

The Source Workbook - Questions

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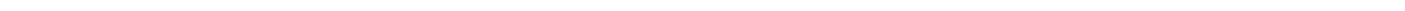
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End of Chapter 13



The Source Workbook - Answers

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CHAPTER 13 – WHY CHOOSE THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD?

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q-193.1 What position has God occupied throughout this book?

The God of the Bible has been featured as the ultimate explanation for all the complexity we see around us.

q-193.2 Why is it reasonable for the Bible to be considered God's Word?

From the perspective of the authors of *The Source*, it is reasonable to consider the Bible to be God's Word because of its remarkable insight in describing the earth's formation and geological development. We have demonstrated that there are some passages of the Bible that appear to have been written in such a way that they can be accurately interpreted only after the discovery of the Big Bang. Such coincidences exceed the laws of probability and imply a higher intelligence as the Bible's source.

q-193.3 What questions may still be pending about God and the Bible?

An important question is, How does the Bible compare with other books said to be "Holy?"

Page 194 INTERNAL EVIDENCE; Simplicity and Clarity

q-194.1 What other "holy books" are there?

The principal ones listed in *The Source* are Vedas, Upanishads, the Bhagavada-Gita, the Koran, Tripitaka, Avesta, Angas, Upangas, Bab, Bahaula, Koran and the Book of Mormon.

q-194.2 What does the Bible have in common with other "holy writings?"

All holy writings appear to have distinguishing literary features.

q-194.3 What literary contrast do we see between the Bible and other ancient writings?

It seems that the more ancient the publication, the more difficult it is to understand due to writing styles alone. In addition, it is often difficult to appreciate the modern relevance of the subject matter. This barrier does not exist with the Bible. While much of it can be considered ancient, it nevertheless, is written simply and was able to be understood by what would be considered common people who were not members of a special educated class.

Page 195 Confident Voice

q-195.1 How can you describe the Bible's introductory words?

At Genesis 1:1, the words, "In the beginning," describe something very profound. In that day, the prevailing thought among the intellectuals was that matter always existed. This is also a common view today. A widely held view is that, while our universe may have had a beginning, the matter of which it is composed has simply been recycled. The scientific hypothesis is that basic matter in its various forms has always existed. This admission makes it difficult for atheists to criticize the theistic concept that God has always existed. It is recognized by both the theists and atheists that something has had to exist eternally in order to explain why anything exists at all. So fundamentally, theism and atheism are the same when it comes to the fundamentals of existence. As shown in the picture below, that controversy was already an on-going debate between Aristotle and Plato in the early 300's BC.



Figure 13.1: In the center of the painting, "School of Athens" are Aristotle and Plato. We find Aristotle's hand level to the Earth, symbolizing his realistic view of Nature. However, Plato's hand is pointed upwards towards heaven, symbolizing the mystical nature of his view of the Universe. This image illustrates the sharp difference between metaphysics (religion) and natural philosophy (science) that was to develop over the next two millennium.

By Raffaello Sanzio - "The School of Athens" -- Plato left and Aristotle right (1509 AD)

q-195.2 Why does the Bible inspire confidence in what it says?

The Bible inspires confidence because of the authoritative way in which it is written. In Jesus day, the teaching style was to quote known and accepted authorities on various subjects. However, Jesus did not quote the usual sources, he spoke words with an originality that made sense and impressed his listeners. (Matthew 7:29)

q-195.3 How did Jesus discourage “prodigious oaths?”

His simple advice was to let your Yes be Yes and your No be No. (Matthew 5:34-37)
(Prodigious: Far beyond what is usual in magnitude or degree)

Page 196 Brevity

q-196.1 How does the Bible’s explanation of the earth’s origin compare with modern science?

There is almost no end to the ever changing books written by modern science to explain our existence. By contrast, the creation account in the Bible is brief and to the point. However, it also has layers of complexity that enable it to be successfully harmonized with what modern science hypothesizes about the earth's origin. Is it just a coincidence that the Genesis account of creation has made sense to every generation since it was written? In other words, it is written with such insightful language that it satisfactorily conveys in understandable terms to everyone what God did, why He did it, and what we can expect Him to do in the future. (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4-6)

Genesis 3:15 AMP And I will put enmity between you [serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your [serpent] head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel. [Gal. 4:4.]

Galatians 4:4-6 But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law, (5) To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred

upon us [and be recognized as God's sons]. (6) And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba Father!

q-196.2 What are some other profound examples of brevity found in the Bible?

Other examples of brevity found in the Bible include Jesus baptism, his transfiguration, and the significant events of his approximately 12,000 days on earth summarized within a scope of activities that involved only about 34 days.

Page 197 Fulfilled Prophecy; Prophecies Concerning the Messiah

q-197.1 What does the Bible's brevity not mean?

The Bible's brevity does not mean it is incomplete in any way. It is as relevant today as it has been throughout the history of its existence.

q-197.2 Name a singular uniqueness of the Bible and site examples.

The Bible is a prophetic book. The most impressive demonstration of prophecy involves the predictions relating to Jesus' birth and subsequent ministry.

Page 198 Honesty

q-198.1 Who was Dr. Peter Stoner, and what did he statistically demonstrate about Jesus as a man?

