

BIG QUESTIONS BIBLICAL ANSWERS OUTLINE

Brad Alles | bradalles.com

1. Why study the Bible? (REAL)

Reliable

- The "truth" according to Jesus (John 17:17)
- The truth fits facts & reality
- No contradictions in the Bible

Exceptional

- 1 message by 40 writers over 1500 years
- 2 SOS: shows our sin & shows our Savior

Authoritative

- "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Jesus used the same OT except for language, different order & division of books

Logical

- 2 contradictory claims can't both be true
- If Jesus accepted the OT, is the Son of God, & the only way to heaven, then all other religions are false

2. Does science confirm the Bible? (TEST)

Truth claims

- The truth fits facts and reality
- Of all religions, only Christianity has such confirmation

Exploits

- "At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day." (Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 18:63)
- "Christus, the founder of the name (Christians), was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also." (Tacitus, Annals XV, 44)

Settings

- Over 92% of OT, 98% of NT sites located
- Bethlehem
- Jerusalem

Traces

- Caiaphas' ossuary
- Jericho's existence & destruction
- Renowned archaeologist Nelson Glueck said, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible." (Josh McDowell, The New Evidence that Demands Verdict, p. 89)

3. Does human life have value? (VIEW)

View's assumption (worldview)

- Secular Humanism—no God exists (atheism)
- Christianity—God exists (theism) & reveals Himself through His creation & Word

Idea of reality

- Secular Humanism—universe is all that was, is, or will be (naturalism)
- Christianity—God is the source of all absolute truth (supernaturalism)

Ethics

- Secular Humanism—man determines standards (moral relativism)
- Christianity—God determines standards (moral absolutes)

Worth

- Secular Humanism—evolved animals without purpose who will die
- Darwin in *The Descent of Man*: "excepting in the case of man himself, hardly anyone is so ignorant as to allow his worst animals to breed." He lamented society caring for its "weak members," allowing them to "propagate their kind" with "undoubtedly bad effects."
- Christianity—created beings who sin & are restored with God by Jesus for eternity
- "'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?'" (Matthew 6:26)

4. Why listen to the Bible about sex and marriage? (MARRY)

Marriage defined

- "'But at the beginning of creation God "made them male and female." "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.'" (Mark 10:6-9)
- He quoted the literal history of Adam & Eve (Genesis 1:27 & 2:24)
- It is a lifelong, sexual union of a male & female, instituted by God at creation

Abolish the Law?

- "'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.'" (Matthew 5:17)
- Our Savior had to be perfect before He paid for our sins

Rules in OT

- Incest, homosexuality, bestiality, prostitution, adultery are sin (Leviticus 18:1, 22, 24; 19:29; 20:10)
- God's people were always counter-cultural

Rules in NT

- Incest, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, prostitution are sin (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9, 15)
- Incest is still sinful even if it is consensual, long term, & monogamous

You or God?

- God created us & has perfect, omniscient, & loving authority to set boundaries
- Instead of God's Word as our test of truth, we use our own rebellious & fallen opinion
- What's next...^{1,2}

5. What is the purpose of life? (PLANS)

Purposefully created

- "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:11)

Loved

- "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." (1 John 4:7-9)

Artwork

- "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)
- "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- The praise of God continues in the new heaven & new earth (Revelation 4:11)

No reason (for atheism)

- No gods, life after death, foundation for ethics, & meaning in life (animals who will die)³

Solution

- Intellectually satisfying, standing up to rational & historical testing
- Spiritually satisfying, fulfilling man's deepest needs for meaning

6. Why believe in a 6-day creation? (READ)

Reinterpreting Scripture

- Exchanging God's inspired Word with man's fallible ideas
- James Barr, Hebrew professor at Oxford University, wrote, "Probably, so far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1-11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience; the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story; Noah's flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguish all human and animal life except for those in the ark."⁴

Explanation

- Yom is always "day," or a 24-hour period, when used with numbers ("the first day")
- Yom is always "day," or a 24-hour period, when used with context of "evening and morning"
- A 6-day creation week was the basis for remembering the Sabbath (Exodus 20:11; 31:17)

Anti-science alternative

- Matter arranges itself (against law of entropy)
- Matter comes to life (against law of biogenesis)
- Information cannot arise from disorder by chance

Doubting Scripture

- Did death come before the Fall?
- "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!" (Romans 5:12, 15)

7. Does the age of the earth matter? (ROCK)

Ranges of age

- 68 methods yield ages ranging from less than 10,000 years to 500 million years⁵
- None yield ages from 500 million to 4 billion years (the current accepted age)

Observation

- Why believe radiometric dating when it fails to give accurate age from known date?⁶
- Fails observational/operational science, but assumption of millions of years goes on ...

Conjecture⁷

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Initial amount of element is known | ("How long was that candle burning?") |
| - Nothing was added or removed | (Height of the candle) |
| - Decay rate is constant | (No one broke the candle) |
| | (Burn rate is same) |

Killing faith

- The age of the earth is the most misunderstood issue for people who have left church
- Why take this unscientific & outdated book seriously on any theological or moral issue?

