

## **How do we know the Bible is right?**

To answer this question let us take a look at some sections of scripture that have proven to be true in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We shall start by looking at Genesis chapter 6 verses 9 to 18 inclusive. This is the story of Noah whom God told to build an ark to certain specific measurements.

“This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. God saw the earth, and indeed it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful. So God said to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.

Now I am about to destroy them and the earth. Make for yourself an ark of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out. This is how you should make it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving 18 inches from the top.

Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks. I am about to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy from under the sky all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them. Everything that is on the earth will die, but I will confirm my covenant with you. You will enter the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

In order to illustrate the accuracy of this story we need to look at the end section also, found in Genesis chapter 8 verses 1 to 4 inclusive. ““But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters receded. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were closed, and the rain stopped falling from the sky.

The waters kept receding steadily from the earth, so that they had gone down by the end of the 150 days. On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat.” During the `1950s an aeroplane flew over the mountains of Armenia (the Ararat range) and saw a boat shaped indentation in the mountain side.

On closer examination by people on the ground the wooden construction was a very large ship that had got caught up on the mountain and judging by the age of the wood from the beams they found it was at least 5000 years old, exactly the age you would expect if it were really Noah’s Ark.

On further archaeological examination the ship had once had three decks and a door at the top and since there were animal droppings also found it was obvious that there had been animals inside it for some time. The measurements of the sheep matched exactly those that God had given to Noah to construct the Ark as recorded in those chapters of Genesis that speak about the flood.

Other interesting findings relevant to these facts are that around the world there are fossils of many extinct animals. Had they been left out in the open for thousands of

years they would have decayed to the degree that they were unrecognisable. The fact that they were perfectly preserved in fossil form shows that what killed them happened very suddenly so it cut off oxygen from reaching their bodies.

In Siberia woolly mammals have been found in a perfect state of preservation, which could only happen if what had killed them had happened very quickly and was related to the climate of that region at the time. The bible states that the flood was worldwide and all around the world there is evidence that this was indeed the case.

Moving on to another part of scripture, this time from Zechariah chapter 14 verse 12 also has something of astounding accuracy to enlighten us with. It reads as follows: “But this will be the nature of the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that have fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will decay while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot away in their sockets, and their tongues will dissolve in their mouths.”

For centuries bible scholars had been convinced that this was just poetic language from Zechariah, then towards the end of the Second World War a nuclear device was dropped on a Japanese city whilst people were still out in the open and this is exactly what they found, their eyes melted in their sockets and their tongues dissolved in their mouth, just as the bible had stated would happen, literally thousands of years ago.

In Revelation chapter 18 reads as follows: “Then I saw another beast coming up from the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but was speaking like a dragon. He exercised all the ruling authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and those who inhabit it worship the first beast, the one whose lethal wound had been healed.

He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from heaven in front of people and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth, he told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived.

The second beast was empowered to give life to the image of the first beast so that it could speak, and could cause all those who did not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast – that is, his name or his number. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast’s number, for it is man’s number, and his number is 666.”

In North America a contract was issued to a company that operates worldwide to print up a certain number of microchips that could be inserted into a person under his or her skin from which by using a scanner information of their date of birth and medical records could be obtained.

For ease of purpose it was decided that the best place on the body would be either the back of the hand or under the skin of the forehead – though this idea was not based on scripture as the people responsible had never read this in the bible, but it just shows

how accurate the bible really is, to predict computer technology more than 2000 years ago. Computer technology it most certainly is, it can be nothing else.

In the book of Genesis we read in chapter in chapter 41 verses 25 to 33 inclusive how Joseph interpreted a dream which Pharaoh had during a night and as a result Pharaoh made Joseph second only to himself as ruler in Egypt. Joseph and his family's presence in Egypt can be proven through archaeology and through physical evidence that exists today.

“Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Both dreams of Pharaoh have the same meaning. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows represent seven years, and the seven good heads of grain represent seven years. Both dreams have the same meaning. The seven lean, bad-looking cows that came up after them represent seven years, as do the seven empty heads of grain burned with the east wind.

They represent seven years of famine. This is just what I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the whole land of Egypt. But seven years of famine will occur after them, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt.

The famine will devastate the land. The previous abundance of the land will not be remembered because of the famine that follows, for the famine will be very severe. The dream was repeated to Pharaoh because the matter has been decreed by God, and God will make it happen soon. “So now Pharaoh should look for a wise and discerning man and give him authority over all the land of Egypt.”

By the authority given him by Pharaoh Joseph had dug a canal several miles long which would capture the overflowing river Nile at the right time of the year and ensure that the best crops could be reaped during those seven years of plenty. This has been proven through archaeology and through physical evidence as the canal is still there today and still called Joseph's canal.

