

Some Parts Of The Bible Are True



Ron J. Lint, CAI (Certified Apologetics Instructor)

Can portions of the Bible be true while others are not true?
This paper deals with this perplexing question in our Post-Modern society.

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By Ron J. Lint, CAI

Some say, “Yes, I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but some parts are simply out of date and other parts are simply wrong and unacceptable to a modern-day Christian. For example, it is clearly out of date to say that sex should be between a husband and wife only. And it is certainly out of date to state that the husband is the head of the wife. As to the unacceptable passages, certainly Joshua’s killing of all the Canaanites at the order of God would qualify. I simply don’t believe that God would do that. Therefore, I accept some parts of the Bible as true, but not other parts. One has to be discerning. After all, it was written by about 40 men and men can make mistakes. And what about all the translations? Errors had to appear as a result.”

Some miracles are just too big for God, or so some say. For example, consider these major miracles:

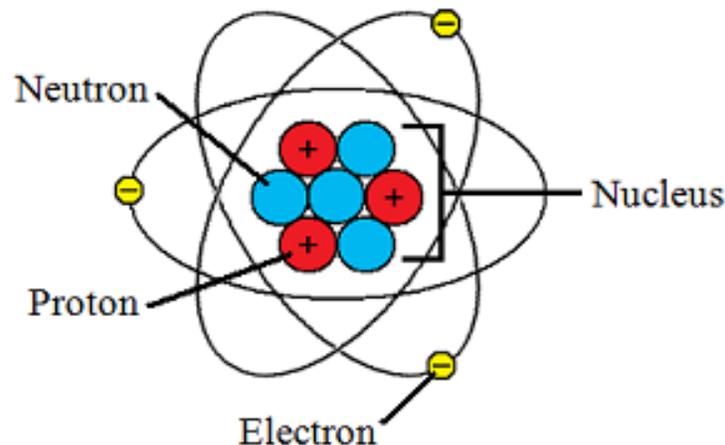
1. The 6-day creation
2. The first two human beings: Adam & Eve
3. The global flood
4. Jonah living inside a big fish for 3 days
5. The Ten Plagues
6. The parting of the Red Sea
7. Feeding the nation of Israel for 40 yrs. in the Sinai Desert
8. The parting of the Jordan River
9. The Virgin Birth of Christ
10. The resurrection of Christ

Let us examine just three of the above major miracles. First, consider the **6-DAY CREATION** of all that that exists. This miracle is considered wrong because clearly man has proven by various dating methods that the earth is billions of years old. The unmistakable implication is that the intelligence of man exceeds that of God. If God’s Word, though the Holy Scriptures, differ from the scientific proof of man, then obviously man is right and God is wrong. The Hebrew word for day is “yom,” and, as in English, the word can mean a 24 hr. day, an era, or a period of unspecified length. The proper translation of the word, therefore, must be determined by the context in which it is used. The Bible clearly translates the word “yom” in Genesis 1 by following every event with the phrase: “And there was evening and there was morning the first day” (or second day and so on). This very clear meaning of the word “yom” continues throughout the Creation Story. The meaning and translation is precisely clear.

But even with the explanation of the word “yom,” modern man believes that the Bible is simply wrong in this particular passage because the science of Radiometric Dating has proven that the earth is billions of years old, and, in addition, all was created

by the absurd and illogical theory of evolution. Therefore, mankind's science takes precedence over the Word of God – man considers his intelligence superior to that of God. If there's a conflict between God's utterances and the science of man, science will win every time. People will first look to science for answers. After all, science is irrefutable evidence and cannot be ignored. But is science irrefutable? Let's examine the science behind Radiometric Dating and make our own determination.

Radiometric and Carbon 14 Dating



Can Dating Methods be trusted to accurately determine the age of rocks or once living things? To begin this inquiry, let's explore the make-up of the basic building block of all substances, the atom.

1. Atoms consist of a Nucleus, which is made up of **Neutrons** and **Protons**.
2. The **Neutrons** of an atom contain no electric charge.
3. The **Protons** of an atom contain a single positive electric charge.
4. **Electrons**, which constantly whirl around the nucleus, contain a single positive electric charge.
5. **ALL THINGS PHYSICAL ARE MADE UP OF ATOMS.**
6. Each atom in a particular chemical element, has a certain number of Protons and Electrons. However, the number of Neutrons may vary somewhat.
 - a. **Isotopes:** When the atoms of a certain chemical element contain differing numbers of Neutrons, they are called Isotopes. Isotopes are closely related atoms although unstable in that they throw-off parts of their nucleus, which is called Radioactive Decay, which can be detected by a Geiger Counter. The Parent Atom (the original atom) undergoes transmutation into a Daughter Atom of another element. The Parent Isotope is called a Radioisotope.
7. **Carbon Atoms** (which are measured to determine the age of once living things such as a bone, skin remains, a tree stump or a fossil, for example) contain 6 Protons and 6 Electrons, but the number of Neutrons can vary between 6, 7 or 8: thus Carbon- 12 (C-12); Carbon-13 (C-13); Carbon 14 (C-14). Note that the

Carbon-14 Dating Method is not used on rocks, in that most rocks do not contain Carbon.

8. **Rocks** are dated using radioactive elements such as Uranium, Potassium, Rubidium and Samarium.
9. **DATING:** If one knows the rate of radioactive decay of a parent radioisotope in a rock, for example, and how many daughter isotopes are in the rock today, then the age of the rock is the time it has taken for the daughter isotopes to accumulate in the rock by radioactive decay of the parent radioisotope. Scientist assume they have total knowledge of the decay rate from Parent Isotopes to Daughter Isotopes. And this decay rate is based upon **THREE ASSUMPTIONS**.
 - a. **But what if the assumptions are incorrect?** In fact, no geologist was present when the rock to be dated was formed; therefore, the geologist does NOT in fact know the initial content of the elements within the rock. Nor has any geologist actually measured how fast the radioactive clocks have been running in that rock through the millions of supposed years since the rock was formed.
 - b. Thus, science uses **THREE UNPROVABLE ASSUMPTIONS IN DATING ROCKS OR ONCE LIVING THINGS:**
 - i. The **CONDITIONS AT TIME ZERO** when the rock (for example) was formed are assumed to be the **SAME CONDITIONS EXISTING TODAY**.
 - ii. The **RADIOACTIVE DECAY RATE** must be **CLOSED TO ANY DISTURBANCES** or outside interferences (i.e. weathering or ground water). That is to say, it is assumed that all the atoms of the daughter isotopes must have been derived by radioactive decay of atoms of the parent radioisotopes and no other cause, and all without any outside weather or water interference.
 - iii. The **RADIOACTIVE DECAY RATES** of the parent radioisotopes must have remained **CONSTANT THROUGHOUT ALL THE SUPPOSED MILLIONS OF YEARS** since the rock formed, and that rate is the same slow rate as measured today. This is called **UNIFORMITARIANISM**, or “all has forever been the same.”

None of the required assumptions for dating of rocks or fossils can be proven or even shown to be reasonably reliable. No one was there when these objects were formed. No one can say there were no disturbances in the atmosphere or earth. For example, what about the Global Flood of the Bible, or the Ice Age? Those would have disrupted all of the above assumptions. We, in fact, have no possible way to know the conditions that existed millions or billions of years ago. To assume that today's conditions are exactly the same as eons ago is ludicrous and unknowable. To base scientific conclusions on the assumption of Uniformitarianism is anything but scientific.

More specifically, dating has been repeatedly found to be wrong. **1)** In the Mt. Saint Helens' eruption in 1986 a lava flow resulted from the eruption, and in 1996 was dated using the above dating methods with their essential assumptions. The lava flow

was scientifically dated to be **350,000 years old**, although, in fact it, was only **10 years old**. **2)** Similarly, the lava flow caused by the eruption of Mt. Ngauruhoe in New Zealand, known to be less than **50 yrs. old**, was dated to be **3.5 million years old**. These are just two of countless examples of known aging mistakes, but nevertheless science holds to their results as being beyond question. ***THE FACT IS THAT THE DATING METHODS CANNOT BE SUBSTANTIATED, AND THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT UNDERGIRD THE DATING METHODS ARE UNPROVABLE AND ILLOGICAL AS A SOLID PLATFORM FOR SCIENCE.***

So clearly the dating methods cannot be relied upon. But regardless of the various dating methods, God's word clearly states that all was created in 6 days. If God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent and inimitable, then He could have created the universe in 6 Plank Time Units (the smallest measurement of time, or 10^{-43} seconds) rather than take an entire 6 days. We should not place science above the Word of God. After all, it wasn't that long ago that science proclaimed the earth to be flat.

2) Secondly, let's look at the **Parting of the Red Sea**. This story in the Bible certainly comes with a great deal of skepticism. After all, who could actually part a sea and produce dry land at the sea bottom to accommodate the passage of over 2.5 million people and their animals, not to speak of the hundreds or thousands of Pharaoh's soldiers and charioteers chasing the Israelis? Well, the answer is God – the omniscient Uncreated-Creator; the possessor of all power and authority. But even this admission fails to bring to mind the enormity of this task. Let's take a look at the enormity of this miracle.

In about **1446 BC**, the nation of Israel – over 2.4 mm men, women, children, plus possessions and animals - just released from 430 years of slavery, and with Pharaoh's army in pursuit, stepped into the Red Sea, with towering walls of water on the left and the right reaching about 7,254' tall (the depth of the Red Sea at the likely site of the crossing), 1.37 miles high, or 5.8 Empire State Buildings looming over the fearful, escaping slaves, who were surely in a vortex of fear and activity – running on God-provided dry ground – first downhill and then uphill on a 60% slope, as they approached the far bank – a 12 mile journey - looking behind, looking above at the gigantic walls of wavering water, with people screaming, children crying, children being carried, excited, out-of-breath, people tripping and falling, animals in uncontrolled terror, and deafening noise. Can you imagine what they went through?

But it took first stepping into danger with no guarantee of the outcome. **THAT'S FAITH**. The practice of faith in our Lord Jesus does not guarantee dry ground; rather, it guarantees God's will in your circumstances.

3) Third, let's look at the almost totally unnoticed miracle of God providing food and water for ca. 2.4 million people plus animals in the Sinai Desert for 40 years. Have

you ever considered the enormous provision required to feed and provide for the nation of Israel as they left Egypt and embarked on their desert exploit? Very few thoughtfully consider the unfathomable miracles God performed to provide for the Nation of Israel in the Sinai over a period of forty years. The **Miracle of Provision** is overlooked like so many of the other miracles performed by our Lord in the Book of Exodus. According to learned experts, approximately **2,400,000** Israelites left Egypt in the Exodus (see Got Questions), including a group of non-Israelis who accompanied them. Scripture mentions 600,000 men plus women and children (Exodus 12:37). Here are some interesting estimates I have developed (non-scientific and just estimates):

- If each person had 1 gallon of water daily for drinking and 1 gallon for washing (clothes, children, themselves), **4,800,000 gallons of water** would be required daily, or **40,032,000 lbs.** of water (at 8.34 lbs. per gallon).
- Now assume the Israelis had 1,000,000 animals with them. The Scriptures state that the Israelis were allowed to take all of their animals with them in the Exodus. Given that there were all sizes of animals from cattle to perhaps camels and sheep and goats, let's assume that each animal required 3 gallons of water per day in the desert heat, which is often over 100 degrees. That would be an additional **3,000,000 gallons of water** daily, or **25,020,000 lbs.** of water.
- Given the above assumptions, a total of **7,800,000 gallons of water** daily would be required. Now assume that a tanker truck can carry 80,000 lbs. of liquid; therefore, a total of **65,052,000 lbs.** of water would be required daily, which in turn would (as an example) require **814 tanker trucks** to provide that much water daily.
- Now, consider that the Israelis were in the Sinai Desert for 40 yrs. (or 14,600 days), and assuming that their population did not increase, they would need a total of **113,880,000,000** gallons of God-provided water during their desert journey.
- But how about food? In researching various websites, I found that the average person eats between 3 lbs. and 5lbs. of food daily. Given the difficult circumstances in the Sinai, I will estimate that each person ate only 3 pounds of food daily, **7,200,000 lbs. of food** would be required each day (allowing for smaller intake of children). However, the animals would require more food. For example, a cow is estimated to consume 24 lbs. of food daily; a goat is estimated to consume 5 lbs. of food daily. Not knowing how many of each type of animal accompanied the Israelis, I will estimate that each animal required 12 lbs. of food daily, or a total of **12,000,000 lbs. of food** for the animals each and every day. Therefore, humans and animals required ca. **19,200,000 lbs.** of food daily, or a total of **280,320,000,000 lbs.** of God-provided food for the entire 40-year trek in the desert.

- Imagine, too, the lavatory facilities needed daily for 2,400,000 million people and 1,000,000 animals. There was no privacy in the desert.
- Also, accompanying this horde of people would be tents, gold and silver, clothing, perhaps some furniture, dishes, and a plethora of other possessions.
- What about the camp each night? Assuming that each person and animal would need, say 50 square feet of space to accommodate the tents and all possessions, a total of 170,000,000 square feet of camp space would be needed. There are 27,878,400 sq., feet in a sq. mile; therefore, the camp would require about **6.1 sq. miles**.

To summarize God’s Provision for the nation of Israel and its animals:

Water	Gallons	Food	Area Req. for Camp Sites
<i>Daily</i>	<i>7,800,000</i>	<i>19,200,000 lbs.</i>	<i>6.1 sq. miles (or 6.1 Sections, or 3,904 acres)</i>
<i>40 yrs. desert</i>	<i>113,880,000,000</i>	<i>280,320,000,000 lbs.</i>	
<i>Clothes</i>	<i>Never Wore Out</i>	<i>Health Needs</i>	<i>Provided by God</i>

By the way, have you considered how many quail it would take to feed the people and animals (we don’t know for sure if the animals ate quail; nothing is said about what they ate. But, assuming that the animals ate 10 quail per day and the people at three quail per day, it would take **17,200,000** quail per day to provide food for all. Therefore, it would take **251,120,000,000** (that’s billion) quail to provide food for all during the 40-year period. God’s provision was absolutely amazing; He is inimitable; His power is inconceivable; His love – well, it was sufficient to be tortured to death on the cross so that we (you and me) could have salvation.

It’s clear that it would be impossible for anyone to prepare for such needs. And in fact, the Israelis did not prepare. They had to leave Egypt quickly when Pharaoh said to ‘get out.’ Everyone knew that Pharaoh could quickly change his mind, so the Exodus was swift.

Doubts about God’s miracles as stated in His Inspired Word are rampant in our Post-Modern, Western Society. But let’s examine the reasoning behind the doubts of man.

First, either the Bible is the Word of God or it isn’t. If the Bible is the Word of God, then we must accept its truth and inerrancy, for God does not lie or make mistakes; nor does He mislead His people.

If the Bible isn't the Word of God, then why assume any of it to be true or authoritative. If the Bible isn't the true and inerrant Word of God, then it is worthless and a fraud as to proclaiming God's Word, and it is worthless as a guide to God's heart, desires, requirements, or our salvation. If the Bible is not the true and inerrant Word, then it is a lie; a false proclamation; a deliberate attempt to deceive; a detestable betrayal of perhaps billions of people throughout the millennia. Even if the Bible contains one error, all of the above statements are inescapable, for who knows for sure precisely which Biblical proclamation is false.

Furthermore, if the Bible is not altogether true, then who gets to decide which parts are true and which are not – Who? Do you get to make the decisions as to which parts are true and which are false? Who empowered you to make such weighty decisions? What are your credentials? From where did your perfect discernment, wisdom, and knowledge come? And what if I disagree with you? Am I then automatically wrong and you are correct? What if I think a particular scripture is correct, but you believe it to be wrong? Who then prevails, and by whose standard? But, wait a minute! What happens if a third person arrives with yet another opinion that differs from both your opinion and mine? What then do we do? What if all seven billion people on earth have differing opinions? Who then is correct? Where then is the foundation of your belief?

Here is yet another question: If God truly exists, would He endeavor to instruct us as to His truth and intentions for us, or would He ignore or deceive us and leave us to figure out which parts are true and which are not? What would a loving and omniscient God do? And, if He were to leave His precious Word for His people to read and use as a guide for their lives, would He make or allow mistakes – regardless of all the translations? Are translations beyond the control of God? Would He contradict Himself? Would He be confused, disordered or muddled in His presentation? Would He mislead us on purpose? Or, perhaps He is not powerful enough to inspire the 40+ writers of the Bible to accurately relate His message.

We all have decisions to make:

1. Does God really exist?
2. If God does exist, is He omnipotent, omniscient, and supreme, or is He flawed or disinterested?
3. Did He or did He not leave His written Word to guide and instruct His people?
4. If He did leave a written Word, would it be perfect or left wanting? If wanting, for what purpose? Would He purposely leave a written Word that is lacking in its presentation, incorrect in many of its passages, and altogether misleading in a portion of its pronouncements?
5. If God exists, is He powerful enough to inspire the writers of the Bible to accurately relate His message?

6. Have you actually read and studied the Bible – all of it?
7. Have you read books about the Bible in order to gain a deeper understanding?
8. Have you considered that if God exists, that you do not think on His level. There could be portions of the Bible that you will not understand for a time – or ever. But your lack of understanding does not equate to mistakes on God's part.
9. Are you aware of the different genres appearing in the Bible? Do you know that some portions are poetry, some are allegory (stories told to make a larger point), some are historic, some apocalyptic, some wisdom, some prophecy, some are statements of fact, and some are direct instructions from our Heavenly Father? One must read each of these genres with an understanding of the point the writer is making.
10. Have you prayed and asked God how to approach His Word? Do you know that God's Word is non-sense to the world, but perfection and comfort to those with a teachable heart?

Without the Bible, how do we know what God wants us to understand and take into our hearts? How can we live in accord with His wishes and requirements? How can we know Him? How can we know how to be saved to eternity with Him – maybe those passages are wrong? How can we understand a principled life, or character, or right from wrong - objectively? How can we pray to Him? How can we live our lives in submission to Him if we don't know Him or His Word; if we don't believe His Word to be altogether true; if we don't understand what He requires of us? How?

Concerning submission to the one and only Creator-God of all that exists, yes, we are required to submit our thoughts, our words, our life's work, our families, our hearts and will to Him and Him alone. If one does not submit to God, then either we are rejecting Him for our own pitiful world view, or we don't really believe in Him. Where do you stand?

Consider this carefully: If it is your belief that the Bible isn't the true and inerrant Word of God, and that various passages are wrong, incorrect, or misstated, then I wonder:

- Do you pray to Him?
- Can you approach Him?
- Do you really believe in Him?
- Is He your provider?
- Do you tithe (This is an enormous test of one's faith. Do you tithe regularly? Do you tithe from the gross or the net?)
- Do you look to Him for guidance?
- Do you consult Him when confused or hurt?

- Do you really believe He will protect you?
- Do you take your troubles to Him?
- Do you believe that He loves you?
- Are you willing to submit your actions, thoughts, beliefs and entire life to Him?
- How do you know if Jesus really existed and exists today?
- How do you know He rose from the dead?
- How do you know if He died on the cross so that your sins can be forgiven?
- How do you know what is sin and what is not?
- Does He comfort you?
- Are you secure in Him?
- Do you read the Bible regularly?
- Is He really your Lord and Savior?
- How do you know if you are saved to eternity with Him in heaven?

Have you studied your deepest motives as to why you disagree with Scripture?
 Could it be that you simply do not want to live according to God's Word?

- Could it be that you want to live according to your own wishes and moral values, without interference from God?
- Could it be that you will do what you want to do and nothing less?
- Could it be that you are in defiance of God?
- Could it be that you will not submit to the Lord-God?
- Could it be that your knowledge and judgment exceeds that of God's – in your opinion?
- Could it be...?

A Prayer for You: *Lord, my God. I ask that you speak to my heart and tell me if Your Word is true. Please forgive my strong will when it's outside of your will. Please help me to be the person You want me to be. Please bring direction to my life and peace to my spirit. Please help me, Lord-God, to think and reason clearly and to submit to You. Please don't leave me or ignore me. I want to be your man/woman. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!*

***The Beginning - you must trust Jesus, not man,
 to guide you to the Truth.***