8. Did dinosaurs and humans live together? (DINOS)

Discoveries⁸

- Alexander the Great (330 BC)
- Marco Polo (1200's) "Here are seen huge serpents, ten paces in length (about 30 feet), and ten spans (about 8 feet) girth of the body. At the fore part, near the head, they have two short legs, having three claws like those of a tiger ... The jaws are wide enough to swallow a man, the teeth are large and sharp, and their whole appearance is so formidable, that neither man, nor any kind of animal can approach them without terror." (The Travels of Marco Polo)
- Carvings; sightings today: In December 1999, Papua New Guinea's newspaper reported a "dinosaur-like reptile" as "long as a dump truck," nearly two meters wide, with a long neck and slender tail. It walked on two back legs that were as thick as "coconut palm tree trunks," had two smaller forelegs, "sharp teeth as long as fingers," and skin like a crocodile.^{9 10}

Identification

- Tannin – great land or sea monster (Psalm 74:13; 91:13; 148:7; Isaiah 27:1; 51:9; Jeremiah 51:34)
- Behemoth – large beast (Job 40:15-24)
- Leviathan – great water animal (Job 41:1-34)

Named "dragons"

- Called "terrible lizards" (dinosaurs) by Sir Richard Owen in 1841¹¹

Origin

- God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds..." (Genesis 1:25)

Size

- Size of a sheep (about 50 kinds)¹²
- Lizards grow as long as they live
- Noah could fit young ones on the Ark, for ease in care & for replenishing the earth
- The post-Flood climate could kill some from the Ark (along with starvation, disease, & man)¹³

9. What about the missing link? (APEMAN)

Assumption

- Evolution is true ("From which apes did man evolve?")

Phony attempts

- Artists use drawings & models to convince us
- Pilttdown Man was a combination of a human skull & an orangutan jaw⁴

Extinct apes

- Ramapithecus is extinct orangutan⁵
- Australopithecus is extinct chimp yet shown erect with human hands & feet¹⁶

Men called ape-like

- Homo erectus is human; discoverer added gibbon skull part & human leg¹⁷
- Homo neanderthalensis is human but posture is due to rickets or arthritis¹⁸

Apes today

- Chimpanzees, gorillas, & orangutans
- Skulls, jaws, teeth, pelvises, legs, & feet differ from humans¹⁹

No observation

- Historical/origin science uses assumptions & interpretations to determine the past
- Observational/operational science is observing & testing things to explain them

10. From where did the different races come? (RACE)

Reality

- The genetic difference between any 2 people is only 0.2%²⁰
- There are different people groups, with culture the biggest difference

Adam & Eve

- "From one man he made every nation of men..." (Acts 17:26)
- Eve is the "mother of all the living" (Genesis 3:20)
- Noah's ark had 8 people on board & refilled the earth

Color is same; shade differs

- Amount of melanin determines skin shade (along with eye & hair color)²¹
- The genetic difference between people groups (skin shade & eye shape) is 0.012%²²

Explanation—middle brown skin people²³

- Noah's descendants could range from very light to very dark skin shades²⁴
- The scattering at the Tower of Babel split the gene pool & explains why languages arose
- In heaven there are humans "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9)

	AB	Ab	aB	ab
AB	AA BB	AA Bb	Aa BB	Aa Bb
Ab	AA Bb	AA bb	Aa Bb	Aa bb
aB	Aa BB	Aa Bb	aa BB	aa Bb
ab	Aa Bb	Aa bb	aa Bb	aa bb

- ¹ Stanley Kurtz, "Beyond gay marriage," *Citizen*, April, 2004, p. 24-29.
- ² "Canada's slippery slope to polygamy" *Citizen*, February, 2011, p. 24-27.
- ³ *The Truth Project*. Dir. Simon Scionka. With Del Tackett. Focus on the Family, 2006.
- ⁴ "In 6 Days." Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/isd/Sarfati.asp> (cited October 2011).
- ⁵ Ken Ham, *The New Answers Book 2* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008), p. 192.
- ⁶ "Radiometric Dating: Problems with the Assumptions." Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n4/assumptions> (cited October 2011).
- ⁷ Ken Ham, *The New Answers Book 2* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008), p. 191.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 192.
- ⁹ "Are dinosaurs alive today?" Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v15/i4/dinosaurs.asp> (cited October 2011).
- ¹⁰ "A living dinosaur?" *Creation*, December 2000-February 2001, p. 56.
- ¹¹ Ken Ham, *The New Answers Book* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006), p. 158.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, p. 167.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 170.
- ¹⁴ *Apemen: Separating Fact from Fiction* (Petersburg, KY: Answers In Genesis, 2010) p. 17.
- ¹⁵ "Is there really evidence that Man descended from the Apes?" Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/1998/01/21/evidence-man-from-ape> (cited October 2011).
- ¹⁶ *Apemen: Separating Fact from Fiction* (Petersburg, KY: Answers In Genesis, 2010) p. 31.
- ¹⁷ "Homo erectus to Modern Man?" Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/tj/v8/n1/erectus> (cited October 2011).
- ¹⁸ "What about Neanderthal DNA?" Available online at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/1997/12/29/neandertal-dna> (cited October 2011).
- ¹⁹ *Apemen: Separating Fact from Fiction* (Petersburg, KY: Answers In Genesis, 2010) p. 12.
- ²⁰ Ken Ham, *The New Answers Book* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006), p. 225.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 229.
- ²² *Ibid.*, p. 225.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, p. 229.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 228.