Dr. Stoner, with the help of graduate students, calculated the probability of one man fulfilling the prophecies made in the Bible about the birth and ministry of Jesus Christ. What was his method for making such a calculation? The calculation had to be made based upon conservative assumptions relating to each prophecy. For example, concerning Micah 5:2, where it states that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah, Stoner's students researched the available records to determine the average population of Bethlehem from the time of Micah to modern times. Then they divided Bethlehem's average population by the earth's average population during the same period. They concluded that since Micah, the chances for anyone to be born in Bethlehem was about 1 in 300,000, (or one in 2.8×10^5 - rounded up). To conceptualize this better, imagine that the average population of Small Village during that period was 10. Now imagine that the average population of the earth during the same period was 100. If you divide 10 by 100 you get 1/10 or the odds of one in 10. That should make sense because during that period, on average, 1/10 of the earth's population lived in Small Village. In the case of the small village of Bethlehem, an average of 1/300,000 of the earth's population has lived there since Micah's time. As we learned in Chapter 2, to determine the total odds of the calculation requires that you multiply all the individual odds together. In this case, for eight of the prophecies to come true in one man, it was estimated to be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Since this number most likely represents over 100,000 times the actual number of humans that have ever lived, you can say, statistically speaking, it is probably impossible for one man to have fulfilled this prophecy due to natural causes alone. That is impressive.



Figure 13.2: PETER W. STONER, M.S. (June 16, 1888 - March 21, 1980) Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953; Chairman of the science division, Westmont College, 1953-57; Professor Emeritus of Science, Westmont College; Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Astronomy, Pasadena City College.

q-198.2 Why is it a weak argument to say that Jesus intentionally did things he knew would fulfill Bible prophecy?

That Jesus intentionally fulfilled personal prophecies is weak because, as demonstrated above, the odds that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem was 1 in 300,000. However, he could not have had anything to do with personally bringing this event about. It was beyond his control. To review the many prophecies involved, [click here](#).

q-198.3 How does the Bible differ from the general method of recording history?

The Bible's honesty in readily exposing the weaknesses of its heroes sets it apart from the normal historical narrative.

Page 199 CHECKABILITY**q-199.1 Give some examples of the Bible's honesty when dealing with its noteworthy heroes.**

Though Abraham was probably one of the most important men that ever lived, the Bible relates many embarrassing events in which he was a principal player. This can also be said for the second most important man in the Bible, namely David, God's favorite king. His indiscretions and family problems are recounted in unvarnished frankness.

q-199.2 What does the Bible's honesty validate?

This honesty makes the Bible record more believable as a guide for those seeking to determine God's will for their lives.

q-199.3 What is meant by the word, "checkability" with regard to the Bible?

The Bible was written in simple language and includes many historical events that can be checked by the science of Archaeology.

Page 200 The Value of Blood**q-200.1 What do minor translation errors found in the Bible not "negate?"**

Minor translation errors do not mean that the original texts contained the same errors. According to the doctrine of Biblical Inerrancy, we believe that the original texts were inspired by God and contained no errors. This does not mean that every word in every modern translation is absolutely correct. This fact can be readily observed when specific texts are rendered differently in different translations. For example, look at Genesis 2:4, a Scripture we have already reviewed with regard to the word "day." This verse, in the majority of translations, uses the word day to refer collectively to all seven days of creation. However, some translators, seeking to avoid the difficulties raised about whether a day was 24 hours long or could represent a longer undetermined period of time, choose to omit the word "day" entirely from Genesis 2:4. This is an example of translation bias and represents the translator's dogmatic view and not the true meaning of the language used. In the list below, we note that only 6 out of 22 translations omit the word day from the verse.

Genesis 2:4 - Below are a series of translations that are identified by an all capitals abbreviation such as (KJV+) King James Version + (Strong's word numbers).

(KJV+) These (428) are the generations (8435) of the heavens (8064) and of the earth (776) when they were created, (1254) in the day (3117) that the LORD (3068) God (430) made (6213) the earth (776) and the heavens, (8064)

NOTE: This King James Version + Strongs translation includes the number of the word used to translate "day." **(3117; PRONOUNCED** yom, yome; **MEANING:** From an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), **whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term), (often used adverbially):** - age, + always, + chronicles, continually (-ance), daily, ([birth-], each, to) day, (now a, two) days (agone), + elder, X end, + evening, + (for) ever (-lasting, -more), X full, life, as (so) long as (. . . live), (even) now, + old, + outlived, + perpetually, presently, + remaineth, X required, season, X since, space, then, (process of) time, + as at other times, + in trouble, weather, (as) when,

(a, the, within a) while (that), X whole (+ age), (full) year (-ly), + younger.)

(AMP) *This is the history of the heavens and of the earth when they were created. **In the day** that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens--*

(ASV) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that Jehovah God made earth and heaven.*

(Bishops) *These are the generations of the heauens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** when the Lord God made the earth and the heauens.*

(DRB) *These are the generations of the heaven and the earth, when they were created, **in the day** that the Lord God made the heaven and the earth:*

(EB) *These are the geneses of the heavens and the earth, when they were created, -- **in the day** when Yahweh God made earth and heavens.*

(ESV) *These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

(Geneva) *These are the generations of the heauens and of the earth, when they were created, **in the day** that the Lorde God made the earth and the heauens,*

(HNV) *This is the history of the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

(JPS) *These are the generations of the heaven and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made earth and heaven.*

(KJV) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,*

(KJVR) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,*

(LITV) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created **in the day** that Jehovah God was making earth and heavens.*

(MKJV) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created **in the day** that Jehovah God made the earth and the heavens.*

(RV) *These are the generations of the heaven and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made earth and heaven.*

(Webster) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

(YLT) *These are births of the heavens and of the earth in their being prepared, **in the day** of Jehovah God's making earth and heavens;*

(MSG) *This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.*

(BBE) *These are the generations of the heaven and the earth when they were made.*

(CEV) That's how God created the heavens and the earth. When the LORD God made the heavens and the earth,

(GNB) And that is how the universe was created. When the LORD God made the universe,

(GW) This is the account of heaven and earth when they were created, at the time when the LORD God made earth and heaven.

(NIV) Here is the story of the heavens and the earth when they were created. The Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

q-200.2 How does the Bible to deal with scientific issues?

Though the Bible is not intended to be a scientific book, we find that God has cleverly used language that was ambiguous enough to satisfy all of its readers throughout the ages. That is certainly what we should expect. God intentionally worded the Bible in such a way that it would make sense to all its serious readers. The authors of The Source have attempted to show how the first 31 verses of Genesis can be interpreted to fit the current model of earth's history based upon the experimental conclusions determined by many of the physical sciences. There is no other holy writing that was written with such crafted flexibility. This is another feature of the Bible that shows it is not of human origin, but is divinely inspired.

q-200.3 What is "bloodletting," and why was it practiced?

Bloodletting was a traditional treatment for sickness based upon the assumption that disease was caused by factors that could be corrected simply by reducing the volume of a patient's blood. We find a tragic example of bloodletting in the death of George Washington at age 67. He could have easily been saved by the modern use of antibiotics. However, at the time he probably received the best medical treatment available. Who would have thought that the sore throat he got Friday night, no doubt from riding in very bad weather the previous day and again earlier that morning, would result in his death less than 24 hours later? At the time, bloodletting was a primary defense against problems that caused swelling. Washington had a serious infection of the epiglottis and developed a bad sore throat, fever, and had difficulty breathing due to swelling. To reduce the swelling, doctors made small cuts on his arm and proceeded drain his blood into a bowl. This was done several times as his condition got worse until they had removed about 5 pints of blood. Because the bloodletting didn't seem to help, they hoped to reduce the swelling by having him swallow a potion of vinegar, molasses, and butter. These didn't work either. Finally they tried to induce vomiting hoping that would relieve his breathing problem. In the final analysis, by bleeding him, they reduced his capacity to fight infection by not getting sufficient oxygen to his damaged body tissue. Because his throat was so swollen, when they tried to get him to take their potion, it almost choked him to death, leaving him physically exhausted and weak. Finally, by inducing him to vomit, he became so dehydrated that all his defenses rapidly diminished. Despite all of these apparent goofs on the part of the attending doctors, Washington's friend, Tobias Lear, later wrote that Washington grew calm late in the evening, checked his own pulse, and then died peacefully in his bed on December 14, 1799.

His wife Martha was with him, as well as several servants, doctors, and friends as shown in Figure 13.3.



Figure 13.3: The Death of George Washington, 1799, courtesy Currier and Ives. A photograph of Washington's tomb is in the lower left. Washington was very popular and many portraits were made that idealized his deathbed experience. Below is a poem written in his honor to characterize his passing.

Americans behold & shed a grateful Tear
 For a man who has gained your freedom most dear
 And now is departing unto the realms above
 Where he may ever rest in lasting peace & love.

q-200.4 What has been the Bible's view of "bloodletting" for the past 3,200 years?

God has always used blood to represent life and has reserved it as the principal means to atone for sin. For this reason the Israelites have always treated blood respectfully and would never have intentionally drained it from their bodies as a form of therapy. This sacred view of blood protected them from the ill-fated practice of bloodletting.

Leviticus 17:1-16 BBE And the Lord said to Moses, (2) Say to Aaron and to his sons and to all the children of Israel: This is the order which the Lord has given. (3) If any man of Israel puts to death an ox or a lamb or a goat, in or outside the tent-circle; (4) And has not taken it to the door of the Tent of meeting, to make an offering to the Lord, before the Lord's House, its blood will be on him, for he has taken life, and he will be cut off from among his people: (5) So that the children of Israel may take to the Lord, to the door of the Tent of meeting and to the priest, the offerings which they have put to death in the open country, and that they may make their peace-offerings to the Lord. (6) And the priest will put blood on the altar of the Lord at the door of the Tent of meeting, burning the fat for a sweet smell to the Lord. (7) And let them make no more offerings to evil spirits, after which they have gone, turning away from the Lord. Let this be a law to them for ever, through all their generations. (8) And say to them, If any man of Israel, or any other living among them, makes a

burned offering or other offering, (9) And does not take it to the door of the Tent of meeting to make an offering to the Lord, that man will be cut off from among his people. (10) And if any man of Israel, or any other living among them, takes any sort of blood for food, my wrath will be turned against that man and he will be cut off from among his people. (11) For the life of the flesh is in its blood; and I have given it to you on the altar to take away your sin: for it is the blood which makes free from sin because of the life in it. (12) For this reason I have said to the children of Israel, No man among you, or any others living with you, may take blood as food. (13) And any man of Israel, or any other living among them, who gets with his bow any beast or bird used for food, is to see that its blood is covered with earth. (14) For the blood is the life of all flesh: and so I have said to the children of Israel, You may not take any sort of blood as food, and any man who does so will be cut of. (15) And anyone who takes as food anything which has come to a natural end, or anything which has been put to death by beasts, if he is one of you by birth, or of another nation, will have to have his clothing washed and his body bathed in water and be unclean till evening, and then he will be clean. (16) But if his clothing is not washed and his body bathed, his sin will be on him.

