



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 17 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2018

GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

The Bible, a Reliable And Unique Holy Book



Archaeological discoveries verify the historical reliability of the Old and New Testaments.

When compared to other religious books, the Bible is unique in that it is the oldest, as testified by the places, people, titles, and events mentioned in the Bible; and the language and literary formats used to compose the Bible.

Many scholars today question the validity of Biblical accounts, supposedly based on the findings of archaeology. When the "discrepancies" are examined in detail, however it is found that the problems lie with the archaeology (i.e. misinterpretation of evidence, lack of evidence, or poor scholarship) and not with the Bible.

How can archaeology prove helpful to someone seeking for truth to the basic questions about life?

The discoveries of archaeology can be helpful in removing doubts that a person might have about the historical trustworthiness of the Bible. The miracles described, as well as the spiritual message, must be accepted on faith, which is the basis of our relationship with God. When the truth of Scripture is challenged by skeptics, archaeology can be used to demonstrate that the people, places, and events of the Bible are real.

What archaeological discovery would you point to as the most convincing evidence for the Bible being God's Word?

Any one discovery can be explained away as coincidence, or an alternative interpretation can be given to disassociate it from the Bible. It is the weight of a myriad of discoveries that demonstrates the Bible to be the Word of God.

These discoveries fall into three categories:

1. Archaeological evidence demonstrates the historical and cultural accuracy of the Bible.
2. The Bible's message of a loving Creator God who interacts in the affairs of mankind and has provided a means of salvation stands in sharp contrast to the pagan fertility religions of the ancient world as revealed by archaeology.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

July 4 – Independence Day

July 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

3. Archaeological findings demonstrate that the Biblical prophets accurately predicted events hundreds of years before they occurred—something that lies beyond the capability of mere men.

Author: Bryant G. Wood, Ph.D. of Associates for Biblical Research, as quoted in <https://christiananswers.net/q-aiia/aiia-arch1.html>.

Men's Breakfast



On Saturday July 7 at 8:00 a.m., you guys are invited to Men's Breakfast. According to the sunrise/sunset table at the U.S. Naval Observatory web site, sunrise will occur at 5:14 a.m., EDT so you'll have plenty of daylight to find the church in the morning.

The one unpleasant fact you can learn from the USNO sunrise/sunset table is that we have lost 8 minutes of morning daylight since the Summer Solstice on June 21. By July 31st, sunrise will be as late as 5:35 a.m.

Getting back to breakfast – when you come, see if you can bring something to share, but don't bring that leftover red, white, and blue egg salad from your July 4th cookout.

After breakfast, we'll jump back into the Book of Romans for a good Bible discussion. We'll be in the vicinity of the middle of chapter 11.

In This Issue: The Bible | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | One Name | Origin of Independence Day | Early Days of the Faith | Birthdays & Anniversaries

On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Property and Space Patrol

The church and parsonage are in decent shape. Lawn mowing is ongoing and the beat goes on.

✠ Pastor Al

One Name

The following article about famous names appeared in the *Our Daily Bread* Devotional for January 7, 2018 and was written by David McCasland.

For context, read Philippians 2:5-11.

Cleopatra, Galileo, Shakespeare, Elvis, Pelé. They are all so well known that they need only one name to be recognized. They have remained prominent in history because of who they were and what they did. But there is another name that stands far above these or any other name!

Before the Son of God was born into this world, the angel told Mary and Joseph to name Him *Jesus* because “he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21), and “he . . . will be called the Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32). Jesus didn’t come as a celebrity but as a servant who humbled Himself and died on the cross so that anyone who receives Him can be forgiven and freed from the power of sin.

The apostle Paul wrote, “God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9–11).

In our times of greatest joy and our deepest need, the name we cling to is *Jesus*. He will never leave us, and His love will not fail.

Jesus Christ is not valued at all until He is valued above all. -- Augustine

The Origin of Independence Day

(excerpted from Wikipedia)



On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a brief resolution and urged the Second Continental Congress, which was convened in Philadelphia, to

declare independence from England. The resolution, seconded by John Adams, had three parts:

- Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

- That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.
- That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

The declaration was set aside while the resolution of independence was debated for several days. On July 2, the resolution of independence was approved by twelve of the thirteen colonies (New York's delegates were waiting for instructions).

A Committee of Five was appointed and it selected Thomas Jefferson to compose the original draft of the document. The Declaration was a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to declare independence from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail on July 3 about the resolution of independence:

"The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, *by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty*. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams's prediction was off by two days. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration during the following days, finally approving it by a vote of 9 out of 13 on July 4.

Copies were printed and distributed throughout the colonies. George Washington directed that it be read to the troops of the Continental Army. One copy was sent to England. (Dear King George, Buzz Off!)

From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Thus began the great American adventure.

The Early Days of the Faith

King Agrippa

It may seem odd to bring King Agrippa into this discussion of the early days of the faith, but he played a role in Paul's final missionary work. First, let us set the background for King Agrippa's encounter with Paul. The whole series of events is described in Acts 23:23 - Acts 26:32.

Upon returning to Jerusalem after his third missionary journey, Paul was beset by angry Jewish leaders. Rescued from a mob by the Roman commander, Paul was taken to Governor Felix in Caesarea, where Paul sat in prison for two years while Felix did nothing about Paul's case.

See *Early Days* on p. 3

Early Days, from p. 2

Felix was replaced by Festus, who tried to accommodate the Jews by relocating Paul's trial to Jerusalem (can you pronounce "assassination plot"?). Paul, a Roman citizen, then appealed his case to Caesar.

While waiting to go to Rome, King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice, visited Festus at Caesarea. Agrippa was the great-grandson of Herod the Great, who ruled at the time of Jesus birth (see Matt. 2:1). Agrippa ruled over the northeast regions of Palestine, including Caesarea Philippi.

He was also the son of Herod Agrippa 1, who beheaded James and imprisoned Peter (see Acts 12:1-3). He was rumored to have been in an incestuous relationship with his sister, Bernice.

Rome, in its heavy handed contempt of the Jewish faith, granted him custody of the ceremonial garments worn by the high priest on the Day of Atonement. Rome also granted him the authority to appoint the high priest, thus subverting it from a religious traditional to political patronage.

Finally, Agrippa was the last of the Herodian rulers. This brings us to his encounter with Paul, which is recorded in Acts 26.

"1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

2 "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews,

3 and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently."

Paul then recounted his Jewish credentials, his sudden conversion on the Damascus Road, and his subsequent mission to the Gentiles. When Festus blurted out that Paul was out of his mind, Agrippa and Paul had this final exchange:

28 "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

29 Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

30 The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them.

31 After they left the room, they began saying to one another, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

32 Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Thus, Paul made his best effort to appeal to Agrippa and all who were present at that trial to accept the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Agrippa, on the other hand, saw nothing in Paul that deserved Roman punishment, and washed his hands of the case, essentially "kicking the can down the road" to Caesar.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:



7/19 Frank Dawson

7/22 Charles Thomas



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please let the editor know.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is July 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

Modeling the truth of God's Word



On the web at
<http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

