



Clifton News

No 247 October - December 2009 Published since 1948

Special Bible Exhibition Edition

45 Whitehorse Lane, South Norwood, London SE25 6RD
www.cliftongospelhall.com

No 247 October - December 2009

Published since 1948

Special Bible Exhibition Edition

45 Whitehorse Lane, South Norwood, London SE25 6RD
www.cliftongospelhall.com

Bible Exhibition

**FREE
ADMISSION**

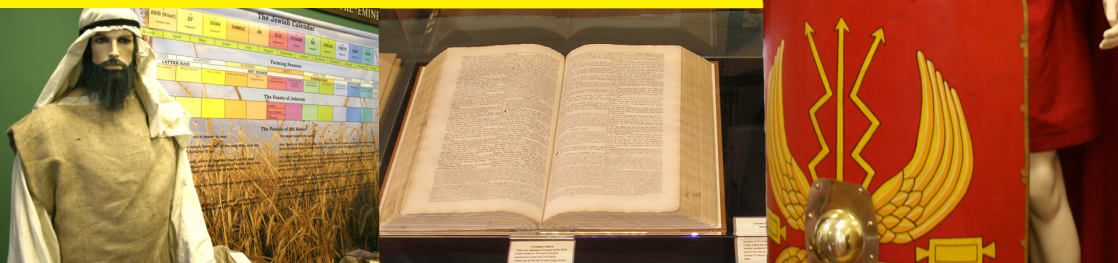
hands on | models | artifacts | displays

Mon 21st Sept - Sat 3rd Oct

Mondays - Saturdays

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Bible Talks

Starting Sun 20th Sept

Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun

8:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Each week of the exhibition

www.cliftongospelhall.com

We depart a little from our usual format to present this special Bible Exhibition edition of our quarterly magazine. For those of you who have come to the exhibition, we would like to thank you for coming.

In this magazine you can find out more about our regular meetings, what we believe and other articles which we pray will be a blessing to you. Our web site is being updated and once ready you will be able to listen to the messages preached by Peter Brandon after the special meetings are over.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday school prize giving

Sunday 1st November at 6:30 pm

Sunday School Christmas party

19th December at 2 pm

Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 6:30 pm

Tea and mince pies served afterwards

Christmas Morning Service

Christmas Day at 10:30 am

Watch Night Service

Thursday 31st December at 11 pm

Tea and refreshments served first, followed by a short service at 11:30pm

Meetings

The Week at Clifton

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread	11 a.m.
Sunday School	3 p.m.
Gospel Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Bible Reading (First Tuesday of the month only)	8 p.m.
---	--------

Wednesday Seekers Club (Term time only for under 11s)	6 p.m.
---	--------

Thursday Prayer and Ministry	7:45 p.m.
------------------------------	-----------

Friday C3 Club (Term time only for 11+)	7:30 p.m.
---	-----------

Sunday Evening Gospel Meeting

October

4	Peter Brandon - Gospel campaign (8 pm - 8:45 pm)
11	Glyn Davies
18	Ferranti Wong
25	Mark Beardall

November

1	Kevin Oh (Family Service)
8	Phil Briercliff
15	to be decided
22	to be decided
29	Archie Carew

December

6	John Aston (Family Service)
13	Peter Hamm
20	Nitish Patel (Carol Service)
27	Richard Catchpole

Tuesday Bible Reading

Studying the book of Proverbs

6th	October	Proverbs 12	Glyn Davies
3rd	November	Proverbs 12	
1st	December	Proverbs 13	

Thursday Prayer & Ministry

October

1	Peter Brandon - Gospel campaign (8 pm - 8:45 pm)
8	Colin Roberts
15	Mervin Hall
22	Colin Roberts
29	Colin Roberts

November

5	Nitish Patel
12	Nitish Patel
19	Graham Cole
26	Graham Cole

December

3	Mervin Hall
10	Archie Carew
17	Archie Carew
24	Richard Catchpole
31	Watchnight Service (11 pm)

Good News

A thousand welcomes

A story is told of a young man who became very profligate. He almost broke the hearts of his parents and his mother was actually about to die from the strain. Finally, one day he acted so shamefully that his father said to him, "We have done everything in our power for you. You have disgraced the family and are killing your mother. All that we do for you is in vain. I am sorry, but I must ask you to leave our home and never return." The young man left.