Page 201 Human Reproduction; Animal Reproduction

q-201.1 Why could the Romans believe that their founders were “born out of mud?”

The "born out of mud" hypothesis is based upon the fact that Romulus and Remus were apparently born miraculously to a Vestal Virgin mother and Mars, a divine father. However, the actual process was rather mysterious, and the boys appear to have just popped into existence unnaturally. Because of an attempt to murder them, the boys ended up in a mud swamp by the Tiber river. A female wolf found them and licked off the mud and began nursing the two boys for a period. In this way, it would have appeared that they came from the mud, as if by a miracle. Later they were rescued and raised to adulthood by a farmer and his wife. Apparently, this all made sense to the Romans because their gods were above the common laws of nature.

q-210.2 What view of women do we find historically?

Historically, women were considered a man's property and treated accordingly. This view may have had its roots in the curse placed upon Eve for eating the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:16 AMP To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your grief and your suffering in pregnancy and the pangs of childbearing; with spasms of distress you will bring forth children. Yet your desire and craving will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

q-201.3 How did the Bible clarify the relationship between men and women?

Though things changed after the disobedience of Adam and Eve, originally woman was placed in a highly privileged position. Except for Adam, all other men would have to have female mothers, even the promised seed of God. This fact shows how important a role women were to play in the eventual reconciliation of the human family back to God

Genesis 2:22-24 AMP And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. (23) Then Adam said, This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of a man. (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 6:16; Eph. 5:31-33.]

Genesis 3:20 The man called his wife's name Eve [life spring], because she was the mother of all the living.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel. [Gal. 4:4.]

q-201.4 What argument is made that the Bible is unscientific with regard “animal husbandry?”

While Jacob may have personally resorted to superstitious practices to influence the color of his flocks, that doesn't mean it was being taught by the Bible as the truth. Jacob's experience in this regard is simply an accurate narration of the facts. The truth that we learn later in Genesis 31:10-12 is how God was involved in the matter, and what He did that caused Jacob's flock to increase miraculously.

Genesis 30:37-43 AMP But Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white in the rods. (38) Then he set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred and conceived when they came to drink, (39) The flocks bred and conceived in sight of the rods and brought forth lambs and kids streaked, speckled, and spotted. (40) Jacob separated the lambs, and [as he had done with the peeled rods] he also set the faces of the flocks toward the streaked and all the dark in the [new] flock of Laban; and he put his own droves by themselves and did not let them breed with Laban's flock. (41) And whenever the stronger animals were breeding, Jacob laid the rods in the watering troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed and conceive among the rods. (42) But when the sheep and goats were feeble, he omitted putting the rods there; so the feebler animals were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. (43) Thus the man increased and became exceedingly rich, and had many sheep and goats, and maidservants, menservants, camels, and donkeys.

Page 202 Bacterial Contamination**q-202.1 How does the Bible clarify Jacob's misunderstanding about animal reproduction?**

The matter was cleared up in a dream Jacob had, wherein he was told the real reason for why more spotted offspring were occurring among his flocks. (Genesis 31:10-12)

q-202.2 Why does Jacob's experience with animal husbandry increase the Bible's credibility?

The Bible's inclusion of an alternate explanation for the spotted sheep probably did not impress those living at the time. They may have thought God was just adding to what Jacob was already doing. However, the modern reader can see the same text with new understanding. It is as if God were really writing the text for those living at a later time, when a full understanding of why He included the dream explanation would be appreciated.

q-202.3 What have some writers called Moses and why?

Moses has been called, with good reason, the world's first microbiologist. Because Moses was raised as the son of "Pharaoh's daughter," he was given an excellent education which included subjects involving personal hygiene and health practices. The Book of Acts (7:22) tells us that; "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds." However, we have also learned from Egyptian Archaeology that many of the Egyptian health procedures did more harm than good, especially with regard to bacterial contamination. The fact that the Law to the Israelites did not contain any of these harmful practices is a strong indication that God is the sole source of the regulations dealing with health matters. We are told the reason for God's involvement at Exodus 15:26, which says, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." For this reason, it should not surprise us that the Mosaic Law contained specific health commands and sanitation procedures that would block the dreadful diseases that afflicted the Egyptians of that day and still afflict people in Third World countries today. It is fascinating to note that out of the 613 Biblical commandments found in the Torah, 213 were medical regulations that insured the good health of the Children of Israel.



Figure 13.4: The pharmacies of ancient Egypt provided prescriptions using "lizards' blood, putrid meat, stinking fat, moisture from pigs' ears, excretion from humans, donkeys, antelopes, dogs, cats, and flies." This list is quoted from pages of the Papyrus Ebers manuscript as translated in S.E. Massengill's *A Sketch of Medicine and Pharmacy*.

Page 203 Handling Dead Objects

q-203.1 What medical omission was prevalent until about the 19th century?

Until about the 19th century, it was common for doctors to not wash their hands between medical procedures no matter how unsanitary they might be.

q-203.2 Who was Dr. Ignaz Philip Semmelweis, and what did he discover?

Dr. Semmelweis's first job was to work at Vienna's famous, or maybe infamous, general hospital, the Allgemeine Krankenhaus. It was a charity institution that provided free medical treatment for poor pregnant women provided, they would agree to be used for the instruction of medical students and midwives during their labor and convalescence period. Though this may sound like a small price to pay for treatment, there was another factor that made the matter much worse. Over 10%, and on occasion as high as 20%, of the women treated died of the dreaded "childbed (puerperal) fever." This heart-breaking reality troubled the sensitive Semmelweis to the extent that he apparently made a personal commitment to change things if he could. He spent many hours in the "necropsy room" where they performed autopsies on the deceased mothers and babies. It soon became apparent to him that all the examined corpses seemed to exhibit the same pathologic changes indicative of systemic "blood poisoning." Frequently, the babies of deceased mothers who had experienced a long and difficult labor, also died from the same condition. It was at this time that Semmelweis observed that doctors performing autopsies in the morning went directly to the delivery and convalescence rooms in the afternoon without any hygienic preparations. These observations and a check of the

hospital's records led him to the conclusion that the problem was basically due to poor hygiene. He decided to put his idea to a practical test. It became his policy that every medical student and physician wishing to examine women in his wards was required to wash his hands, not merely in soap and water, but in a chlorinated lime solution, thoroughly scrubbing with clean sand until all odors of the dissecting room were removed. Only then might doctors and students examine patients. As might be expected, such precautions were resented. Protests were raised both by colleagues and by students who were unacquainted with the reasons for such precautions (antiseptics were not to be understood for another two decades); but the results were dramatic. In April, 1847, 57 women, or 18% of obstetric patients, died. However, after the introduction of Semmelweis's procedures, within two months the number fell to six deaths, or 2.38% and then in the third month, to three deaths, or 1.2%. With this success, one might think that the hospital would be eager to revise their procedures to match Semmelweis's successes. However, instead of adopting his methods, they scorned and belittled him and fought the reforms he sought. Among the leaders of this opposition was his own director, Klein, who vented his resentment on March 20, 1849, by refusing to reappoint Semmelweis. As might be expected, practices in the Clinic under Klein's appointee, who naturally reverted to Klein's methods, resulted in hundreds of mothers admitted to the Clinic dying of puerperal fever. Despite the fact that Semmelweis's outstandingly successful ideas were unacceptable to his Viennese colleagues, publications and letters written by his friends and students began to find acceptance elsewhere, most notably in England, in Scotland, and in Ireland. Eventually in Hungary, Semmelweis was offered the opportunity to go on with his life-saving procedures which still encountered occasional stubborn but diminishing resistance. Nevertheless, he was appointed Professor of Theoretical and Practical Midwifery at the University of Pest in July 1855. The obstetric wards there were miserable and inadequate. Despite this, Semmelweis's procedures again reduced the death toll markedly. In summary, we can say that Semmelweis's doctrine was about twenty years ahead of the medical world's thinking. This all changed when Pasteur demonstrated that germs could cause infection by multiplying and spreading from victim to victim because of bad hygienic practices, rather than by generating spontaneously within the patient's body. Then, as a final clincher, Lister's experience with surgical antiseptics undeniably confirmed the principles Semmelweis had applied to his obstetric patients. Within a few years, physicians who had opposed him were to reverse themselves and declare that Semmelweis had been right after all.

q-203.3 How does the Bible indicate an awareness of "bacteria" over 3,200 years ago?

As shown in the case of Semmelweis, the simple act of washing one's body or clothes was not recognized as being a serious defense against disease. That is what makes the Bible's admonition to quarantine and wash away contamination all the more significant. Again, we can see the hand of a superior intelligence who passed laws that forced people to protect themselves against disease through the religious practice of laws regarding personal cleanliness.

Page 204 Burying Wastes and Quarantine; Prohibiting Certain Foods

q-204.1 What is the likely reason why Jesus' disciples associated disease with sin?

It is likely that those who did not follow the cleanliness laws often got sick. Over the years, it would be natural for one to assume that the sin of not following the Law was the actual cause of sickness.

q-204.2 During the "Dark Ages," what significant practice promoted the spread of disease?

During the Dark Ages, poor sanitary conditions promoted the spread of disease.

q-204.3 How does the Bible deal with human waste, and what does that indicate?

The Bible shows it recognizes the dangers associated with germs by requiring human waste to be buried.

q-204.4 Why were certain foods likely forbidden for the Israelites to eat?

God forbade the Israelites from eating certain foods that are easily contaminated.

Page 205 Astronomy

q-205.1 Why was God so concerned about the health of the Israelite people as a nation?

The Law wasn't given just to set limitations; it was to act as a guardian or trustee, forcing the

Israelites to abide by policies that would insure their national survival. This is the argument made by the Apostle Paul to the congregation at Galatia. It was absolutely necessary for Israel to survive as a national community until the birth of the Savior.

Galatians 4:1-6 AMP Now what I mean is that as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate; (2) But he is under guardians and administrators or trustees until the date fixed by his father. (3) So we [Jewish Christians] also, when we were minors, were kept like slaves under [the rules of the Hebrew ritual and subject to] the elementary teachings of a system of external observations and regulations. (4) But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law, (5) To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons]. (6) And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba Father!

q-205.2 How do Hindu writings explain how the earth is supported?

In Hindu mythology, eight elephants hold up the heavens and earth while standing on the back of a huge tortoise supported by a sea contained within the coils of the encircling serpent.

q-205.3 How are Japanese beliefs similar to Hindu beliefs?

In Japanese mythology, Namazu is a giant catfish who causes earthquakes. Namazu lives in the mud beneath the earth and is guarded by the god Kashima who restrains the fish with a stone. When Kashima lets his guard fall, Namazu thrashes about, causing violent earthquakes.

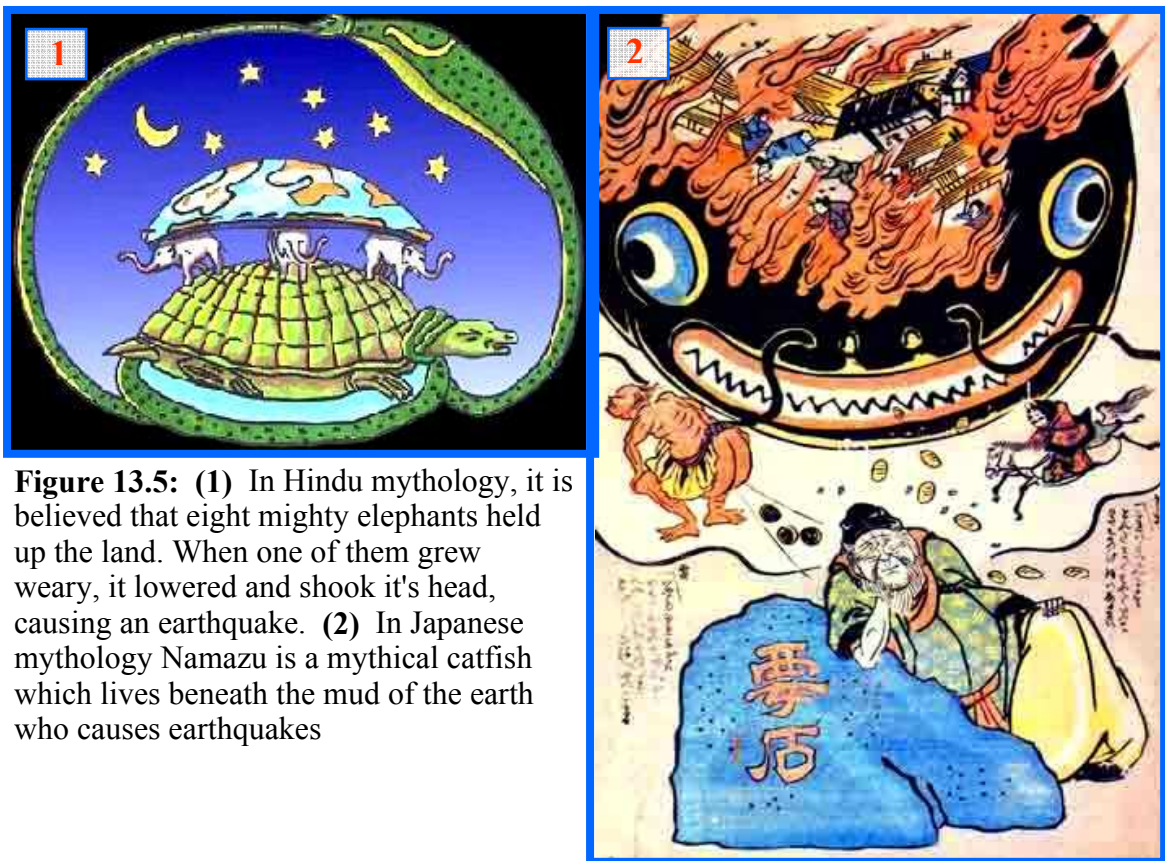


Figure 13.5: (1) In Hindu mythology, it is believed that eight mighty elephants held up the land. When one of them grew weary, it lowered and shook its head, causing an earthquake. (2) In Japanese mythology Namazu is a mythical catfish which lives beneath the mud of the earth who causes earthquakes

Page 206 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

q-206.1 Why might it be surprising that Moses's writings about the earth in Genesis are free of mythological fantasy?

Though Moses may have been familiar with Egyptian cosmology, the Biblical account of creation

quickly distinguishes itself from other ancient creation myths because of its rationality. On the other hand, Egyptian cosmology is obviously an interesting fantasy that follows the pattern of the heaven and earth being the result of sexual procreation involving the Gods. An Egyptian creation story paraphrase would start by saying that in the beginning there was only water, a chaos of churning, bubbling water, which the Egyptians called Nu or Nun. It was out of Nu that everything else had its beginning. Mysteriously, an egg appeared floating on the surface of the water. It opened and the sun god Ra emerged. He then created the **air god Shu** who carried the **Sun System** and his wife Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. Shu and Tefnut gave birth to the **sky goddess Nut**, which included the stars, and the **earth god Geb**, which included the plants.



Figure: 13.6: This is a composite scene depicting the division of the heavens and the earth from the 21a Dynasty coffins of the Songstress of Amun, Nesj-ta-udjat-akhet. The picture on the left is a stripped down version of the picture on the right. The detailed picture is taken directly from the outer coffin in the Odessa Archaeological Museum, Odessa (Ukraine). CESRAS photos are by Alexej A. Krol (Kazan) and Sergej V. Ivanov (Odessa). Digital editing, composition and text by Edward R.

q-206.2 According to Job, how does the Bible say that the earth is supported?

The Bible book of Job says that the earth has no visible support.

q-206.3 Does the Bible's scientific accuracy mean that the Bible writers were gifted scientists ahead of their times?

The Bible is not a book of science. Often, its writers did not know the full meaning of the words they had written. There is no evidence that Bible writers had special scientific knowledge. For the most part, they used the language of the day, which often included ideas based upon appearance alone unless they were commanded by God to do otherwise. The Bible is a book intended to communicate God's commands for the purpose of equipping humanity with knowledge that will improve our relations with one another and with God. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), (17) So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Page 207 Scientific Principles; Ship building

q-207.1 For what is Hubert Spencer noted, and how does that relate to the Bible?

Herbert Spencer was involved in a broad range of activities, which included, ethics, religion, politics, philosophy, biology, sociology, and psychology. In pursuit of these activities, he established many practical methods for conducting research. The authors of The Source only use Spencer as a good example of how to organize and implement analytical work in general. Beyond that, we do not

endorse Spencer's view of Social Darwinism, for which he became the most outspoken proponent of the day. History tells us that he was born in Derby, England, on April 27, 1820, the son of William George Spencer (generally called George). Spencer's father was a religious dissenter who drifted from Methodism to Quakerism and who seems to have transmitted to his son an opposition to all forms of authority. Spencer ran a school founded on the progressive teaching methods of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi and also served as Secretary of the Derby Philosophical Society, a scientific society which had been founded in the 1790s by Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles.

q-207.2 What is significant about the dimensions of the Ark given to Noah by God?

The length, width, and height ratio for Noah's Ark are considered optimum for stability.

q-207.3 What advanced method did Noah use to make the Ark leak-proof?

At God's instruction, Noah used pitch on both the inside and outside to waterproof the Ark's hull.

Page 208 Geography/History/Archaeology; MORALITY

q-208.1 Describe how the Ark's water displacement method of boat design was different from the way boats were normally designed.

Noah may have introduced the concept of floating by water displacement using a waterproof structure, instead of using the popular lightweight materials that were naturally buoyant.

q-208.2 What do we know about the way the Bible was written that makes it an even more amazing book?

Though the Bible was written by 40 different people over a period of about 12 to 15 hundred years, its composition contains one harmonious historical record.

q-208.3 What makes the Bible useful both historically as well as geographically?

The Bible accurately describes the history of the period it covers, as well as the geography of the land. This has made it a useful reference for conducting archaeological excavations. For instance, in Genesis 40, we are told how Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh's butler. In this dream, grapes are mentioned which conflicted with the ancient historian, Herodotus. In his historical record, he states that the Egyptians grew no grapes and drank no wine, and many, therefore, questioned the accuracy of the biblical account. However, paintings discovered on the ancient Egyptian tombs show the process whereby wine was made. There can be little doubt then that Herodotus was wrong and the Bible was right.



Figure 13.7: TRAINING THE VINE: Grape growing and winemaking predate this 1400 B.C. Egyptian tomb painting by thousands of years. Time Magazine Monday, Nov. 17, 2003, By J. MADELEINE NASH

q-208.4 What is the attitude of today's secular society towards Biblical morality?

There is growing opposition being raised against Biblical morality. Under some circumstances, those who follow the moral precepts listed in the Bible are accused of being religious bigots and promoting "hate speech," if they label as immoral and sinful certain unconventional personal activities.

Page 209 As Individuals; Within the Family

q-209.1 How does modern humanistic philosophy differ from what Jesus taught?

Jesus said that there was more happiness in giving than in receiving. This contrasts sharply with the self-indulgent life styles being promoted today. *Acts 20:35* *In everything I have pointed out to you [by example] that, by working diligently in this manner, we ought to assist the weak, being mindful of the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, It is more blessed (makes one happier and more to be envied) to give than to receive.*

q-209.2 If we put Bible principles first in our lives, what assurances are we given in 1 Corinthians 10:13?

We are given the assurance that God will not let us be tested beyond what we can endure without providing a way of escape.

q-209.3 What advice does the Bible give that deals with family life?

The Bible advises that we pursue monogamous relationships. Today, there is an attempt being made to hijack the sacrament of marriage by changing it from a gender based relationship to a behavior based relationship. Ever since the creation of humans, marriage has been based on gender differences. If it is redefined based upon behavior or preferred lifestyle, then obviously any relationship or lifestyle can be included as a basis for marriage. In the name of freedom and equality, lonely pet owners will be able to marry their pets, if that is their preference. Such behavior becomes inhuman.

q-209.4 If the Bible's family life advice is followed, what should the results be?

If properly followed, a family is much more likely to succeed than fail. This is certainly needed today since it appears that a majority (over 50%) of marriages are failing today according to <divorcerate.org> as shown below.

The divorce rate in America for first marriage, vs second or third marriage

50% percent of first marriages, 67% of second and 74% of third marriages end in divorce, according to Jennifer Baker of the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri."

Page 210 Within the Community

q-210.1 What good advice does the Bible give for dealing with people outside our home?

We should always try to maintain good relations with all our associations. *Matthew 5:41-48* *And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two [miles]. (42) Give to him who keeps on begging from you, and do not turn away from him who would borrow [at interest] from you. [Deut. 15:8; Prov. 24:29.] (43) You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy; [Lev. 19:18; Ps. 139:21, 22.] (44) But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [Prov. 25:21, 22.] (45) To show that you are the children of your Father Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers [alike]. (46) For if you love those who love you, what reward can you have? Do not even the tax collectors do that? (47) And if you greet only your brethren, what more than others are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles (the heathen) do that? (48) You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect. [Lev. 19:2, 18.]*

q-210.2 What is meant by the Christian phrase "go the extra mile?"

Though it had a literal meaning in Jesus' day, today it means we should always try to do more than is expected of us. This would apply to our relationships as well as in our business practices. Actually, from a business standpoint, this is a good practice anyway because it is hard to find a business person you can trust to treat you honestly.

q-210.3 How does the Bible promote good mental health, as exemplified by what parable of Jesus?

Being kind to others is the same as being kind to oneself. Studies have shown that kind people are healthier and live longer and more productive lives. One of the larger studies of kindness was conducted by Allan Luks, former executive director of the Institute for the Advancement of Health and author of the book, "The Healing Power of Doing Good." (Copyright April, 2001) He surveyed over 3,000 volunteers about how they felt when they did a kind act and found that those who helped

others had better health. "Helping contributes to the maintenance of good health, and it can diminish the effect of diseases and disorders both serious and minor, psychological and physical," Luks said.

q-210.4 What happens to society when Bible principles are not followed?

In this context, Bible principles influence people to act unselfishly with the opposite being true where such principles are lacking. This is not to say that such principles do not exist among nonreligious people. That is why we are emphasizing the need for society to be unselfish no matter what the motivation if it is to be successful. Basically, selfishness is probably, in one way or another, at the root of all social disorders.

Page 211 THE AUTHOR

q-211.1 How did Carl Sandburg respond when asked what he thought about Christian living?

Carl Sandburg wisely observed that, in his opinion, he couldn't give an opinion about Christian living because he had never seen it practiced by anyone he knew.

The New York Times
Monday, August 11, 2008

Archives

AGAINST FEDERAL CONTROL.; Senator-Elect Williams Attacks Roose-velt's Corporation Bureau Plan.

October 1, 1910 Saturday
Page 24, 1459 Words

John Sharp Williams, Senator-elect from Mississippi and former minority leader of the House, has expressed himself strongly in opposition to the proposals for Federal control of corporations as advocated by ex-President Roosevelt in his recent, tour through the West. Mr. Williams will not take his seat in the Senate till 1912. [END OF FIRST PARAGRAPH]

[View Full Article](#) Note: This article will open in PDF format. [Get Adobe Acrobat Reader or Learn More »](#)

1855.
Somebody once asked another: "Is Christianity a failure?" The reply came: "I don't know; I have never seen it tried."
The what extent the Sherman act is a fail-

Figure 13.8: Though Carl Sandburg, as the original author of this anecdotal experience, was not able to be precisely determined, the evidence shows that the concept was popular enough to be used in a political campaign back in 1910.

q-211.2 How do most non-Christian religions establish a relationship with their god or gods?

Most non-Christian religions and many Christian cults advocate a works based relationship with God. Only if you follow their rules will you have any hope of pleasing God. It is by your working within the confines of a special group that you eventually establish a good relationship for yourself with the group and God. However, true Christianity is different. We are told that "while we were still sinners," Jesus voluntarily gave his life for us. In this way, God did not wait for us to find Him, instead He sent His son to earth to find and rescue us.

Romans 5:6-10 AMP *While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly. (7) Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a noble and lovable and generous benefactor someone*

might even dare to die. (8) But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us. (9) Therefore, since we are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God. (10) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more [certain], now that we are reconciled, that we shall be saved (daily delivered from sin's dominion) through His [resurrection] life.

q-211.3 What hope do Christians have with regard to the future?

The Christian hope is to one day live in a special place designed by God that will no longer allow all the calamities of this present world arrangement to exist. We will also be given special supernatural bodies that will last forever. What our bodies will look like is not known. However, one of Jesus' special friends, the Apostle John, said that Jesus will have the same type of body and we will be like him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.

Page 212

q-212.1 How has the Bible proven itself to be a source of positive change in many people's lives?

There is convincing testimonial evidence that the Bible can help to change a life weighed down with a devastating self-destructive record into one of redeeming productivity. It is hard to argue against such overwhelming evidence.

q-212.2 Give some reasons why we should believe that the Bible is the "Word of God."

We can believe that the Bible is the Word of God because it gives us a basis for trusting the promises God makes to those who seek to determine what His will is for their lives.

Hebrews 11:6 AMP But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].

End of Chapter 13
