

WHY I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE
(PART 2)

"THE STONES CRY OUT"

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:37 - 40

PRE-INTRODUCTION:

- (1) As children, many of us learned and sang the song in Vacation Bible School, **THE B-I-B-L-E**.
- (2) The last time I preached here at the Village Church, I preached on the subject, **"WHY I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE."**
- (3) What I didn't tell you was that that sermon was **Part 1**.
- (4) Tonight's sermon is **Part 2, "THE STONES CRY OUT."**
- (5) But before we delve into that subject, let's look at a recap of why I believe in the Bible.
 - (a) First of all, did you know that **not** everyone in The United States believes in the Bible?
 - (b) The most recent Gallup poll says that *"A record-low 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the **literal** word of God, down from 24% the last time the question was asked in 2017, and half of what it was at its high points in 1980 and 1984. Meanwhile, a new high of 29% say the Bible is a collection of 'fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man.'"*
*This marks the first time significantly more Americans have viewed the Bible as **not divinely inspired** than as the **literal** word of God. The largest percentage, 49%, choose the middle alternative (which is, inspired by God, but not all to be taken literally), which is roughly in line with where it has been in previous years.*
 - (c) Lee Southard, in his book, *"The Battle We Must Not Lose,"* says that one of the reasons our young people in America are leaving the Church is because of **unbelief**.
- (6) The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to mankind (**II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21**).
- (7) The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ (**I Timothy 3:16**).
- (8) The Bible contains **66** Books, written by **40** different authors covering approximately **1,600** years.
- (9) The Old Testament was written mostly in **Hebrew** and the New Testament was written in **Greek**. Our Bible is a translation from these languages.
- (10) The word *"Testament"* means *"Covenant"* or *"agreement."*
 - (a) The Old Testament is the Covenant of God made with man about His relationship before

Christ came to this earth.

- (b) The New Testament is the agreement God made with man about His relationship with the Father after Christ came to this earth.
 - (c) In the Old Testament, we have the Covenant of the Law.
 - (d) In the New Testament, we have the Covenant of Grace through Jesus Christ.
- (11) There are many reasons why I believe in the Bible, but one main reason is because of the **fulfillment of predictive prophecy**.
- (a) Some two thousand specific prophecies have already been fulfilled. (I gave several examples in the last sermon, such as the destruction of the cities of Samaria, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon, and Babylon.)
 - (b) There are over three hundred prophecies concerning our Lord Jesus Christ; all of which have been fulfilled except for His **Second Coming**.
- (12) That brings us to tonight's message, part 2; ***"The Stones Cry Out."***
- (13) The Scripture verses in in the book of **Luke**, chapter nineteen (19), verses **37-40**, says, *"And when He, (Jesus), was come nigh, even now at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, 'Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in Heaven, and glory in the highest.' And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, 'Master, rebuke thy disciples.' And He answered and said unto them, 'I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.'"*
- (14) Another reason why I believe in the Bible is because of **archeological discoveries** that pertain to the Bible.
- (15) **John Wineland** is one of my Timothies from a church in Indiana where I was the minister back in the Seventies. John has not one (1), but two (2), PHD'S in Antiquities.
- (16) He has been on many Holy Land trips and archeological digs. I wish you could see his hundreds of pictures from his tours. They are fascinating!

THE STONES CRY OUT

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:37-40

INTRODUCTION:

(1) ILLUSTRATION: BIBLE and ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTINGS

Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, former professor of Semitic philology at Princeton Theological Seminary, said, "After forty-five years of scholarly research in biblical textual studies and in language study, I have come now to the conviction that no man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament. Where there is sufficient documentary evidence to make an investigation, the statements of the Bible, in the original text, have stood the test."

And the noted Dr. J. O. Kinnaman said: "Of the hundreds of thousands of artifacts found by the archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible, but always confirms and verifies the facts of the Biblical record."

- (2) During the last part of the eighteenth century, what was known as the higher critical school began to develop in Germany and reached its zenith in the middle of the nineteenth century.
 - (3) Literary scholars of this era based all of their conclusions on literary presuppositions.
 - (4) They tore the Bible apart and then put it together again, completely differently.
 - (5) Jesus Christ had said that if His followers would hold their peace concerning His praise, the very stones would cry out.
 - (6) When leading Christian scholars began to hold their peace by thus attacking the Bible, God began to fulfill that prediction and the stones began to cry out.
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PHILOLOGY:

The study of language in oral & written historical sources.