The months and years went by. Finally the boy became so miserable and homesick it seemed he could not stand it. So he wrote his mother this letter: "Dear Mother: I am ashamed of my fearful conduct in the home. I can hardly stand to think I must never see you again. However, I do not know whether or not Father and you can forgive me. But I will be on train No. 2 that passes our home at 10:00 a.m. [Then he gave the day.] Now if you can forgive me and will take me back, I want you to hang a sheet out on the clothesline. I shall look as the train passes and, if I see the sheet, I will know that you will forgive me, and I will get off at the next station, just below the house, and come home."

Well, what do you think she did? Not only did she hang out one sheet, but every sheet, towel, pillowcase and everything else white that she had. The clothesline, fence, and rosebushes were covered with sheets, towels, etc.

Of course he came home, and, oh, such a welcome! It was forgiveness in abundance (from Pointed illustrations by Moses Tidwell).

Such is the welcome and forgiveness God gives for all who turn from their sin and trust in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. The Bible says, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

He can have my room!

A story is told of little boy who was to play the part of the Innkeeper in the annual children's Christmas play at his church. Each time during the rehearsal it came time for him to tell Joseph and Mary that there was no room, he couldn't say his lines. The director finally asked him why he was having so much trouble. He told him, "I just can't send Jesus away! He can have my room!"



There is room in the inn if we will make the room for Him. The inn was too full for Christ to come in. Throughout Scripture we see that there is no room for God. Is there room in your home, your life and your heart for Him? Is there room for the One who came to die at Calvary's cross for your sin to save you?

Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Questions

Answered by Richard Catchpole

Occasionally some individuals are described in the media as being 'Born again Christians' can you explain what this term means?

The term 'Born again' is found in the Bible, and that on the lips of the Lord Jesus Himself, in John chapter 3 and verse 3 speaking to a man named Nicodemus He said 'Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God'. In verse 7 He added 'Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again'. Embraced in the term there are the two ideas first, of being 'born anew' and secondly of being 'born from above'. In the natural and physical realm birth is connected with the introduction of a new life, and the means by which we become members of a family. In its simplest expression the term 'born again' similarly concerns the imparting of new life, spiritual life, and the means by which a person becomes a member of the family of God. Although those in the media speak of 'born again Christians' the words of the Lord Jesus indicate that term is really superfluous for a person cannot be a true Christian without the experience of new birth. Now in seeking to answer the question we shall consider three things -

1) The necessity for the new birth - The Lord Jesus said 'Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God'. The man to whom that was spoken, Nicodemus, was a ruler of the Jews, one who had come to Jesus by night acknowledging Him to be 'a teacher sent from God', but in His reply we find the Lord Jesus did not acknowledge him to be a member of God's kingdom.

Nicodemus was 'a ... Pharisee', a member of a very strict Jewish religious sect, yet that had not fitted him for God's kingdom. He was 'a ruler of the Jews', one who belonged to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council ministering the affairs of the nation. Later in the chapter He is described as being 'a master of Israel', an educated man, occupying an official position as a renowned teacher. With all of those credentials if any man was entitled to be a member of the Kingdom of God on personal merit, then surely he was the man, yet to him

the Lord said 'Ye must be born again', neither his religion, his position in the nation, nor his education could make him fit for the kingdom of God. He came acknowledging Christ to be a divinely sent teacher, so the Lord began to teach him, and the first lesson he needed to learn was the necessity of being 'born again' if he would have a place in God's kingdom. Lest we should think the words of the Lord Jesus were applicable only to Nicodemus, while in verse 7 the word of the Lord was specific to him 'Ye must be born again', in verse 3 the language is more general 'Except a man be born again', the need for Nicodemus is equally our need also, without 'new birth' we remain outside of God's family and outside of God's kingdom.

