

453 Our Evidences Toolbox

News headlines over recent weeks leave us in little doubt that this world is becoming more dangerous week by week. On the one hand Man is gaining frightening new abilities, ranging right through from genetics to space weapons, while on the other, political leaders in the once-Christian West have long distanced themselves from the Holy Bible, the Word of God. The West is now dithery and divided, leaving the coast clear for China, Russia and various Islamic states and groups to gain ground.

These developments are firmly in line with God's Word to us regarding "the last times" (eg., Matthew 24 and parallels), so despite the darkening clouds and increasing hostility towards Christians, all those "in Christ" still have every reason to rejoice, as we "fight the good fight of faith", and "lay hold on eternal life" (egs., Philippians 4.4 / I Timothy 6.12a).

Part of that fighting involves our demonstrating the ultimate authority of the Holy Bible, based not only on its actual contents but also on its underlying and irrefutable "truth-credentials", also known as the "Christian evidences"; (as good a book as any on these evidences that I have found is "Many Infallible Proofs" by Henry Morris). A basic knowledge of these evidences is now so necessary in our Christian discipleship, giving us both solid reassurance when trials or doubts may come our way, and settled confidence when in conversation with Bible-rejecters.

As an encouraging example, I was recently in conversation with a friendly ex-Roman Catholic man who does indeed reject the Bible and sincerely believes human life came from aliens from outer space. As the resurrection of Jesus Christ is clearly the ultimate Evidence of all (egs., I Corinthians 15.12-20 / & Acts 2.24,32; 3.15,26; 13.30,33-37; 17.31-32; ...), I asked him how he explained away Jesus' resurrection. At once, and as usual whenever the resurrection is challenged, he was "flannelling all over the place"! – with not a clue how he could write it off: each suggestion he came up with, (which were "off the top of his head" as he had never considered the matter before), fell foul of one or more of the three central Facts that have to be satisfactorily explained – (1) the empty tomb, (2) the claimed appearances to the disciples, and (3) the transformation of the disciples. Yet this man is staking his eternal future on visiting aliens rather than on the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and no doubt we are living among many people making the same sort of mistake.

It is appropriate to mention now two further “Christian Evidences” within the Bible, which are not obvious on the surface but which further establish beyond doubt the Holy Bible’s authority as “God’s Word written”.

First is the Lord’s remarkable use of TIME in the Bible. Occasionally in these Reflections we have come across the two Bible chronologers, Arthur Ware and Frank Paine, who spent many years studying this subject. What they were shown demonstrates just how closely the Lord God remains in charge of world events, and just how precisely He marks significant events with significant dates, and vice-versa. To cut a long story short, it fell to me to write a book re-introducing these men and their work, findings and books to today’s generation, including extracts from many of their private letters published within it for the first time. Please excuse this mention of one of my books, which is only included here as this work is a timely and fascinating introduction to Bible Chronology and a useful addition to our “Evidences Toolbox”: (“The Ware-Paine Testimonies”, ISBN 9781076884213, available from Amazon.co.uk, Paperback £11.61, Kindle £7.00).

Second is the Lord’s equally remarkable use of NUMBERS set within the Hebrew and Greek text of the Bible, explained in the book “Unlocking the Biblical Watch” by Jonathan R Hill, (ISBN 9780993404016, available from Amazon.co.uk, Paperback £12.99). This book, highly mathematical and thoroughly researched, requires careful concentration and a cold towel on the forehead! The author shows the beautiful number patterns found throughout the biblical text, and ties these in with past and recent world events, the 9/11 attacks (2001) and the Chilean mining rescue (2010) being just two examples among many others.

Each of these books demonstrates God’s continuing sovereignty over all that is going on in the world by His meticulous use in the Bible of TIME (Bible chronology) and of NUMBERS (Bible numerology). These subjects have an honoured place in our “Evidences Toolbox” along with all else within there, and show beyond all possible doubt the full, divinely-wrought, verbal inspiration of the Holy Bible.

Praise God, our faith in the veracity of God’s Word in these increasingly chaotic times is indeed solidly grounded. The joyful cry of “Jesus Christ is Lord” turns out to be wholly in line with the Facts rather than in the face of the Facts.

No wonder we can and do rejoice! – and no wonder we do our best under the Lord to present these Gospel truths to this lost and needy generation; Galatians 6.7-10.

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