- (7) Along with the growth of the higher critical school came the growth of archaeology, a science begun in the early nineteenth century.
- (8) Many people wondered whether archaeology would confirm the findings of higher criticism or confirm a belief in the historicity of the Bible.
- (9) Would fancy be substantiated by fact or would the fancies of the critics give way to the facts?

I. BIBLE FILLED WITH DETAILS.

A. CITIES, PLACES, KINGS, INDIVIDUALS, BEGATS.

- 1. Perhaps you have wondered why the Bible is filled with so many details that seem to be outgrowths to the major message of the Word.
 - 2. The thirty-third chapter of Numbers, for instance, contains a list of forty-two different sites that were used in the Exodus.
 - 3. In other places, scores of cities, places, kings, and individuals are mentioned.
 - 4. Readers often get bogged down in the "begats," the people, and the history to the message.
 - 5. The scholar R. A. Torrey said that *"the plethora of details were watermarks in paper, which bear indelible evidence of the time and plan of manufacture."*
 - 6. As a detective can ascertain from a watermark many things about the paper - its source, for instance - the science of archaeology has uncovered from these details a vast wealth of information about the Scripture.
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B. DETAILED QUESTIONS ASKED IN COURTROOM.

1. In a courtroom, lawyers frequently ask witnesses many detailed questions which do not seem to bear directly on the issue at hand.
2. They are attempting to establish in all sorts of corroborative ways whether the witness is telling the truth or is lying.
3. According to one historian, it is impossible to establish a lie in the midst of a well-known history.
4. As the details are brought out and confirmed or denied, so the truth of the story also is confirmed or denied.
5. One scholar states: *"To my mind, absolute truth and local details (a thing which cannot possibly be invented when it is spread over a history covering many centuries) give proof almost absolute as to the truth of the thing related. SUCH PROOF WE HAVE FOR EVERY PART OF THE BIBLE."*

II. VOICES CRY OUT FROM THE DEAD.

A. HITTITES.

1. A source of delight for the biblical critics is that the Bible mentions hundreds of kings, peoples, cities and even whole nations that were not mentioned by the historians of antiquities nor in all of secular literature.
 2. If the historians never mentioned a nation, obviously that nation did not exist.
 3. One of the "mythical" nations that the Jews supposedly fought with was the Hittites, who are mentioned in eight different chapters in the Old Testament.
 4. One leading archaeologist said he did not believe there ever were such people as the Hittites.
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5. When Dr. Hugo Winckler went to the area to dig where the Hittites were supposed to have lived, he discovered over forty of their cities, including their capital, along with a great number of monuments describing their activities.
6. Commenting on a treaty between the Hittites and the Egyptians that the Bible describes, one English critic said there was no more chance for a treaty to have existed between the Egyptians and the Hittites than between England and the Choctaws.
7. Yet, spelled out on a palace wall in one of the uncovered cities of Egypt was found the whole treaty between Egypt and the Hittites!
8. Numerous Babylonian inscriptions have now proved the Hittites to have been a great superpower located between Egypt and Babylonia, so large that all of Egypt and Babylonia were considered to have been tribes of the Hittites.

B. CITIES OF PITHOM AND RAAMSES.

1. The Bible tells us that the Pharaoh oppressed the Israelites and caused them to build for him the store cities of Pithom and Raameses.
 2. We remember the story of how they first built with mortar and straw.
 3. Then they had to gather their own straw, and finally they had to build the bricks without any straw at all (*Exodus 5*).
 4. When Sir Flinders Petrie later discovered the sites of Pithom and Raamses, he noted some incredible things about them.
 5. They were built with mortar - something found nowhere else in Egypt.
 6. Moreover, the lower layers were built of brick in which was stubble instead of straw.
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7. In the second and upper layers were bricks made without straw.

C. JERICHO.

1. Then there was the story about Jericho.
 2. Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, but the critics said that it never happened.
 3. One does not just walk around a city and have the walls fall down flat.
 4. But what did Professor John Garstang, British archaeologist and authority on Hittite civilization, discover when he came to the site of Jericho to dig?
 5. He stated: *"As for the main fact, there remains no doubt the walls fell outward so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city."*
 6. Why is that so unusual?
 7. Because walls do not fall outward.
 8. Ordinarily they fall inward, but in this case the walls were made by some superior power to fall outward, as the Bible says.
 9. The critics also declared that the account is obviously fatuous because it says that the Israelites marched around the city seven times in one day.
 10. You could not walk around a modern city of one hundred thousand people seven times in one day, and Jericho was described as a great city.
 11. But Garstang's investigation provided an interesting fact about Jericho - it was smaller than the sites upon which many large metropolitan churches are built.
 12. If you were to go to Jericho today, you could walk around it seven times in one morning and play a set of tennis before lunch!
 13. Again the critics were proven wrong.
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D. BOOK OF ACTS.