We must surely ask why is 'new birth' necessary? While a number of reasons might be suggested, we shall consider just two -

- (a) It is necessary because of the *character of God* - As we read through the Bible it is impossible to ignore the fact that God is Holy. Some five times in the book of Leviticus the Lord describes Himself as being 'Holy', in Psalm 22.3 we read 'Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel'. In Isa.6.3 angelic beings cry 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts'. Since God is holy, if a man is to enjoy a relationship with God, he must have a life and a nature that corresponds to God's and only through new birth can that be imparted to him
- (b) It is necessary because of the *condition of man* - In consequence of the fall of the first man, Adam, in the garden of Eden, all his natural descendants are born with a sinful nature, alienated from the life of God, and a propensity towards that which is evil. The Bible says 'By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned', Romans 5.12. Another verse, Job 11.12, expresses it like this 'born as a wild ass's colt'; while Ephesians 2.2-3 says 'children of disobedience', 'by nature the children of wrath'. To those we can add many other references in the Bible to the evil heart of man, e.g. Jeremiah 17.9 'the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked'; Matthew 15.19-20 'out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, **fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things that defile a man**', all verses that draw our attention to the sinful nature of men, and the source of all men's problems. Nothing short of new birth can meet man's need and equip him for the presence of God.

2) The means of the new birth - Nicodemus asked 'How can a man be born when he is old?'; 'How can these things be?' John 3.4, 9.

We have already said that 'born again' has the idea of 'born anew' or 'born from above'. The former idea, 'born anew', indicates that it is an actual birth, and distinct from natural, physical birth. The latter idea 'born from above' marks it out as a work of God, something that has been mentioned earlier in the Gospel when the apostle says 'As many as received him (i.e. the Lord Jesus), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God', John 1.12-13. New birth is not something imparted by natural birth or genealogy, 'not of blood', it is not something accomplished by human resolve, effort or determination, 'not of the will of man', but is entirely an act of God, accomplished by His own supernatural power, God imparting new life, spiritual life, eternal life. But when and how is this realised in a person's experience? God is the source of this new life 'born of God' John. 1.13; the Holy Spirit is the One who implants that new life 'born of the Spirit'; 'It is the Spirit that quickeneth' John 3.6; 6.63; a work that the Holy Spirit brings about by means of the word of God, the Bible, 'Being born again ... by the word of God', 1 Peter 1.23, and a new life that a person receives when they respond to the teaching of the God's word and by faith in the Lord Jesus receive Him as their Saviour and Lord John 1.12; 'Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God', 1 John. 5.1. A life that men receive by faith in Christ

(c) The results of the new birth- Born again the believer has new life and a new nature. That life is 'everlasting life', every sin is forgiven, no longer is there any fear of future punishment John 3.16 instead there is peace with God, Romans 5.1. Through new birth the believer has a new nature, he becomes a partaker of 'the divine nature' 2 Peter 1.3 on account of which he is able to walk with God, have fellowship and communion with God, a mind that can appreciate the thoughts and purposes of God, and a heart that loves God. Just as physical birth invariably imparts to us family likenesses and characteristics, so on account of new birth those who are 'born of God', are equipped and enabled to reflect a moral likeness to the One to whom they now belong. As you read these pages are you 'born again' is there evidence of it in your life? Remember it was the Lord Jesus Himself who said, 'EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD'.

Science and the Bible

Noah's Ark - Fact or Fiction

By Dr. Farid Abou-Rahme



- Is Noah's Ark a story for children?
- Could a universal flood have happened and covered all the earth?
- Can an Ark carry 2 of every kind of animal?

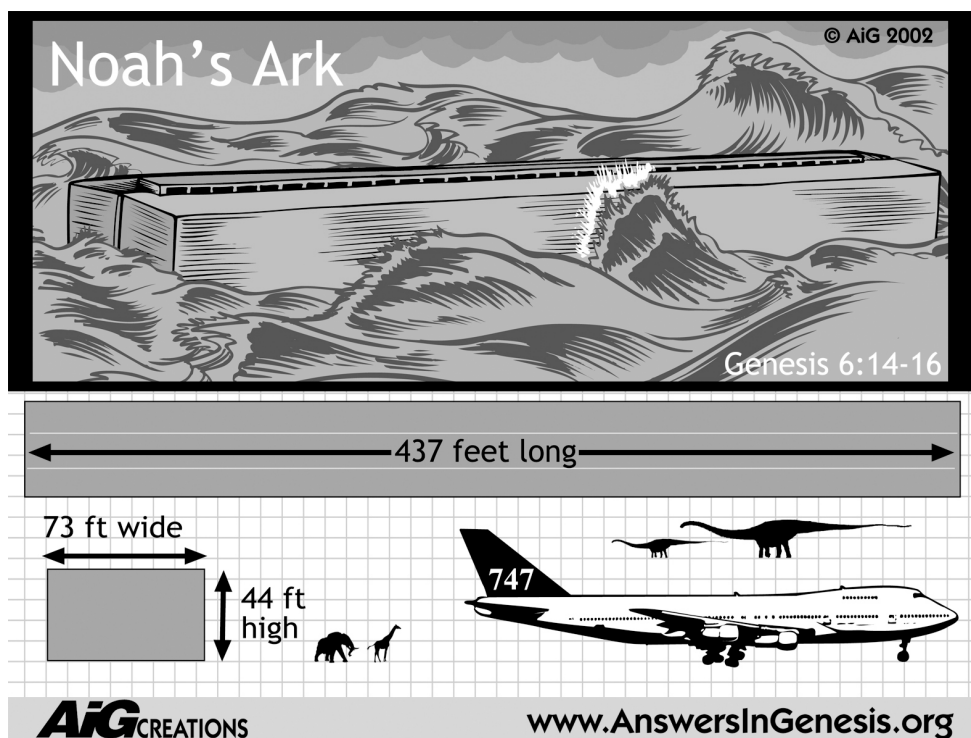
Have you asked questions like these and found out the easy answer was to dismiss the whole issue as myth because it doesn't really matter?

A recent study in hydraulic engineering, simulated rough sea conditions by using a computer to create waves of varying strength in a massive tank. Ten models of famous ships were made including a model of Noah's Ark, built based on the dimensions recorded over 3000 years ago in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. These were: 300 cubits x 50 cubits x 30 cubits. A cubit was an old measurement unit equivalent to about 18 inches.

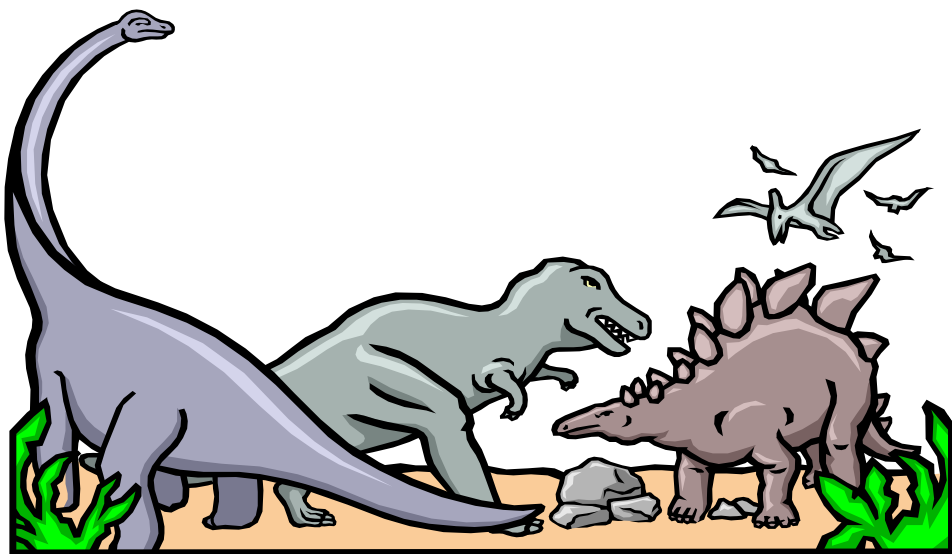
As the computer simulation of waves increased, the models of famous ships tumbled one after another. When the waves reached the maximum strength, all ships had tumbled except one: Noah's Ark!

Who designed an unsinkable ship, thousands of years ago, superior to all modern designs? The answer to this question confirms that the Bible should be taken literally for it is the perfect word of God: God designed the Ark – the best design ever.

The Ark was 1.5 times bigger than a full size football pitch, and as high as a three-storey building! God specifically told Noah to build it in 3 levels. Mathematical calculations show that there was room for 125,000 sheep size animals! Since there are only 18,000 species of land animals, including insects and birds, all the animals would fit on one of the three floors in the Ark leaving the second floor for food and storage and the third floor for Noah and his family with lots of free space (to play football and other family favourite games)! The Ark was REAL!



