage, the term revelation is restricted to the divine act of communicating to man what otherwise man would not know. " (Vol.1, p.48)

What this would immediately suggest is that anything that could be classified as "revelation" must be supernatural. If "revelation" refers to something God reveals to man, that man cannot naturally know himself, then by its very nature, "revelation" must be supernatural. What this ultimately means is the Bible must be a supernatural book, for it is a book that identifies itself as being the Revelation of God.

A good definition and understanding of the word "revelation" is this- **Revelation is the sovereign and supernatural work of God in which He reveals and discloses His Divine Truth to man, which man would not otherwise know.**

When God reveals and communicates His truth to man, it is properly termed Revelation. It is only logical then to assume that if the Bible is God's revelation to man, then it is His means of communicating to man things that man, on his own, cannot possibly know. What this would logically mean is that the Bible is God's supernatural means of revealing His Divine Truth to people.

There are two different revelatory ways that God reveals Himself to us: 1) General Revelation; 2) Specific Revelation.

## BIBLIOLOGY (38)

### (Revelatory Way #1) - General Revelation.

General revelation refers to ways God has generally revealed Himself through such things as nature and history. As Dr. Ryrie said: "General revelation is exactly that - general." (p.28)

General revelation is that which God reveals about Himself to all people. God has generally communicated various concepts of Himself to all humanity. For example, God generally reveals Himself through:

- 1) creation (Ps.19:1-2; Rom.1:19-20)
- 2) conscience (Rom.1:19; 2:14-15)
- 3) weather (Ps.147:8,16-18; Mt.5:45; Acts 14:17)

This general revelation is not to be taken lightly by any human for God has specifically said that this is enough communicated information to leave any human being "without excuse." (Rom.1:20). To state the point specifically, God's general revelation is enough revelation to eternally sentence a person to face the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18).

Dr. Charles Ryrie said that general revelation reveals at least eight things about God:(p.33)

1. God's Glory (Ps. 19:1)
2. God's Power (Ps.19:1)
3. God's Supremacy (Rom.1:20)
4. God's Divine Nature (Rom.1:20)
5. God's Providence (Acts 14:17)
6. God's Goodness (Mt.5:45)
7. God's Intelligence (Acts 17:29)
8. God's Living Existence

General revelation communicates much about God.

### (Revelatory Way #2) - Specific Revelation

Specific revelation refers to the specific, special and supernatural ways which God uses in order to reveal or to uncover for man His word and His will. All information and details we have available to us concerning this type of revelation are found in the Bible. What this practically means is that **without the Bible we would not know the revelation of God.**

Actually, it is the Bible that informs mankind of God's general revelation. When all is said and done, God reveals, discloses and uncovers things about Himself in the Bible and without the Bible, we cannot generally or specifically know God's Revelation.

Prior to God bringing His completed word into the world, there were several different ways in which God would reveal specific things to people: