

Class Notes 10/25/2015

Saturday, October 24, 2015 10:54 PM

A. Historical Accuracies

- a. Let's start with a quote. This is from a famous archaeologist.
- b. The Bible is a detailed historical document. Most of the time, the stories it presents are presented in a way that claim to be historically true. Each story therefore can be tested.
- c. Let's explore a few of the archeological finds that support the Biblical text.
- d. Let's look at the Pool of Siloam from John chapter 9, verses 1 -12

1As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.4As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.5While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam"(this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

8His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

10"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

11He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

12"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/jhn.9.niv>>

- i. This is one of the more recent finds. In 2004, workers fixing a water pipe uncovered some stairs while excavating. I'm trying something new today. I've got some video clips that will show more about these archeological finds.

- ii. Watch clip (2:20)

e. Next, let's look at the Hittites

- i. The Hittites are mentioned in various places in the Old Testament, but let's look at one example. Genesis 23:1-9

1Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old.2She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.

3Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites.He said, 4"I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead."

5The Hittites replied to Abraham, 6"Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty

prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead.”

7Then Abraham rose and bowed down before the people of the land, the Hittites. 8He said to them, “If you are willing to let me bury my dead, then listen to me and intercede with Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf 9so he will sell me the cave of Machpelah, which belongs to him and is at the end of his field. Ask him to sell it to me for the full price as a burial site among you.”

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/gen.23>>

- ii. Prior to the 1800's, many people didn't think the Hittites existed. Francis William Newman stated a popular opinion "
"no Hittite king could have compared in power to the King of Judah..."

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites>>

After the discoveries of Hittite cities, Archibald Henry Sayce said that the Hittites should not be compared to Judah but Egypt!

Watch clip: (2:15)

- f. Finally, lets look at the City of Jericho from the book of Joshua 6:1-25

1Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2Then the Lordsaid to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

6So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lordand have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

8When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lordwent forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. 9The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” 11So he had the ark of the Lordcarried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

12Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of

the Lord. ¹³The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. ¹⁴So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. ¹⁵On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! ¹⁷The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury."

²⁰When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. ²¹They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

²²Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." ²³So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. ²⁵But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/jos.6.niv>>

Jericho was first explored by Archeology in the early 1900's. Over the years they have found not only collapsed walls but also evidence of burning. They can't tell how the walls fell down but they do know that they fell.

Watch clip (about 2 min)

- g. More information on Amazon, about \$18
- h. To be balanced, there are many events in the Bible that don't have any evidence to support it. The Exodus from Egypt, despite what you may have seen on the internet, doesn't have any evidence. Many scholars think that they should be able to find something from a million people wondering the desert for 40 years. But absence of evidence is not evidence of

absence. It could be it just hasn't been found yet.

B. Fulfilled Prophecies

- a. Foretelling the future is a risky proposition. If a person got the future right 60% of the time, they would be rich. But for a book claiming to be from God, it requires 100% accuracy.
- b. I was surprised at the numbers I found for the number of prophecies in the Bible. I knew there were some, maybe a few hundred tops, but 1800?
- c. Let's first look to see how to determine if a prophecy is false? Deut: 18:21-22

21You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?" 22If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/deu.18.niv>>

- i. Easy, if a prophet says it will happen and it doesn't it wasn't from God. Remember though, God's time is not the same as ours.
- d. Let's look at a few prophecies about Jesus.
- e. Micah 5:2

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/mic.5.niv>>

f. Luke 2:1-20

1In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3And everyone went to their own town to register.

4So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the

angel, praising God and saying,
14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has told us about.”
16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was
lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word
concerning what had been told them about this child, 18and all who heard
it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured
up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and
seen, which were just as they had been told.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/luk.2>>

g. Psalm 22:12-18

12Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
13Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.
14I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.
15My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.
16Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
17All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
18They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/psa.22.niv>>

h. Luke 23:34

34Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are
doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/luk.23.niv>>

i.

ii.

i. Matthew 27:35-36

35When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

From <<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/mat.27.niv>>