There is evidence for the flood in the form of graveyards of fossils all over the world. These contain the remains of all sorts of animals buried together showing sudden death and quick burial. Further evidence for the flood can be found near the summits of many mountains where there are many fossils of marine life.



"What about DINOSAURS?" people ask. We are told they died out 70 million years before man arrived! Well, this is guesswork; there is no scientific evidence for that! In fact, there is evidence that man and dinosaur lived together exactly as the Bible teaches. The Paluxy River basin in Texas has footprints of man and dinosaur walking together and there are drawings of dinosaurs in old caves dating before the dinosaur excavations started, showing that people must have seen these huge creatures to be able to draw them!

A popular question often asked is: "If dinosaurs lived with man why are they not mentioned in the Bible?" The answer is: they are. The actual name for Dinosaur is 'Behemoth', the animal described by God in the book of

Job, Chapter 40. Reading the description of this animal, one concludes that the real name for Dinosaur is 'Behemoth'.

The more I study science the more I discover how accurate and perfect the Bible is in every subject it touches upon. Seeing this, we are faced with a responsibility to read and respond to God's message in the Bible.

When God decided to send the flood, He provided a means of escape (the Ark) for those who had faith to believe His word. In the event, only Noah and his family, out of all the human race, entered the ark and escaped the judgement of God due to sin.

In the same Bible we read those words spoken by our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, describing how people did not listen to the flood warning: "until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:38-39).

We have seen the accuracy of the Bible. God will judge this earth as He promised and only those who enter the ark will be safe. But this time the "ARK" is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He left His glories in heaven and came to this earth of ours to show us the love that He and His Father have for us. Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross for you and me to save us from our sins and give us back a relationship with God: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish" as they perished during the flood, "but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

In the days of Noah, at a time only known to Himself, God shut the door. The opportunity for those who were outside was gone forever. Don't miss the opportunity this time. Don't let false science be your passport to a fearful eternity. Make sure you are safe inside by asking the Lord Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your heart and make you a new creation.

Church History

By Mark Beardall

The story of Billy Sunday From Baseball Player to Bible Preacher

Billy Sunday was a household name in America, not only for baseball but also for his preaching.

William Ashley Sunday was born on the 19th November 1862 in Ames, Iowa in the United States of America. His father fought for the Union during the American Civil War. He died of pneumonia a few weeks after Billy was born. His poor mother could not afford to feed the family, so Billy and his brother Eddie were sent to the Soldiers Orphans Home in Glenwood, Iowa. Billy soon discovered that he was stronger than a lot of boys his age and that he could handle himself in a scrap.



In 1880 Billy moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he joined the fire Brigade. He also played for the Marshalltown Baseball team. He played regularly in the 1881 and 1882 season and helped the team to become one of the best in the state. In 1882 Marshalltown beat every team that they played in Eastern Iowa and thrashed the State team, Des Moines 13-4.

Billy Sunday was not a great hitter but a good fielder and a good base runner. He was daring and exciting to watch. He had tremendous athletic

ability. He could run 100 yards in ten seconds flat and was the first man in history to circle the bases in fourteen seconds. He was so fast that he would run two bases in the time that it would take others to run one base. His amazing slides and stolen bases were legendary among baseball fans.

In 1883 Billy was invited by Adrian Anson to try for the Chicago White Stockings, otherwise known as the White Sox. Billy gave up his job and bought a new suit and arrived in Chicago with one Dollar in his pocket. Billy played for the White Sox until 1887 when he was sold to the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Pittsburgh fans loved Billy Sunday, one newspaper said, "the whole town is wild over Sunday." In 1890 he was sold to the Philadelphia Phillies for two players and one thousand dollars in cash.



Sunday came to know the Lord in 1887 during his time with Chicago. Billy and his baseball buddies went out to the saloon to drink. When they left the saloon they sat down on a corner and saw a group of Christians singing and playing instruments. They invited him to the Pacific Garden Mission to hear testimonies of how the Lord had changed the lives of drunkards, safe blowers, burglars and harlots. Billy was hesitant at first but after a few visits his eyes were opened, he trusted the Lord and his life was changed. Everybody could see that he was different. He stopped drinking and swearing and many other habits and he had a real love for the Lord Jesus Christ. He had a great love for souls and soon started speaking for the YMCA and also in churches.