The tombs of all of Joseph's brothers can be seen in Egypt to this very day proving that his whole family had come to him from the land of Canaan where there was severe famine and settled in Egypt where Joseph was and where, through Joseph, inspired by God, had stored grain from the years of plenty to get them by in the years of famine that were to come, more physical evidence of the accuracy of The Bible.

In Exodus chapter 14 we read the story of the Israelites (as they came to be known) escaping the army of Pharaoh by crossing the red sea into what is now part of the land of Israel, then known as the land of Canaan. The bible clearly states that they crossed through the river **on dry ground**. What evidence is there for this and of the pursuit of Pharaoh's army? We shall look at the evidence physically and biblically.

Another remarkable prophecy made around 2000 years ago was only fulfilled in the last century. Let us take a look at the words of Jesus and then see how they were fulfilled in comparatively recent times. The prophecy of Jesus is recorded in Matthew chapter 24 verses 32 to 35 and is accompanied by another word of prophecy which has not yet been entirely fulfilled yet but clearly will be very soon.

“Learn this parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven at the time of the Ascension the disciples asked Jesus a very important question. This (and the answer Jesus gave) is recorded in Acts chapter 1 verses 6 and 7 and read as follows: So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, “Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He told them, “You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.”

Summarising the question it is very accurate to say “Lord when is Israel going to become a nation again?” The answer to that question was almost 2000 years later when in 1948 Israel became a nation again as it is today. This had to happen because of the prophecy in Ezekiel chapter 38, Russia cannot invade Israel (as Ezekiel says it will do in the last days) unless it has become a nation again.

It is a fact that in the 1970s Russia tried to invade Israel, but The Lord sent a plague of hornets to ensure that this did not happen because the time for the fulfilment of this prophecy had not yet fully arrived. Today you can see Russian tanks left where they were abandoned, now rusting away, but there as a silent witness that this is another prophecy in scripture that is certain to one day come about.

When people look at this prophecy they realise that it has been partially fulfilled by the fact that Israel has become a nation again, but they seem to either deliberately ignore or not notice the second half of the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew chapter 24 which should be noted especially for many preachers who have taught the wrong thing.

The second half of those verses says that “This generation shall not pass away until all these things have been fulfilled.” Which generation? Not the one that existed in Jesus day but the generation of those who are living at the time when Israel becomes a nation again. It is these who will not all pass away until all scriptural prophecy has been fulfilled.

Many say that a scriptural generation is 40 years. They are wrong, the mistake they make is that God said to the disobedient generation in the wilderness that none would live to see the land that God had promised them because of their lack of faith and disobedience. It took 40 years for this to be completed though there would surely have been men and women of all ages amongst them.

Some people in scripture lived for 120 years, others a lot less time than these. If you were born in 1948 then the possibility of seeing all prophecy fulfilled in your life time is extremely high, especially as you look around at the world situation as it is at present. From this we can tell that we are the generation which shall not pass away until the world has seen the rapture of the church and the beginning of Christ’s 1000 years reign on earth.

It is clear through reading the book of Revelation that those who are not taken up with the rapture of the church will be left to face life under the reign of the man of sin whom you can be sure will make life literally hell on earth for those who are alive at that time, though those who commit their lives to Christ will have special protection by God from the hands of the enemy.

If we care as much as God does about as many people as possible escaping the “hell on earth” and having to live under the reign of the man of sin then we must reach as many people as we possibly can with the truth about Jesus and their need to receive Him into their lives as Saviour, Messiah and Lord whilst there is still time for them to be included amongst those who will be raptured to heaven.

Many people volunteer for active service when the country into which they were born is threatened with war and invasion by another nation. The war we are fighting in these last days is far more important than that, we are fighting for the destiny of literally hundreds of millions of people who are in danger of having to live through the time of the great tribulation.

Many people do live through this time though God never intended that anyone would, it is only those who had not taken the opportunity of being born again before the rapture of the church and those who are Jews by name only but not really Jews in the heart. Isaiah was quoted by Jesus as having said “These people worship me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. This can apply to so-called Christians or Jews.

Matthew chapter 7 verses 21 to 23 quote Jesus telling the people of His generation a truth that is eternal, and applies whatever generation you happen to be living in, He gave it as a warning for people not to be fooled by false teaching which says that if you live a good enough life God is bound to let you into the Kingdom of Heaven even if you had not been particularly religious in life.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven – only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’”

There is so little time left before all these things take place, let us pledge ourselves to using these remaining moments in the best way possible, that of bringing the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many as possible before it is too late, and then we shall see the joy on their faces when they come to believe the truth about Jesus and receive Him into their lives as Saviour, Messiah and Lord, and you will get an eternal reward.

With proven accuracy over thousands of years we can safely say that The Bible is the most trustworthy and accurate book ever written, clearly it would be in your best interest to study it. If anyone comes to you with anything that is not contained within these pages or claims that Jesus is not the Son of God then you should ignore it.