

“Is the Bible from God?” (Psalm 119: Part 6)

Verses to Remember: “Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me Your law. I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me” (Psalm 119:29-30).

How do we answer the accusation of mistakes in the Bible, especially in the areas of science and history?**1. Know that the Bible has inspired science**

- Matthew Maury is known as the "Father of Modern Oceanography." He discovered that oceans have subsurface currents with regular circulation patterns, and his insight was because of Psalm 8:8 that talks of the “paths of the seas.”

2. Sometimes the scientific consensus is mistaken

- In two immensely important cases, the scientific consensus was mistaken (eternal universe; spontaneous generation), and it later shifted to positions consistent with the Bible (universe with beginning; life from life).

3. Miracles are not mistakes

- It doesn't make sense to say that a miracle couldn't happen because it violates scientific laws. God working out of the ordinary is what makes it a miracle. God is not bound by his creation or the natural laws that he set up.

4. Poetry and the vernacular (and humility)

- Some of the Bible is written in poetic form and so should not be pressed to a literal understanding (see Ex 14 vs. 15). Sometimes the Bible uses the common vernacular, such as “sunrise.” So, we should have caution and humility when trying to figure out if the Bible is sharing a scientific truth or just using the vernacular.

5. Don't fall for arguments from archeological silence

- When it comes to archeology, understand that very little survives, even less is found, and even less has been fully investigated and published.

6. Bible accuracy substantiated

- When artifacts have been found, they have consistently supported the Bible.

7. The Bible vindicated

- Several times the Bible conflicted with archeological knowledge, but later discoveries revealed the Bible was correct and the archeology was incomplete. For example, Belshazzar is named king of Babylon in Daniel 5, but there was no record of him, and the last king of Babylon was known to be Nabonidus. But then an inscribed cylinder was discovered showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent. He ruled in Babylon because his father went hundreds of miles away to the sanctuary of the moon god Sin in Harran. This also explains why Belshazzar offered to make Daniel the third highest ruler (Dan 5:16). Nabonidus was one, he was two, so the highest he could offer was three (cf. Gen 41:40).