1. One of the most notable converted archaeologists was Sir William Ramsay.
2. He was an atheist, the son of atheists; he was wealthy and a Ph.D. from Oxford.
3. He gave his whole life over to archaeology and determined that he would disprove the Book of Acts.
4. After twenty-five or more years (he had released book after book during this time), he was incredibly impressed by the accuracy of Luke in his writings and finally declared that Luke was exact, down to the most minute details.
5. In his attempts to disprove the Bible Sir William Ramsay uncovered hundreds of things which confirmed the historicity of the Book of Acts.
6. Finally, in one of his books he shocked the whole critical world by declaring himself to be a Christian.
7. The world's greatest authority on the Book of Acts and the travels of the Apostle Paul was converted by his digging, as have been numerous other archaeologists over the centuries.

E. BOOK OF DANIEL.

1. Daniel was another book which especially delighted those who were trying to discredit the Bible.
 2. One of the many things that they attempted to disprove in that book was the idea that Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon and that he died on the day Cyrus and his army entered into the city of Babylon.
 3. Secular historians had declared that though the Bible says Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar, Nabonidus was the son of Nebuchadnezzar, and Nab-
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onidus was the last king of Babylon.

4. Dean Farrar, one of the critics, said, "Belshazzar - history knows of no such king."
5. If a secular historian says one thing and the Bible says the other, obviously the Bible must be incorrect.
6. This presupposition is so pervasive in the minds of the critics that it is amazing how they make such conclusions continually, regardless of what the facts reveal.
7. In the city of Ur of the Chaldeans of Babylon, four clay cylinders of King Nabonidus were discovered.
8. They dealt with the building of the Temple of the Moon God which contained a prayer to that god for the king's son, Belshazzar.
9. It was discovered that Belshazzar and Nabonidus jointly ruled Babylon while Nabonidus was out in the country and Belshazzar ruled in the capital.
10. Further, one of these cylinders stated that Gobryas (the general of Cyrus's army) entered Babylon, and Belshazzar died that day.
11. Belshazzar is mentioned numerous times regarding contracts that he entered into, farmlands that he bought and other such things.
12. Again the critical bubble burst!

F. THE FLOOD.

1. The archaeological confirmation of the Flood of Noah's time is enormous.
 2. Stories of the Noachian Flood have been found in almost every civilization in the world.
 3. Among the most interesting are those found in Babylonia and Acadia.
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4. They provide substantially the same description except for the perversions that had entered into the later Babylonian version, written about eight hundred years after the Mosaic account.

CONCLUSION:

- (1) The spades of the archaeologists have uncovered innumerable facts that confirm the Scripture.
 - (2) Over twenty-five thousand sites have been discovered that pertain to the Bible.
 - (3) Records of tens of thousands of individuals and events also have been found.
 - (4) The most recent and continuing testimony of archaeology, like all such testimony that has gone before, is definitely and uniformly favorable to the Scripture at its face value, rather than to the Scripture as reconstructed by critics.
 - (5) Dr. William Albright says: *"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition."*
 - (6) The accuracy of innumerable details has brought increased recognition of the value of the Bible as a source of history.
 - (7) It is not because of any want of historical data that people do not believe the Scripture or do not believe in Christ.
 - (8) Rather, it is because of a want of a moral disposition to surrender one's life to the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ.
 - (9) It is the moral problem that confronts most unbelievers.
 - (10) These again are some more of the reasons why I believe in the Bible.
 - (11) I believe in the Christ whom it portrays and whom it presents to us as the living, risen,
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glorified Savior who can bring forgiveness, peace, joy and assurance to all those who will repent of their sins and be baptised and place their trust in Him who died for us.

(12) "If these should hold their peace, the stones would cry out."

(13) We do NOT walk in blind faith! We have evidence!

(a) Predictive Prophecy that is fulfilled.

(b) Archeological discoveries.

(14) THE B-I B-L-E - Song