In 1888 he married Helen Thompson, the daughter of a Chicago businessman. She was a great helpmeet to him and helped to organise his evangelistic campaigns. She was known to many as Ma Sunday.

In 1891 Sunday turned down a \$3000 per year contract with Philadelphia to accept a job with the YMCA for \$83 per month.

Billy was Assistant Secretary, his work involved visiting the sick, praying with people counseling and inviting people to evangelistic meetings.

In 1893 Billy Sunday became assistant evangelist to J Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman was one of the most famous evangelist of the time. He held large tent crusades. Billy's job was to put up the tent, organise prayer meetings and choirs and prepare the believers to serve in the campaigns.

In 1893 Chapman stopped his evangelistic travels and went back to pastoring a church. So Billy Sunday had to start on his own.



He often used his fame as a baseball player to advertise his meetings. The meetings became so big that church buildings could not accommodate them. So Billy preached in large tents. However in 1906, his tent was destroyed in a snowstorm therefore he decided to have large wooden tabernacles built in the towns that he was visiting.

Billy Sunday was quite a spectacular preacher. He was extremely animated in the pulpit. He would run from one end of the platform to the other. He

would slide as if he was playing baseball. He spoke in the plainest language possible and was not afraid to speak about hell.

It has been estimated that Billy Sunday preached to one hundred million people and that 1,250,000 people went forward to accept Christ in his campaigns.

No biography of Billy Sunday would be complete without mention of Homer Rodeheaver who was song leader and music director at his meetings. Rodeheaver would sing and direct the meeting until Sunday was ready to preach and then start singing again during the invitation. He also played the trombone and wrote many hymns.

Billy Sunday stood for the fundamentals of the faith. He preached the virgin birth, the death, the resurrection, the ascension and the imminent return of Christ. He preached against liberalism, alcohol abuse and gambling.

Sunday was famous for preaching against alcohol and he campaigned for prohibition in America and helped it to come to pass. One of his most famous sermons was called battling booze.

Billy Sunday suffered a minor heart attack in 1935. He was advised by doctors to stop preaching but he continued until October 1935. Billy Sunday died on 6th November 1935.



The Bible proved by Archaeology

By Nitish Patel

To many the Bible is a book of myths and few take time to examine the facts. Critics thought the Bible was full of made up characters and stories until the spade of archaeology proved them wrong. Below are a few examples of discoveries which proved the Bible to a book of facts not fables.



Pontius Pilate was not mentioned in any Roman records until this stone was found with his name in 1961 at a Roman theatre at Caesarea Maritima in Israel. He was the famous Roman governor who tried the Lord Jesus and sentenced Him to die despite saying three times "I find no fault in this man". He also asked the question which everyone has to answer, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ" (Matthew 27:22)

One of the most important things that marks out the Bible from other religious books is its prophecy of future events. No other religious book has detailed prophecy in it which has been fulfilled. Only God knows the future therefore the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible prove that it is His Word.

One such book is the book of Daniel which was much attacked by critics who claimed it was written after it all happened. They also said that King Belshazzar of Babylon mentioned in the book never existed until four identical cylinders were found at the Ziggurat in Ur, with this inscription, "Belshazzar the son first (born) the offspring of my heart (body)"





The Taylor Prism, discovered in 1830 in Nineveh, is a six sided prism on display in the British Museum. It is one of the three accounts left by the Assyrian monarch Sennacherib's himself of his campaign against Israel and Judah. Sennacherib described in detail how he came against the cities of Israel and then Judah, and "Hezekiah himself I shut up in Jerusalem his capital city like a bird in a cage." confirms the Biblical account in 2 Kings 18.

Another clay tablet in the British Museum which was found at the library at Nineveh confirms the Biblical record of the assignation of Sennacherib by his sons (2 Kings 19. 36-37)



The Hittites were mentioned only in the Bible and were long ago dismissed as a myth by critics until proof of their great empire was dug up in Turkey.

Pictured is the The Lion Gate of Hattusa, the capital of the Hittites in modern Bogazkoy, Turkey.

William F. Albright (1891 – 1971) regarded as one of the world's foremost archaeologists started off with liberal views on the Bible yet after many years of excavating in the Bible lands, said, "The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible (by certain schools of thought) has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of numerous details." He also said, "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament traditions."